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Housing Available for Southeastern Wisconsin Veterans

(MADISON) — Long-term care for Southeastern Wisconsin's aging veterans will be enhanced this year with the construction of a new 120-bed skilled nursing facility – and the naming of a new top administrator of the state's veterans home in Union Grove.

Glen Brower, a retired U.S. Army Lt. Colonel with over twenty years of active duty, has been named commandant of the facility to oversee the new construction – and to help ensure that all Southeastern Wisconsin veterans who are eligible have the chance to enroll at the facilities which, when completed will include both assisted living apartments for veterans and their spouses and skilled nursing care.

“We have a rapidly aging community of veterans in Wisconsin and more than half of them live in this part of the state,” Brower said. “I am committed to making sure that every one of the more than 100,000 aging veterans in this area knows about this place and to help them come here if they feel it meets their needs.”

Brower will oversee the current facilities at Union Grove where there are assisted living apartments still vacant for aging veterans and their spouses. Construction of a new skilled nursing facility for more needy aging veterans will begin this year. More than a third of the state's half a million veterans are now over 65 years old and some need the close care that a skilled nursing facility can provide.

"When complete, the Union Grove facilities will rival the state's other veterans care center near Waupaca, which has won national honors for its top-quality care," Brower said.

"The tradition that has been established at Wisconsin Veterans Home at King by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs is one that we're going to see carried on in Union Grove," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs John Scocos. "That's why the appointment of Glen Brower as the Union Grove commandant is so important. With his military and private sector business experience, he will be the leader who will ensure that this state does its very best to serve veterans in Southeastern Wisconsin."

Wisconsin veterans are eligible to become members of the veterans homes if they have served on active duty for two or more years or the full period of their initial service obligation. They are also eligible if they served on active duty for at least 90 days, one day of which must have been within a wartime period. Spouses of eligible veterans may also become members. The applicant must be a Wisconsin resident on the date of admission to the home and either a resident on the date of entry into active duty or for any consecutive 12-month period thereafter.

Brower welcomes the opportunity to meet with area businesses and community groups. If you'd like to schedule a meeting or tour the facility, please call 262-878-6749.

The Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove will serve as a venue for one of the WDVA's upcoming *Supermarkets of Veterans Benefits*, which are a key component of the department's "I Owe You" outreach campaign to educate and inform veterans and their families about benefits and services. The next area *Supermarket* will be held on May 15 at the Wisconsin Veterans Home-Union Grove.

Additional information can be found at the WDVA website at <http://dva.state.wi.us>.

