



# THE LEGION POST

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59 STOUGHTON WI

POST WEBSITE: POST59.ORG

POST PHONE 608-205-9090

DECEMBER 2009

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 12

## Commanders Report



Greetings.

Well, it's almost Turkey Day again. It's hard to believe this year is almost over!

We have good news! We have received our Post sign for the front, which will help everyone notice our location. After a lot of discussion it was decided to put it on a brick type foundation rather than a pole. Joe Erickson offered to do the labor for the brickwork. When you see him, be sure to thank him as he is saving us a lot of money for his time. Our Post is starting to pick up on rentals. A message board on our sign will be very helpful to passerby's so they can see what is going on at the Post.

On a sad note, we have lost another long time member. Rueben (Bud) Dybevik. We have greatly missed seeing Bud and Evie at our post in the past recent months since he turned ill. A reminder to everyone, if any of our members are sick or hospitalized, we would like to know. Many times we don't get the message and they are well and back home. Please call Monte Whitford (Chaplin) or Sonny Swangstu.

A big Thank You to Bob & Mary Lloyd for their work on sending out the Troop Care Packages. Also thanks to those that come and helped pack the boxes. If you know of any local area service members, please let them know.

We are still looking for membership dues to come in. Just a reminder. Also, recruiting new members is very important. So keep the numbers coming in.

If you save aluminum cans and want to donate them, we have a fenced-in area in the back of the building for this purpose. We would greatly appreciate this.

Don't forget the spaghetti dinner on Nov. 21 for the Special Olympics at the American Legion. Posters will be around town. Also, remember Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> is the Benefit at the VFW from noon to 6:00 for Ash Guiles (the little six month old boy with medical problems).

Please sign up with Monte Whitford or Linda Swangstu if you can help with cleaning the Post periodically. This gets to be a huge job if not kept up. Thank you to the members who helped last month. We need new faces so let's show how proud we are of our Post.

Thank you,  
Have a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving,

Commander Sonny Swangstu

### 2009-2010 OFFICERS

#### Post Commander

Sonny Swangstu

#### 1st Vice Commander

Mike Griggs

#### 2nd Vice Commander

Mary Lloyd

#### 3rd Vice Commander

Richard Breyman

#### Adjutant

Dennis Rodenkirch

#### Finance

Don Helmke

#### Chaplain

Monte Whitford 873-

4020

#### Historian

Odean Teigen

#### Sgt at Arms

Ken Schieldt

#### Service Officer

Bob Lloyd

#### Judge Advocate

Terry McArdle

### Auxiliary

#### President

Lori Redepenning 877-9918

#### 1st Vice President

Linda Swanstu

#### Secretary

Evelyn Kahl

#### Treasurer

Rita Sperry

#### Chaplain

Marlene Bierman

#### Sgt at Arms

Mary Copley



## Auxiliary News

Greetings! As we approach the busiest season of the year for a lot of people, I hope you'll take time for yourself. Yesterday was Veterans Day and my boss gave the staff time off to attend the ceremony in Madison at the Capitol. It was the first time I had been able to attend and I must say, it was well worth it! Two of Dane County's veteran service officers were involved, as well as an acquaintance that was the Gold Star mother, so it was a bit special in that respect. I hope you took

some time to pay tribute to the veterans in your life, too, but it's something we need to be grateful for everyday.

I want to thank everyone for their support of the Badger Boys/Girls State, we had another successful auction. The winners of the scholarships won't be announced until December, but I think we had very good participation, so I hope we will benefit by receiving a scholarship.

I wasn't able to attend the G.I. Party that both the Legion and VFW sponsored but I heard it wasn't as well attended as was expected. That's a shame and a loss to those who didn't participate, I think you may have missed out on a good time. Let's hope next year will be more successful.

There are two activities

coming up that I hope you will support, either by working or attending. On Saturday Nov. 21 the local organization for Special Olympics is having a spaghetti dinner at the Legion. The profits will benefit the participants as they compete through out the year. The second event is the benefit for Ash Guiles on Sunday December 6 at the VFW. He was born in May with a heart defect and has had multiple surgeries. Posters are up around Stoughton for both these events, so mark it on your calendar!

We are trying to plan for a holiday "Brunch with Santa" in December, so watch for additional information to follow. There seems to be a few members who recall

Aux

having Santa stop by to pay a visit, and low and behold, they received a gift, too! It's the joy of seeing the smiles on the children's faces and the excitement in their eyes when this time of year rolls around.

In closing, I hope you have a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving. And remember- the older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends!

Lori



**AMERICAN LEGION BAR**  
**803 N. Page St. Stoughton, WI**  
Open to the Public

## **LEGION HALL AVAILIABLE FOR RENTALS**

The word is getting out regarding our hall rental. We have had funerals, a music jam session, and Christmas and birthday parties. We now have a portable dance floor as well. We are now getting wedding receptions and anniversary bookings also. How about those family and class reunions coming up this summer? 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**.

## **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.

## Membership Notes

As of October 6, 2009 we have 283 paid for 2010. This is 85% of our quota of 334 for the year. This is good, but the hard part is yet to come. The last 15% are the most difficult to collect. Please help out by paying your dues soon, if you haven't already done so.

Don't forget that you can renew your membership on line at [www.members.legion/renew](http://www.members.legion/renew)

That's about it for now. Archie Christensen Membership Chairman

### 1,2,3

[www.members.legion/renew](http://www.members.legion/renew)

### Call All Organizers.

Are you the kind of person who likes numbers and organizing things without being in charge? Don Helmke, our Post Finance Officer, is looking for you. Don is doing a great job but could use someone to assist him with general bookkeeping. The time commitment is a couple of hours a month.

For more information contact Don or Dennis Rodenkirch 438-8768.

## Bar

### Banter:

Things are going along pretty good at the lounge.

On Saturday Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> the Legion Riders held their first meat raffle. At 1:30 there was a pretty scant crowd, but they came in by 2; 00 and we had a good turnout. Everyone had a good time and we had numerous comments on the quality of the meat. (It was provided by Bill's market in Oregon). Bob and Mary did an excellent job organizing this event. Bar business was very good, it kept two bartenders hopping. Thanks to the Legion Riders for sponsoring this event. The profits from the meat raffle will be used for various community programs.

The Auxiliary planned on serving

food on Sunday afternoons, but we forgot to take into consideration that the Packers will not play on Sundays until October 18<sup>th</sup>. I assume they will start it again.

We had the Lounge open on Monday night for the Packers – Viking game. The auxiliary furnished the food, and the bar had various surprise drinks. We also had jello shots for all to enjoy. The crowd wasn't too large, but everyone had a good time.

We still can use some more bartenders. See Archie or Joe. When we have special events we need two bartenders on duty.

See our ad in the Shopper and the Hub, and come on down, support your post and have a good time.

Archie and Joe

## CHAPLAINS CORNER

This Thanksgiving comes in dismal economic times. Lost jobs, depleted incomes and pensions, uncertain times-all take a toll on us.

Though the day is secular in nature, any gratitude for the bounty of the earth belongs to God alone. So much so that the church has incorporated Thanksgiving as a holy day. And as difficult or depressing as the times may be, we must pay attention to gratitude.

Our understanding of Eucharist as "the Great Thanksgiving" puts into perspective our duty to be thankful people. "Think" and "Thank" come from the same root. One cannot be thankful without thinking, recalling, remembering the things God has given to us and done for us. Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and said "Take, eat--do this in remembrance of me."

On a day when we may not be grateful for what has become of the economy, we need to be aware of the far greater gifts God has given us. Today be thankful for what you have, what you have had, and what you hope to have. Remember, too, those less fortunate with acts of charity.

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

# November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 <i>G.I. PARTY Post 59, 5 PM</i>
8	9 <i>Post and Aux Meeting at 7PM</i>	10 <i>Post dinner 6:30 PM</i>	11 <i>Veterans Day</i>	12	13 <i>Fish Fry at Waunakee</i>	14 <i>Breakfast Post 501 7-11</i>
15 <i>Post Breakfast 7- Noon</i>	16	17	18	19	20 <i>Fish Fry at Post 481</i>	21
22	23	24	25	26 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	27	28
29	30					

# December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 <i>Fish Fry at Waunakee</i>	12 <i>Breakfast Post 501 7-11</i>
13	14 <i>Post and Aux Meeting at 7PM</i>	15 <i>Post dinner 6:30 PM</i>	16	17	18 <i>Fish Fry at Post 481</i>	19
20 <i>Post Breakfast 7- Noon</i>	21	22	23	24	25 <i>Christmas Day Free Diner at the VFW 11-1pm</i>	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## Veterans Corner

### William Dennis Redepenning U.S. Air Force 1971 -1975

By Evelyn Kahl



Bill enlisted in the U.S. Air Force on March 14, 1971 when he was 17 years old, wanting to better himself and to also to receive some better pay. He was inducted in Milwaukee, WI after receiving his physical exam.

He received his Basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. He was there for about 12 weeks. From there he went to Technical School at Chunute Field in Illinois. He trained as a Crash Rescue Fighter and was then sent to McConnel Air Force Base in Wichita, Kansas. He spent 1.5 years in Kansas.

He was then stationed in the Philippines where he continued is Rescue Firefighter assignments at Clark Air Force Base. He was a fireman through out his four years in the air Force.

He received the following citations during his military career:

- Good Conduct Medal
- National Defense Service Medal

One memorable experience that came to mind during the interview concerned Bill helping to put out a fire of his base Commanders house.

The Commander had poured gasoline into his lawn mower, which was under the carport. The gasoline ignited and ended up burning his house down.

Another memorable experience- Shortly before leaving Kansas, A B-52 crashed at the end of the runway and caught on fire. It was the first aircraft that crashed on this Kansa Base and his Rescue Dept. helped in extinguishing the blaze.

The C-41's, which were basically flying hospitals, would bring many wounded soldiers to Clark Air Force Base for treatment. The Fire Department would be notified of the planes arrival and they would make sure everyone got off the plane safely. After receiving necessary treatment, they would be sent a stateside hospital.

At the end of the Vietnam conflict, Tent cities were set up at Clark to accommodate Vietnamese evacuees who were in need of sleeping quarters. This was the first stop for these evacuees.

During this time Bill was on Red Alert, which means if they were

needed in an emergency, they would be the first ones called.

Bill received a call one afternoon when one of the planes leaving Vietnam. The plane was shot down and had casualties on board. Bill was unable to participate, but his best buddy ended up going (Operation Air Lift). The PX was closed so the Vietnamese could be taken care of.

The war was technically over and efforts were made everyone air lifted out of Vietnam ASAP.

Bill left the Philippines in 1975. He was flown back to his hometown of Cottage Grove, WI. He was married to Lori in October 1972 while home on leave. She had been his grade school and high school girlfriend. They have two children, ill Jr. who was born in the Philippines and a daughter, Heather.

Bill worked at a gas station for a while, then at Oscar Mayer for 10 years. He was an electric lineman for 13 years in Deerfield, WI. He was then hired by Wisconsin Power and Light Co. and is presently employed there.

Bill was the Commander of American Legion Post 59 for

**Gentle Thought for Today - Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL.**

#### ATTENTION PLEASE YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Lately we have been finding trash in the aluminum collection cage. This makes it more time consuming during the can turn in as we need to separate everything. Volunteers do this program as well as all others at the post and all profits go to support our programs.

#### BOOKS TO GIVE AWAY

I have several World War II non-fiction books to give away to a good home. I will be bringing a few books to the Legion meetings so the members may chose one or more that looks interesting to read. The project was well received during the meeting of 9 November 2009. Several members suggested that they would return the book(s) after reading them so others could also read them.  
ERV ERDAHL



## Ash Guiles BENEFIT



For more information on Ash's struggle visit: [www.caringforash.info](http://www.caringforash.info)

Ash Guiles was born in May 2009 with Tetralogy of Fallot, a heart defect. Since his birth he has undergone several open-heart surgeries and numerous complications. It almost seems that every time the doctors fix one thing, something else goes wrong. Ash has been at the Children's Hospital of Milwaukee since June 24. His mother is currently living at the Ronald McDonald House in Milwaukee to be close to him. His Father, an Air Force veteran, lives in Stoughton so that he can work full time and commutes to Milwaukee as often as possible.

Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup>  
Noon – 6PM

Stoughton VFW  
200 Veterans Road

### WHAT

~Food ~Entertainment ~Multiple Raffles  
~Cash Bar ~Silent Auction

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO BENEFIT**

Hosted by  
Stoughton American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary,  
VFW, VFW Auxiliary

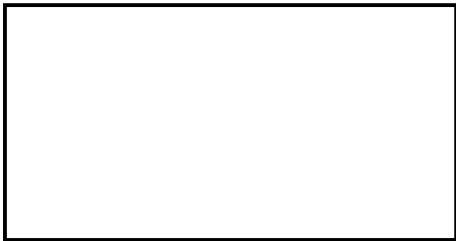
## Calling All Quilters!

Ash Guiles is the infant son of a Post 59 Air Force Veteran. He was born in May 2009, with Tetralogy of Fallot, a heart defect. The Legion and Auxiliary, VFW and their Auxiliary are jointly sponsoring a Benefit in his name on December 6<sup>th</sup>. A member of the organizing committee has "many tubs" of quilting fabric that she would like to give to someone or a group who would be willing to make a quilt to be raffled off at this benefit. If anyone is interested in doing this please contact, Ellen Curran, as soon as possible, cell number is: (608) 843-7850, or e-mail at: [ellen\\_c3@yahoo.com](mailto:ellen_c3@yahoo.com)



THE LEGION POST

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**Veterans \$8.00**      Mon 10-6:30  
Tue 10-6:30  
Wed Closed  
Thu 10-6:30  
Fri 9-3  
Sat 9-1  
Sun Closed



OTIS SAMPSON POST  
59  
PO BOX 16  
STOUGHTON WI 53589

*MEMBER*  
*WALPA*  
*WISCONSIN AMERICAN*  
*LEGION PRESS*  
*ASSOCIATION*

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
STOUGHTON WI  
PERMIT NO.9

**NEW TIME EAT AT 6:30**  
**DECEMBER DINNER**  
**TUESDAY THE 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
**PRIME RIB**  
**RESEVATIONS RECOMMENDED**  
**DINNER CALL JOHN 608-347-3830**  
**EMAIL AT [johnc22@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnc22@sbcglobal.net)**

**Zen for Those Who Take Life Too Seriously:**  
**Support bacteria. They're the only culture some people have.**