

**EDWARD W. THOMPSON AMERICAN LEGION POST #49**  
**129 Michigan Ave. South Haven, MI 49090**  
**269/637-6817**



The **Veterans Memorial Wall** at American Legion Post #49 was completed June 2011 at a total cost of **\$361,821**. This project was a necessity for the American Legion. The Post needed to immediately stop the soil erosion to keep the War Memorials and the entire building from sliding down the hill and into the Black River. As a result, we have ended up with a beautiful but very expensive wall. Much of the funding that was anticipated in the form of grants and donations has not materialized. With your help we've made great progress on reducing our loan, but we still owe almost **\$206,000**.

Our beautiful facility is expensive to maintain and operate year around. During the winter months we struggle financially due to the significant decrease in regular patrons. Fixed operating costs are approximately \$20,000 per month year around. We faced this problem last year but a \$21,000 insurance refund and \$11,000 investment account got us through last year. We are taking every action we can to reduce expenses and minimally increase prices to keep the Legion Post open. One key is to increase patronage at the club all week and Friday and Saturday night dinners during the winter.

We are also asking every member to help us get through this difficult year. An **annual** donation from **each** member will help us pay our mortgage on the **Veterans Memorial Wall** and other fixed expenses during the decreased business winter months. A larger donation will assist us with repaying the wall loan sooner. Please remember that while we are struggling to make ends meet, we are **NOT** able to donate to our regular Veterans Support Programs.

Won't you please help? If you cannot assist with financial support, perhaps you would like to lead your own fundraising project. The Post will assist in any way possible to help raise funds. Call with any ideas or any assistance you may be able to provide.

Please send or drop off your contribution at the American Legion Post and designate as a **Veterans Memorial Wall** and/or **General Expense donation**. Please give as generously as you can:

**\$10 \$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \_\_\_\_\_ Thank you for your support!**

**Kevin Ferguson, Post Commander and Glenn Higgs, Chairman of the Board**