

Newsletter

Daugherty-Hamilton Post #234-Omro, WI
November 24, 2008
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Website: www.omropost234.org



FROM THE COMMANDER

Hello Comrades & Friends,

Veterans Day is behind us and what a day it was. It was our best Veterans Day program ever. The day started out by honoring our aging Veterans at the nursing home. Dean Larsen chaired the event with past commander Hoeft as emcee. It's very important that they know their service is remembered and honored. Ed Goss chaired the school programs once again. For the first time Omro Elementary and H.B. Patch were included. The kids were very impressed with the programs and the elementary school principal sent us a thank you letter that will be read at our meeting next week. The program at the high school was the best ever. We had those students in the palm of our hand. If you couldn't make the program you missed a good one. The speaker from our Post was Katy Werginz, Those kids hung on her every word. Her presentation was both powerful and personal. It touched the hearts of everyone there. I was very proud of her. It must have been very tough to relive her experiences. I am so grateful that Ed put the Armed Forces medley between Katy and me. I don't think that I would have been able to see the poem to read it right then. A special guest was Brent Vroman's command sergeant. He talked about the day Brent died and what happened. With Katy's and the gunny's speeches I would be surprised if we didn't have a couple of new enlistees. If you need to contact Ken Flock to sign up for the Christmas party call his cell phone at 420-0605. This year we are having snacks before we eat so while you are enjoying your cocktail you can nibble. December 13th will be the 4th anniversary of Brent Vroman's death. We all know how important Brent was to the building of our Memorial. We are having a plaque made that we are presenting to his mother. She is having a get together that day to remember Brent. A duplicate plaque is also being made that will go on the wall of our Legion hall. It's very important that all who come there either to eat or join one of our meetings can read about how important Brent was to our Memorial and how tragic his loss was. The jackets are in for our honor guard. They do a lot of funerals and they have been freezing during the winter. If we didn't buy jackets we would have probably been doing a funeral for one of them. As you can see we have been very active. A big thanks to all who helped out or participated in one of our many events. We continue to make a difference in the lives of our Veterans, their families and our community. The legacy fund is up to \$700.00. We are making a difference in the lives of the children of our fallen heroes. It's all because of you our post members. Be very proud of your service to your country and your membership in the American Legion. I hope to see you at our next meeting and the Christmas party. God bless you and your families and have a great Thanksgiving.

Yours in Comradeship
Rick Deiss

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Additional information about upcoming events can be found at

Omro Post website: www.omropost234.org

6th District website: <http://www.wilegion6.org>

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| 11/26/08 | Post 234 Regular Meeting 7:30 PM @ Tanner's Tap & Grill, Omro, WI. |
| 12/06/08 | Omro Christmas Parade (led by Post 234 Color Guard) |
| 12/7/08 | Pearl Harbor Day (1941) |
| 12/13/08 | Post 234 Christmas Party (see article on back) |
| 12/15/08 | Bill of Rights Day |
| 12/16/08 | Battle Of The Bulge |
| 12/17/08 | NO DECEMBER PEC Meeting |
| 12/18/08 | WCCVO 9:30 AM @ James Coughlin Building Christmas Party and mini Veteran's benefit seminar |
| 12/19-20/08 | Post 234 Salvation Army Bell Ringing @ Piggly Wiggly Omro (see John Hoeft for sign up) |
| 12/20/08 | Panama "Operation Just Cause" |
| 12/24/08 | NO DECEMBER POST MEMBERSHIP MEETING OR NEWSLETTER |
| 12/25/08 | Merry Christmas |
| 1/1/09 | New Years Day |
| 1/3/09 | Post 234 Oratorical Contest at Omro HS @ 1:00 PM (if contest is required) |
| 1/16-18/09 | Wisconsin American Midwinter Conference in Marshfield, WI |
| 1/17/09 | Operation Desert Storm Began (1991) |
| 1/22/09 | Allies Land In Anzio (1944) |
| 01/28/09 | Post 234 Regular Meeting 7:30 PM @ Tanner's Tap & Grill, Omro, WI. |

Daugherty-Hamilton
Post #234
 207 W. Main St.
 PO Box 234
 Omro, WI 54963-0234
 www.omropost234.org

Commander
 Rick Deiss
 920-685-0290
1st Vice Commander
 Ken Flock
2nd Vice Commander
 Pete Hennes
Financial Officer
 Ed Mason
Adjutant
 Bob Wipf
Service Officer
 Kenneth Ochalla
Sergeant-At-Arms
 Tom Weber
Chaplin
 Ray Janiak
Historian
 Darryl Schmidt
Parliamentarian
 Ray Hoeft
Members At Large
 Ken Jungwirth (1 yr)
 Dean Larsen (3 yr)
 John Vonderloh (2 yr)

Attention All Veterans

It appears that we may be in danger of losing a very important federal benefit, one that will impact a large number of veterans in a very negative way. A large number of Vietnam veterans are likely to lose their eligibility for VA Health Care and this is a call to arms to prevent that from happening. We need your help. Vietnam veterans as a population have been "guaranteed" enrollment to VA Health Care for some time now based on their presumed exposure to Agent Orange. The VA healthcare system has 8 different priority levels of veteran population, with all but Priority Group 8 currently eligible for enrollment. At the present time Vietnam veterans are automatically considered Priority Group 6 veterans and can be enrolled into the system regardless of their disability status or financial condition. This is based on authority given the VA which, unfortunately, expired in December 2002. While VA has seen fit to continue the enrollments regardless of the expiration, there are administrative efforts within VA to discontinue treatment under this authority, and that looks likely to happen in the near future. The only way this can be prevented is to provide VA with new legal authority. We need to do two things. First, we need to get the word out to all Vietnam veterans that this is happening, and that if they are not yet enrolled in VA healthcare, they need to be and quick. The window of opportunity is closing and we need to get as many enrolled as possible before it shuts. There will be no advance warning by VA. Based on past practices, veterans already within the VA healthcare system will be "grandfathered" and not dropped. Vietnam veterans not yet enrolled in the VA medical system should contact their County Veterans Service Office immediately for assistance or go to the nearest VA medical facility with DD-214 in hand for on-site enrollment. Secondly, we need all veterans, not just Vietnam veterans to contact their political representatives to ask their assistance in resolving this issue. It can only be corrected politically and if enough veterans get involved that will happen. Please contact your local Veterans Service Office for more details.

POST 234 CHRISTMAS PARTY

The date is Saturday December 13th at Tanners Tap. Pat says he can comfortably seat 80 people so we are limited to the first 80 who sign up. You will have a choice of either prime rib or chicken. Cost is only \$18.00 per person. All reservations must be paid before December 1, 2008, no exceptions. Social will be at 5:30 PM with dinner at 6:30 PM. There will be some prizes given away. This is always one of the most fun and popular events of the year, so sign up early. A sign up sheet will be at the October and November Post meetings. Or call Ken Flock (685-6858) for more information.

Omro, WI 54963-0439
 PO Box 234
Daugherty-Hamilton Post #234
American Legion