



STATE OF WISCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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## Attention Newsroom—News Release

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For Immediate Release

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### Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs to host Memorial Day Ceremony at the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery - Union Grove

(MADISON) – The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs announces a Memorial Day ceremony to be held at the **Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery (SWVMC)** at **Union Grove**, Wisconsin, as part of various commemorative ceremonies statewide during the Memorial Day weekend. This year's theme is "Vietnam Thirty Years Later: Keeping the Memory Alive."

"This year's Memorial Day theme is a very special one to honor those who served in the Vietnam War," said WDVA Secretary John A. Scocos. "We must ensure that the achievements and sacrifices of those who served during the Vietnam era are never forgotten."

The SWVMC's **Memorial Day Program** will be held on **Sunday, May 29, 2005, at 11:00 a.m.** The cemetery is located at 21731 Spring Street, Union Grove. Veterans and the public are invited to attend. Seating is available, however families are welcome to bring their own lawn chairs. Parking is available on the cemetery grounds.

Speakers will include: **Ken Wendt**, Chair of the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs, former Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary **Raymond Boland**; Army Vietnam Veteran **Richard Bosman**; and **MSG(P) Jenny Stehlik**, of the 84<sup>th</sup> Division Command Group.

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs **Deputy Secretary William Kloster** will be Master of Ceremonies. Cemetery Director of the SWVMC, **Marian Lewandowski, Jr.**, will provide the welcome and make brief announcements.

Also featured will be musical selections by the **Milwaukee American Legion Band, Celtic Nations Pipes and Drums**, soloist, **Jen Hall**. Vietnam Veterans from Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 7924, Kansasville, WI. will post colors, **Sister Linda McClenahan** known as "Sister Sarge" in veteran circles, now a Dominican Sister, will offer the invocation and benediction. **Graig Bolyard**, Eagle Scout with troop 522 of Kenosha, will lead the Pledge of Allegiance. **Dale Kline**, Vietnam Veteran, will sound taps, and a rifle salute will be presented by **American Legion Post #171**, Union Grove. Members with the **Commemorative Air Force** will conduct a flyover during the ceremony, weather permitting.

(more)

Members of the Marine Corps league Agerhom –Gross Detachment 346 will coordinate MIA/POW balloon release and reading of names. Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 767 Remembrance Table ceremony, with living static displays of the "Last Patrol" and "Vietnam Nurses Statue" will be featured.

"This year's Memorial Day theme is very special because this anniversary carries such important meaning to the 148,000 Wisconsin Vietnam War veterans still living," said **Secretary John A. Scocos**. "203,000 soldiers from Wisconsin served in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam Era, 165,400 of them in Vietnam. The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs has chosen our theme for Memorial Day ceremonies to coincide with April 30, 2005 to May 30, 2005 being designated in Wisconsin as the Commemorative Period to recognize the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of the Vietnam War.

In addition to the ceremony at Union Grove, the WDVA will also host other Memorial Day ceremonies, at the **Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Spooner at 1:00 p.m. on May 29**, and at the **Wisconsin Veterans Home in King, at 9:30 a.m. lakeside and then at 10:00 a.m. at the cemetery.**

Dedicated in May 1998, the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery is operated by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. Construction of the cemetery was financed with assistance through the federal VA Cemetery Grants Program.

For further information about these and other WDVA events, go to [www.dva.state.wi.us](http://www.dva.state.wi.us) or call 1-800-947-8387 (WIS-VETS).