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Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs to host Memorial Day Ceremony at the Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery – Spooner

(Madison) – The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs announces a Memorial Day ceremony at the **Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery (NWVMC)** near **Spooner**, Wisconsin, as part of various commemorative ceremonies statewide during the Memorial Day weekend. This year's theme is: "Vietnam 30 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 NWVMC's **Memorial Day Program** will be held on **Sunday, May 29, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.** The cemetery is located on Veterans Way just off Highway 53, three miles south of Spooner, at N4063 Veterans Way. Veterans and the public are invited to attend.

The keynote speaker will be Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs **Secretary John A. Scocos**. Master of Ceremonies will be **Matt Bergs**, cemetery director. The **WDVA Military Funeral Honors Team** will post the colors. Vietnam veterans representing their branch of service will post the service flags. Northwest County Veteran Service Officers (CVSOs) will post the MIA/POW flag. Washburn CVSO **Carl Krantz** a Vietnam veteran will lead the Pledge of Allegiance. **Chaplain Merlin E. Huebschman, Commander U.S. Navy**, retired will offer the invocation and benediction. William Hoyt will recite the Missing Man Remembrance. The **Indianhead Marines** will present the ceremonial rifle salute. The **Northwinds Brass Band** will perform the National Anthem, sounding of Taps and musical selections during the program.

Charlie Wolden, of Frederic, Wisconsin will speak. He spent one tour of duty in Vietnam as a U.S. Marine. He later joined the U.S. Air Force and was a co-pilot, pilot and instructor pilot on B-52s. He received his B.S. degree and Master's degree from UW Superior. He currently is a Veteran Counselor under contract with the St Paul Vet Center helping veterans throughout northwestern Wisconsin and west central Minnesota.

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The names of Vietnam War era Veterans to be honored will be read starting at 12:15 p.m. prior to the official ceremony. These names will consist of Vietnam era Veterans pre-registered for burial at the cemetery, those buried at the cemetery and any additional northern Wisconsin Vietnam era Veteran who have contacted their respective County Veterans Service Officer of their intention to attend the ceremony. Vietnam era Veterans who would like their names read prior to the ceremony should contact their local County Veterans Service Offices to register and provide the number of people attending with them.

For those planning on attending the official ceremony, which starts at 1:00 p.m., it is advised to arrive no later than 12:30 p.m. in order to be seated prior to the ceremony. Limited seating will be available and lawn chairs are suggested. Parking is available on the cemetery grounds.

Throughout the month of May, leading up to Memorial Day, it is important to encourage veterans from the Vietnam era and other veterans to meet with their County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) and apply for benefits they may be eligible for, particularly compensation and pension benefits. For more information contact your local CVSO.

In addition to the ceremony at Spooner, the WDVA will also host other Memorial Day ceremonies, at the **Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery** in Union Grove at **11:00 a.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 June 2001 and operated by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, the cemetery is centrally located on Highway 53 between Eau Claire and Superior to serve veterans and their families in northern Wisconsin.

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