



STATE OF WISCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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Attention Newsroom—News Release — (Photo Attached)**

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Supermarket of Veterans Benefits draws crowd at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King

(KING, Wis.) – The latest efforts of a state-funded outreach program to inform veterans of federal and state veterans benefits drew more than 800 veterans and family members from across the state to a “Supermarket of Veterans Benefits” held at a state veterans home on Saturday, August 21 in rural King, Wisconsin.

“Assisting Wisconsin’s veterans isn’t just my policy,” said Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Secretary John A. Scocos, head of the agency that hosted the one-day Supermarket. “These people fought for their country and it is our duty – my duty – to help make veterans aware of their benefits.”

WDVA’s latest effort in its statewide “I Owe You” campaign boosted to over 17,000 the number of Wisconsin veterans and their dependents who have been reached by the campaign and assisted in applying for benefits by veterans service officers. To date, the efforts have resulted in over \$250 million in additional benefits coming to Wisconsin veterans.

The “Supermarkets of Veterans Benefits” are intended to provide a forum for federal, state and local agencies to provide assistance to veterans. Veterans of all eras are able to speak with representatives and gather applications and information about including federal VA health care benefits, state and federal home mortgage and home improvement loans, education and job training grants, and a host of information about other services and benefits.

Senator Ron Brown, Chair of the state Senate Committee on Homeland Security, Veterans and Military Affairs and Government Reform, said, “The ‘Supermarket’ format meets a tremendous need in Wisconsin as evidenced by the many hundreds of veterans and family members who visited King to learn about available state and federal benefits. I was also impressed by the high quality environment that exists for residents and staff at the veterans home. Wisconsin has a right to be proud of this facility.”

In addition to the benefits information, many veterans’ families who also got the chance to visit the department’s veterans care campus at King – one of the nation’s most comprehensive senior care centers exclusively for veterans and their spouses.

“There are a lot of veterans who had never visited the Home before, and they were able to see for themselves what is offered at this fine facility,” said Scocos.

One WWII veteran, Floyd Muck, 85, from New London, came to the “Supermarket” with his wife to see what benefits he might be eligible for. Muck, who served on active duty for nearly 5 years and was wounded in action in 1942, was pleased with learning more about the King Veterans Home in anticipation of when he might need such care.

Ken Wendt, Vice-Chair of the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs said, “The remarks from all the veterans I talked to were that they were pleased they could come to this one-stop shop. One veteran was living here at the King Veterans Home for a year and a half, but said he wished he had come here five years earlier. The fact that so many veterans attended this event attests to the importance of the outreach efforts by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.”

Veterans and their spouses and survivors who were unable to attend the Supermarket can obtain information by contacting their county veterans service officer (CVSO), by visiting the WDVA website (<http://dva.state.wi.us>), or by calling WDVA toll-free at 1-800-WIS-VETS (1-800-947-8387).

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