



Jim Doyle, Governor
Kathleen Marschman, Chair

Attention Newsroom—News Release

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For Immediate Release

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New Veterans Affairs Secretary Appointed

MADISON -- In a Madison public meeting attended by legislators and staff members, veterans community leaders, and members of the media, the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs today appointed John A. Scocos as the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA).

“John Scocos is experienced, knowledgeable, and dedicated,” said Kathleen Marschman, Board chair. “He has been a significant and effective leader in championing veterans issues, and he brings a wealth of management and legislative experience that will serve to benefit our state’s veterans,” she said.

Prior to being appointed as Secretary, Scocos served as WDVA Deputy Secretary since January 2002, and as the department’s Executive Assistant for several years. He also served with the Wisconsin State Assembly as the Chief Clerk and Sergeant at Arms for two terms. Prior to serving with the Wisconsin State Assembly, he was a legislative aide in the Wisconsin State Senate.

Scocos enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1979 and in 1981 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from the Reserve Officer Training Program. He has commanded military units from platoon leader to battalion command level organizations. In addition he served during Operation Joint Endeavor (Bosnia). With over 24 years of active and reserve military service, he currently serves in the Ready Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel.

He received his Bachelor of Science from Mankato State University and his Teacher’s Certification from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has a Masters of Business Administration from Touro University, New York. He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and numerous other military courses at the Army Armor and Infantry schools. He is also a graduate of the Duke University Governor’s Executive Program.

John is a native of Madison, Wisconsin and the son of a WWII ex-POW. John is active in the Greek Orthodox Church in Madison and is a member of various civic groups in Dane County. He is Past President of the Dane County Veterans Commission and the Madison Veterans Council and a member of numerous veterans service organizations. He lives in Madison with his wife, Kelly, stepdaughter Chloe, and son Andreas.

The Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs is a citizen board that oversees the state department of veterans affairs, including selecting the department’s secretary and overseeing its activities.