



# THE LEGION POST



VOLUME 13 ISSUE 7

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59 STOUGHTON WI

POST WEBSITE: POST59.ORG

POST PHONE 608-205-9090

JULY 2011

## Commanders Report



Greetings,

First of all I want to thank all of you who participated in and working on the Memorial Day parade and festivities. I think all went well for the most part. Special thanks to Lisa Olson for the great job she did on the program, NICE JOB LISA.

Thanks also to the men who placed and collected flags at the cemeteries for Memorial Day. Not very many fellows showed up but the job got done. They placed them on the graves when it was pouring down rain. Bless their hearts for being so patriotic.

Friday night fish fries are done for now. Hopefully we can get it going again in the fall. The Sons of the American Legion (SAL) did a great job. Hopefully the Post can round up more help in the fall. Thanks guys and gals for helping out and bringing business to the Post.

The meat raffle is going to cease soon also. Again, not enough help and less people around to support it and make it work during the summer months... Thanks to those who participated, hope to see you back in the fall. Looks like we will be closing the bar on Sundays till fall also, not enough business to justify time spent.

You will not get this newsletter until after the election. I want to thank those who supported me the two years as your Commander. There have been ups and downs, but we all survived. Life goes on. Please help and support the Post as much as you can. It is a proud organization to be part of.

Thank you,  
Commander Sonny

## Auxiliary News



Hello,

June is Badger Girls State month. We are sending five girls this year. They will learn all about government. As young people become adults, they will be able to understand and participate in the functioning of their government.

Our poppy distribution was a success again this year. Both Legion and Auxiliary members participated in the event. This year our total was 1,800 poppies. Thank you to everyone who worked hard the week before Memorial Day to get the poppies ready for distribution, distributing and completing everything at the end.

I have taken three totes of food to the Food Pantry so far this year from the Post... Please remember to bring an item with you when you visit our Post for meetings, dinners, breakfasts, etc.

I will run for President again this year so the members

will have to read my boring articles again this election year. I appreciate all the help and suggestions you ladies give me so keep them coming. The Auxiliary meetings lately have been well attended and we know our new members will bring in new ideas and friendships. Our July news letter will have a list of all the new officers.

The Dane County Fair runs from July 20-24. Thurs. July 21<sup>st</sup> is Military Appreciation Day at the Fair. In honor of their service, all Armed forces personnel (active, reserve, retired and veterans) and immediate family member will receive free admission to the Fair. Go to [www.DaneCountyFair.com](http://www.DaneCountyFair.com) and get more information on this free event.

Until next month, have a safe and fun 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Enjoy our Stoughton Junior Fair that week. Thank you to all volunteers! We couldn't do it without you!

Linda Swangstu  
President

## Auxiliary

### President

Linda Swanstu

### 1st Vice President

Lisa Olson

### Secretary

Lynn Robertson

### Treasurer

Rita Sperry

### Chaplain

Marlene Bierman

### Sgt at Arms

Mary Copley

## CALENDER OF EVENTS

June 19 – Legion Baseball Breakfast  
7:30-11:30 am  
June 25 – Mikey Fuss & the Cherokee  
Three 7:00-11:00 pm  
June 28 – Post Dinner 6:30 pm  
July 9 – Northern Lights 7:00-11:00 pm  
July 11 – Post Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm  
July 26 – Post Dinner 6:30 pm

## CHAPLAINS CORNER

### Definition of a Friend

**A**-accepts you as you are.  
**B**-believes in you.  
**C**-calls you just to say hi!  
**D**-doesn't give up on you.  
**E**-envisions the whole of you even the unfinished parts.  
**F**-forgives you.  
**G**-gives unconditionally.  
**H**-helps you.  
**I**-invites you over.  
**J**-just to be with you.  
**K**-keeps you close at heart.  
**L**-loves you for who you are.  
**M**-makes a difference in your life.  
**N**-never judges.  
**O**-offer support.  
**P**-picks you up.  
**Q**-quiets your fears.  
**R**-raises your spirits.  
**S**-says nice things about you.  
**T**-tells you the truth when you need to hear it.  
**U**-understands you.  
**V**-values you.  
**W**-walks beside you.  
**X**-x-plains things you don't understand.  
**Y**-yells when you don't listen.  
**Z**-zaps you back to reality."

**Some people come into our lives and quickly go:  
others stay awhile make footprints on our hearts  
and we are never ever the same."-author anonymous**

*If you know of anyone who is hospitalized, or in need  
please contact Monte at 873-4020.*

### Vidalia Onion Fund-Raiser

The second annual Vidalia onion fund-raising drive was a definite success and the committee has designated how the profits will be allocated.

First of all, a big thank you to the committee and to all others who helped on this project. The top sales person was Evelyn Kahl who sold 176 bags of onions. Next, from the Auxiliary, was Linda Swangstu, followed by Mary Curran, Lisa Olson, and Kay Voight. Bud Erickson was the top producer from the Legion with 121 bags sold. Other key salesmen were Archie Christensen, Bill Redepenning, Duane Broughton, Jim Hanson, Bob Lloyd, Ray Dziecol, and Dennis Rodenkirch.

Last year, the profits were used to purchase 60 chairs for the Post dining room and \$500 was donated to the Stoughton Seniors in Need program. This year, the committee decided on the following allocations:

- \$2500 will be earmarked to be used as seen money for the parking lot
- \$750 will be donated to the Veterans Hospital in Madison
- \$500 will be donated to the Stoughton Seniors in Need
- \$250 will be donated to Camp American Legion

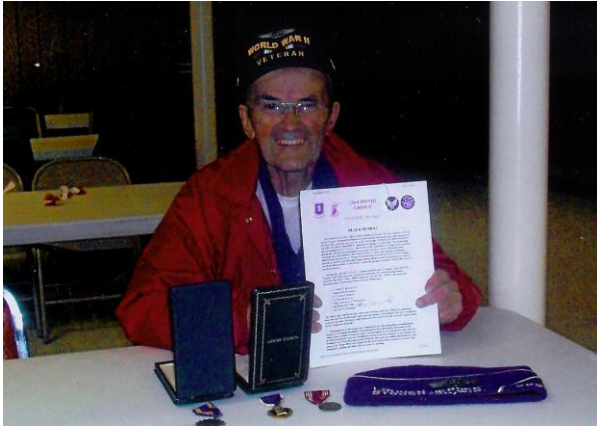
The balance, \$300 plus, will be kept in the onion fund.

Thanks to all who purchased onions to help support this fund-raiser in 2011. Those wishing to serve on the committee in 2012 should contact a committee member.

Bud Erickson  
Vidalia Onion Committee Chairman



*Pictured above is Evelyn Kahl receiving the salesperson of the year award for selling 176 bags of onions during this year's annual Vidalia onion fund-raiser. Presenting the award is Bud Erickson, fund-raising committee chairman.*



### BERNARD (BUTCH) A. ARNOLD

Butch, as he is known to all Stoughtonites was born on July 7, 1924 in Monroe, WI. He attended several rural schools, but had no further education as he was needed to help on the farm. While living on the farm near Cambridge, WI and working at least twelve hours a day, seven days a week and receiving a wage of \$5.00 a month, Butch and his older brother Eddie, decided to enlist in the U.S. Army Air Corps at the age of eighteen. He enlisted on Nov. 1942 at Milwaukee, WI

Butch received his Basic Training at Miami Beach, FL and several other bases for gunnery training, etc. He was sent to Denver, CO where he was trained in gun synchronizing, repair of guns and maintenance turrets and armaments. This training took place at several bases in Texas, Utah, Kansas, and Ft. Myers, FL.

After completing this necessary training, he was sent to San Francisco where he was flown to Hawaii, Christmas Island, the Fiji Islands and eventually to Brisbane, Australia where he was stationed for a short time.

He then went by ship to New Guinea. Here he was a tail gunner on a B-24 bomber in the Southwest Pacific with the U.S. Army Air Corps 22nd Bomb Group.

About the middle of July in 1944, Butch was with the Advanced Echelons who were ordered to OWI, the "Island of Death." The island was taboo and no permanent native inhabitants lived there. The principle duty was to prepare the area for flying and maintenance personnel so they could commence operations as soon as possible. It was described as a solid mass of jungle where every foot had to be cleared. The foliage was so dense, there was no place to deposit the undergrowth after it had been cut. Reports were beginning to filter back about a deadly disease (scrub typhus) that was infecting men clearing brush and had caused some fatalities among personnel.

Things did not look too promising, but by July 26, 1944, their first combat missions were flown from the new base in OWI. There were not any living animals on this island. A tiny mite, so small that it was a barely visible golden dot, caused the wide spread and potentially fatal sickness. It caused fevers as high as 106 and overwhelming listlessness. Nothing was known about the disease and brain damage was feared because of the high temperatures. Complete or partial hair loss was one of the visible results. Most recovered satisfactorily.

In October of 1944, U.S. forces were in the midst of an all-out attack to regain control of the Philippine Islands. Six B-24's of the 408th Squadron were scheduled to participate in group search and destroy missions in the area on October 24th. Take off from OWI Island was scheduled for 2:45 A.M. Night take offs were always more hazardous than daylight operations, particularly in a heavy laden aircraft on a moonless night with no horizon or light on the ground for reference.

Lt. Dwain E. Harry was the pilot of the B-24 and Butch was the tail gunner. The aircraft was loaded with two 2000# and one 500# demolition bombs and normal take off was accomplished on schedule. What occurred next is best described by a following account from Butch who was the tail gunner.

Written by Col. Don Evans: Our take off was normal and I was standing at a waist window watching for the possibility of an engine fire. This was standard procedure. It was very dark and although the climb out seemed normal. A few moments after breaking ground, I noticed the wing lights of the aircraft being reflected in the water below. I knew we were too low and about to crash. I reached for my microphone to warn the pilot, but before I could press the button we hit the water at full throttle. The next thing I knew, I was under the water and pinned to the ceiling of the plane. The plane must have broken in two, for I floated to the surface. There was a lot of gurgling as the plane kept sinking. I swam away as quickly as possible. I couldn't see anything in the darkness and as I was paddling I bumped into a floating object and hung on to it. When we took off on the mission, I was wearing long underwear for it got cool at high altitudes. I also had on my fatigues, leather jacket, and Mae West life preserver. After coming in contact with the floating object, I realized it was an oxygen tank that had broken loose from the plane. I started to take off my clothes, so I could swim better and then realized that one shoe was still with my pants and my underwear was down around my ankles. I ripped off the shoe and clothing and the oxygen tank sank.

I started paddling around again and my right arm began to get numb. I have no idea how long I did this and then I bumped into another oxygen tank to hang on to. Some of the rest of the crew were scattered all over and things got real fuzzy from then on. I was picked up sometime later. I heard someone talking to me and I think he had a small boat but I am not sure.

I remember lying on my back and being put on to a stretcher. The next thing I remember was doctors working on me and the lower part of my body was burning like hell. I later found, it was chemical burns from the octane gasoline. Every part of my body had cuts and gashes but no broken bones. I was taken to the hospital in Hollandia, New Guinea and later spent six months in several other hospitals.

I was one of the lucky ones. The pilot perished in the crash and also the navigator, the bombardier, the assistant engineer, and two aerial gunners. Five of the crew survived the crash, but one lost the use of his left eye and one had to undergo the amputation of his right leg. Butch was in two other crashes but was not injured.

On April 16, 1944 in the South West Pacific area in New Guinea, many Air Force bombers set out the strike targets in Hollandia, but they encountered heavy turbulence and crashed near Gusap Airstrip. This is referred to as *BLACK SUNDAY* as the number of airmen killed or missing in action was 54 and of the aircraft lost or destroyed was 37. Not a single airman or craft was lost through enemy action. All losses were caused by a tropical storm that blocked their return home. It was the greatest weather related loss in the U.S. Air Force history. Butch has a copy of the book with detailed accounts. In Butch's squadron 30 out of 50 men were killed. His highest ranking in three years was Staff Sergeant. "Star Eyes" was the name of the last of Butch's 26 missions.

During his last six months of duty, he served in Texas as a military policeman. They were furnished with various luxuries. It was the best six months of his three-year service.

Butch received many medals including: good conduct, sharp shooter, Purple Heart, distinguished unit citation medal. Butch shot down two Zeros.

"The perils of war were not always from the weapons of the enemy, but frequently from unexpected or freakish actions of men and machines and from the always unpredictable weather. No matter what the source, death was always absolute and the reason made no difference". Quote from Col. Don Evans.

Butch was discharged from the U.S. Air Force on Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> 1945 from Truax Field in Madison and returned to Stoughton. He was employed at Arnold's Appliance and TV. Later, he started his own business – B&B Electric, Air Conditioning and Heating for about 20 years. Butch retired at the age of 81. He was married to Shirley in 1945 and they have five children: Sharon, Debra, Bonnie, Bruce, and Shane. They have eight grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren and Butch will soon be a great-great grandfather!

Butch is a Life Member of the VFW #328 and has been a member of the American Legion, Post #59 for many years. He is also a member of the Purple Heart in Madison and is proud to have served his country.

Submitted by Evelyn Kahl

### Membership Report

We made it to 100%. I'd like to thank all our members for assisting in this goal. Without you this couldn't have been accomplished.

As of June 4, we stand at 349 or 101%.

Next years renewal notices will be coming out just around the corner. Please take the time to consider becoming a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member. Don't think of it as a way to save money but a way to show your long term support in our post and the American Legion.

Any questions contact me.

Dennis Rodenkirch,  
Membership Chairman  
608-438-8768

### PICK AND SAVE ADVANTAGE CARD

There have been some questions about the transfer of the American Legion account number from the old card to the new Roundy's Reward card. When you get your new (Black Card) it might be advisable to check at the service desk and confirm that our account number has been transferred to the new card. The account number for the legion is 026625. This will insure that 1% of your purchases will be credited to the legion.

If you are not already a participant in this plan, please sign up. Just go to the service desk and show them your card. The legion appreciates your help and it doesn't cost you anything. Remember our account number is 026625.

### STOUGHTON FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

#### AUXILIARY Community Service Project

Since last fall the Auxiliary has been collecting for the Stoughton Food Pantry. This is an on-going year-round Auxiliary project, not just a one-time food drive. The collection basket is by the front door. Last month we delivered 29 pounds of food. Thank you to all who have so generously donated. The Stoughton Food Pantry is fully funded by donations and no tax dollars are used to purchase supplies. It is a valuable resource for needy families of our area, and many benefit from your donations.

All non-perishable food items are needed, however there are some items that the Food Pantry does not purchase and are very much needed such as: toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, bar soap. Also: Hamburger Helper, rice mixes, Sloppy Joe mix, pasta, taco kits, cake and cookie mixes, oatmeal and cereal.

Please help us to continue to help those in our own community who are in need. Bring a few items each time you come to the Post for a dinner, a breakfast or meeting.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

## AMERICAN LEGION BAR 803 N. Page St. Stoughton, WI

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**Friday: 3 - 10pm or later**

**Saturday: Noon - 10pm or later.**

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**Wednesday Ladies Night  
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### Inviting all Military Families for Military Appreciation Day!

*Free Admission – Our thank you for serving!*

In honor of their service, all Armed Forces personnel (active, reserve, retired and veterans) and immediate family members will receive free admission to the Fair. [Click here](#) for complete details and the most current schedule.

Please add this event to your calendar and help share this opportunity. We have multiple resources available at no charge for you to help us and we hope you'll help us spread the word. Contact me for:

- One-page invitations to distribute to military families
- Full-color flyers to hang up in your office ([click here](#) to download a pdf of the flyer)
- An article to include in your next newsletter (the recent article is available as a [Word document](#))
- An [electronic flyer](#) you can email to military families
- An invitation email that you can forward to your contacts
- A banner ad that you can add to your website ([click here](#) to download the jpg file, save the jpg to your computer and then add the image to your website, just like a photo)
- On Facebook? Check out the [Military Appreciation Day Facebook event](#). You can invite your friends using Facebook, too!

Please contact me at 608-224-0500 or reply to this email to receive more information or any of these resources.

Thank you for your help in sharing Military Appreciation Day with others, and thanks for all you do to support our military families.

Many thanks,  
Susan Orth  
Military Appreciation Day Coordinator  
Dane County Fair  
3310 Latham Drive  
Madison, WI 53713  
Phone: 608-224-0500  
Fax: 608-224-0300  
[www.DaneCountyFair.com](http://www.DaneCountyFair.com)

### LEGION HALL AVAILABLE FOR RENTALS

The word is getting out regarding our hall rental. We are open for funeral luncheons, birthday parties, wedding receptions, family and class reunions, holiday parties, and anniversaries. We do have a portable dance floor as well. Book your dates now before our calendar gets full. We have a wonderful kitchen and bar. We can hold approximately 150 people in our dining area. For more information, contact

**Linda Swangstu at 608-873-9428 or 608-577-7428.**



### Mayor signs poppy day proclamation

*Poppy Princess Colena Sankbeil – Mayor Donna Olson – Poppy Princess Anja Nygaard*

### Ways to Stay Informed

Our post tries to keep our members updated on the different things going on at our post. This is done by the means below. If you haven't tried these or need assistance using them, contact Dennis at 608-438-8768 or email [RC0295@yahoo.com](mailto:RC0295@yahoo.com)

#### WEBSITE:

Our post has had a website for the past couple of years which has a calendar of events for all reoccurring events. All post activities can be added to the website by contacting Dennis.  
[www.post59.org](http://www.post59.org)

#### FACEBOOK:

Are you on Facebook? Did you know our post is? Anyone who uses Facebook can post an event or topic on our post Facebook page. Our Friend list continues to grow and we would like all activities at our post to be on Facebook.

To locate our page, search for Otis on the top of each Facebook page.

#### E-MAIL:

Our post is gathering e-mail addressees for all members who have them. Collecting them will give the post a way to contact members quickly and save money on postage. We have no plans on stopping mailings at this time.

send your e-mail address to:  
[RC0295@yahoo.com](mailto:RC0295@yahoo.com)

Thanks,  
Dennis

## CASINO TRIP

I am trying to schedule a trip to Potawatomi Bingo Casino in Milwaukee on June 20, 2011. We will be picked up at 9:00 AM at the Post-back approx. 6:00 PM. The cost is \$25 per person. The trip includes round trip deluxe coach, gaming and bingo action, \$5 cash coupon (when you earn 25 slot points) and "All you can eat" buffet making your net cost FREE. In addition everyone in the group will have the option of playing a 3 hr session of Matinee Bingo beginning @ 1:00 PM. We need at least 40 passengers to go but the bus holds 55 people, so we can have a full bus also. Come along and bring a friend and enjoy a fun trip.

Call the Post for reservations @ 205-9090 or Sonny @ 873-9428.

### **Prepay is a must to Sonny or the Post.**

#### **Tickets on Sale for Brewers Game & All Star Game**

On Sunday, August 14, 2011 the Milwaukee Brewers take on the Pittsburgh Pirates. This is the 40th year that the Milwaukee Brewers has supported the American Legion Baseball program and allowed the All-Star game to be played at Miller Park. Following the game, the fifty-four American Legion Baseball graduating seniors from across the state will take to the field for a North vs. South All Star game.

Purchase tickets by contacting Kim Shanks at 608-745-1090. Tickets (\$32, Loge Outfield box) or (\$42, Field Outfield box)

## Memorial Day 2011



*Archie Christensen, Steve Grady, and Carl Sampson*



*Commanders Sonny Swangstu & Pat Nowlin*



*Legion Riders*

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CHICKEN CORDON BLEAU / TWICE BAKED POTATOES  
JUNE 26TH 6:30 PM

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES THE 8<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH**  
VISIT THE POST WEBSITE AT [POST59.ORG](http://POST59.ORG) Post e-mail [AmericanLegionPost59@TDS.net](mailto:AmericanLegionPost59@TDS.net)  
Editors Cliff Maerz and Tim Carter: [C\\_Maerz@msn.com](mailto:C_Maerz@msn.com)

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