



H.A. Todd Jr Unit 537

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin

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Auxiliary News

The Poppy Story



From the battlefields of World War I, weary soldiers brought home the memory of a barren landscape transformed by wild poppies, red as the blood that had soaked the soil. By that miracle of nature, the spirit of their lost comrades lived on.

The poppy became a symbol of the sacrifice of lives in war, and represented the hope that none had died in vain. The American Legion Auxiliary Poppy has continued to bloom for the casualties of four wars, its petals of paper bound together for veterans by veterans, reminding America each year that the men and women who have served and died for their country deserve to be remembered.

Poppy Day has become a familiar tradition in almost every American community. This distribution of the bright red memorial flower to the public is one of the oldest and most widely recognized programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

This poppy, as a memorial flower to the war dead, can be traced to a single individual, Miss Moina Michael. She was so moved by Col. McCrae's poem that she wrote a response:

*. . . the blood of heroes never dies
But lends a luster to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders' Fields.*

On impulse, she bought a bouquet of poppies - all that New York City's Wanamaker's Department Store had - and handed them to businessmen meeting at the New York YMCA where she worked. She asked them to wear the poppy as a tribute to the fallen. That was November 1918. World War I was over, but America's sons would rest forever 'in Flanders' Fields.' Later, she would spearhead a campaign that would result in the adoption of the poppy as the national symbol of sacrifice.

Dates to Remember:

Unit Meeting
Tuesday May 19~ 7pm

State Convention:
July 23-26
Wyndham Milwaukee Airport
Contact Convention Chairman
Diana Sirovina to volunteer to help during the convention

Memorial Day
Pancake Breakfast
Monday May 25th
Please see President Sue for more details and to volunteer for cooking, serving and clean up etc.

- Notes...**
- Don't forget to clip coupons from your paper to send to Military bases around the world. See Ruth Predith if you need an address to send them to.
 - Bring non-perishable food items each month to donate to The Good Samaritan Outreach Center.



Poppy Days:

Friday & Saturday May 15th & 16th

See President Sue to volunteer to help distribute Poppies



Legislation & National Security:

Chairman Ruth Predith said that we will still be collecting used ink cartridges. Please bring them to the monthly meetings.

There is also a new address list for sending coupons. Please see Ruth before you mail anymore out.





Community Service:

- ◆ Vi Kaun: 1 hour greeter, 3 hours money counter at Church, 3 hour communion set up, 2 hours clipping coupons, 2 hours calling sick friends and members
- ◆ Shirley Scott: 20 hours Elmbrook Quilt Ministry
- ◆ Joan Kroll: 2 hours visiting a friend, 4 hours shopping for a friend
- ◆ Sue Sandow: 3 hours cutting coupons
- ◆ Debbie Lynch: 10 hours greeter at Church, 8 hours greeter for musical, 6 hours counting tickets
- ◆ Corinne Christensen: 18 hours volunteer at the Zoo
- ◆ Veronica Garvey: 13 1/2 hours clipping coupons, 3 hours baking for Church dinner.

Human Concerns:

- ◆ Thinking of you cards were sent to: Marion Nickel, Jane Corbett, Doris Benedict, Mary Pfeiffer, Josephine Ewert, Audrey Lukaszewicz
- ◆ Get Well cards were sent to: Dolores Miller, Verna Barbian, Lorraine Schumacher, Marilyn Reese
- ◆ Sympathy cards were sent to: Monica Witt, Family of Verna Barbian
- ◆ A Congratulations card was sent to Kathleen Jenkins on the birth of our newest member Cheyenne

Membership

We need just 7 more members to reach the 100% goal for the year. Have you paid your 2009 dues yet?

The membership dues increase will take effect for the 2010 membership year. Now would be the perfect time to become a VIM member! Never worry about another dues increase!

Contact Membership Chairman Vi Kaun today at 414-525-1025 or rkaun@wi.rr.com.

40 year member: Renee Young

NEW UNIT OFFICERS FOR 2009-2011

PRESIDENT—Sue Hembrook

1st VICE PRESIDENT—Nancy Wang

2nd VICE PRESIDENT—Ruth Predith

TREASURER—Audrey McClain

SECRETARY—Joan Kroll

HISTORIAN—April Kollmorgen

CHAPLAIN—Shirley Scott

SGT-AT-ARMS—Mary Ann Kaebisch

Post 537 Children & Youth Fundraiser.

The Post is hosting a raffle. Cost is \$25 per ticket - only 537 will be sold so get yours now! The drawing will be held on Memorial Day. See Linda Pfeifer for more information.



Department of Wisconsin website

www.amlegionauxwi.org

National American Legion Auxiliary website

www.legion-aux.org

If you have an email address, please let me know, so I can send you this newsletter in full color next month.

April E Kollmorgen - PR Chairman

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Unit 537 website www.hatodd537aux.org

Post 537 website www.toddpost537.org

Treats for May:

Sue Middlestead

