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

Ceremony to reflect on veterans' "service and sacrifice"

(MADISON) – The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs announces a Veterans Day ceremony to be held at the **Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery (SWVMC)** at **Union Grove**, Wisconsin, as part of various commemorative ceremonies statewide for Veterans Day. This year's theme is "Service and Sacrifice."

"This year marks the 30-year Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War," said Scocos, "and on Veterans Day 2005 we not only honor, recognize, and remember all who have served their country, but we are making special efforts to recognize our Vietnam veterans. They deserve our thanks for their service. Vietnam veterans have been reaching out to servicemembers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, through 'Mission: Welcome Home,' because they know the importance of helping Wisconsin servicemembers to reintegrate."

"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 continued. "This Veterans Day is also important because it is our chance as a state to focus on those who are currently sacrificing so much to serve our country."

Locally, the SWVMC's **Veterans Day Program** will be held on **Friday, November 11, 2005, at 3:00 p.m.** The cemetery is located at 21731 Spring Street, Union Grove. Veterans and the public are invited to attend. Seating is available; however, families are welcome to bring their own lawn chairs. The event is held outside and those attending are encouraged to bring additional warm clothing. Parking is available on the cemetery grounds.

Speakers will include: **John A. Scocos**, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary; and **Staff Sgt. Michael Connolly**, Fox Co. 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines, Milwaukee, WI.

Glen Brower, Commandant of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Home in Union Grove, will be Master of Ceremonies. Cemetery Director of the SWVMC, **Marian Lewandowski, Jr.**, will provide the welcome and make brief announcements.

Also featured will be musical selections by a brass quintet from the **132nd Army Band, Wisconsin Army National Guard** and soloist, **Jen Hull**. Members from American Legion Post 552, Sommers, Wisconsin will post and retire the colors, **Father Eugene Doda Jr.** will offer the invocation and benediction. **Joseph Myszewski**, Eagle Scout with troop 372 of Waterford will lead the Pledge of Allegiance. **Rick Poisl**, will sound taps, and a rifle salute will be presented by the **Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7924**, Kansasville.

Dedicated in May 1998, the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery is operated by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. Construction of the cemetery was financed with assistance through the federal VA Cemetery Grants Program.

Other ceremonies being hosted by the department on Veterans Day will take place as follows:

- 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.

For further information about these and other Wisconsin 2005 Veterans Day programs and ceremonies, visit www.dva.state.wi.us/events.asp.