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Attention Newsroom—Press Release

October 27, 2005
For Immediate Release

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Wisconsin Veterans Homes offer comfortable living for veterans *Expansion Nearly Completed at Union Grove ... Immediate Occupancy at King*

(MADISON) - The Wisconsin Veterans Homes at King and Union Grove offer veterans and their spouses affordable, quality nursing and long-term care, in a comfortable environment where they can share activities and experiences with other veterans. With the expansion of the Home at Union Grove anticipated for early next year, there is immediate occupancy available at both the King and Union Grove homes.

"The veterans homes provide quality care to older and disabled veterans needing assistance with a caring and professional staff," said Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary John A. Scocos.

"Veterans and their spouses should strongly consider living at the Home located at the Southern Wisconsin Center," said Glen Brower, Commandant of the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove. "The veterans home at Union Grove offers Assisted Living Units to include a specialty Memory Care Unit. The campus is expanding -- construction will be completed early next year for a new 120-bed Skilled Nursing Facility to open in Spring of 2006," said Brower. "There are openings available now in all of the units, with a total capacity next year for about 240 residents."

Commandant Bill Crowley of the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, Wisconsin, a 749-bed facility with historical beginnings dating back to post-Civil War in 1887, said, "There is no waiting list for someone seeking retirement or nursing care options who wishes to call King their home. The Home is located on the beautiful Waupaca Chain O' Lakes in central Wisconsin. Many potential residents are either not aware of our facility, think there is a long waiting list, or feel they may not be eligible. Many of the eligibility and financial requirements have changed in the last few years for both of the veterans homes, and every veteran and his or her spouse should know the facts." Crowley highlighted some of the major changes, which include:

1. Veterans who served in either peacetime or wartime are eligible
2. Spouses of deceased veterans are eligible
3. Members are not required to turn over their assets upon admission
4. Cottages and rooms are immediately available for independent living
5. Rooms are immediately available for nursing care
6. If a veteran has lived in Wisconsin for any consecutive 12 month period since discharge, or if the veteran was a Wisconsin resident at the time of entry into active duty, he or she will meet the residency requirement
7. Members who possess a valid driver's license and proof of insurance are allowed to keep an automobile.

"The Wisconsin Veterans Home at King is far from a traditional nursing home setting," Crowley said. "The benefits available to our members include a diverse activities program offering fishing, boating,

(more)

regular and handicapped bowling, golfing, and crafts. During inclement weather, residents travel between buildings by using our tunnel system, with 'tuggers' used to transport both ambulatory and those in wheelchairs."

There is an array of other services available at both of the veterans homes. These include assistance with medications, personal care, shopping, transportation to medical appointments, recreational activities, and meals and snacks. In addition, clothing, laundry, food service, safety and security are all provided by the homes staff.

At the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, members normally see their physicians and specialists on site, and transportation is provided when needed to travel to other facilities. All eye care, pharmacy, dental, x-ray and therapy needs are also provided right at the facility. At the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove, primary health care services are provided by a satellite clinic of the Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee, located adjacent to the Home.

To arrange for a free informational tour of the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King or Union Grove, or to apply for admission or receive additional information, contact your local County Veterans Service Officer, who may be found listed in the yellow pages under "County Government." Informational DVDs and brochures about the Wisconsin Veterans Homes are available by calling either the Wisconsin Veterans Home - King Public Information Officer Rich Calcut at 715-258-4247 or via e-mail at rich.calcut@dva.state.wi.us, or the Wisconsin Veterans Home - Union Grove Director of Admissions Joan Clark at 262-878-6749 or via e-mail at joan.clark@dva.state.wi.us.

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