

# South Bend Tribune

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

## Opinion

### VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

#### Patriotism

I am ashamed that I never went to a Veterans Day ceremony before this year. In November, I was honored to attend the American Legion Post 50 observance. I was humbled by the patriotism of these men and women. Men on whom age has taken its toll stood as proud and tall as possible in their uniforms. There was deep respect for both the day and those who had served in different wars and branches.

The posting of colors was done by a special group of veterans known as Miller's Vets. Several of these men and women from the Center for the Homeless were also honored speakers. I was impressed by the courage it took for them to share their stories.

The Michiana Concert Band did a wonderful job playing a variety of marches and patriotic tunes. The audience especially enjoyed the armed forces salute that included the theme from each branch of the military.

This recognition of those brave men and women who served in the military and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, is an event that each of us should attend. I will be

back next year to bring others, hopefully still including my 84-year-old mother-in-law waving her small flag with tears streaming down her face as "Taps" is played.

Connie Chalko  
South Bend