



# The Todd Tattler



Official Publication of the Harold A. Todd Jr., Wisconsin Motor Post 537

April 2010 Member of WALPA & NALPA  
Volume 2 Issue 9

9159 W. Beloit Rd., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53227 414-543-2030  
Monthly Publication

Commander Brian Duerr 414-541-7703

Service Officer Nick Berg 414-698-3181

Todd Post Website: [www.toddpost537.org](http://www.toddpost537.org)



## COMMANDERS CORNER

Greetings. I would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter.

I wish to thank everyone who helped to make our annual Post Smoker on March 6, 2010, a success. This includes our Legion, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. members as well as bar patrons and friends, that volunteered their time, donated an item to be raffled, obtained tickets, or attended the Smoker, I extend a big THANK YOU. I was out of town and was unable to attend the smoker. I would also like to thank everyone that helped in making our 1st Community Outreach Fund Event a huge success. Without your help, we could not have had a successful event. I would like to thank the bands Night Train and The Dots for donating their time to play for this event.

Our next membership meeting is April 6th. I do not want to scare anyone off from attending, but this is election night. Please consider possibly running for any one of the post positions that are available. It is always good for the membership to get more people involved in the different post positions. If you are not interested in running for an office, please do not be scared off and not attend the meeting. We still need 10% of our members present to have a quorum. Without YOU in attendance, we may not have a quorum and we would be unable to

hold Election of Officers or vote on several other important issues to come before the membership that evening.

May 8th, we are having a POST Social beginning at 8:00pm. Ed Haase will be providing the music.

On May 14th and 15th we will be distributing Poppies. The money raised is used to help veterans and their families. May 14th is a huge day for this. We will be distributing poppies at Miller Park before the Brewers game. We are then planning on attending the Brewer game. If you are interested in helping with the poppies please contact Jim Marinkovich. If you are interested in attending the game, contact Dave Wischer.

Commander Brian Duerr  
414-541-7703  
[brianduerr@hotmail.com](mailto:brianduerr@hotmail.com)

## ELECTIONS

### April 6th is Election of Post Officers

We are always looking for members to run for a position as an Officer of the Post. You must be a member of the Post for one (1) year to be an Officer. All positions are open for nomination and election. If you wish to be elected to an Office, please come to the meeting and have someone nominate you.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

What do your dues pay for? That is a question that is frequently asked. \$10.00 of the \$35.00 you pay in dues goes to support the Post. This pays for the Todd Tattler printing, postage, office supplies, and other necessary expenses. However your dues do not cover all the expenses, which is why we hold a Post Smoker and raise funds to help with these expenses. The balance of the dues, \$25.00, is sent to Department of Wisconsin. They get a portion and the rest goes to National. What are all those funds used for? American Legion Programs and wages, and office expenses, and publications, etc. The list goes on. See Insert for more information.

My message this month is to those members who have not yet paid their dues. We need you as members to support the important programs of the American Legion. Please see the insert for what the American Legion does. We are currently at 291 paid members and to reach 100% we need 321. Please contact me if you have questions.

1st Vice Commander Linda Pfeiffer  
262-784-2807 and Editor  
waltlindapfeiffer@sbcglobal.net

## VETERANS INFORMATION

### **Are you planning on retiring soon?**

When you go to apply for Social Security be sure to take a copy of your military discharge papers with you. Most Social Security Agents will not ask you if you were in the military. Your service connected work time counts towards your Social Security Benefit. This is important, and we have been told you need to do this at the time you apply for Social Security. You may not be able to get the additional benefit you are entitled to at a later date.

## CHAPLAIN'S NOTE

Greetings everyone. I wish a Happy, Blessed and Peaceful Easter to all of you.

One of my favorite sayings is: "dates on the calendar are closer than they appear". Somehow we are all still overly busy even though we live in a world of conveniences. Be that as it may, I am going to ask you for another few minutes of your time: EVERY Friday, at 8:00 am CST, stop and say a prayer for our active duty members. Positive thoughts do work and if the entire nation holds those same encouraging thoughts simultaneously I believe it will help each and every one of our service members, so set your watch or cell phone alarms!

Of course, do not forget our disabled, homeless, or homebound Veterans. Prayer & Positive thoughts work for all of us. And, if you some how mastered the dates on your calendar, get out and visit some of those Veterans too.

Chaplain Gretchen Davies  
414-227-4301

## **BASEBALL GAME AT MILLER PARK FOLLOWING POPPY DISTRIBUTION**

The people attending will be sitting together in the Bleachers Section 204. All attending will receive a Miller t-shirt. This is also Bobble Head Night. \$20.00 per person. Tickets must be purchased by April 15th. The Todd Post will be recognized on the Brewers Board. Please see Dave Wischer, or Jim Marinkovich at the Post Meeting for Tickets. All Post, Auxiliary, and S.A.L are invited. We have 80 tickets. 1st come, first served. Tickets must be paid for at time of reservation.

Jim Marinkovich - 414-327-3420  
Dave Wischer - 414-429-2429

## HARV'S QUIK QUIZ

1. If you are sailing on Puget Sound, what State are you in?  
a. Washington                      b. New York                      c. Maine
2. Early Native Americans played songs on Panpipes. What were these musical instruments made from?  
a. metal                      b. shells                      c. plants
3. What State has only one representative in Congress?  
a. Maine                      b. Alaska                      c. Nevada
4. The Four Corners Monument marks the place where New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona meet. What is the fourth State?  
a. Colorado                      b. Texas                      C. South Dakota
5. Which State adopted "On the Banks of the Wabash as its official song?  
a. California                      b. Indiana                      c. Louisiana

## FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

Well I know I'm glad that March is over. With two major fund raisers being held on back to back weekends it kind of wears you out. Now I don't mean me alone, as there were a large number of volunteers involved with both events and it would be hard for me to list all the individuals that helped out. So instead this is what I can do. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL for a great effort from all involved. It must be said again that it is heartwarming to see people getting involved in order to help out another person. But, just because the month of March is over does not mean fundraising comes to an end. Far from it. Soon the 537 benefit sweepstakes will begin and the Committee will need help once again. So again just let me say it, THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Fund Raising Chairperson Dave Wischer.

## POST BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

### Power Program

Our Legion Post's involvement in the POWER program continues! The POWER (Posts Working for VetERans Health) Program is a study which will compare two ways to help people learn how to control their high blood pressure. As part of this study, Gretchen and I are required to give a short presentation at every Legion Meeting - each on a variety of topics.

Because we were not able to present any POWER topics at the last meeting, we will be presenting "Stress Management" & "The DASH Diet" at the next meeting. Here's a brief explanation of the topics to be presented:

**STRESS MANAGEMENT:** Stress is a fact of life. It affects everyone. Some stress is actually helpful because it can spur you to meet life's challenges. Without some form of stress, life would be boring! However, too much stress of any kind can cause problems. It can affect your mental and physical health and hurt relationships with friends and family. While it is a myth that people who have high blood pressure are more nervous or tense than others, learning how to cope with stress can help EVERYONE keep their blood pressure under control. At our next Post meeting, Gretchen and I will talk about some of the warning signs of too much stress and learn some simple relaxation techniques that you can use anytime, anywhere.

**THE DASH DIET:** Many of the POWER Program topics Gretchen and I have covered talk about diet. This is because what you eat can affect your blood pressure. Research shows that high blood pressure can be prevented – and lowered – by following the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) eating plan. The DASH eating plan is rich in fruits, vegetables, fat-free or low-fat milk products, whole grains, fish, poultry, beans, seeds and nuts. Because of

this, it is considered to be low in sodium, refined sugars and saturated fats, which makes it good for other considerations as well! At our next Post meeting, Gretchen and I will provide some valuable information about getting started and staying on the DASH diet.

Again, thanks to your continued participation and support in the POWER program, our Post was listed in 1st place (Central Region) for 1st and 2nd Qtr of 2009!! It's our sincere hope that we can continue this distinction for the duration of the POWER program.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Robert Fyfe  
414-208-9731 (cell phone)  
RFYFE@WI.RR.COM

## POPPY DAYS

American Legion Poppy Days are May 14 and 15, 2010. We have been given the privilege of distributing Poppies at Miller Park on May 14, 2010 beginning at 5:30 (when the gates open) until 7:10 which is the start of the game.

We will need lots of help from the Legion family. Remember that the Legion Family includes the Post, Auxiliary, and the Sons of the Legion. All of us together can help to raise funds for the 2010 Poppy Days. The more funds we raise, the more funds we have to help Veterans. Poppy Funds can only be used for Veterans. Please let Jim Marinkovich know if you can help.

This could become a fun evening for those who would like to also attend the game. If interested please advise Jim at the membership meeting as well, as we have blocked off a group of tickets. This is also a "roll-back" night, with the Brewers in uniforms from - way back when. Come join the fun.

## SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Hello! Happy Spring to all! An email was forwarded to me from Ron Kaun through Gretchen Davies from Rachel Gilner. She is the Veteran Liaison from a Pleural Mesothelioma organization, which is a form of cancer. Inhaling asbestos fibers is the primary cause of pleural mesothelioma. Other factors such as genetics, smoking, and exposure to the simian virus (which contaminated some older polio vaccines) may predispose some people to develop mesothelioma when exposed to asbestos. Some individuals exposed to asbestos for a prolonged period do not develop mesothelioma or asbestosis. Pleural mesothelioma is a difficult cancer to treat because its symptoms do not appear until it is well advanced. It is frequently not diagnosed until it is the advanced stages. The symptoms of pleural mesothelioma are similar to many other illnesses and include shortness of breath, coughing, and chest pain. Many of the older ships and vessels that the Navy had were insulated with asbestos. My father was in the Navy and afterwards, was a construction boilermaker for the rest of his working days. He used to tell me that he worked around asbestos on a daily basis. In 1997 he died of mesothelioma / asbestosis. It came on quick and spread rapidly and was not caught early for the same reasons mentioned above. If you are concerned that you or someone you know may have it or have been exposed to asbestos while serving in the military, please contact Rachel through her email. Or if you just want to know more, you can go to her website. Both her email address and website are in the letter from Rachel. She happens to mention Post 544 out of Twin Lakes and their website, however, I think ours will work as well.

As always if you are aware of a Post Member that has become ill or who has passed away, please let me know as soon as possible so I can take care of what I need to do. If there are

any other questions please let me know. My contact information is at the end of the article. Thank You!

My name is Rachel Gilner and I'm the Veteran Liaison for **PleuralMesothelioma.com**. While I was browsing through a number of Veterans sites I came across your website and was very impressed by the information you have listed. Countless veterans are currently suffering from life-threatening illnesses that are a result of exposure to asbestos, a material that was commonly used in hundreds of military applications, products, and ships primarily because of its resistance to fire. Unfortunately, asbestos-related diseases are not always recognized by the VA, which is why we've dedicated a portion of our website with information that can assist those affected by asbestos-related diseases in order to help them file for VA benefits. My grandfather was a staff sergeant in the American Embassies for years, all over the world, so I am extremely passionate about spreading awareness to our country's leaders. Because so many veterans visit your site, I thought that you may be interested in helping to educate our nation's veterans about the dangers of asbestos exposure by linking to our website from your resources page at **americanlegionpost544.org**. I'm available by e-mail at **rgilner(@)pleuralmesothelioma.com**. With your help, we can save some lives. Thanks again. Best Regards, Rachel Gilner Veteran Liaison

Service Officer Nick Berg  
Home: 414-329-8184  
nberg99@yahoo.com  
Cell: 414-698-3181

## HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Well here we sit waiting for winter to end so all of us can get busy working on our homes. Guess what? That is what the Committee does all year long and I don't mean we wait around, but,

we WORK. But I guess that's why we do what we do because we love it. Now let's get a little serious here. I've heard a few grumblings lately about the work the Committee does. Remember elections are being held April 6th, so come out and run for office. Qualifications for the Committee include being able to leave your family, work and all other responsibilities and run up to the Post to do work of some sort, at any time of the day, any day of the week and then still get told you did it wrong. Believe me when I say we don't do it for the money. Now that I have vented it's time for the report.

We have whittled down the bids for the kitchen remodeling to two construction firms and hope to award the work to one of them soon. The basement foundation in the hall is being worked on (we are getting bids and professional advice) as it is a concern of ours before we go ahead with any remodeling of the hall.

Here's the part I like: begging for help. At the next membership meeting a date and time will be announced for a general clean-up of the Post clubhouse and grounds. We hope to paint the exterior doors at that time as the Wisconsin weather really beats them up. So now that I've vented and begged there's no more to say except Thank you.

Dave Wischer, Committee Chairperson

## 4TH DISTRICT NEWS

At the March 4th District meeting, guest speaker Mrs. Karen Degner gave a presentation on troop support issues.

West Allis Alderperson Daniel J. Roadt wants to have a bus for WWII vets to ride in at the City of West Allis Memorial Day Parade. If you want to ride and can't march anymore, please contact him at 414-321-7264. All WWII Veterans are invited to ride in the parade.

Please remember to complete the Census form and mail it in.

The April 4th District meeting will be held at George Washington-Bay View Post 180, 2860 S Kinnickinnic Ave., on Wednesday April 21st, 7:30pm. All are invited to attend.

We thank all of you for your continued support of the Post.

Mark Sandow  
Post Historian and 4th District Vice-Commander  
414-545 0409

## CAMO QUILT PROJECT

As of February 5, 2010, 3,375 camouflage quilts have been made and distributed to troops. That's a lot of soldiers, marines, and airmen with a nice bit of comfort during their deployment. That's also a lot of volunteer work.

What is a Camo Quilt? Well, it is a small quilt measuring approximately 45" x 72". It folds in thirds and rolls up like a sleeping bag. It is lightweight and has cotton batting so it breathes better in the extreme heat, where troops are deployed. The quilts are slept on and under.

How can you help? Monetary donations can be sent to Franklin Legion Post 387  
c/o Steven Bender  
N7417 Bittersweet Rd  
Plymouth, WI 53073

Many people are involved in this project. The material used is military camouflage. So see the story on this project, please visit their website at: [camoquiltproject.blogspot.com](http://camoquiltproject.blogspot.com).

There is also an ongoing project for the children of military personnel deployed overseas called "Operation Snuggles". These quilts are

made with lot of love and given to the children so that they can feel closer to the parent who is deployed overseas. Donations for this are also accepted. If you wish to donate materials, or money, please contact Kris Lindsay  
262-377-9072  
Klindsay2@wi.rr.com

Visit their website and you will find a link for drop off locations for donations. There are several in the local area.

If you sew, you may make a quilt for the children to snuggle in. We take quilts for babies, children and teenagers. Many of the quilts have stars and stripes, and banners. They also make quilts for wounded soldiers from Wisconsin. They have made over 900 for the soldiers. Quilts for the wounded soldiers should measure 70" by 86". For more information please visit: [home.roadrunner.com/~operationsnuggle/](http://home.roadrunner.com/~operationsnuggle/)

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The April membership meeting of the S.A.L. will be held in the Wimmer Room at 6:30 pm on April 6, 2010. Elections of Officers for the Sons of the American Legion will be held at this meeting. Please come out and run for an Office or vote for the person you want to hold an Office.

**From the Squadron Officers.** The Sons want to thank all the members of the Squadron who helped the Legion with the Smoker and the Community Outreach Fund. We are here to aid the Veterans of the Community. To all the Legion and Auxiliary members who have thanked us -- we are here for you. Our purpose is to serve the Legion and Veterans of the Community. We do our best. If you need help, ask us. If we are able we will be there to assist everyone that we can.

S.A.L. Commander Danny Key  
414-541-8386

April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 April Fools Day	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter	5	6 ARMY DAY ELECTIONS Blood Pressure Screening - S.A.L. Meeting Membership Mtg	7	8	9 National POW Recognition Day	10
11 Persian Gulf War Cease Fire 1991	12	13 POPPY Meeting House Committee Meeting	14	15 Income Tax Day	16	17
18	19	20 Auxiliary Meeting Ex Bid Meeting	21 Administrative Professionals Day	22 Earth Day	23	24
25	26	27	28 County Council Meeting	29	30 Arbor Day Vietnam War Ends	

- April 2            Good Friday
- April 4            Easter
- April 6            ARMY DAY  
6:30 pm - Post Blood Pressure Screening  
6:30 pm - S.A.L. Meeting - Wimmer Room  
7:30 pm - Membership Meeting - Cramer Hall  
**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**
- April 13  
6:00 pm - Poppy Meeting  
6:30 pm - House Committee Meeting
- April 15            Income Tax Day
- April 20  
7:00 pm - Ex Board Meeting - Wimmer Room  
7:00 pm - Auxiliary Meeting - Cramer Hall
- April 21  
7:30 pm - 4th District Meeting - Post 180  
George Washington / Bay View Post
- April 22            Earth Day
- April 28  
7:30 pm - Milw Cty Council Meeting  
Youth Dinner - Tanner Paull Post 120

<p><b>BOUCHER AUTOMOTIVE GROUP</b>  <b>Preferred Military Pricing for Post 537</b>  <b>Members and Families</b>          "Boucher has donated over \$10,000 to Disabled Veterans"  <b>16 locations and 15 brands to serve you</b>  <b>Contact Chuck Olsen, USARet.</b>  <b>Corporate Sales Manager</b>  <b>414-403-5816 / chuck.olsen@boucher.com</b>          Please present coupon and military or Am Legion ID on arrival</p>
--

## AUXILIARY NEWS

Greetings Legion Family. Well it seems like Spring has arrived, at least for the moment. Some great joint projects are coming up soon, for instance the Poppy Distribution at Miller Park on May 14th. The legion has bought up a block of tickets for that game, at the cost of \$20.00 each, please see either Dave Wischer or myself to obtain tickets. The tickets will be first come, first serve and payment must be made at that time. Deadline is

April 15, 2010. The Auxiliary has a great opportunity to raise funds for Operation Stars & Stripes Honor Flights. One of our members is a Lia Sophia Jewelry Representative and is going to host a show at the Post on April 20, 2010. This show will be at 6 PM, right before our regular meeting that night. You may also visit her website <http://www.liasophia.com/kathysjewels>, she is going to donate 100% of the profit of this show to the Honor Flight Fund. Please help us to make this a profitable event. The Honor Flights fly WWII veterans to Washington DC for the day to see the WWII monument. There is also a luncheon in their honor that day in Washington DC. If you have any questions please contact me, we are hoping that we can make a considerable contribution to this project.

Auxiliary President Sue Hembrook  
262-843-4791- Genesuehem@wi.rr.com

## Harv's Quik Quiz Answers

1. a - Washington -- New York has shores on LongIsland Sound.
2. c - plant - The Instruments were fashioned from the hollow reeds cut to different lengths & tied together.
3. b - Alaska. A States population determines the number of it's representatives in Congress.
4. a - Colorado
5. b - Indiana - The Wasbash River is Indiana's main waterway.

H.A. Todd Jr. Post 537  
9159 W. Beloit Rd  
Milwaukee, Wi 53227

2006-2007 Past State Commander  
Charles Cooney

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Permit No 5038

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Dated Material



## H.A. TODD POST WEBSITE

Have you visited our Website lately? If you do - note that you may see lots of new things. We are also now on Facebook, and if you visit the website you will see a button with the letter "f". Click on that and you can get to the Post Facebook account. You will need to sign up to make comment. Just follow the directions.

Rob Fyfe has put several clips of Post Events on You Tube - and that button is on the website as well. We are also signed up for Twitter. and you can access the State, National, and Post Auxiliary Websites from our Post Website. Miss a newsletter, or misplaced your newsletter. Post Newsletter are posted on the Website.

Want to know what is going on at the Post, or important dates to remember, you can access that information by clicking on the Calendar of Events.

There is lots of information for you on the website. and we have a Taps Page for all those members of the Post who have been called to the Arms of the Commander of us All since November of 2009.

Visit us and take a look. And if you have suggestions, click on Contact Us, and your message will be forwarded to the right person.

## TAPS



Merle E Parker  
January 31, 2010



Army - Korean War

We extend our sympathy to their families.  
May they rest in Peace in the  
Arms of the Great Commander of us all.