



STATE OF WISCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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Attention Newsroom—News Release

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Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs to host Veterans Day Ceremonies in Madison on November 11

(MADISON) -- Ceremonies to commemorate Veterans Day will be held on **Tuesday, November 11, 2003**, at various locations throughout the state, with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) taking the lead in hosting Veterans Day activities in Madison and at the state veterans memorial cemeteries and veterans homes. The theme for the day's events is "*Continuing the Legacy*," -- the legacy of those who have served in the past to those serving today, at home and abroad.

Ceremonies in Madison will begin at 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. with **Governor Jim Doyle** speaking at an event hosted by the Madison Veterans Council at the State Capitol Rotunda. Then, immediately afterwards, the public is invited across the street to the **Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs** building, 30 W. Mifflin Street, where lunch will be provided **at 11:15 a.m.**, on the second floor Wisconsin Veterans Museum Education Center. *The first 150 people to attend will receive a free lunch.* Department Veterans Day activities will proceed as follows:

- From 11:45 a.m. until noon there will be a video pre-screening of World War II stories and the department Secretary will address the gathering.
- Noon to 1:00 p.m. -- lecturer Patty Loew will talk about Native American Veterans, or guests can take self-guided tours through the museum.
- From 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. there will be a special Veterans Day Reception with refreshments, in the Board Room. Booths will feature six wartime eras, a display by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) and information about the "*I Owe You*" program. A veterans' interactive panel comprised of guest experts will talk briefly about veterans issues, just after 1 p.m.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison will feature an ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) Veterans Day Ceremony in conjunction with the Wisconsin State Historical Society, **at 3:30 p.m. at the Memorial Union**. Then, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., there will be a 75th Anniversary Reception of the UW-Madison Veterans Memorial Union, with a presentation by **Fred McCormick**, retired U.S. Army Colonel.

(more)

The WDVA will also be hosting Veterans Day ceremonies at:

- **10:30 a.m.** — **Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, Marden Memorial Center.** Featured speakers will include **Kathy Marschman**, Chair of the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs, and **Bill Crowley**, Commandant of the Home. At 11:00 a.m. a siren will sound for one minute in honor of those who've served. The Home is located at N2665 County Road QQ, just off of State Highway 22 and two miles west.
- **1:00 p.m.** — the Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery **at Spooner.** **SPC4 Sara Nikkel**, of the 652nd Engineer Company, Ellsworth, will speak about her recent experiences during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SPC4 Nikkel served with Army Reservist Dan Gabrielson, who was killed on July 9th when his convoy came under attack from a rocket-propelled grenade north of Baghdad. The keynote speaker will be **Peter Moran**, a member of the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs from Superior, Wisconsin. The cemetery is located on Wildcat Road just off Highway 53, three miles south of Spooner, at N4063 Wildcat Road.
- **3:00 p.m.** — the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery near **Union Grove.** Featured speakers will include **Governor Jim Doyle, who is scheduled to speak at 3:10 p.m.** **Walter Stenavich**, a member of the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs from Racine will address the ceremony, and **Lt. Col. Tom Rhatican**, Commander of the Army National Guard's 147th Command Aviation Battalion recently returned from Iraq, will be the keynote speaker. The cemetery is located at 21731 Spring Street, Union Grove.

Veterans and the public are invited to attend these Veterans Day ceremonies. For further information about these and other Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and Wisconsin Veterans Museum events and activities, call 1-800-947-8387 (WIS-VETS) or go to <http://dva.state.wi.us>.