

# Newsletter

Daugherty-Hamilton Post #234-Omro, WI  
October 21, 2010  
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Website: [www.omropost234.org](http://www.omropost234.org)



## FROM THE COMMANDER

Hello Comrades and Friends

We are starting to get to that time of year when things start to get a little busier. Bob Wipf has been working hard at getting the word out on the oratorical contest. He has had several meetings with students at the high school and things are looking very promising for this year's competition. Membership is going fairly well, we are currently in 2nd place in the county at 72% behind Winneconne at 75%. I would like everyone to make a strong effort to get our strength up to 100% by our November meeting and make John Vonderloh's job easier for the rest of the year. So let's get those dues in. We do have a guest speaker for this month's meeting, Bob Stone from the county veterans office will give a short presentation and be available after the meeting to answer questions. I've heard Bob speak in the past and, he is a very energetic and informational speaker. Don't forget county government day is 26 October 2010. Those interested in helping can give John Vonderloh a call for more specifics. See you all at the meeting.

Yours in Comradeship  
Ken Flock

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Additional information about upcoming events can be found on the post website: [www.omropost234.org](http://www.omropost234.org)**

- 10/26/10 Winnebago County Government Day 9AM Winnebago County Court House
- 10/27/10 Navy Day
- 10/27/10 Post 234 Regular Meeting 7:30 PM @ Tanner's Tap & Grill, Omro, WI.**
- 10/28/10 Dedication of the Statue of Liberty (1886)
- 10/31/10 Halloween
- 10/31/10 **American Legion 6<sup>th</sup> District Fall Conference**
- 11/11/10 **Veterans Day**
- 11/11/10 Veterans Breakfast @ Omro Care Center at 7:00 AM (Volunteers show up @ 7:00 AM)
- 11/11/10 Veterans Day Service at HB Patch @ 8:30 AM
- 11/11/10 Veterans Day Service at Elementary School @ 9:30 AM
- 11/11/10 Veterans Day Service at Omro High School @ 10:30 AM
- 11/11/10 Military Appreciation Day @ all Applebee's free diner for Veteran all day
- 11/11/10 Veterans Dinner @ The Waters (Old Post 70 Building) 5:30 PM Social, 6:30 PM Dinner, 7:30 PM Program Tickets \$15.00 available by mail before November 6<sup>th</sup> Mail to 1393 Washington Ave. Oshkosh, WI 54901 and pick up at door.
- 11/18/10 Winnebago County Council Of Veterans Organizations 9:30 AM @ James Coughlin Building
- 11/18/10 Winnebago County Council 7:00 PM at Neenah Post
- 11/15/10 Military Appreciation Day @ all Golden Corrals free diner and beverage for Veteran 5-9 PM
- 11/17/10 Post Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 PM @ Tanner's Tap**
- 11/19/10 Gettysburg Address (1863)
- 11/24/10 Post 234 Regular Meeting 7:30 PM @ Tanner's Tap & Grill, Omro, WI.**

*The Mission Of Daugherty-Hamilton Post 234 Is To Provide Services To Veterans, Their Families And Our Communities .*



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Bob Wipf

**Service Officer**  
Pete Hennes

**Sergeant-At-Arms**  
Jack Haynes

**Chaplain**  
Steve Goller

**Historian**  
Darryl Schmidt

**Parliamentarian**  
Jim Romnek

**Members At Large**  
John Vonderloh (3 yr)  
Ken Jungwirth (2 yr)  
Dean Larsen (1 yr)

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Well, here we are again. The end of another month. As of this date we have 107 of 134 paid for 2011. After our next meeting I will be calling you who are in the rears. Actually you have till March to pay, but I'm always looking for our post to win awards. If your having a rough time because of the economy or just flat busted. Let me know and I'll have your dues paid for this year. National is current sending out dues reminders to everyone, if you have already paid your dues disregard this reminder notice. Also let me remind you that there are a lot of benefits available from the VA. If you have a question, ask and we'll do the best we can to get your answers. Have a great month, Vondy

**CHAPLAINS CORNER**

There was a heavy bronze bell that had sunk to the bottom of a river in China. The efforts of various engineers to raise the bell were unsuccessful. At last, a monk asked for permission to make the attempt, on condition that the bell would be given to his temple. He received permission, then had his assistants gather an innumerable number of bamboo poles. Bamboo is hollow, light and practically unsinkable. The poles were taken down by divers, one by one, and fastened to the bell. After thousands of poles were fastened, the bell began to move, the buoyancy of the accumulated poles was so great that they actually lifted the enormous bell to the surface. You may think that your piece of bamboo, your prayer and your efforts are too small and too light-weight to make any difference. Don't ever underestimate the power of persistent and unrelenting prayer because mountains may be moved. Continue to pray for our nation.

**MEET YOUR ADJUTANT**

Joined Navy 1966  
Attended Electronics School  
Attended Naval Tactical Data Systems School  
Assigned USS Josephus Daniels DLG-27  
Circumvented South America (Unitas IX Tour)  
Tour in Golf Of Tonkin (Vietnam)  
Instructor Naval Tactical Data Systems Vallejo, CA.  
Hobbies: golfing





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## VETERANS TRUST FUND: RUNNING ON EMPTY

*By Representative Steve Hilgenberg*

When the gas light goes on in your car, most people stop at the nearest gas station to fill up. But others see how far they can push it, and they drive on for another 20 miles or so before stopping. This is the approach the state of Wisconsin has taken when it comes to restoring the solvency of the Veterans Trust Fund, which finances most of the state's programs and services for veterans and their families. With more and more troops coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan, the Veterans Trust Fund is facing serious solvency issues. To put it simply, there is an increase in demand for government services and the Trust Fund can't keep up. Annual expenditures are exceeding revenues by about \$6 million a year and recent estimates confirm that by 2013, the Trust Fund will slip into negative cash flow. For the time being, the Trust Fund is running on empty, and we as a state have to decide if we're going to stop to fill up or if we're going to push our luck and put it off into the future. We can all agree that it's in the best interests of the state to ensure that our veterans have the services they need to reestablish their lives and excel in the workforce. On top of the social benefits, reintegration services generate huge dollars for the economy in health care savings and productivity returns. That being the case, it's extremely important that we identify short-term solutions and long-term strategies to maintain the viability of veterans programs and the Trust Fund. So what options do we have if it's clear that we need to maintain veterans services? To go back to the car analogy, we can either fill up now (i.e. identify a long-term revenue source to stabilize the Trust Fund) or we can risk it and hope for a gas station down the road (i.e. hold off on new revenue and trust that veterans programs won't break down before the next budget cycle). In my opinion, we need to address this issue on the front end, and we need to make a variety of adjustments to cover the operational costs of the Trust Fund. First off, we need to identify efficiencies within current programs. The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) has already taken steps to restructure assistance programs and reduce administrative costs, but during these difficult times, we need to continue to ensure that state programs are lean and sustainable. Secondly, we need to look at shifting funding off the Trust Fund onto sources that are more manageable. For instance, 98% of the funding for the Wisconsin Veterans Museum is financed by veterans. This state treasure is enjoyed by all residents of Wisconsin, and we need to consider shifting funding onto general purpose revenue in order to help extend the solvency of the Trust Fund. Finally, we need to look at permanent state and federal revenue sources directed toward the Trust Fund. Despite all the talk about reducing government and cutting taxes, we have to understand that reducing government could mean cutting programs that go to veterans and their families. If we as a state truly believe that it's in our best interests to invest in our veterans, then we have to be willing to foot the bill and follow through on that commitment. All things considered, waiting for the Trust Fund to become insolvent will cause much greater problems in the long run. WDVA and veterans organizations are working very hard to make ends meet and we have to make sure they have the support they need to continue Wisconsin's tradition of progressive action to protect and assist our veterans.

### Stop-Loss Pay Update

Congress, as a part of the continuing resolution they approved to fund government entities at the 2010 rates which allowed them to recess for the NOV elections, extended stop loss payments owed to active duty service members. Service members and veterans have been given until 3 DEC to apply for extra pay that is owed them if their active duty service was involuntarily extended between 9/11 and September 30, 2008. Congress hopes that by extending the date, the number of those applying for the payment will increase. Currently only 40% of the people who qualify have applied and received the extra allowance. In the interim Stop-loss veterans can submit their claims online at <http://www.stoplosspay.army.mil> The Army encourages all candidates to visit its website to check eligibility and submit claims. The website also lists answers to frequently asked questions about the claim process and has a link to the program's official Facebook page. Applicants who have questions not covered by the website can e-mail [RetroStopLossPay@conus.army.mil](mailto:RetroStopLossPay@conus.army.mil) or call (877) 736-5554. Veterans can also link to the eligibility and claims information on the VA Vet Center home page at <http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/index.asp>. Click on "RSLP" at the bottom of the left side column.



## Veteran Benefits Legislation:

The Veterans' Benefits Act of 2010 (H.R. 3219, as amended) passed the House 29 SEP after clearing the Senate on the 28th. The bill now goes to President Obama for his consideration. This bill will expand insurance options for disabled veterans, upgrade compensation benefits and employment protections, authorize VA construction projects, and allow VA to keep using private physicians to quickly and accurately provide veterans with disability evaluations.

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My fellow Veterans:

In case you haven't noticed yet, we are the fastest growing post in Wisconsin. All of you contributed to that statistic by being a member. What I have noticed since joining is that this is like most other organizations. The minority of the members are doing the majority of the work. I guess that is human nature. But it doesn't have to be that way. I am making a plea to all of you. Give a little of your time. We have 134 members and growing. If everyone gave a couple of hours of your time it would make a tremendous difference. Some of our biggest workers in the past are getting to the point that they physically cannot do it any more. If you are reading this, you obviously read the newsletters. Look what we have done for the community on a local level. Look what the American Legion has done nationally to support the veterans. You do not have to chair a committee but just offer to help. One of the things we do is sell poppies. This involves sitting at a community business and accepting donations for a poppy. A good chance to meet some old friends you haven't seen in a while. You don't have to work alone. In most cases there are two people working. Thus the reason for more members to be involved. This money collected goes to a separate fund to be used locally to help fellow veterans in the time of need. Who knows, someday that could possibly be you. You could offer to help at any of our functions by helping to set up chairs, audio equipment, etc. Not sure yet, you can call any of the membership and ask just what you can do. Or call or email me at the information below.

Here is a way to get started. Come join us for Veterans Day Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>. At 7 am we will have breakfast at Omro Care Center with "our vets", Then we are off to H.B. Patch to share some time with the little ones. Believe me, this is really special. Then we are off to the grade school, followed by middle and high school. If that isn't enough to sweeten the pot for you, we will then head on down to Applebees for "Free" lunch. I am not going to bring up how we see more members at "fun" functions than "work" functions. That is really not my intent. But, darn it, get off you dead butts and help this organization. Look what this community and country has done for you and give a little back. Well Comrades, enough venting on my part. Hope to see more of you more often.

Dave Lemieux  
920 410 2402  
[dlemy@new.rr.com](mailto:dlemy@new.rr.com)

## Christmas Gifts For The Troops

Last year, American Legion Post 234 collected donations to be sent to our troops over seas. It was a membership drive of sorts. This year I am inviting anyone in our area communities, be it groups or individuals, to donate. Being away from home (especially at Christmas) can be very lonely. It is easy to forget about our armed forces personnel when they are not in the news everyday. However, they are still there serving to protect our freedom to the best of their ability. Everyone can participate. Christmas cards or Thank You cards with a personal message are one idea. Donation boxes or drives can be set up at schools. On November 13<sup>th</sup> we will have Legion members collecting at the Piggly Wiggly in Omro. We will be accepting donations in the form of merchandise or cash. The cash will be used to defray the cost of shipping. Piggly Wiggly will have \$5 bags of acceptable items to purchase for the drive. I am inviting the schools to participate. An idea for the classes is to write letters, make cards, draw pictures, scrapbook, etc. Include an address and you may be rewarded with a letter. Collection boxes could also be set up. Attached is a list of items that are needed. Be sure to note the DO NOT SEND list. If we should happen to get any of these items, they will go to the local food pantry. We will take care of collecting and getting the donations distributed.



**"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity."**

General George S. Patton (1885-1945) American General in World War I and II

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**Don't:** Send pressurized items (shaving cream, etc.) homemade baked goods, chocolates (may melt all over package), pornographic material (illegal in some countries)

\*Put any item that could leak or melt or which is scented in a leak-proof zip-sealed bag!

\*If you would like a reply, be sure to enclose a letter saying so.

### **Food Items**

\*Instant coffee. There are many flavored coffees that are very good.

\*Powdered Gatorade.

\*Powdered hot chocolate

\*Kool-Aid (presweetened of course)

\*Tea bags

\*Slim Jim's

\*Crackers and Easy Cheese. Triscuits and Ritz crackers are great.

\*Single servings of bagged chips. (The small bags stay fresh longer.)

\*Candy, of course. (M & M's are great, hard candy-anything that won't melt.)

\*Little Debbie snack cakes

\*Cookies/Girl Scout Cookies

\*Bubble gum

\*Rice Krispie Treats

\*Dry cereal. (The small, individual serving boxes stay very fresh.)

\*Kraft Easy Mac

\*Microwave popcorn

\*Beef jerky

\*Granola bars

\*Power bars

\*Dried fruit

\*Chex mix

\*Canned soup

\*Tuna

\*Spices (Onion powder, garlic powder, spice all, ect )

\*Summer sausage

\*Oatmeal

\*Salsa

\*Lollipops

\*Marshmallows

\*Gum

\*Chips

\*Ragu Express

\*Canned chicken

\*Salad dressing

\*Instant soup

\*Fast food condiments (Hot sauce, ketchup, mustard, salt and pepper packets, relish, Mayo)

### **For Females**

\*Feminine hygiene products (Tampons, panty liners)

\*Hair bands

\*Hair clips





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- \*Nail polish
- \*Nail clippers
- \*Q-tips
- \*Small mirrors
- \*body sprays
- \*Candles
- \*Hair spray (Pump)
- \*Hair gel
- \*Perfume

### Practical Items

- \*Clorox wipes
- \*Baby wipes
- \*Razors, shaving cream
- \*Batteries, AA and D
- \*Shampoo, conditioner
- \*After shave lotion
- \*Soap or body wash
- \*Mouth wash
- \*Deodorant
- \*Air freshener
- \*T-shirts, underwear and socks
- \*Eye drops
- \*Chapstick
- \*Lip balm
- \*Sun block
- \*Skin so soft (Avon)
- \*Lotion
- \*Dental floss
- \*Baby powder
- \*Foot powder
- \*Combs /brushes
- \*Cotton balls
- \*Liquid hand sanitizer
- \*Breath mints
- \*Contact lens cleaner
- \*Eye drops
- \*Nail files

### Two Movie Greats (and Veterans) Die:

Tony Curtis died 28 SEP at the age of 85. Mr. Curtis not only starred in over 100 films, he served in the Pacific during World War II. He served in the Navy on the U.S.S. Proteus, a submarine tender and watched through binoculars the formal surrender of Japan on the U.S.S. Missouri. After returning home he used the GI bill to study acting in New York City. On 29 SEP the director of —Bonnie and Clyde and —The Miracle Worker!, Arthur Penn died. He also served in World War II and used his GI Bill to study in North Carolina's Black Mountain College.



### The U.S. Navy Answers The Question: "Why did the chicken cross the road?"

- **Naval Education and Training Command (NAVEDTRA):** The purpose is to familiarize the chicken with road-crossing procedures. Road-crossing should be performed only between the hours of sunset and sunrise. Solo chickens must have at least three miles of visibility and a safety observer.
- **Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS):** Due to the needs of the Navy, chicken was involuntarily reassigned to the other side of the road. This will be 3-year unaccompanied tour and we promise to give the chicken a good-deal assignment afterwards. Every chicken will be required to do one road-crossing during its career, and this will not affect its opportunities for future promotion.
- **Naval Intelligence:** What chicken?