



IOWA LEGIONNAIRE

MAY 2008

Auxiliary Communique



The Campaign Trail

Dave Rehbein

National Commander Candidate

At this point in a horse race, the track announcer would be calling the race midway through the fourth turn and approaching the head of the stretch. That is the stage that our campaign for election of Dave Rehbein as National Commander has reached.

Over the last 20 months, the campaign has sent Dave on visits to 33 Departments. There should have been 34 but weather in New England prevented completion of a trip to Vermont. There have been hospitality receptions at two Washington Legislative conferences. Iowa has hosted hospitality rooms at two Fall and one Spring NEC meeting.

Visits are currently planned to Rhode Island, Alabama, Nevada, Oregon, Montana, Illinois, Delaware, Maryland, Wisconsin and Florida. A fourth hospitality room will be hosted in Indianapolis during the Spring Commission and NEC meetings on May 4-6. Plans are well underway for that session.

Plans are also being made for the Department caucus visits at the convention in Phoenix. It is necessary that we visit each of the Department caucuses to make a final presentation for Dave's candidacy. This year the Departments are much more widely spread than in Reno in 2007. Names are being collected of Legion family members able to spend time as a part of one of the caucus teams. If you will be in Phoenix for the convention and are willing to help with that process, please call Department Headquarters and give them your name.

On the subject of Phoenix and the election, there will be a celebration on Thursday, August 28 after the close of the convention. The celebration will be at the Iowa hotel from 4-6 PM. There will be no cost for the celebration. We hope everyone that attends the convention will be able to stay.

Plans are also being put in place for a homecoming here in Iowa following the election. That celebration will take place on Saturday, September 13, in Ames at the ISU Memorial Union. Further details will be available at a later date but please circle September 13 and help celebrate an event that the Iowa Legion family has worked hard for two years to achieve.

At this point with the very successful fundraising here in Iowa and generous donations from other Departments and Legionnaires outside Iowa and with the commitments that are currently in place, we are not planning a fundraising event at the Department convention, at least not for the campaign. Those type of events may well continue since the Iowa Legion family seemed to enjoy those events except that the proceeds will be dedicated for other projects. That is a decision to be made at the Department and Detachment level.

In any event, the end of the campaign is in sight. Iowa and her Legion family have done an outstanding job. Dave's visits to other Departments have gone very well. We are anticipating Dave's election and look forward to him joining the ranks of Iowa's four previous outstanding National Commanders as the fifth of that group.



Commander's Project honors Iowa soldiers



Photo Courtesy of Butch Heman, Carroll Daily Times Herald

Like many before him, Department Commander Robert Mahon wanted his project to be a reflection of how he felt - deep down in his heart. Since the day he donned the 'white cap,' Commander Mahon has made it a priority that all Iowa veterans killed in the line of duty would have his, and The American Legion of Iowa's, gratitude and respect.

In that spirit, with the assistance of his Department Vice Commander Raymond Dutton, and Executive Secretary Marcia Hoch, a special plaque was designed, each bearing the inscription, "The Iowa Department of The American Legion honors the memories of the one who offered life in service of God and Country. Proudly we remember his service in times of war. Because of him our lives are free. Because of him our nation lives. Because of him the world is blessed."

Presentations to the family members have occurred, or are scheduled, at the Spring District Conferences, or at County/Post meetings, as family members are available.

Above, Commander Mahon presents one of the plaques during an April Carroll County meeting in Breda to Robert Bird of Odebolt, father of Sergeant Adrian Hike.

SGT Hike, a 26-year-old Army paratrooper, died of injuries suffered the morning of November 12, 2007, when his patrol vehicle struck and detonated an IED near Bermel in eastern Afghanistan, while on a resupply mission to a remote base less than three miles from the Pakistani border.

Iowa Veterans Home unveils expansion project

By Lisa Purvis
IVH Mktg/PR Director
Legislative Liaison

Iowa Veterans Home Receives Renovation Funding The Iowa Veterans Home recently received funding for a \$42 million expansion and renovation project - \$17 million from the State of Iowa and \$25 million from the Federal VA Construction Grant Program.

This project is the first phase of a total \$100 million vision for caring for veterans and their spouses. Phase 1 includes the construction of a 132-bed nursing facility and a 60-bed pavilion. Both single-story structures will implement the "person centered care" model in a home-like atmosphere. Each facility



is divided into 15-bed "households" where each resident will have a private bedroom with bath around a central living/dining/kitchen area. Construction is slated to begin either Fall 2008 or Spring 2009.

Governor Chet Culver has committed an additional \$20.6 million (for the required state match) and requests have been made at the federal level for funding Phases 2 - 4.

Commandant Dan Steen and other IVH staff are available to present more information and updates to your group. Please feel free to contact us at 800-645-4591 or for more information, go to: www.iowaveteranshome.org.

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

May 10
SAL Spring Conference,
Coralville, 12 p.m. Luncheon; 1
p.m. Meeting

May 30 - June 1
Department Leadership School

June 8 - 13
American Legion Hawkeye Boys

State; Legionnaires' Day is
Tuesday, June 10 at 1 p.m.

June 16
Consolidated Post Report (CPR)
due to Department

June 28
Department Golf Tournament,
State Center