



STATE OF WISCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

30 West Mifflin Street, P.O. Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843

PHONE: (608) 266-1311 1-800-947-8387 (WIS VETS)

WEB SITE: <http://dva.state.wi.us>

E-MAIL: Headquarters@dva.state.wi.us

FAX: (608) 264-7616

Jim Doyle, Governor
John A. Scocos, Secretary

Attention Newsroom

June 6, 2005
For Immediate Release

Contact: Andrew Schuster 608-267-1797
or Kathleen Scholl 608-267-3582

Statement today by Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary John A. Scocos on June 6, 2005 as the 61st Anniversary of "D-Day"

Today marks the 61st anniversary of Operation Overlord, better known as the "D-Day" invasion. It was the largest amphibious assault in history, taking place on the shores of Normandy, France on June 6, 1944, during some of the darkest hours of World War II.

The World War II Generation -- the "Greatest Generation" -- witnesses this anniversary of the D-Day spearhead invasion of Normandy, which today we recognize as marking the turning point towards the Allied victory in WWII.

The National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. bears a vast and solemn field of 4,000 gold stars, each one marking more than a hundred lives lost in that great second world war. Approximately 332,200 Wisconsin men and women served in World War II and 8,390 were killed in the war.

We often have the benefit of remembering and reflecting on the service and sacrifice of our nation's heroes through the words of their fellow comrades.

Today, we have the privilege of reflecting on the words and deeds of those who distinguished themselves on that historic day sixty-one years ago -- who did not seek glory any more than they sought the horrors of the war.

On this important anniversary date, we remember the exceptional bravery and incredible sacrifice of those nameless young men, whose memory is now equally reflected in that field of gold stars that today solemnly graces the Monument dedicated to their honor in our nation's capital.

###