



Jim Doyle, Governor
John A. Scocos, Secretary

STATE OF WISCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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Attention Newsroom—News Release

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Supermarket of Veterans Benefits and Dedication of Gates Hall to be held on May 15 at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove

(MADISON) -- Veterans can apply for an array of state and federal benefits at a **Supermarket of Veterans Benefits** sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA). In an ongoing effort to serve more veterans through education and outreach, the WDVA will host a "Supermarket" event with the theme *Salute to Returning Veterans*, to be held on **Saturday, May 15 – from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, at the **Center for Residential Services and Programs (C.R.S.P.) "School,"** located at the **Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove (WVH-UG)**.

There will also be a **dedication of Gates Hall**, a new Assisted Living Center that is licensed as a Residential Care Apartment Complex, and will posthumously bear the name of World War II Army Nurse Marcia Gates. The public is invited to the dedication, which will take place at **10:00 a.m.** Special guests will include: U.S. Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary **Gordon Mansfield**; Director of the Veterans Integrated Service Network 12, **Dr. Joan Cummings**; Wisconsin State Senator **Cathy Stepp** of the 21st District; Racine County Executive **Bill McReynolds**; and the current and former Secretaries of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, **John A. Scocos** and **Raymond G. Boland** respectively. In July 2003, Governor Jim Doyle announced at the WVH-UG, as construction of Gates Hall was underway, that he had approved budget funding to open a new 120-bed skilled nursing facility.

"Here in Wisconsin, we have a long history of providing excellent programs and services that support our veterans," Governor Doyle said. "Taking care of our veterans by making sure they receive the health care they need is the right thing to do to honor those who have served our country."

"The WDVA encourages all veterans and their families to come out to the events at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove on May 15th, which is also Armed Forces Day," said WDVA Secretary John A. Scocos. "This Supermarket of Veterans Benefits will be our ninth one, to provide a "one-stop shop" of services and benefits information. Many veterans may believe they are no longer eligible for benefits after being out of service for decades, and are surprised to find out that many benefits have no time limits, and new benefits have been instituted. We can help them learn about, and apply for the veterans benefits and services they and their families may be entitled to."

(more)

Some of the many services veterans and their family members can receive at the *Supermarket of Veterans Benefits*:

- Establish eligibility for state veterans benefits (veterans are advised to bring their **DD form 214**).
- Apply for benefits, such as VA health care and prescription drug benefits, disability compensation and pension, personal loans, home mortgage loans, home improvement loans and education or job training grants.
- Obtain information on federal VA health care.
- Receive assistance in obtaining military medals and records.
- Find out about employment opportunities.
- Pre-register for burial in state veterans cemeteries.
- Access military retiree information.
- Obtain information about nursing care and aging services.

There will also be short information briefings throughout the day on State Veterans Benefits, Federal VA Benefits and VA Health care.

Previous events have been held in Milwaukee, Eau Claire, Racine, Madison, Green Bay, and Schofield.

To date over 14,000 veterans and family members have participated. These Supermarkets are part of WDVA's overall "I Owe You" Campaign, reaching out to veterans who have not otherwise been served and bringing together the resources and expertise of federal, state, and local governmental agencies, and veterans service organizations.

In addition to the WDVA, other agencies participating in the Madison Supermarket include: the VA Hospital; VA Benefits Administration; the Wisconsin Department of Health & Family Services, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development; the U.S. Department of Labor; and County Veterans Service Officers from southeastern Wisconsin. By working together, various organizations can serve veterans more effectively.

Admission, parking, and refreshments are free. When arriving at the Wisconsin Veterans Home - Union Grove, watch for signage directing visitors to the two events. There will be shuttle service available on the grounds. For more information, call 1-800-WIS-VETS (1-800-947-8387) or go to the WDVA web site at <http://dva.state.wi.us/news.asp>.

**WISCONSIN VETERANS HOME-UNION GROVE
21425 C Spring Street**

Directions:

From Hwy 90, Hwy 894/45, Hwy 11, or Hwy C, go to Spring St. to enter the WVH-UG grounds (watch for signs) and take Gansner Drive in towards the center of the campus, about one-half mile.

To the "C.R.S.P.": From Gansner, take a right on Pine Road and come around to the C.R.S.P. school.

To the Dedication of Gates Hall: From Gansner, take a left on Pine Road, to where it intersects with Walnut Drive. Gates Hall is on the left side, at the corner of the intersection.