

Bates-O'Brien-Howe-Wiegel-Roelli Post of the American Legion

An Explanation of our Namesake

The Bates-O'Brien-Howe-Wiegel-Roelli Post of the American Legion is named for the Darlington men who were first to lose their lives in each of their respective military operations.

The Post's first namesake was the **Harold Bates** Post of the American Legion. Harold Bates was a Darlington resident who was inducted into the service of his country during WWI on May 18, 1918, at the age of 22. After a brief period of training, Harold was sent to France with the American Expeditionary Forces. He was a member of the Headquarters Company of the 7th Infantry. Less than four months later, Harold was killed in action during a battle in Cierges, France. The date was October 8, 1918. Harold was only 23 years old.

The second name added to the Post's title was that of **Henry O'Brien**. Henry was Darlington's first fatality of WWII. Pvt. Henry O'Brien entered service on November 6, 1941, and was stationed in Iceland. On September 11, 1942, Pvt. O'Brien was on assignment assisting other men with the installation of a steel cable across the Olfusa River. The cable was to be used by a ferry to transfer passengers across the river, which was described as a fast and treacherous stream. An accident during the installation of the cable resulted in the drowning of three men, including Henry. He was only 24 years old.

The third name added to the Post's title was that of **Pfc. Bernard Howe**. Bernard was Darlington's first fatality during the Korean War. Bernard entered the Army on April 15, 1949, and was eventually stationed in Japan in the 21st Inf. Regt of the 24th Division, which was the

first division to bear the brunt of the fighting when fighting first broke out in Korea. Howe was killed in action in Chochiwon, South Korea on July 11, 1950, at the age of 25.

The fourth name to be added to the Post's title was that of **Pfc. Lloyd Wiegel**. Lloyd was Darlington's first fatality during the Vietnam War. Wiegel entered the service on October 26, 1965, and was eventually stationed in South Vietnam. Wiegel was only on his second combat mission when he and his comrades encountered a hostile force that claimed his life. The date was May 19, 1966, and Wiegel was only 21 years old.

The final, and most recent name to be added to the Post's title was that of **Sgt. Jakob Roelli**. Jakob was Darlington's first fatality in the War on Terror. Jakob enlisted in the Army in 2009 and was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, in Fort Riley, Kansas. Jakob was eventually stationed in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom where he lost his life on Sept. 21, 2011, in Jakar, Kandahar province, Afghanistan, of injuries suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with small-arms fire. Jakob was only 24 years old.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13

God willing, we will never add another name to our Post's name.

Rest in Peace, Comrades.