

8th Annual "Stand Tall & Remember" BBQ

Watertown, WI

September 12, 2010

So I woke up on Saturday Sept. 12th and looked out my window and said this looks like its going to be a great day. As I sit here now I can't think when I have ever so grossly underestimated that statement, "going to be a great day". First off at 6am I met with "The 911 Commission" over breakfast. They are twelve of the most under rated and over talented people that I have ever met. There were a few new faces this year at breakfast and they always make me a bit nervous. I just don't know if they are ready for the amount of work that takes place over the next 18 hours. Heck do they even realize that they are in it for the NEXT 18 hours. That's a straight 18, no breaks and a few pauses. Well I can tell you I will take this group year after year. We were ready to open Aero Park 2 1/2 hours ahead of schedule.

Carrie Schmidt, Dawn Weidenfeld and Michele Lins set out nearly 150 flags, defining the parking spaces with them and lining the walk ways, they hung pennants on nearly every thing that could be decorated. Christina Arnold and Amy Wolke inflated, tied up and arranged over 50 red white and blue balloons, to be tagged and released by the children. Last year the furthest one we received back was from Quebec. While all that was going on Dean Johnson, Dean Lins and Walter Schmidt set up and moved everything in the pavilion, getting banners hung and the band space ready, no small accomplishment. Ted Blazer, Jason Gritzner, and Michael Surdick arranged, organized, and made battle ready the kitchen and serving area. Alicia Chentis was running from home to the park tying up all the loose ends on the food and everything else that needed running around. Leaving Brandon Kracht and myself to organize park placement.

The Watertown Civil Air Patrol was there to start the day at 12:30 by presenting the colors. As they stood holding "Old Glory", Heather Stiemke sung a beautiful traditional version of our National Anthem. The crowd roared their approval and the 8th Stand Tall & Remember BBQ was set into motion. Over the next 9 1/2 hours more than 250 people came out to remember those lost to us that fateful day. They came to stand tall together with others that meant those words they said 8 years ago. Four simple words. WE WILL NOT FORGET.

We started with a moment of silence, and then we celebrated our Freedoms.

Premonition, 16 West and Pipe Circus played some of the best music ever to grace Marine Corps League Aero Park. Piggly Wiggly provided brats and buns to round out our menu of 9 mouth watering pork offerings, a special thanks from our Grill Masters, Dean, Teddy, and Ronnie to Tim Schlesner for donating a beautiful whole pig for them to roast. It looked great when we opened Glenn's Markets roaster. Brandon, Nakyta and Tracy handled everyone's raffle needs. I have to stop and give a heavy hearted thank you to A&D Auto Mart for donating a moped for our raffle in Memory of Carrie Grunewald. Carrie was a wonderful person and the world is less for having lost her.

Everything was made possible by items donated by our local business, River City Dist, WisPak, Wis Wet Goods, Wal-Mart, Hardees, Rock River Pizza, AOK Signs, Wenzel Brothers, Victory Lane, Generation Jeweler, Buzz Bar, Far Horizons, Jerry Hepp, Evolution Ink, The Tractor Supply Store, Quickdraw Tattoo, GM Global and more than I can mention here. See Standtallremember.com for a better list. I have to say that this years Apple Pie Eating contest was the best so far. Our youngest contestant ever at 9

years old was two bites from defeating last year's champion.

We released over 40 tagged balloons, set aloft by Watertown's youngest residents with many of them being held by mom or dad. Hope we get some back again this year.

I want to thank Larry Neals for bringing out his Bean Bag boards and helping us have a tournament, also to Sgg. Winters, Sgg. Uphoff, Sgt. Oakley, Sgt. Watt, and Sgt. Durkin for taking their day off and representing the U.S. Army, handing out Dog Tags and the coveted Bee keeper outer drink covers. Thanks to Fire & Iron, Marine Corps League, and American Legion Post 189 for their help. For more information and photos on this years and next years BBQ please go online to StandtallrememberBBQ.com. I have to thank everyone in Watertown that came out to Aero Park. I was told it was a great time. I can only respond with, the people make the event and for the last 3 years I have met some of the nicest and most respectful and patriotic people around. Thank you all for your support you make it possible. See you next year on 9/11/10, until then Stand Tall and Remember. Anthony Chentis



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Oct 4 - Sandwich, IL
 Swap Meet
 8am - 3pm
 Dekalb county / Sandwich Fairgrounds / 1401 Suydam Rd.
 Admission: \$5.00

Oct 11 - Springfield, OH
 Swap Meet
 8am - 3pm
 Clark county fairgrounds / 4401 Charleston Pike
 OH Exit 59 off I70
 Admission: \$6.00

Nov 8 - Shepherdsville, KY
 Swap Meet
 8am - 3pm
 Billitt county fairgrounds / 165 & Rt. 245 at exit 112
 Admission: \$6.00

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