

American Eagle Day

From: Dave Zien

The Lord indeed works in mysterious supernatural and multi-dimensional ways. As the events unfolded on Saturday, June 20, 2014, there can be no further explanation. Ironies of ironies again and again! During the Wisconsin AMVETS State Convention in Green Bay, - just two hours before we learned that VFW Post 7784 was hosting the inaugural program for the State of Wisconsin's "American Eagle Day". Just 4 miles away in Oneida, the Oneida Tribe and the local VFW shared:

" The American Bald Eagle proclaimed by President George Washington and adopted by the Continental Congress as our national emblem 232 years ago, on this very day - June 20, 1782.

" Six tribes, including the Oneida, helped George Washington and the Continental Army survives the Revolutionary War.

" Chippewa Tribe, including the Oneida Warriors helped Washington across the Potomac River.

" Oneida Indians, Chief Sky's son and another young brave captured and traded Old Abe - the war Eagle, making the Civil War famous.

" Native Americans are the highest enlisted ethnic group into the military.

" Though diverse, the 565 tribes are the fastest growing in veteran's organizations.

" Eagles are the highest flying of all God's creatures, representing strength and endurance.

The challenge at this ceremony was to make this "American Eagle Day" into a National day. All major Veteran's organizations and Auxiliaries, VFW, Legion, AMVETS and all affiliates including Elks, Eagles, Masons, patriotic and motorcycle groups should unite into a vast coalition.

Also proposed at this meeting was a highway of honor legislation to include: Hwy 35 "Way of the American Eagle". (The highest concentration of the Eagles in the world is along the Mississippi River, Wisconsin/Minnesota borders and Alaska.)

Hwy 8 "mid-East Conflict (Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, Iraq)".

Hwy 45 "Harley or Biker Lifestyle".

The original Highway of Honor legislation about 10 years ago passed. The law included:

" Hwy 2 - Richard Bong (Ace of Aces World War II)

" Hwy 27 - Citizen Soldier

" Hwy 54 Firefighter/EMT

" Hwy 151 Law Enforcement

" Hwy 29, 2 Chippewa River bridges west of Chippewa Falls, honoring Citizen Soldiers, Law Enforcement, Firefighters and EMS

Hwy 35 then was removed by one lawmaker during final passage proceedings. This new proposed Highway of Honor unites loyal coalitions, commanding respect and streamlines the legislative process.

Ironically my next meeting on June 20 was at Jim Falls, where a statue of "Old Abe the Civil War Eagle" stands. Six others and I were previously scheduled at the Old Abe Supper Club. In the parking lot, we first met the sister of Army Soldier, Gary Brux, who was that first KIA from Clark County during the Vietnam War.

Inside a number of patrons shared insights about survival, cancer, terminal illness and the many miracles of God performs among, between and within us. Dick Quick blurted out, "We are being beckoned to be here - God is answering our beckoning". (In the midst of such dastardly world events, this nation needs inspiration!")

On the inside of the menu is a summary of the old Abe Legacy. We and fellow patrons there often reflected back and were stunned! You should see it also.

The Lord is not done yet! At the Old Abe Statute, looking 1/2 mile to the west, we saw/ you will see an eagle nest with an eagle standing sentry. Perhaps ancestors of old Abe - guarding and inspiring our warrior spirit!

What significance can there be the last day of Spring? The first day of summer? The longest day of the year? Days now getting shorter?

Lessons learned - our legacies, legends we live!

At the ceremony, in Oneida native tongue and then we all together - recited the Lord's Prayer! A magnificent moment of unity! Oh, the power of prayer. Yes, the Lord works in mysterious, supernatural and multi-dementional ways!

Dave Zien
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