



STATE OF WISCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

30 West Mifflin Street, P.O. Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843

PHONE: (608) 266-1311 1-800-947-8387 (WIS VETS)

WEB SITE: <http://dva.state.wi.us>

E-MAIL: Headquarters@dva.state.wi.us

FAX: (608) 264-7616

Jim Doyle, Governor

John A. Scocos, Secretary

Attention Newsroom—Media Advisory

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Andrew Schuster 608-267-1797
or Kathleen Scholl 608-267-3582

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs to host Veterans Day Ceremony at Union Grove

(MADISON) -- Ceremonies to commemorate Veterans Day will be held in Madison and statewide, with the theme of "*Continuing the Legacy*," the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) announced. Veterans Day events will be featured at the state veterans' cemeteries, including the **Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery (SWVMC) at Union Grove, Wisconsin**. This year's theme is "*Continuing the Legacy*" -- the legacy of those who have served to those serving in the past to those serving today, at home and abroad.

A **3:00 p.m. ceremony** will be held in Union Grove on **Tuesday, November 11**, Veterans Day, at the SWVMC. The cemetery is located at 21731 Spring Street, Union Grove. Veterans and the public are invited to attend.

Governor Jim Doyle will address the ceremony, scheduled to speak at **3:10 p.m.**

Walter Stenavich, a member of the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs from Racine, will speak about the importance of remembering Veterans Day and continuing the mission of serving veterans. Stenavich is a World War II veteran who served in the United States Navy from 1943 to 1946 on submarines in the Pacific. The keynote speaker will be **Lt. Col. Tom Rhatican**, Commander of the Army National Guard's 147th Command Aviation Battalion recently returned from Iraq. Master of Ceremonies will be **Bill Kloster**, Administrator of WDVA's Division of Veterans Benefits. The Director of the SWVMC, **Marian Lewandowski, Jr.**, will provide the welcome.

Featured will be: music by the Celtic Nations Pipes and Drums, posting of the colors by American Legion Post #171, TAPS sounded by Dan Erikson, Wisconsin Coordinator for Bugles Across America, and a rifle salute by the 115th Fighter Wing Honor Guard. Father Edwin M. Kornath will deliver the invocation and benediction.

"On this Veterans Day let us '*Continue the Legacy*' of former Secretary Ray Boland to think first of our veterans and those who serve, providing assistance to them to receive the benefits and services they've earned," said Lewandowski. "Let us also stand united in our resolve and remember all the men and women who helped preserved our nation's freedom."

Dedicated in May 1998, the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery is operated by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

(more)

In addition to the ceremony at Union Grove, the WDVA will also host Veterans Day ceremonies in **Madison, King, and Spooner.**

Ceremonies in Madison will begin at 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. with an event by the Madison Veterans Council taking place 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.

The WDVA will also be hosting Veterans Day ceremonies at: the cemetery at the Wisconsin Veterans Home **at King, at 10:30 a.m.** and at the Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery **at Spooner, at 1:00 p.m.**

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