



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GARY HEBL
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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PRESS RELEASE

STOUGHTON MAN TO RECEIVE STATE ASSEMBLY HOMETOWN HERO AWARD
*Bill Brue Recognized for Helping Make Automatic
External Defibrillators Available in Schools*

MADISON - State Representative Gary Hebl (D-Sun Prairie) announced Tuesday that Stoughton resident Bill Brue will receive the state Assembly's "Hometown Hero Award" for his volunteer efforts particularly his work to make Automatic External Defibrillators available in Stoughton Schools.

Since 2005, Brue has spearheaded an effort to make Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) available in the Stoughton School System. Thanks to his efforts, earlier this year, Stoughton Schools approved a plan to secure the funding for the important life-saving devices.

"For 28 years, Bill Brue has been committed to helping others through his dedication, volunteer efforts and community involvement," Hebl said. "I was proud to nominate him for a Hometown Hero Award. Bill is just the type of person this award is designed for."

According to the Food and Drug Administration's website, "An AED is a portable automatic device used to restore normal heart rhythm to patients in cardiac arrest. ... The AED delivers an electric shock that stuns the heart momentarily; stopping all activity. This gives the heart a chance to restart normal electrical activity and resume beating effectively."

But this is only the most recent effort Brue has made on behalf of his community. His volunteerism spans from his early years working in the in-patient ward of the Lakeland Counseling Center at Elkhorn, serving as a staff member at the Easter Seals' Camp Wawbeek in Wisconsin Dells and participating in the Governor's Conference on the Disabled.

For over 20 years, Bill has worked full-time for the Stoughton School District as a Special Ed Teacher for the Emotionally Disturbed Students. In addition, he

participates in many community and volunteer activities such as: chaperoning students on school ski trips and has provided financial guidance and mentoring to a mentally challenged adult.

More recently, following the devastating tornados that struck the City of Stoughton and surrounding townships of Pleasant Springs, Dunkirk, Albion and Christiana in August of 2005, Brue worked tirelessly as a volunteer helping with the clean-up efforts. Although Bill Brue was not on call in the early morning hours of the Christ Lutheran's Church Fire, he responded to the call, volunteering 8 hours of his time to lend a helping hand.

Less than 24 hours later, during the tornado disaster, Bill who was not on call responded and throughout the incident volunteered 19 hours of his time to lend a hand. When Bill was not assisting in his EMT capacity, he grabbed a chain saw and went out to the affected area, volunteering an additional 30 hours of his time to assist the tornado victims in their clean-up efforts.

"Bill really is our 'Hometown Hero,'" said Stoughton Mayor Helen Johnson. "I have known Bill for many years. ... Besides being a valued teacher in our school system, he is a great EMT, and has promoted the acquisition of AEDs for our schools."

Brue said he was inspired to work on making AEDs available after a severely handicapped friend with muscular dystrophy and in a wheelchair, died as a result of a choking incident.

This is the latest in a string of awards Brue has received for his volunteerism. In 2004, Bill received a 25 Years of Service Recognition award through Dane County EMS Association. In 2005, Bill Brue received the American Heart & Stroke Hero Award; recognizing the steps he has taken to strengthen the chain of survival for heart attack or stroke victims.

"When an emergency page goes out for Stoughton Area EMS to respond to a call for choking, cardiac, stroke, or PNB, Bill will respond to the scene to lend his assistance, even when he is not on call," said Cathy Rigon, EMS Director for Stoughton Area Emergency Medical Service.

Bill and his wife, Diane have two children, James and Laura.

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