

**From the Desk of ABATE of Wisconsin P.R Guy Chubby**

Veterans Day is coming up on November 11th. There are a lot of veterans in my life and I like to take a little time on that day to give them a call or stop by and thank them. Not a day goes by that I'm not thankful for the freedoms I have, and I owe it all to the men and women of the United States Armed Forces for protecting and maintaining my freedoms at home and abroad. When the twin towers fell and the Pentagon was hit patriotism became fashionable and retribution was on everyone's mind. Now that we are into our seventh year with troops fighting overseas many people have forgotten the events of September 11th and have loosened their resolve to take action against terrorism. This same thing has happened with every conflict we have entered our soldiers in since World War 2. Although I would never compare the conflicts and struggles of a soldier fighting overseas to ABATE's struggle for freedom of the road, the similarities exist in that both cases people seem to forget all too quickly what we are fighting for and what it was like before we started to fight.

Bikers need to start promoting the fact that for us riding is a lifestyle not a fashion statement. Bikers that prefer not to ride to events for whatever reason refers to a trend that's becoming all too common these days. These same people ( I will not call them bikers) are leaving their impressions and opinions on the general public throughout the state and if we do not stay vigilant in our efforts to protect our freedoms of the road, some might just as well give them away. We have come way too far as an organization to become comfortable with where we're at right now. If we forget why what we are fighting for, all our efforts up to now surely will be forgotten too. If you're too young to remember what motorcycling was like before groups like ABATE were formed, ask someone who does. I don't think anyone who is not a biker can really understand what we're about and who we are, but, it is up to all of us to remind them that we are bikers and we vote too.

Our long overdue fix to Wisconsin Act 466 has made it over its first hurdle in the legislature and it is imperative that bikers continue to push AB55 into law during the current legislative session. Wisconsin Act 466 was signed into law back in 2006 and although it was the most comprehensive motorcycle legislation in the United States at that time, several of its provisions were ignored by law enforcement and the courts. Act 466 made it so all motorcyclists could proceed through a vehicle actuated red light after waiting 45 seconds, made motorcycle awareness mandatory in all drivers education classrooms, and reduced the cost of a temporary permit for those that passed an MSF certified motorcycle education course without much trouble from the agencies involved. But probably the most important part of that legislation, the enhanced penalties and education requirement for those involved in a right of way violation accident, was largely ignored by law enforcement and the courts. AB 55 guarantees a fix to that problem by automatically suspending the license of those that cause a right of way violation accident that causes injury or death to another person on the road. The education element will also come into play and finally require those accused of causing a right of way violation accident to complete a class to properly reeducate them on how to see motorcyclists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and other vehicles on the road and hopefully prevent such serious accidents in the future. AB 55 passed through the Assembly Transportation Committee on October 11 and will soon move to a full vote in the State Assembly and then of course it's

on to the State Senate for approval. Your help is needed. Contact your State Representatives and ask them to support AB 55. For more information, or to sign up for updated alerts on this bill, please go to [www.abatewis.org](http://www.abatewis.org) and sign up for our automated alert system for the most current information on this and all legislative work that ABATE of WI does and for information on what you can do to help. Freedom is not free; it requires the vigilance of all of us to ring true. Don't hope that somebody else will speak for you, learn how to speak for yourself and ensure your freedoms are preserved into the future.

So, as Veterans Day approaches, let's remind ourselves where we'd be without people to protect and preserve our freedoms. Remind others of the sacrifices that have been made in the name of liberty. Give a vet a call and say thank-you. Fighting for freedom is something we all have in common. Until next month...Ride Free

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