



THE VETERANS VOICE

AMERICAN LEGION POST 77

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Vietnam Veterans Welcomed Home

Vietnam Veterans should be aware of two events of interest to their generation. The first is close by in Eau Claire on March 27th and the second in Green Bay less than two months later in May.

Early in 2009 Governor Doyle signed a bill to establish Vietnam Veterans Day on March 29th each year. In Eau Claire, the first Vietnam Veterans Day will be celebrated at North High School from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on March 27, 2010. This event is sponsored by Thuy Smith International Outreach and WEAU TV 13. Admission is free and a banquet follows for Vietnam Veterans and up to two guests. The banquet costs \$12.00 per person and features Vietnamese and Hmong cuisine.

WEAU TV 13 News Anchor Judy Clark will be the master of ceremonies at this very first event. Various Veteran Service Organizations will present the colors and there will be several youth and cultural presentations. Special music is also planned. Amerasians from across the U.S are coming to pay tribute. Speakers include state and local officials and the Vietnam veteran who got the very first Vietnam Veteran Day bill passed.

Then, on May 20-23, 2010, the LZ Lambeau event will take place. This is Wisconsin's official welcome home for Vietnam Veterans at Lambeau Field. Tickets are required. For the Saturday night program there is a nominal ticket cost for Vietnam Veterans of \$2.00 and cost \$12.00 for others.



On May 20th the Vietnam War Memorial Moving Wall will open the event. Then, on May 21st, a 231 mile motorcycle rally is planned from UW La Crosse through Stevens Point to Lambeau Field in Green Bay. The main program will be on Saturday, May 22nd and this is where tickets will be required. During the showcase event attendees will remember those who did not return from combat with music, readings, and a preview of the Wisconsin Public Television documentary, Wisconsin Vietnam War Stories.

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Birthday Party

Our annual American Legion Birthday Party will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Chippewa Falls on **Sunday, March 21st**. We plan a social hour from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. with dinner at 5:00 p.m. This party is for all Post 77 and Auxiliary members and invited guests of members. We'll have a catered meal, drinks and lots of raffle prizes. We promise a good time for all, so don't miss this event! Note that the date on the raffle tickets is incorrect. The party and drawing are on **March 21st**.

2010 Badger Boys State



At our last meeting in January, Badger Boys Chairman Larry Werner reported that he had contacted guidance counselors at both Chi-Hi and McDonell High Schools regarding the selection of senior boys to attend. There will be six selected from Chi-Hi and two from McDonell.

Larry has spent several months gaining financial support from local businesses and service clubs for this annual event. Registration and travel expenses for the week long session this year will be \$2,680.00.

Badger Boys State is the American Legion's premier Youth Americanism program. Badger Boys State is a week-long program at Ripon College that teaches high school boys the workings of government and the principles of the great American heritage - justice, freedom, and democracy. About 850 boys from counties, cities and towns, have elections and operate their 51st state for a week.

We hope to receive reports from the eight young men who attend at one of our meetings later this year.

Candy Bar Sale Supports American Legion Post 77 Baseball Team

On March 4th – 6th, Post 77 members will be stationed at Gordy's County Stores and Mega Foods in Chippewa Falls



to entice shoppers into buying candy bars to help support Legion Post 77 boys senior and junior baseball teams.

Each year Post 77 donates \$1,500.00 or more to the baseball team for use to pay for uniforms, equipment and tournament expenses.

Please help us support this worthwhile youth program by purchasing one or more candy bars.

Welcome Back Wisconsin Army National Guard Soldiers

By the time you read this newsletter all elements of the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team should have returned home including members of the 829th Vertical Engineer Company headquartered here in Chippewa Falls.

We congratulate member Mike Hanke who, as a member of the 1-128 Infantry, returned home on January 24th.

THE FINAL BUGLE

Deceased Members Since November 3, 2009



► Gene Soden, US Army, WWII ◀