

## From the Desk of the ABATE of Wisconsin PR Guy "Chubby"

This is the best time of year to be a biker. Great weather, long days, and plenty of different events to attend every weekend, what more could a biker ask for? The Fourth of July is a special time for me, besides being my birthday; it's a day I enjoy seeing everyone showing their patriotism. It seems that everyone is proud to be an American on the Fourth, and there's never a lack of patriotic spirit. Unfortunately, these part time patriots fade away after the parades are done and the smoke from the fireworks blows away to clearly view the moon again. It makes me wonder how many people really understand what it means to be a patriot and the sacrifices our forefathers made to make sure we could all be proud to live in the United States of America. Can a nation remain strong when all the patriots are gone? When freedoms are taken away from us every day and still we remain apathetic, are we truly free? At what point will we decide to be a part of what makes America great, instead of just being an American? What will it take to make you step up and truly become a patriot?



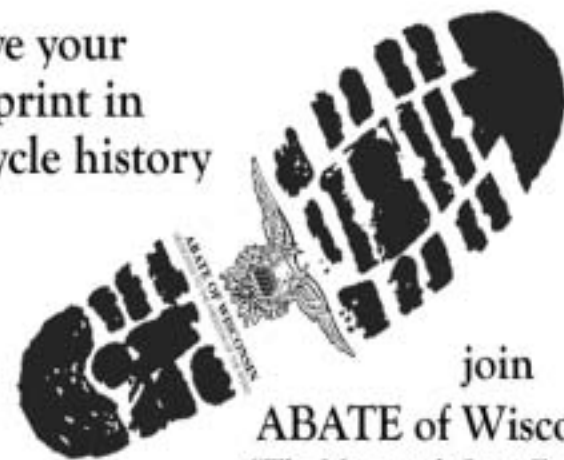
Every Memorial Day for the last ten years I've spent traveling to Washington DC to be a part of Rolling Thunder. On average, about two hundred bikers, most of them ABATE of WI members, leave the law offices of Weigel, Carlson, Blau and Clemens in Milwaukee on the Thursday before Memorial Day to make the almost 900 mile trek to DC to participate in the Rolling Thunder protest. In case you're not familiar with Rolling Thunder, it is a protest that was organized over twenty years ago to ensure that our soldiers would never be left behind in a foreign country again. I personally believe that the hard work of the organizers of this event and the hundreds of thousands of bikers that show up have had a direct effect on this nation's policy on MIA's. One only needs to know of the only three MIA's in Iraq to understand that these bikers have made a difference. I would consider them all patriots, and I'll always be proud to participate in this ride.

Everyone close to me knows about the death of my good friend Jon in a right of way violation crash in September of 07. Anyone that has experienced this type of loss can understand the anger and helplessness I felt over the situation. Like many right of way crashes involving motorcycles Jon's killer received a slap on the wrist even after my repeated efforts informing law enforcement and the courts of the enhanced penalties Act 466 gave them. ABATE of WI is making great efforts to make sure that right of way offenders get the punishment that they deserve and we are currently lobbying for a correction to that bill to make sure irresponsible drivers are punished. Until then, if these cases actually start making it to court, we'll need all the help we can get filling the courtrooms with outraged bikers. Take the time to reach out to law enforcement in your area and inform them of the now not so new law (it was passed in 2006). With perseverance we will be able to change the way the public views motorcycle crashes.

If you're not familiar with ABATE of WI, next time you see someone wearing ABATE clothing go up and ask what we're about, we won't bite. When we're not having fun we've got our heads buried in legislative and safety issues and help the politically motivated motorcyclist preserve the freedoms we enjoy. ABATE of WI is not a club, is not limited to HD riders, and is about a lot more than just helmet laws. This year we've sent our legislative team to Madison to lobby for motorcycle safety funds in the state budget and to promote our enhanced penalties for irresponsible inattentive drivers that kill and injure motorcyclists. We also are the main provider of motorcycle awareness information in Wisconsin. If you'd like to find out more about ABATE of WI or would like to join, please go to our website at [www.abatewis.org](http://www.abatewis.org) or call 715-284-7415. Find out what our brotherhood is all about.

In 1775, farmers, merchants, sailors, and tradesmen banded together to fight for their freedom. The Minutemen, probably America's first patriots, were prepared to fight tyranny on a minutes notice. Patriots like Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, and Thomas Paine gave up wealthy lifestyles to fight for the freedoms of all Americans and in doing so gave us the structure by which we are governed yet today. These original patriots gave no concessions or compromises in their struggle to become free. Individual freedoms became the precedent in our new country. How do you think these original patriots would think of the way our country is run today? Benjamin Franklin was once quoted as saying "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety". These patriots were part of a brotherhood that still exists today. Because of this brotherhood they were able to achieve what no one man could do on his own. Our brotherhood is a united voice for bikers no matter what machine they choose to ride. It's up to you to decide if you want your voice heard. What will it take for you to stand up? As for me, I'll be a patriot forever. Have a great Fourth of July, God bless America. Until next month... Ride Free

leave your  
footprint in  
motorcycle history



join  
ABATE of Wisconsin  
"The Motorcycle Issue Experts..."

Call 800-386-4442 or go to [www.abatewis.org](http://www.abatewis.org)

Dear Friends,

Huntz & I would like to formally announce that on July 30, 2011, both our respective businesses are sponsoring a major fund-raising event to benefit the Old Glory Honor Flight organization. I was contacted by Diane McDonald from Old Glory Honor Flight of Northeast Wisconsin. Last year, there was a Poker Run event that took place to raise money for the program, and it did very well. There was about 80 riders that participated in the ride. The man that organized the ride cannot organize the Poker Run again due to unforeseen circumstances. So Diane called us, and asked us to see if we'd be interested in helping organize a ride and fund-raise for Honor Flight. We are thrilled and honored to help this cause.

A lot has been put in place in a very short time, and this event is showing promise of getting bigger and bigger by the day. We have an event date of July 30th, and the ride will start and end at the Community Park in Oshkosh. (it's directly across the road from the Sunnyview Expo Center on County Y). Our plans include a 100 mile motorcycle ride as well as a full daytime ongoing event that includes a vintage & antique motorcycle display, military vehicles & displays, live music & food. Appleton Harley Davidson has provided our fund-raise with a 2012 (yes, you read that correctly) Harley Davidson FLHX Street Glide as a grand prize for our Motorcycle Raffle.

To give you a further idea of how this is evolving, Diane is even checking into possibly having shuttle buses transport people back & forth from the EAA (our event is held the 2nd to last day of EAA week). When the riders return from the ride later in the day, we'll have raffle prizes, food, and more evening live music. There's an honor flight scheduled for just a few days before our event that is leaving directly from EAA (July 27th). I can easily imagine we'll have a good number of those same older veterans and their families come to our event also. Just as pure coincidence would have it, the very day our event is going on, there's an air show scheduled that will feature the old WWII war birds that will be performing. Vicky, from the Winnebago Park system, told me that these planes actually do their turns almost directly over the park. Considering that this event's proceeds will be benefiting service men & women from that same era, well, honestly, I got goose bumps.

For those of you unfamiliar with the organization, I invite you to take a few minutes to watch the video at: [www.oldgloryhonorflight.org](http://www.oldgloryhonorflight.org). In short, this organization is dedicated to transporting veterans of WWII to Washington DC to see the memorial that was finally completed in their honor only about 7 years ago. The reaction, response and emotion we see and hear from people when we talk about this organization is just amazing. I dare you to watch the video below without a tear in your eye afterwards.

We are looking for volunteers to help us make this event a big success. An event this size needs lots of people to help organize, set up, run, etc. Please email me [classiccycle@hotmail.com](mailto:classiccycle@hotmail.com) if you are interested in being a part of this wonderful cause, and please also feel free to pass this message on to anyone you think would be interested in helping us out as well. Thank you so much in advance for your consideration. If you are interested in buying raffle tickets for the motorcycle ride, please let me know also. At only 500 total tickets being sold, these are pretty good odds compared to many other raffles!

Thank you again!

Ride safe!

Christine and Huntz Schad

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