



Newsletter

Man-Of-Honor Society

Editor: Rosie Carr Volume: 3 Issue: 6 Date: December 2011 - January 2012

Veterans Day



The Man-of-Honor Society was invited to participate in the Veterans Day ceremony on November 11, 2011. The ceremony was held at the memorial site at the Marathon County Court House. Since the 11th landed on a Friday the MOH that were there were: Bernie Knippel, Ted Williams, Joe McGrath, Rick Beck, Terri Beck, Jim Fust, Rosie Carr and Sissa Hommerding. There were others there from the MOH, but they represented the other organizations ie VFW and American Legion. They were: Jeff Morgan, Lyle Bricko, and Jack Pettit. (I'm sure I missed a couple of others and I apologize for that.) The

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*Submit any articles to:
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ceremony was short but to the point. All went well. After the ceremony everyone was invited to the American Legion for lunch. They, as always, did a fine job.



Ham - Turkey Giveaway



This year's ham and turkey giveaway started way back in October when Keith Cota volunteered to chair the give away. He made numerous phone calls for a solid two weeks to various vendors to get the best price. We wanted to give away hams that weighed between 8 and 10 pounds, and turkeys that weighed between 10 and

12 pounds. It took a while before any prices were forwarded to Keith and they weren't very cheap. Keith talked with Tom Fust and the both of them hit the streets (so-to-speak) together to get the fairest price for us. Tim Schilling from Treu's Tic Toc asked his vendor at U.S. Foods and they gave us the best price we've had so far, so 350 Hams were ordered. Turkeys still remained a problem because of the summer drought in the south that killed a huge number of turkeys. Since the south is where most of the turkeys come from we knew the price would be high. But the Rib Mountain IGA came through with a very good price that was acceptable to us. They stuck their neck out because the Thanksgiving rush had not happened yet. So 150 turkeys were ordered. The hams were picked up on November 16th, and the turkeys were picked up on November 30th. Deb Zahurones tried to work her magic with the media so the word would get out that we were giving the hams and turkeys

(Ham-Turkey see page 3 col. 1)

*Flag retirement drop off box at
Whiskey River and at The Jim.*

Message from the

President



**Jim W. Fust, SMSGT
USAF (Retired)**

As I write this, it is the end of 2011. As you read this it is 2012. I am going to reflect on the past year and share my vision for the year ahead. But first of all I want to say thank you to each and everyone of you. Each member, military or associate have been invaluable to this society. As a military member you show that you care about this great country of ours and that you are proud of your service to it and respect others that have or still are serving. As an associate member you show that you are proud of our military and that you care deeply about them and this country as well. I am very proud to say that I am associated with such a fine dedicated group of American Patriots. I also want to say a special thank you to the other officers of the MOH: Vice President: Ric Carr, Secretary: John S. Fust, Treasurer: Keith Cota, and Sergeant-of-Arms: John H. Fust. It has been a pleasure and an honor to work with you throughout this past year. Without your individual

help this organization would not be where it is today. John S. Fust will be giving up his duties as secretary this year. He will be spending more time with his family, but he vows to remain active with the MOH. Bernie Knippel was elected to replace John. Bernie is looking forward to the challenge and I am sure he will do an exceptional job. One other person needs to be recognized and thanked. Associate member Rosie Carr has been indispensable this past year. She writes the newsletter. She serves on several committees, gets the word out on calls for actions and other important information to the membership. Plus she does many, many behind the scenes projects.

2011 was very interesting and fulfilling. We raised a lot of money through the Spring and Fall Raffles, but we gave a lot away as well. The MOH repaired several homes, repaired a furnace, paid electric bills, paid for life saving prescriptions, paid for several car repairs, installed a wheel chair ramp, bought kitchen appliances, donated to the VFW annual Christmas basket program, donated to the Never Forgotten Honor Flight, and donated to the Randlin House. These are just a few of many projects that we did that we can be proud of. The MOH also participated in several parades and functions in 2011. The Memorial Day parade and the July 4th were the big ones.

We were the featured military group and led the United Way kickoff parade as well. We presented the colors at the Wisconsin Valley Fair in August and received a standing ovation from the large audience. Associate member Deb Okrzesik has taken over the manofhonor.org web site. She has done a wonderful job on it, and she isn't done yet. Make sure you check it out. Our membership rose to over 350 members in 2011. We did much more this past year, but space is limited so I won't elaborate on them. But what I will do is put out a detailed "Year in Review" report within a month with the help of the other officers.

Here comes **2012!!!** I am really looking forward to this year. It's going to be exciting!

* There is so much already in the works. Besides the annual Spring and Fall Raffles the MOH is sponsoring the American Traveling Tribute coming to Wausau in June. This undertaking is headed by Randy Rasmussen and Jeff Morgan. They

President::

Jim Fust Cell: 715- 212-3743

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Ric Carr Cell: 715-212-1348

Secretary:

Bernie Kneippel 715-359-6178

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Sergeant Of Arms:

John Fust Sr. 715-842-7185

Have a very energetic and capable team that's going to do us proud. They will be needing more help as the time draws closer, so if you can, please volunteer when the time comes.

* Carrie "Nelly" Stotler has taken over the duties of buying selling and issuing the MOH caps, shirts and other MOH items. She is doing a very fine job, so if you need or want anything in that department, please see Nelly. Also if you have any suggestions for any other items for the MOH to get and sell please let Nelly know.

* Associate member Deb Zahurones has volunteered to be our MOH media contact. She has done a wonderful job, especially the past two months on getting media coverage for the MOH activities. She has contacts, knows how the media works and knows how to get us "air and print time". Our Public Relations Director, Rosie Carr now has, (as she calls it) a Public Relations Officer, or PRO to work with. They will make a great team!

* The MOH is still "auditioning" for a place to call home. Eagles Club did a very fine job for us, as did the Burns Post VFW Wausau. This month we are at Mickey's in Schofield, and next month we will be trying Whiskey River. That will be the last "audition" because we need to be settled in by the time our projects

start happening. Which ever or wherever we choose, we will still have the opportunity to go elsewhere for our meetings and activities. Obviously, we will keep you posted.

There will be a lot more happening in 2012. We will keep you informed through e-mails letters and meetings. But for now I will end by saying **Thank You** for making the Man-of-Honor Society the best organization in Marathon County and surrounding area that helps the military active duty, reservist, guard member, veteran and their families. May God bless you and the United States of America.

James W. Fust, President

INTEGRITY-HONOR-CONCERN

(Ham-Turkey Cont'd pg 1)

away. She did have some success. Pat Snyder from WSAU Talk Radio 550 announced the giveaway for several days. Wausau Daily Herald had it announced in the paper one day, two or three days before the event. TV channel 7 and 9 did not commit.

On December 3, 2011 a large number of Man-of-Honor Society members and associate members converged at the Eagles Club at 1703 S. 3rd Avenue to give away the hams and Turkeys. When the trailer with the turkeys and hams arrived around 8:45 a.m. there was already a large group of reci-

ipients there to get their gift. After an initial surge, the number of recipients declined but the "givers" stayed until around 1:30 p.m. At that time



the trailers doors were shut and the trailer moved. During the give away Keith Uhlig from Wausau Daily Herald took interviews from several MOH members and ham/turkey recipients. He also published pictures in the newspaper as well. A big thanks to Kevin Zahurones for bringing donuts. TV Channel 7 showed up the next day, and did an interview with associate member Bill Hendrichs and broadcast it that evening.

We thought we had a significant amount of items left, so we discussed giving them away on December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, which we did. At first we were going to go to the Wausau VA Clinic and catch the vets as they visited the clinic. The clinic contacted me and informed me that they would prefer that we not do that because of the potential problem with traffic. We contacted the VFW, and as usual they were more than accommodating. The word

got out that we were going to do this, in part because of the efforts by Sandi Kelch who heard about our problem getting coverage, and Debbie Zahurones, our "PRO". Channel 7 interviewed the MOH President at the VFW the day before the giveaway and aired it that night. An inventory was taken to see how many hams and products we had left. Surprise !!! There weren't as many left as we had thought. An emergency acquisition was made from Pik-n-Save in Weston for another 80 hams. They were picked up the morning of the 7th and taken to the VFW for giveaway. When we arrived the crowd there was enormous! From the time the trailer was backed in and unloaded, the remaining hams and turkeys were gone in less than 15 minutes. Unfortunately many people had to be turned away. Unfair to others, there were some vets at the VFW that also received a ham or turkey at the Eagles Club on the 3rd. This was not discovered until after everything was gone.

On a good note, the Man-of-Honor was very well represented at both the Eagle and at VFW. A lot of effort went in to this project to make it a success. Thank you to everyone who helped. When all was said and done we gave away 150 turkeys and 450 hams. A

great success!!

Christmas Party at VFW



Saturday, December 10, 2011 the Man-of-Honor Society held their annual Christmas Party. This year the party was at the VFW on River Drive in Wau-



sau. There is a lot of preplanning and prep work involved. Rosie Carr spent a lot of time just finding all the supplies for the centerpieces. The supplies came from Rib Mountain, Eau Claire, Milwaukee, and Madison. Finally the committee got together and transformed everything into centerpieces which were given away at the party. Thanks to all the committee members Lyle Bricko, Rosie Carr, Rick and Terri Beck, Jim Fust, Vicki Harness, Gerri Knippel, Jack Pettit, Nelly Stotler, Ted Williams, Deb Zahurones, and Peggy Wold. Without their help things would not have gone so smoothly.

There was a short program before dinner. Jim Fust presented Jim Campbell, also a MOH member, from the Never Forgotten Honor Flight, a check for \$1,000.00 for their next flight. Next a plaque was given to Jim Neitzke from



River Valley Express for their outstanding support of the Man-of-Honor. Bill Hommerding was presented a be-



lated retirement plaque which was made by Chief Master Sgt Joe Don Prejean from New Braunfels, TX. John Fust Jr.



received a plaque for this service as a secretary for the last four years. He is resigning because of family commitments. John will remain the voice at our future raffles, thanks John. Bernie Knippel wanted an attaché case for his duties as secre-



tary. So Jim Fust presented him with his new PINK attaché case. Everyone got a chuckle out of that. Again this year



Rosie Carr received the President's Award. This award is for dedication and superior support to the mission of the Man-of-Honor Society of Marathon County.

For the second year in a row, Jim Fust presented the Board Members with hats. This year it was Ivy hats. Sergeant of Arms, John Fust Sr., was surprised that his hat was the same,



not a gag hat. This year his son, John Fust Jr. received the gag hat.

I said a prayer before dinner. After the meal we picked the winner of the centerpieces. Santa, Jake Grzywacz, was a little late so we started the gift exchange without him. Rosie Carr and Gerri Knippel drew the names and the Santa's helpers, Alicia Reedy and Flicia



Lepak, handed out the gifts. Santa finally arrived and took over gift exchange. We found out that he went to Trails End by mistake. I don't think Santa will make that mistake again.

The Band, Old Skool, started to play and the partying began.



(Terri Beck & Steve Williams)
There was dancing, drinks, and socializing.

I would like to thank Sean Dean and his staff for a job well done. The food was prepared perfectly and the service was excellent. Also the bartenders kept everyone's glass full. Again, thank you all!

Thanks to Lumpy and the Man-of-Honor Bus everyone got home safely including Rosie and I. We had a good time and hope everyone else did.

Ric Carr, Vice President



(Nelly Stotler & Ted Williams)



(Gerri Knippel)



(Jim Fust & Ric Carr)
That's all, folks!!

Spotlight On One of Our Own!

It is always a pleasure to write in our Newsletter about our nominated “Spotlight On One Of Our Own” people.

Dennis Bell was born in Bell Garden, California and moved to Wausau with his family in 1952. He attended and graduated from Wausau East High School in 1961. Dennis, who lost his wife in 2002, has two lovely daughters, Cheryl and Marla. He worked for 33 years as an Iron Worker and is now retired. He was also a Schofield Volunteer Firefighter and EMT for 18 years.

Dennis enlisted in the US Army in 1962 was discharged in 1964, and then entered the Army Reserves where he remained until 1969. His duty in the Army was an Armored Crew Member on M-48 and M-60 Tanks. He as a SSGT when he left the Reserves in 1969. While in the Reserves in the late 1960's his unit was mobilized and was sent to Madison, Wisconsin, where they worked as protection and crowd control during the riots that were taking place, protesting the Vietnam War. While on active duty he was awarded the Army Sharpshooter Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

This quiet gentleman has been in the MOH for the past 3 years and has volunteered for many jobs to help raise money during our fund raising activities. He has sold raffle tickets, marched in Memorial Day Parades, and helped set up and tear down the sites of our 2 annual fund raisers. He is proud to be a volunteer and can always be depended upon when needed.

I am more than Honored to have Dennis in the MOH. He has brought honor, not only to himself, but to his family and the US Army. Thank you Dennis for all you do for the Man-of-Honor Society and thank you for your service to our Country.

James W. Fust, President

Written by: Bernie Knippel



With Sympathy



Theresa Wanta, 72, Bevent, died Friday, November 4, 2011, at Ministry Saint Clare's Hospital, Weston.

She was the mother of Scott Wanta, MOH member.

The funeral Mass was celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at St. Ladislaus Catholic Church in Bevent. Entombment was at Restlawn Memorial Park, Wausau. Visitation was on Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. until the time of service at the church. There was a Rosary Service at 9:30 a.m.

Our prayers and thoughts are with Scott and his family.

* * * *

Carol C. Winchell, age 68, of Merrill died Tuesday, November 29, 2011, at Ministry St. Clare's Hospital, Weston.

She is the sister of Gerard (Lumpy) Winchell, MOH member.

A memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, December 9, 2011, at the Taylor-Stine Funeral Home, Merrill. Visitation was at 10:00 a.m. on December 9th at the funeral home. Burial of her cremated remains will take place in the spring of 2012

in St. Frances Catholic Cemetery, Merrill.

Our sincere condolences and prayers go out to Lumpy and family members.

* * * *

One of our own, *Paul Spatz*, 56, of Wausau died Thursday, December 15, 2011, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

Paul was employed 22 years at the Wausau Area Transit System, retiring in 2010. He also served his country with pride in the Wisconsin National Guard for 22 years with deployments in both Iraq and Kuwait.

Funeral service was held Tuesday at noon, December 20, 2011 at First English Lutheran Church in Wausau. Visitation was held on Tuesday from 9 a.m. until the time of service at the church. Burial was held at Restlawn Memorial Park.

He will be missed by all. Our hearts and prayers are with the family.

Every Once In Awhile!

Every once in awhile someone let's me know that other wonderful things are being done to brighten a military member's day. Recently I was made aware that one of our members' wife has been doing just that. Back in February, 2011 this wonderful lady wrote an email to Operation Homefront telling them that she makes

greeting cards by hand, and asked them if they could use something like that to send to our troops. The response was a resounding yes! This set the stage for a lot of work. The greeting cards she makes are birthday, anniversary and Christmas. It sounds like an easy task with the computer technologies today, but this lady truly makes them by hand. She starts out by coming up with a design and plans it out. She then takes all the items she



wants on a particular card and puts them together with glue and thread. She then hand paints the small intricate detailed items. After she gets about 30 or so together she sends them off to Operation Homefront for them to send to the troops to use to send to their loved ones. As of the beginning of December 2011 she had made and sent over 200 of these cards, or 7 packages. Each and every card is "Hand Stamped" as she calls it, with her initials on the back of the card. The initials of this

“Angel of Greeting” are GK, which stand for Gerri Knippel. Gerri is the wife of our newly elected Secretary Bernie Knippel. What a wonderful idea this lady has come up with to brighten our defenders of freedom day. If you happen to see Gerri, please thank her. It is a wonderful thing she does and it should not go unnoticed.



Coming Events:

January 14, 2012 - Meeting at Mickey's 1239 Schofield Avenue Schofield, WI 54476 at 2:00 p.m.

March 10, 2012 - Meeting at Whiskey River 5512 Stewart Avenue Wausau, WI 54401 at 2:00 p.m.

March ??, 2011 - The time and place for the Pool Tournament will be determined at the next meeting. More details will follow in the next newsletter and on the web site.

New Members

We now have 372 members in the Man-of-Honor Society. The newest members are:

Dave Becker, US Army
Kim Brandt, US Army/Nat'l Guard
Walter J. Fredrick, US Army
James L. Gauerke Sr, US

Army
Robert W. Glimm, US Air Force

Alex Gusman, US Marine
Wes Hoffman, US Navy
Randy S. Hoppe, US Army
Jeff Krueger, US Air Force
Tom Lanigan, US Navy
Floyd J. Moore, US Navy
Cathie Morgan, Associate Member

Elwyn R. Parlin, Nat'l Guard
Howard Woods, US Army

**Happy
Birthday**



January

10-Jim Gilge, US Army
14-Erika Koch, US Army
15-John H Fust Sr., US Army
16-Roman Songer, US Marine
Wes Hoffman, US Navy
17-Don Dorgan, US Army
Rachelle Hulderman, US Army
Steve Williams, US Navy
19-Tim Miller, US Navy
20-Dale F. Cherney, US Army
23-Sтивен Nelson, US Marine
26-Mark Lyon, US Marine
27-Donna Bonin, Associate Member
28-Gary Hackbarth, Army Nat'l Guard
29-Keith Strey, US Navy
30-Jake Edwards, US Marine
Alan Krueger, US Army Airborne

31-Bill Wolfe, US Army

February

1-Bruce A. Borman, US Marine
Greg Crisman, US Army
Archie Drake, US Army
2-Nelly Stotler, US Navy
3-Steve Goetsch, US Army
4-Charles Smith, US Army
5-Henry Blarek, US Army
Richard Stepan, US Marine
8-Dennis Hardt, US Army
Bob Peterson, US Army
9-Victor Venske, US Army
10-Sean Guckenberger, US Army
13-Craig Chapman, US Army
14-Aaron Felch, US Army
15-Ed Gale, US Marine/Army
16-Kevin Reissmann, US Marine
Michael Weidman, US Army
18-Richard Knoeck, US Marine
20-Kenith Brod, US Army
Joey R. Vanouse, US Navy
23-John Chase, US Army
24-Bobbi Jo Maria Baltz, Army Reserve
25-Jack Sliwicki, US Army
26-Eddie Dehnel, US Army
27-Harold Hofstetter, US Army

The lucky winners of the \$25.00 drawings for November was John Heck Jr., Army Reserve and for December was Korin Saal, Army National Guard.

*Nothing recedes like success
"Walter Winchell"*