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WDVA Secretary Scocos Recognized for Camp American Legion Effort



MIDDLETON – Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary John A. Scocos was honored at American Legion Department of Wisconsin’s annual convention for his work on expanding Camp American Legion. Incoming State Commander Dan Seehafer recognized Scocos for his efforts to restore land to the much-in-demand veterans camp.

“Due to his dedication, diligent efforts and combat service along with being such a big supporter of our Camp American Legion, we are honoring John,” Commander Seehafer said. “Camp American Legion is a special program for us. The Camp helps post-9/11 veterans and their families rehabilitate and heal and simply to get away.”

Seehafer said Secretary Scocos was able to assist in restoring 225 acres of land to Camp American Legion. In 1964, the Legion gave up the land to the state, but the need for a large camp area grew and so the camp grounds needed to grow.

As a result of the expansion, Camp American Legion was able to develop the Gary G. Wetzel Way nature trail. The American Legion, along with the WDVA, dedicated the trail on Friday, June 17, 2016. Gary Wetzel Way is handicap accessible with smooth and easy access for wheelchairs. Gary Wetzel is the recipient of the Medal of Honor, the highest military award for bravery and supreme valor, for his actions as a door gunner in the 173rd Assault Helicopter Company during the Vietnam War.

Camp American Legion provides rest, relaxation, recuperation and rehabilitation to Wisconsin veterans of all ages, active duty military service members and their families. It has 21 fully furnished cabins and many other amenities on Big Carr Lake. Attendance to Camp American Legion is free to all Wisconsin veterans from all services and membership in the American Legion is not necessary.

Seehafer is a Navy veteran and an ordained minister for St. Stephan’s Lutheran Church in Horicon.

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Camp American Legion is located in the Northern Highland-American Legion Forest, situated in Oneida County between Woodruff and Rhinelander.

Secretary Scocos was awarded the American Legion Leadership Medal in 2007 for his dedicated service to veterans.

Photo at top: Secretary Scocos on left, American Legion State Commander Dale Oatman and State Adjutant Dave Kurtz present the resolution.

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