



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TOM LARSON

**Testimony on Assembly Bill 234
March 4, 2014**

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on behalf of Assembly Bill 234.

Wisconsin law requires that the Department of Transportation identify on its state highway maps the location of certain veterans memorials and other veteran-related sites. In addition to sites like the Wisconsin Veterans Museum here in Madison and Milwaukee County Memorial Center, the maps list the locations of memorials in smaller communities, including the Memorial Park in Arcadia, the All Veterans Memorial in Clear Lake, and the Highground Veterans Memorial Park outside Neillsville.

AB 234 would add the Wisconsin Veterans Tribute in Cadott, east of Chippewa Falls, to the list. The Tribute is prominently located at the intersection of State Highways 27 and 29. From a simple marker erected in 1991 on behalf of the citizens of Chippewa County, the Tribute has expanded over the years to include additional markers, over eighty flags, cannons, a tank, and a helicopter, among other sights. The Tribute also includes a monument established in the wake of 9/11 that honors America's citizen soldiers – our firefighters, law enforcement officers, and EMTs.

This legislation was suggested to me by my constituent former State Sen. Dave Zien, himself a veteran and longtime advocate of veterans issues.

As the legislative session is almost over, I respectfully ask that the committee act quickly on AB 234. Thank you for your consideration, and I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

March 4, 2014

The Wisconsin Veterans Tribute / Citizen Soldier Monument should be included as a Wisconsin veteran site, verified in state statute and on Wisconsin highway maps is important.

Wisconsin citizens and those planning to visit our state deserve to appreciate the many realms of creativity, genius, and uniqueness. There are 93 ways that this is the only one like it in the USA or the world.

Donators stones: sharing equal status are individuals, families, businesses, and groups with Veterans. All active Military Realize that thoughts and memories of home keep them alive. Prayer and "keeping the home fires burning," are too often not appreciated enough.

For \$250 anyone can make this statement and have their names emblazoned on a stone. You here today and forever can send the message. Cost is up to \$7200 a year just for flags. A couple of volunteers and wives do most of the flag replacement and repair .

More flags and square footage fly here than perhaps anywhere else. U.S. Marine flags - 14 & United States Army - 13, fly -here than perhaps anywhere.

Other flags monument stones on a major veterans monument: first American on occupied German soil is Roy Holtz World War I (on a Harley with a sidecar); Leo Veaser had his Harley shot out from underneath him, by the Germans in 1918. Highway 29 is World War I Memorial Highway, the only stone monuments are at Cadott. The first flag in monument stone to honor our Hmong warriors & only Laotian flag to fly in the world!

Only Greek /American flag for John G Scocos POW in World War II & John a Scocos Secretary Wis. Dept of Veterans Affairs . Only stone by Veterans from inside prison walls. Vietnam Veterans motorcycle club, only that's motorcycle group, in such a prominent fashion. First time a motorcycle Governor and Group Harley-Davidson ride (Tommy Thompson) 1995, 1996, 1997.

Committee members have always strived to be creative and exceptional sharing the beautiful blessings so bountifully bestowed upon us.

The color and movement attracts people off highways 27 and 29 a strong subliminal force, encourage people to return again and again when you get up north, let us know & we will give you a VIP guided tour.

Perhaps then you will have a greater appreciation for those Who have served, suffered and sacrificed .
God bless you,

Wisconsin Veterans Tribute / Citizen Soldier Monument Committee

