



Jim Doyle, Governor
John A. Scocos, Secretary

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“Mission: Welcome Home” the theme for Veterans’ Day 2004

(MADISON) – Welcoming home Wisconsin’s veterans from their service in Iraq and Afghanistan will be the special focus of this year’s Veterans Day ceremonies to be presented statewide by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs on November 11, announced Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary John Scocos.

Veteran’s Day this year coincides with the WDVA’s new program called "Mission: Welcome Home," which will help Wisconsin servicemembers return to society after many months serving in foreign conflicts.

“Veterans Day is our time to pay special tribute to all veterans, who have honorably worn the uniform of service with dedication to their country,” Scocos said. “This Veteran’s Day will be especially important because it is our chance as a state to focus on those who are currently sacrificing so much to serve our country.”

On Veterans’ Day, Scocos will join Governor Jim Doyle at the State Capitol Rotunda to recognize veterans during a ceremony hosted by the Madison Veterans Council, beginning at 11:00 a.m. In addition to the numerous veterans programs held throughout Wisconsin at schools (including an 8:00 a.m. program at Delavan-Darien High School at which Secretary Scocos will speak), veterans parks, cemeteries and other locations, the WDVA will be conducting Veterans Day programs at:

- The Wisconsin Veterans Home, Marden Memorial Center at King, starting at 10:30 a.m.
- Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spooner, starting at 1:00 p.m.
- Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Union Grove, starting at 3:00 p.m. Secretary Scocos will speak.
- Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs/Wisconsin Veterans Museum – Madison, starting at 7:00 p.m., there will be Veterans’ Day forum featuring a panel of members of the 32nd Military Police Company that returned from Iraq in July 2004. The forum will take place in the 2nd floor Education Center of 30 W. Mifflin St., Madison.
- The Milwaukee War Memorial (America's Freedom Center) will hold a Veterans' Day Banquet from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., with Secretary Scocos as the keynote speaker.

“On this Veterans' Day, let us remember those from Wisconsin and this nation who have served and those serving today -- active, guard, and reserve,” said Scocos. “We will ensure they receive the benefits and services that they have earned.”

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>.