

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE
HEARING RECORDS

1997-98

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on
Veterans and
Military Affairs
(AC-VMA)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01a
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01b
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ **

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **97hr_AC-VMA_Misc_pt02**

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6375

February 24, 1997

Representative Terry Musser
92nd Assembly District
Post Office Box 8953
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Representative Musser:

Thank you for your letter of January 22, 1997, regarding the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) resource allocation. As the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am deeply concerned about the impact of cuts on our veterans.

Congress appropriated a \$450 million increase for VA health care for Fiscal Year 1997. Despite this VA has decided that there was not enough demand for care in many states to warrant a corresponding increase in funding. I disagree with the methodology VA used to come to this decision. VA has submitted its 1998 budget and it contains some questionable assumptions. However, I will continue working with both Congress and the Administration to ensure adequate health care funding for veterans in 1998 and beyond.

Enclosed are veteran population projections from the VA National Center for Veteran Analysis and Statistics for VISN 12, which includes Wisconsin. I have also included the population projections for VISN 18, headquartered in Phoenix, for a comparison. That particular VISN will receive a 6.9% increase in health care funding for fiscal year 1997.

I do want you to know that I have taken the liberty of forwarding your letter to Senator Kohl, who, I am certain, will also want to have the opportunity to respond. Please know that I and the members of my staff on the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs appreciate the effort you have made to keep me informed.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter
Chairman

AS/wsf
enclosures

Veteran Population by VISN, Period of Service, and Sex: 1995 TO 2010 continued

| (in thousands) | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-----------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| | Year | Total | Total War | Persian Gulf War | Vietnam Era | Korean Conflict | WWII | WW I | Total Peace |
| VISN 18 Both Sexes | 1995 | 822.6 | 656.7 | 42.6 | 269.9 | 163.5 | 241.5 | 0.4 | 187.9 |
| | 1996 | 815.5 | 650.7 | 48.6 | 269.3 | 161.1 | 230.5 | 0.3 | 187.4 |
| | 1997 | 807.7 | 643.7 | 54.4 | 268.6 | 158.2 | 219.2 | 0.2 | 186.9 |
| | 1998 | 798.7 | 635.2 | 59.5 | 267.6 | 155.1 | 207.5 | 0.2 | 186.5 |
| | 1999 | 788.6 | 625.1 | 63.7 | 266.5 | 151.6 | 195.6 | 0.1 | 186.5 |
| | 2000 | 778.0 | 613.5 | 67.0 | 265.2 | 147.9 | 183.4 | 0.1 | 187.3 |
| | 2001 | 766.8 | 600.4 | 69.3 | 263.9 | 143.9 | 170.9 | 0.1 | 189.0 |
| | 2002 | 755.1 | 586.6 | 71.2 | 262.5 | 139.5 | 158.4 | 0.0 | 190.9 |
| | 2003 | 743.0 | 572.1 | 72.8 | 261.0 | 134.8 | 146.0 | 0.0 | 193.1 |
| | 2004 | 730.5 | 557.0 | 74.2 | 259.2 | 129.8 | 133.8 | 0.0 | 195.2 |
| 2005 | 717.6 | 541.6 | 75.4 | 257.3 | 124.4 | 122.0 | 0.0 | 197.3 | |
| 2010 | 650.8 | 462.1 | 79.6 | 244.7 | 93.4 | 69.2 | 0.0 | 207.0 | |
| Males | 1995 | 776.5 | 627.0 | 37.2 | 260.1 | 159.7 | 229.7 | 0.4 | 171.0 |
| | 1996 | 769.0 | 620.5 | 42.5 | 259.4 | 157.2 | 219.1 | 0.3 | 170.6 |
| | 1997 | 760.9 | 613.1 | 47.5 | 258.7 | 154.4 | 208.1 | 0.2 | 170.1 |
| | 1998 | 751.7 | 604.5 | 52.1 | 257.8 | 151.3 | 196.9 | 0.1 | 169.7 |
| | 1999 | 741.5 | 594.2 | 55.7 | 256.7 | 147.9 | 185.3 | 0.1 | 169.6 |
| | 2000 | 730.8 | 582.7 | 58.5 | 255.4 | 144.3 | 173.6 | 0.1 | 170.2 |
| | 2001 | 719.5 | 569.9 | 60.5 | 254.2 | 140.3 | 161.6 | 0.1 | 171.6 |
| | 2002 | 707.8 | 556.4 | 62.2 | 252.8 | 136.1 | 149.6 | 0.0 | 173.2 |
| | 2003 | 695.7 | 542.3 | 63.7 | 251.3 | 131.5 | 137.7 | 0.0 | 174.9 |
| | 2004 | 683.1 | 527.6 | 64.9 | 249.6 | 126.5 | 126.0 | 0.0 | 176.6 |
| 2005 | 670.2 | 512.7 | 65.9 | 247.7 | 121.2 | 114.6 | 0.0 | 178.2 | |
| 2010 | 603.7 | 435.7 | 69.6 | 235.4 | 90.7 | 64.3 | 0.0 | 185.8 | |
| Females | 1995 | 46.1 | 29.7 | 5.3 | 9.8 | 3.9 | 11.8 | 0.0 | 16.9 |
| | 1996 | 46.5 | 30.2 | 6.1 | 9.8 | 3.8 | 11.4 | 0.0 | 16.8 |
| | 1997 | 46.8 | 30.5 | 6.8 | 9.8 | 3.8 | 11.1 | 0.0 | 16.8 |
| | 1998 | 47.0 | 30.8 | 7.5 | 9.8 | 3.8 | 10.7 | 0.0 | 16.8 |
| | 1999 | 47.1 | 30.8 | 8.0 | 9.8 | 3.7 | 10.3 | 0.0 | 16.9 |
| | 2000 | 47.2 | 30.8 | 8.4 | 9.8 | 3.6 | 9.8 | 0.0 | 17.1 |
| | 2001 | 47.3 | 30.5 | 8.7 | 9.8 | 3.5 | 9.3 | 0.0 | 17.4 |
| | 2002 | 47.3 | 30.2 | 9.0 | 9.7 | 3.5 | 8.9 | 0.0 | 17.8 |
| | 2003 | 47.3 | 29.8 | 9.2 | 9.7 | 3.4 | 8.4 | 0.0 | 18.2 |
| | 2004 | 47.3 | 29.4 | 9.3 | 9.6 | 3.3 | 7.9 | 0.0 | 18.6 |
| 2005 | 47.3 | 28.9 | 9.5 | 9.6 | 3.2 | 7.4 | 0.0 | 19.0 | |
| 2010 | 47.1 | 26.4 | 10.1 | 9.3 | 2.7 | 4.9 | 0.0 | 21.2 | |

Veteran Population by VISN, Period of Service, and Sex: 1995 TO 2010 continued

(in thousands)

| | Year | Total | Total War | Persian Gulf War | Vietnam Era | Korean Conflict | WWII | WW I | Total Peace |
|------------------------------|-------|---------|-----------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| WIS VISN 12 Both Sexes | 1995 | 1,293.4 | 1,017.1 | 71.5 | 390.0 | 219.4 | 367.5 | 0.7 | 290.4 |
| | 1996 | 1,275.0 | 1,003.4 | 82.3 | 389.1 | 213.6 | 348.5 | 0.5 | 286.8 |
| | 1997 | 1,255.5 | 988.2 | 92.8 | 387.1 | 207.7 | 329.3 | 0.4 | 283.2 |
| | 1998 | 1,234.5 | 971.2 | 102.2 | 384.4 | 201.8 | 310.1 | 0.3 | 279.6 |
| | 1999 | 1,212.6 | 951.9 | 110.0 | 381.2 | 195.9 | 290.8 | 0.2 | 277.2 |
| | 2000 | 1,190.5 | 930.5 | 116.2 | 377.5 | 189.9 | 271.6 | 0.1 | 276.6 |
| | 2001 | 1,167.8 | 906.9 | 120.4 | 373.4 | 184.0 | 252.5 | 0.1 | 277.7 |
| | 2002 | 1,144.7 | 881.8 | 123.8 | 368.7 | 177.9 | 233.4 | 0.1 | 279.6 |
| | 2003 | 1,121.4 | 855.8 | 126.6 | 363.6 | 171.5 | 214.6 | 0.0 | 282.2 |
| | 2004 | 1,098.1 | 829.2 | 128.9 | 358.4 | 164.9 | 196.2 | 0.0 | 285.4 |
| | 2005 | 1,074.8 | 802.1 | 130.8 | 353.1 | 158.0 | 178.2 | 0.0 | 288.9 |
| 2010 | 960.8 | 668.3 | 136.7 | 324.3 | 119.8 | 98.8 | 0.0 | 307.1 | |
| Males | 1995 | 1,245.9 | 985.1 | 63.0 | 381.8 | 216.1 | 354.9 | 0.7 | 274.3 |
| | 1996 | 1,226.9 | 970.7 | 72.6 | 380.8 | 210.4 | 336.3 | 0.5 | 270.9 |
| | 1997 | 1,207.0 | 954.9 | 81.9 | 378.8 | 204.6 | 317.8 | 0.3 | 267.4 |
| | 1998 | 1,185.6 | 937.3 | 90.3 | 376.1 | 198.8 | 299.1 | 0.2 | 264.0 |
| | 1999 | 1,163.4 | 917.7 | 97.2 | 372.8 | 192.9 | 280.4 | 0.2 | 261.5 |
| | 2000 | 1,140.9 | 896.2 | 102.6 | 369.2 | 187.0 | 261.6 | 0.1 | 260.7 |
| | 2001 | 1,117.9 | 872.6 | 106.4 | 365.1 | 181.1 | 243.0 | 0.1 | 261.3 |
| | 2002 | 1,094.4 | 847.7 | 109.5 | 360.4 | 175.1 | 224.4 | 0.1 | 262.7 |
| | 2003 | 1,070.7 | 821.9 | 111.9 | 355.3 | 168.8 | 206.1 | 0.0 | 264.7 |
| | 2004 | 1,047.0 | 795.6 | 113.9 | 350.2 | 162.3 | 188.2 | 0.0 | 267.1 |
| | 2005 | 1,023.4 | 769.0 | 115.5 | 344.9 | 155.4 | 170.7 | 0.0 | 269.9 |
| 2010 | 907.9 | 637.9 | 120.6 | 316.6 | 117.8 | 94.1 | 0.0 | 283.9 | |
| Females | 1995 | 47.5 | 32.0 | 8.4 | 8.2 | 3.3 | 12.7 | 0.0 | 16.0 |
| | 1996 | 48.1 | 32.7 | 9.7 | 8.3 | 3.2 | 12.1 | 0.0 | 15.9 |
| | 1997 | 48.5 | 33.4 | 10.9 | 8.3 | 3.1 | 11.6 | 0.0 | 15.8 |
| | 1998 | 48.9 | 33.9 | 12.0 | 8.3 | 3.1 | 11.0 | 0.0 | 15.6 |
| | 1999 | 49.2 | 34.2 | 12.9 | 8.3 | 3.0 | 10.5 | 0.0 | 15.7 |
| | 2000 | 49.6 | 34.3 | 13.6 | 8.3 | 2.9 | 9.9 | 0.0 | 15.9 |
| | 2001 | 49.9 | 34.3 | 14.0 | 8.3 | 2.9 | 9.5 | 0.0 | 16.3 |
| | 2002 | 50.3 | 34.1 | 14.4 | 8.3 | 2.8 | 9.0 | 0.0 | 16.9 |
| | 2003 | 50.7 | 33.9 | 14.7 | 8.3 | 2.7 | 8.5 | 0.0 | 17.5 |
| | 2004 | 51.0 | 33.5 | 15.0 | 8.2 | 2.6 | 8.0 | 0.0 | 18.2 |
| | 2005 | 51.4 | 33.1 | 15.2 | 8.2 | 2.5 | 7.5 | 0.0 | 19.0 |
| 2010 | 52.9 | 30.4 | 16.1 | 7.8 | 2.0 | 4.8 | 0.0 | 23.1 | |

January 22, 1997

**Senator Arlen Specter, Chair
Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510**

Dear Chairman Specter:

I am writing regarding the proposed Federal budget cuts at the Tomah Veterans Medical Center, Tomah, Wisconsin (VISN 12).

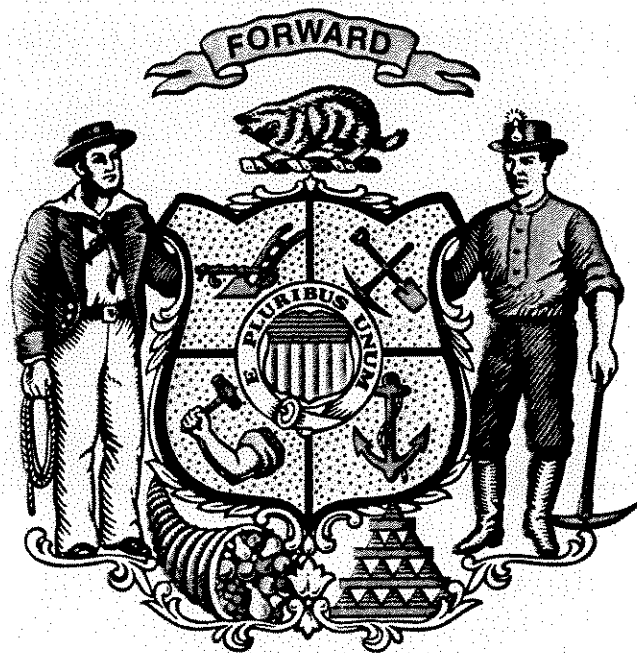
I understand one of the reasons for the proposed cuts is that veterans are leaving the Mid-west and moving to the Sunbelt. I would appreciate a copy of any statistics that verifies this shift in population.

In this era of budget cutbacks, I realize the need to shift resources within the VA. The veterans of the State of Wisconsin have earned these vital services offered by the VA. I do not want to see Wisconsin veterans penalized.

Thank you and I appreciate your support of veterans.

Sincerely,

**Terry Musser, Chair
Wisconsin Assembly Committee on
Veteran and Military Affairs**





VETERANS AFFAIRS

STATE OF WISCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

30 West Mifflin Street, P. O. Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843
Tommy G. Thompson, Governor
Raymond G. Boland, Secretary

March 13, 1997

TO: Members, Assembly Veterans and Military Affairs Committee

FROM: Charles Hoslet, Executive Assistant CH

RE: Budget Briefing Charts

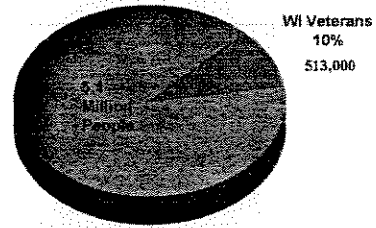
As requested at the hearing last week, attached are copies of the charts used by the department to brief the committee on Governor Thompson's budget recommendations and the status of the Veterans Trust Fund. Also attached is a list of the items requested by the department that were not included in the Governor's recommendations.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at 266-3081.

Attachments



Wisconsin Veterans Population
vs.
Total Wisconsin Population



TOTAL WDVA BUDGET

1997-1999 BUDGET

GOVERNOR THOMPSON'S
RECOMMENDATIONS TO
THE LEGISLATURE

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| FY 96 - \$109.7 million | FY 98 - \$114.3 million |
| FY 97 - <u>\$113.9 million</u> | FY 99 - <u>\$128.7 million</u> |
| \$223.6 million | \$243.0 million |

PROGRAM BUDGET SUMMARIES

• *Wisconsin Veterans Home*

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| FY 96 - \$33.7 Million | FY 98 - \$35.9 Million |
| FY 97 - <u>\$34.1 Million</u> | FY 99 - <u>\$36.7 Million</u> |
| \$67.8 Million | \$72.6 Million |

• *Trust Fund Programs*

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| FY 96 - \$12.2 Million | FY 98 - \$17.1 Million |
| FY 97 - <u>\$12.3 Million</u> | FY 99 - <u>\$18.7 Million</u> |
| \$24.5 Million | \$35.8 Million |

• *Primary Mortgage Loan Program*

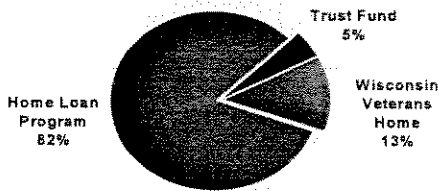
Debt Service, Admin. Costs (in DVA budget)

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| FY 96 - \$63.6 Million | FY 98 - \$63 Million |
| FY 97 - <u>\$67 Million</u> | FY 99 - <u>\$73 Million</u> |
| \$130.6 Million | \$136 Million |

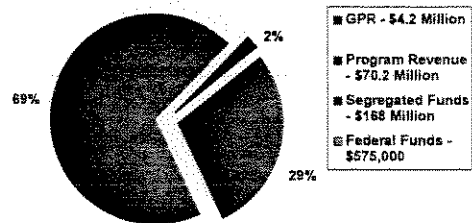
Loans to Veterans (from bonds, not in budget)

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| FY 96 - \$72.9 Million | FY 98 - \$156 Million |
| FY 97 - <u>\$72.9 Million</u> | FY 99 - <u>\$156 Million</u> |
| \$145.9 Million | \$312 Million |

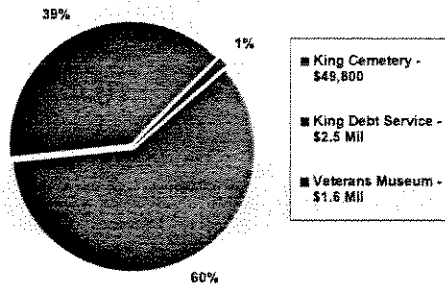
Outlays by Program 1997-1999 Biennium



WDVA Funding Sources 1997-1999 Biennium



GPR Funding - \$4.2 Million 1997-1999 Biennium

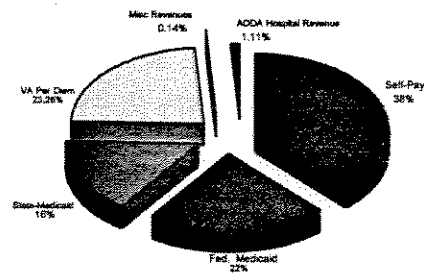


WISCONSIN VETERANS HOME

Wisconsin Veterans Home Current Status

- \$67.8 Million 1995-1997 Operating Budget
- 749 Members
- 667 Staff (Full and Part-Time)
- \$95 Million in Infrastructure

Home at King 1997-99 Budget By Sources of Revenue



TOTAL BIENNIUM BUDGET - \$72,647,900

CHANGES TO VETERANS BENEFITS

GOVERNOR'S 1997-1999 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

New Personal Loan Program

- Provides \$15 million annually for new program which will provide veterans and their dependents with loans of up to \$15,000.
- Funds can be used for business, education or medical expenses, debt consolidation or the purchase of a mobile home.

Other Improvements

- State Tax Dollars for Veterans Museum
- Veterans Assistance Program Site at Southern Wisconsin Center
- Increased Grants for CVSOs
- Computerization for CVSOs and VSOs
- Extended Eligibility for Tuition Reimb.
- Health Care Aid Grant Extended

Peacetime Veterans Eligibility

- Extends eligibility for state veterans benefits to veterans who served on active duty under honorable conditions for 2 consecutive years.
- Makes approximately 100,000 Wisconsin veterans eligible.

Home Loan Program

- Provides authority to use Taxable Bonds to finance home loans for eligible veterans.
- Will allow veterans who entered service after 1976 to take advantage of program.
- Expect to issue approximately \$156 million in new home loans annually.

Program Increases

| <u>1995-1997</u> | <u>1997-1999</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Grants - \$6.9 Million | Grants - \$8.6 Million |
| Personal Loans - \$9.2M | Personal Loans - \$30M |
| Home Loans - \$145.9M | Home Loans - \$312M |

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS TRUST FUND

HISTORY OF
VETERANS TRUST FUND

- Fund created in 1961- consisted of consolidated separate funds.
- Initial infusion of funds came from surtax on income in 1943 and liquor tax from 1947 to 1951.
- The Trust Fund has received no General Purpose Revenue (GPR) since 1988.

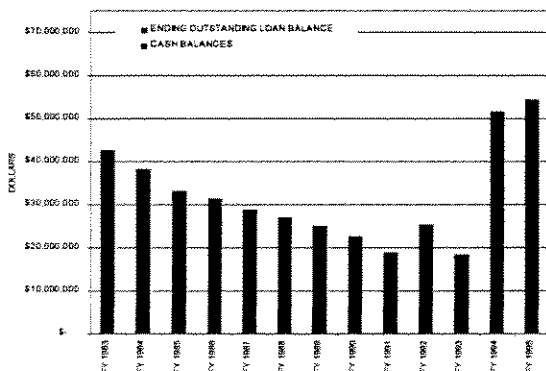
TRUST FUND REVENUES

| SOURCE | AMOUNT |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Pre-WWI Balance | \$ 32,900 |
| 1943 Surtax on Income | \$ 7,630,400 |
| 1947-51 Liquor Tax | \$ 18,190,100 |
| 1947 General Fund Appropriation | \$ 3,800,000 |
| 1951 General Fund Appropriation | \$ 4,800,000 |
| 1969 Investment Board Loan | \$ 6,500,000 |
| 1971 General Fund Appropriation | \$ 6,800,000 |
| 1972 General Fund Appropriation | \$ 5,900,000 |
| 1973 General Fund Appropriation | \$ 667,000 |
| 1973 General Fund Loan | \$ 13,500,000 |
| 1974 General Fund Appropriation | \$ 1,033,000 |
| 1974 General Fund Loan | \$ 5,300,000 |
| 1974 Investment Board Loan | \$ 6,000,000 |
| 1975 Investment Board Loan | \$ 6,000,000 |
| 1985 General Fund Appropriation | \$ 1,000,000 |
| 1986 General Fund Appropriation | \$ 400,000 |
| 1987 General Fund Appropriation | \$ 942,000 |
| 1988 General Fund Appropriation | \$ 261,900 |

CURRENT TRUST FUND
STATUS

- The Trust Fund is supported by loan repayments and interest from investments.
- The Trust Fund supports loans to veterans and all veteran grants such as Tuition Fee & Reimbursement, Subsistence Aid, Health Care Aid, Retraining, CVSO grants and other Local Organizations.

WISCONSIN VETERANS TRUST FUND HISTORICAL OUTLOOK
VTF Assets = Cash Balances + Outstanding Loans
1985-1996



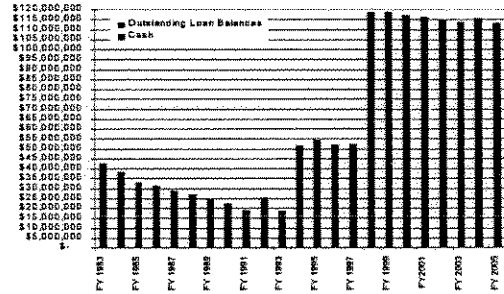
THE PRINCIPLE

IT TAKES
MONEY TO
MAKE MONEY

THE WDVA STRATEGY

- INFUSE CAPITAL TO TRUST FUND ASSET BASE
- USE THE CAPITAL TO INCREASE PERSONAL LOAN PROGRAM
- USE REVENUES FROM LOAN REPAYMENT TO FUND GRANT PROGRAMS
- BUILD CASH FLOWS AND SOLVENCY FOR THE LONG-TERM.

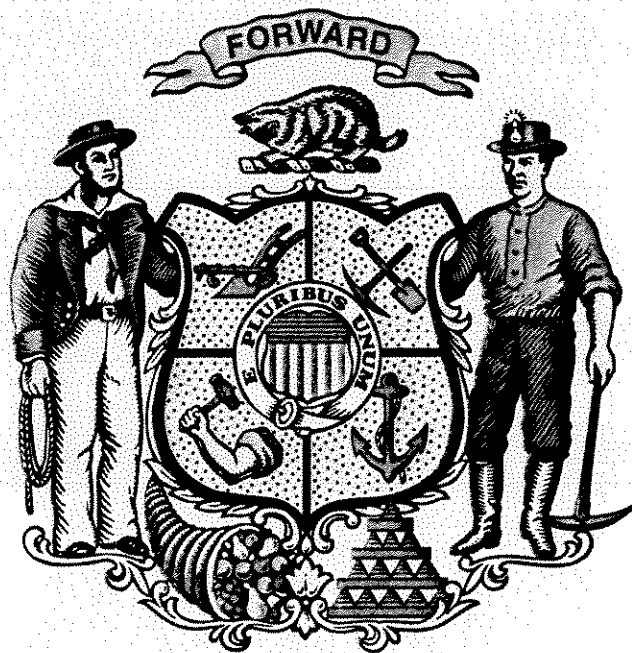
OUTSTANDING LOAN & CASH BALANCES
1983-2005



Budget Items Not Approved

The following requests were not included in the Governor's budget recommendations for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

| DIN No. | Decision Item | FY98 | | FY99 | |
|------------|--|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| | | Dollars | Positions | Dollars | Positions |
| 5004 | WVH Preventive Maintenance Staff | \$ 0 | (2.0) | \$ 0 | (2.0) |
| 5009 | WVH Security Staffing Requirements | 20,700 | (1.0) | 27,600 | (1.0) |
| 5012 | WVH Turnover Restoration | 186,300 | (0.0) | 186,300 | (0.0) |
| 4002 | WVH Voice Activated Software & IT Staff | 78,100 | (1.0) | 42,500 | (1.0) |
| 4003 | Document Imaging of Veteran Records | 563,800 | (2.0) | 52,000 | (2.0) |
| 6001 | Transitional Veterans Employment | 25,000 | (0.0) | 25,000 | (0.0) |
| 6505 | VSC Grant Increase | 25,000 | (0.0) | 25,000 | (0.0) |
| 6503 | Central Office Inflationary Increase | 41,300 | (0.0) | 68,500 | (0.0) |
| 6510 | Turnover Restoration | 45,900 | (0.0) | 45,900 | (0.0) |
| 7005 | Museum Curator of Sites & Field Services | 26,800 | (1.0) | 35,700 | (0.0) |



March 17, 1997

sent

Senator Arlen Specter, Chair
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Specter:

Thank you for your letter of February 24, 1997, regarding the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) resource allocation.

I appreciate the information sent, the veteran population projections for VISN 12 and VISN 18. While it is reasonable to shift resources within the VA to areas with increasing populations, I can not help but think that these funds will be lost forever.

My fear is that when Persian Gulf War veterans begin to require access to these services, they will be unavailable. From the present to the year 2010, the rate of population growth among these veterans is higher in VISN 12 than VISN 18.

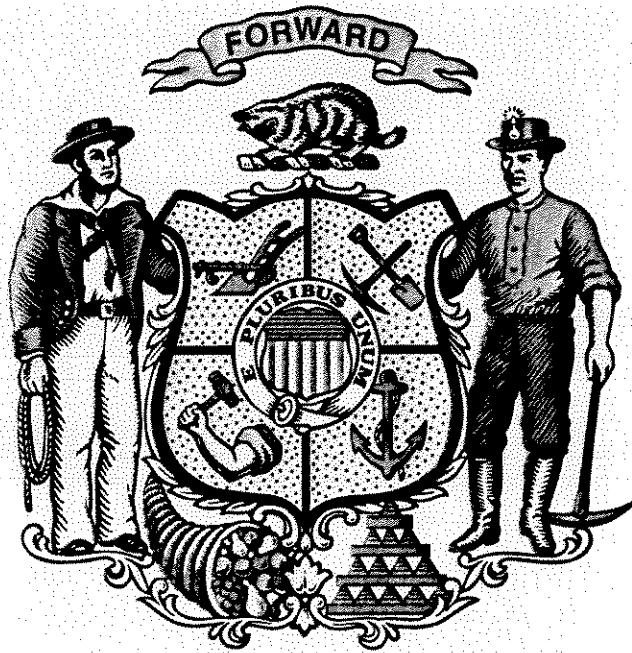
I would appreciate a copy of the past 5 years expenditures and the projected expenditures for VISN 12 and VISN 18.

Thank you for your support of veterans.

Sincerely,

Terry Musser, Chair
Wisconsin Assembly Committee on
Veteran and Military Affairs

cc: Herbert H. Kohl, U.S. Senator
Russell D. Feingold, U.S. Senator



MENTAL HEALTH CENTER of Dane County, Inc.

625 W. Washington Avenue • P.O. Box 1409 • Madison, WI 53701-1409 • (608) 251-2341 • FAX (608) 251-1514

April 21, 1997

Honorable Janet Reno
Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
Room 4400
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Reno:

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen and President of the Board of Directors of the Mental Health Center of Dane County. We need your help to prevent a tragedy. We need you to contact Roger B. Lindo, INS Director of the Milwaukee Office, and urge him to use his discretionary power to declare an emergency situation for the citizenship applications for Southeast Asian refugees with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and/or Depression and to process them immediately. (See attached letter of April 21st to Mr. Lindo from the Mental Health Center's Executive Director.)

As the time for losing SSI benefits approaches, these clients realize that they may not be made citizens in time to prevent the loss of their benefits. These are severely disabled people who will be unable to hold jobs. They are in an extremely vulnerable position with the threat of lost benefits only months away. Their psychiatric condition is worsening. Many are becoming more hopeless and depressed. Some are beginning to talk about suicide.

As you are aware, there was a recent suicide of a Hmong man in the Mauston area who was notified about loss of his SSI benefits. This untenable situation is entirely preventable. If we can assure these clients that help is imminently on the way, we can prevent further depression and psychiatric deterioration.

To date, approximately 60 of our Southeast Asian clients with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and/or Depression have applied for citizenship. They have been determined by either a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist to be so severely and chronically impaired because of their Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and/or Clinical Depression that they need to be exempted from the English and Civics requirements of the citizenship tests.

We urge you to prevail upon the Milwaukee INS District Director to consider citizenship applications for Southeast Asian refugees with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and/or Depression as an emergency situation and to process them immediately. The handling of these cases constitute a matter of life and death.

Thank you for your attention to and support of the urgency of our request. If you have any immediate questions, or need our assistance in any way, please contact Gail Marker, Program Director, at (608) 251-2341.

Sincerely,



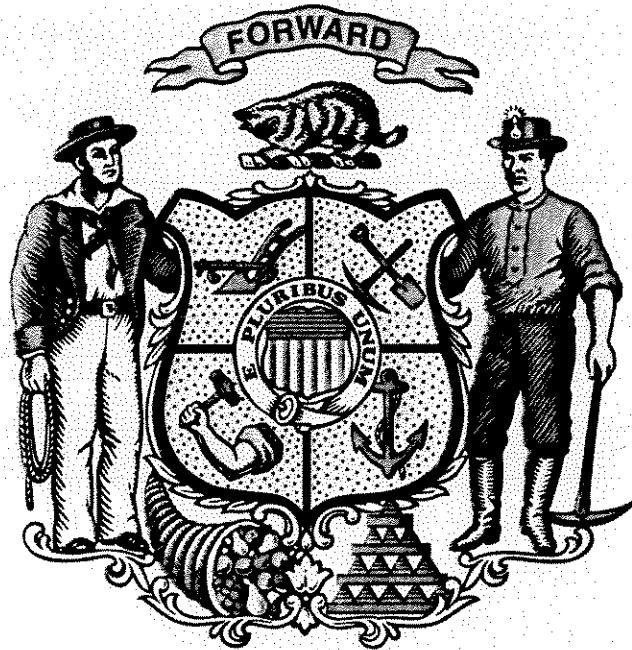
Connie E. R. Deer
Board President

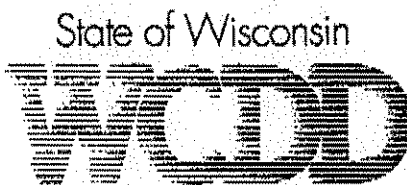
As authorized by board action of April 2, 1997.

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Anne Arnesen | Earl Bricker | Mark Covaleski | Connie Deer |
| Signe Frank | Christine Hodge | Charlie Kargas | Yai Lee |
| Carol Lobes | John Mau | John Metcalf | Steve Pudloski |
| Deirdre Garton | Bev Young | | |

A Private Non-Profit Corporation







722 Williamson Street
 P.O. Box 7851
 Madison, WI 53707-7851

Council on Developmental Disabilities

VOICE (608) 266-7826
 TDD (608) 266-6660
 FAX (608) 267-3906

FACSIMILE COVER MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIALITY: This facsimile transmission is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. It may contain information which is privileged, confidential or exempt from disclosure under applicable law.

If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are notified that any review, use, copying, or dissemination or distribution of the contents, other than to the addressee of this communication is strictly prohibited.

If you received this communication in error, notify us immediately by telephone and return the original message to us through the United States Postal Service to the address we will provide.

DATE: 5-14-97

TO:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| Name | | Facsimile Telephone Number |
| TERRY MUSSEK - STATE REPRESENTATIVE | | 282-3692 |
| Location | Room Number | Telephone Number |
| STATE CAPITOL | 11 WEST | 266-7461 |

FROM (Sender):

| | | |
|----------|--|----------------------------|
| Name | Number of Pages Including This Cover Sheet | Facsimile Telephone Number |
| Location | | Telephone Number |

Terry,

I'm sorry for the delay in getting this back to you. I have added one line in #5, and one line in #4 - otherwise it looks complete. I leave for Washington on May 20 & will return June 2nd. Let me know if I can be of further help. Pat Washburn - [unclear]

Assembly Joint Resolution

Whereas, thousands of Southeast Asian soldiers fought for and with U.S. armed forces in the Vietnam War; and

Whereas, many were injured or killed alongside their American comrades; and

Whereas, most were forced to flee their own countries after the war to avoid being killed; and

Whereas, they fled to the United States where many were promised compensation for service to our country, but which they did not receive; and

Whereas, these Hmong soldiers and their families, here as legal immigrants, are now in danger of losing SSI and food stamp benefits, as well as all federal means tested benefits; and

Whereas, while fighting and dying for the United States, many of these young soldiers had little or no time for education in their homeland, resulting in difficulty learning American customs and language needed to earn United States citizenship; now, therefore be it

Resolved by the Assembly, with the Senate concurring, That the Wisconsin legislature hereby respectfully urges the Congress of the United States and the President of the United States to recognize these sacrifices and service to our country by granting immediate and automatic citizenship to all Lao-Hmong refugee veterans of the Vietnam War, their wives, widows and children; and, be it further resolved that they thereby have endowed upon them the full rights and privileges of that citizenship; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint resolution to all members of the Wisconsin delegation to Congress, the presiding officers of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate and the President of the United States.

Testimony given to Joint Finance, 4-24-97

Good Afternoon. I am Patricia M. Hobbins-Kemps, and am speaking in regard to the Southeast Asian refugee population. I will speak for information only.

WISCONSIN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT BACKGROUND

The state of Wisconsin has experienced a continuous and heavy influx of Southeast Asian refugees over the past 20 years. According to the Southeast Asian Refugee Population map of Wisconsin (see attachment), formulated by the State Department of Refugee Assistance, the Wisconsin Southeast refugee population is 47,232 as of December 1996 and is comprised of Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian and Hmong families.

Primary and secondary resettlement has had a tremendous impact upon the ability of Wisconsin communities to provide essential services to refugees. Hmong refugees, representing 80 percent (38,094) of the total refugee population, currently maintain a welfare dependency rate of over 30 percent and, therefore, heavily participate in the welfare programming of their respective communities. (DHSS, 1996)

LOCAL IMPACTS DUE TO REFUGEE POPULATION CONCENTRATIONS

Of the four Southeast Asian refugee groups, the Hmong and Cambodian refugees generally apply for public assistance when they first arrive in Wisconsin. Significant resettlement problems include:

1. large family size, on average 5.5 persons;
2. agrarian cultural background with skills that do not transfer readily to a post-industrial economy;
3. little or no formal education, including lack of English language proficiency; and
4. high rates of poverty with a welfare dependence rate of over 30 percent.

Local impacts do not stop with the costs of public welfare. Schools, health care facilities and housing are also severely strained by increasing refugee resettlement.

Wisconsin Works (W-2), Governor Thompson's program for welfare reform, signed into law on May 1 of 1996, marks a major change in welfare policy through its goal to help families with children by replacing their current cash assistance with employment.

This reform plan will have a significant impact on the state's Southeast Asian refugee population for the following reasons:

- *the proposed wage package of W-2 sets a flat income at or below minimum wage--regardless of family size;
- *a remedial or post-secondary education and training component is no longer available;
- *about 88 percent of all refugees are dependent on Medical Assistance for their health care, which will become an employment-related benefit; and
- *poverty--Wisconsin Southeast Asian children currently have the highest child poverty rate in the nation.

IMPACT OF FEDERAL WELFARE POLICY CHANGES

Overall, there are approximately 58,000 legal, foreign born residents of Wisconsin who have not naturalized. Federal welfare reform will cut off food stamps and SSI benefits for legal immigrants, including refugees who have been in the United States more than five years. In Wisconsin, an estimated 7,200 will lose food stamps by April 1997 and nearly 4,600 may lose SSI by August of this year. This represents a loss of at least \$27 million annually in federal funds in Wisconsin.

The federal law changes extend well beyond the elimination of SSI and food stamps to include virtually all federal means tested benefits. This will further destroy the safety net by eliminating this population from low-income housing, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Payments and other benefits. SSI recipients will be most severely impacted, but even W2 recipients who lose food stamps will experience approximately a 50% cut in income. Because Wisconsin eliminated most of its cash general relief, many of the elderly and disabled will have no alternative means of support.

A direct result of this shift in welfare policy is the increased potential for suicide among the Southeast Asian dependent population, in fact Wisconsin has already experienced 2 such cases.

ACTION STEPS

Wisconsin can take several steps to relieve some of the impact from lost SSI and other benefits:

*replace lost federal benefits. Replacing food stamps would cost \$5.07 million, maintaining the current state supplement would cost \$5.48 million and replacing lost SSI payments would cost \$22.08 million.

*maximize state coverage of aliens eligible for W2. Remove the 60 day residency requirement for migrants. Provide migrant workers with access to job access loans, up to the amount they could repay with their Wisconsin employment.

*allow the second wage earner to earn a second W2 position grant.

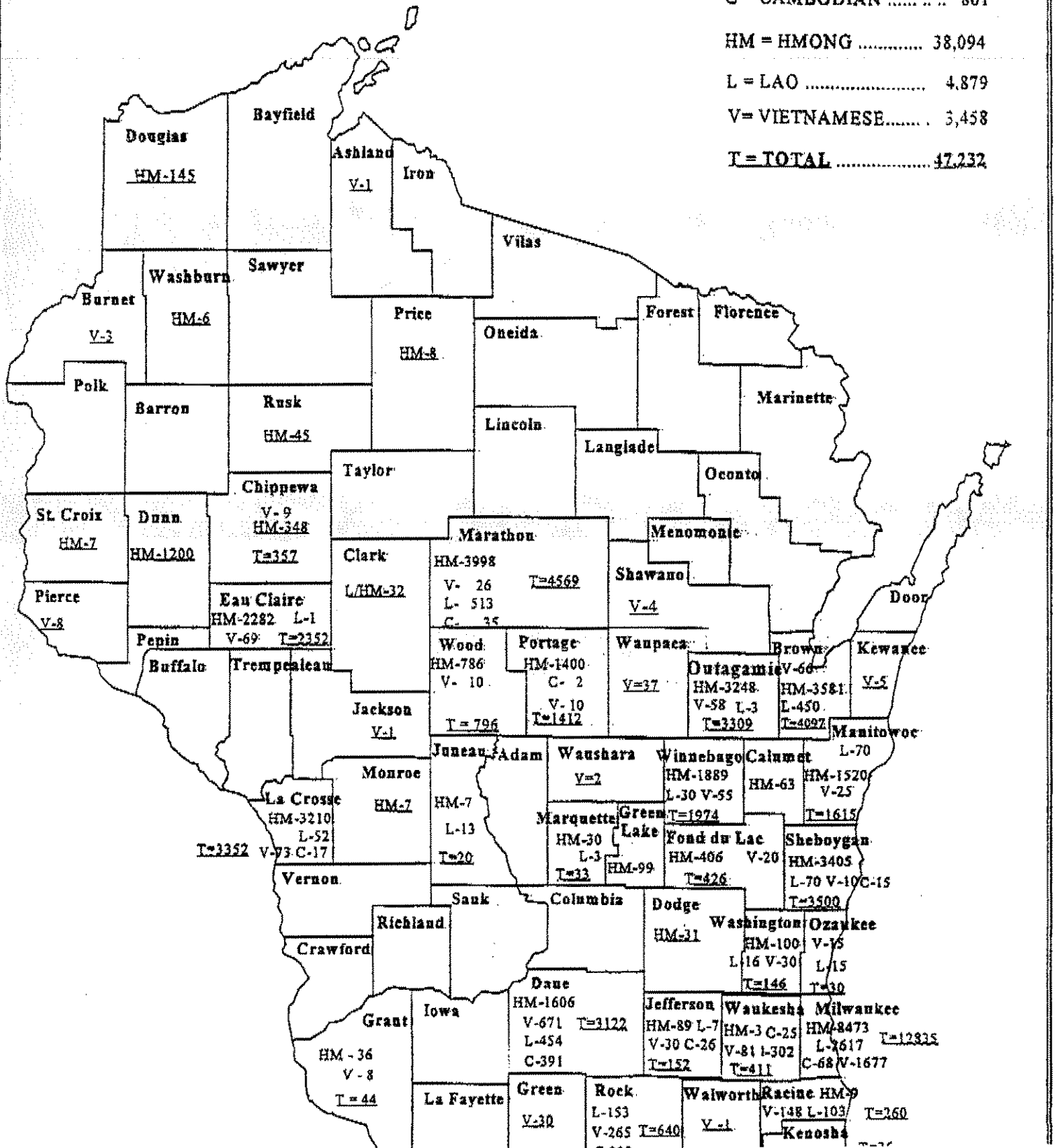
*allow W2 recipients who do not qualify for food stamps to earn a bonus to replace the lost stamps.

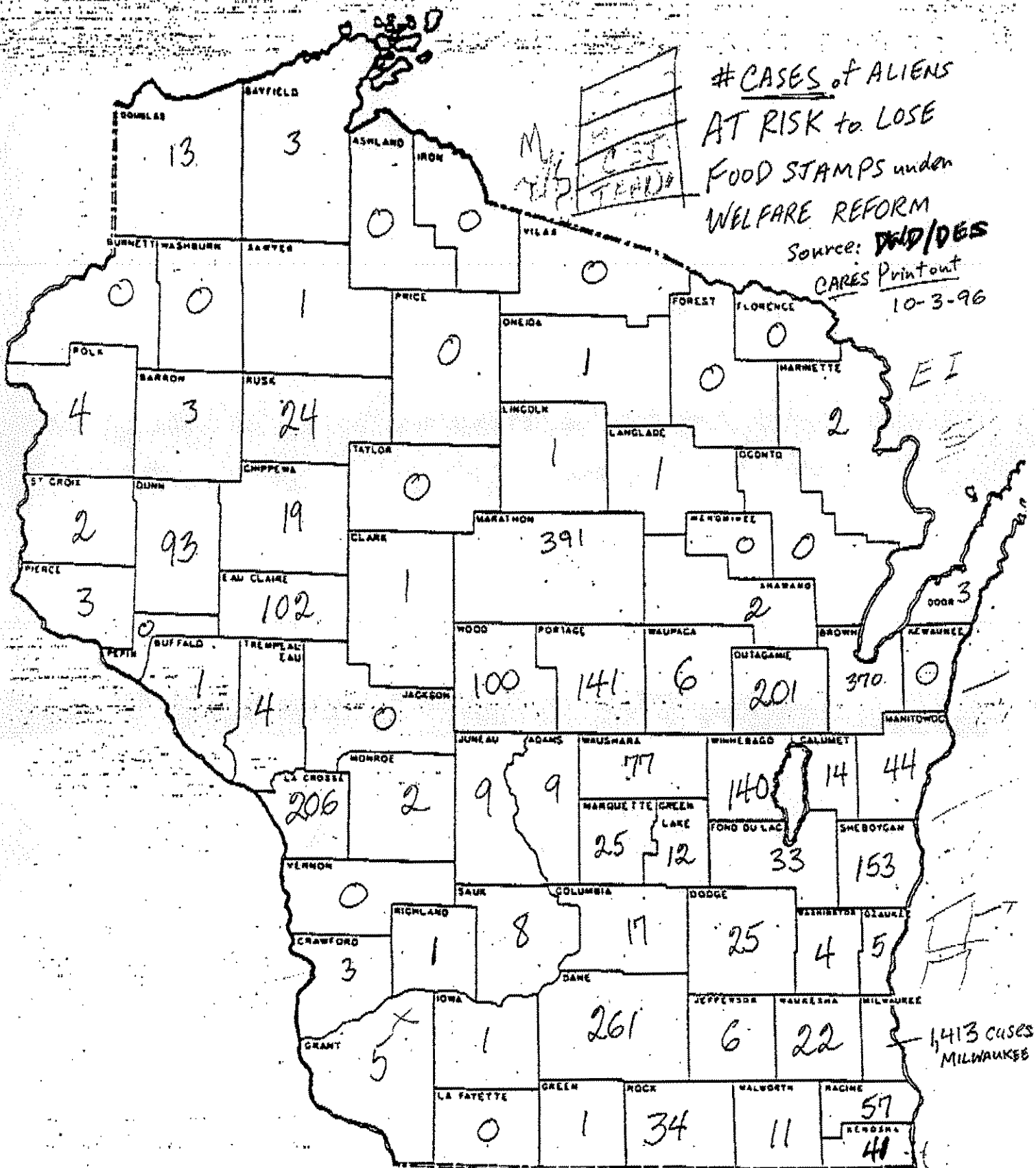
*assist immigrants in obtaining citizenship. Because of the wide-spread impact of welfare reform, this could be the most effective long-term solution. Four states are already begun this process. Given Wisconsin's surplus in TANF funding as a result of lower than expected W2 caseloads, we have the funding to engage this process.

INDOCHINESE REFUGEE POPULATION IN WISCONSIN

DECEMBER 31, 1996

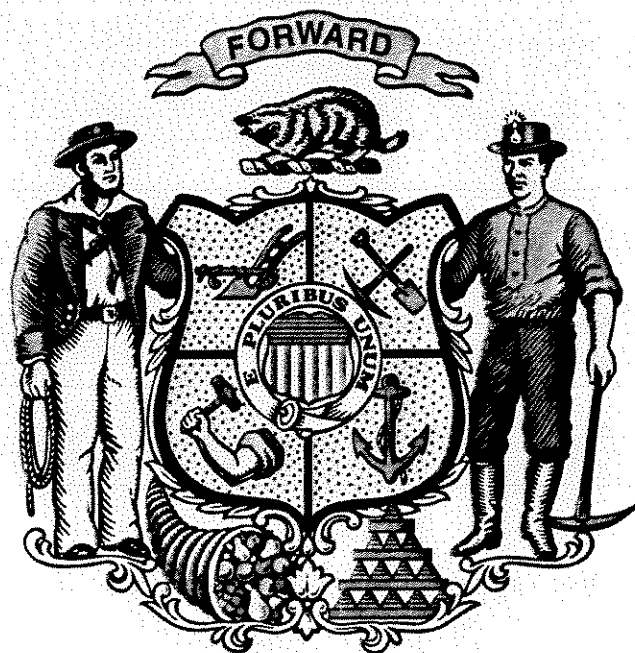
C = CAMBODIAN 801
 HM = HMONG 38,094
 L = LAO 4,879
 V = VIETNAMESE 3,458
 T = TOTAL 47,232





~~4119~~ CASES
7,200 AS OF 1-1-97 STATEWIDE

Prepared by DES/BMO
Refugee Services Office
12-13-96



WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION

State Executive Committee Meeting

OCTOBER 17, 1997

Innkeeper Hotel - Marshfield, WI

MINUTES

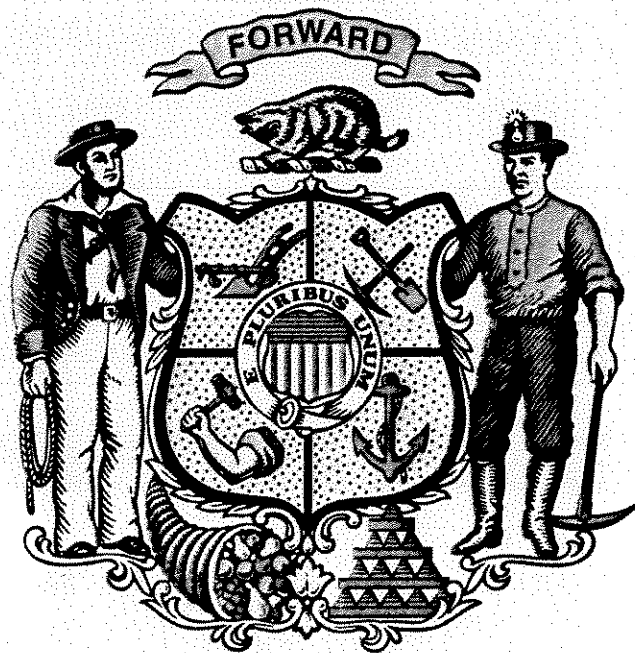
The meeting was called to order by State Commander Roger Mathison at 2:30 PM. Following the salute to the Colors, Invocation was rendered by State Chaplain Gale Dahlke. The Pledge to the flag and Preamble were led in unison by the State Commander and roll call was taken by the State Adjutant with the following in attendance:

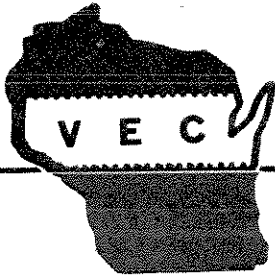
Roger Mathison, State Commander, Westby
David Wegener, Vice Commander, West Allis
Art Herbison, Vice Commander, Pepin
Earl Rigg, Vice Commander, Menomonee Falls
David Jensen, Vice Commander, Waupaca
Robert Zukowski, NECman, Thorp
David A. Korth, Past Commander, Marshfield
Russ Hanseter, Past Commander, Seymour
Dale Peterson, Past Commander, West Salem
Gale Dahlke, State Chaplain, Fox Lake
Jim Dallman, 1st District Commander, Beloit
Robert Clearwater, 2nd District Commander, Port Washington
Skip Gust, 3rd District Commander, Madison
Robert Roark, 4th District Commander, Milwaukee
Scotty Ireland, 5th District 3rd Vice Commander, West Allis
Tony Soda, 6th District Commander, Princeton
Fred Goff, 7th District Commander, Wisconsin Dells
Duane Conrad, 8th District Commander, Shawano
Terry Hanson, 9th District Commander, Kaukauna
Don Jacobson, 10th District Commander, Comstock
LaVern Schroeder, 11th District Commander, Lake Tomahawk
Robert Thomas, 12th District Commander, Siren

Excused: Ruben Hale, 5th District Commander, Milwaukee

Others present, not members of the committee proper:

Russ Peck, State Adjutant, Milwaukee
Lee Murry, State Service Officer, Milwaukee
Cathy Gorst, State Judge Advocate, Marshfield
Lloyd Koeller, Sgt at Arms, Shawano
Clyde Jenkins, Sgt at Arms, New London
Joe Meeks, Americanism Chairman, Park Falls
Wayne J. Painter, Badger Legionnaire-PR Chr., Whitefish Bay





VETERANS EDUCATION COMMITTEE
OF WISCONSIN

ACTION ARM FOR WISCONSIN'S VETERANS
P. O. BOX 225 MERCER, WI 54547

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EXECUTIVE SEC'Y.

W. H. EMANUEL
Mercer

December 5, 1997

Representative Terry Musser
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Good Morning:

VEC was at a loss to know how The American Legion got seated on WDVA Council on Veterans Programs; until I received my copy of last Executive meeting.

Obviously for the time being, this action makes our earlier request mute!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from all of us at VEC!

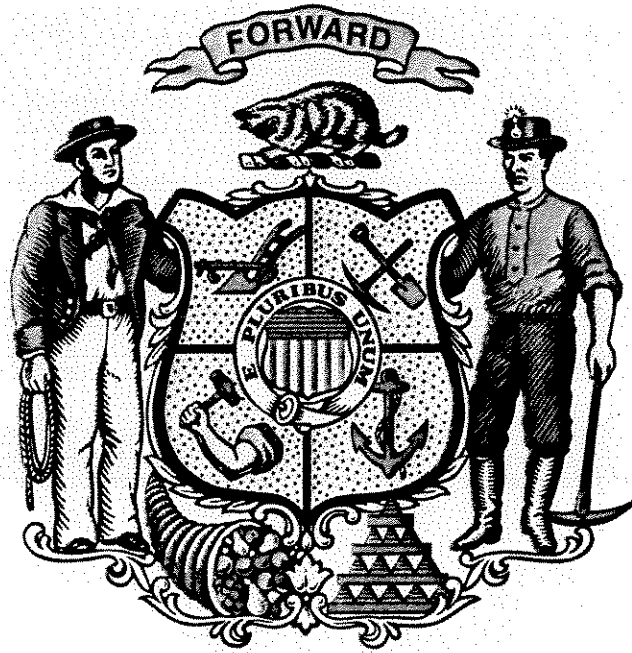
Sincerely,

W. H. Emanuel
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

cc: Officers
Board of Directors

WHE/le





STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



30 West Mifflin Street, P.O. Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843
(608) 266-1311 FAX (608) 267-0403
1-800-947-8387 (WIS VETS)
Tommy G. Thompson, Governor
Raymond G. Boland, Secretary

June 17, 1998

Honorable Terry M. Musser
Room 11 West
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53707-8952

Dear Representative Musser:

The Department of Veterans Affairs requested authority to construct a veterans memorial cemetery in northwestern Wisconsin for a total project cost of \$3,000,000 Federal Funds in response to legislation passed authorizing veterans cemeteries in southeastern and northwestern Wisconsin (1993 Wisconsin Act 296). The southeastern cemetery was approved in the 1995-97 biennium and was built at the Southern Wisconsin Center at Union Grove.

1993 Wisconsin Act 296 authorized the Department of Veterans Affairs to construct and operate veterans cemeteries in northwestern and southeastern Wisconsin. This Act was designed to preserve the availability of memorial cemetery space for Wisconsin veterans. In the 1993-95 biennium the Building Commission approved the design and the construction of a southeastern cemetery on state-owned or privately donated land.

There are over 530,000 war-time veterans in Wisconsin. This includes 154,000 veterans of World War II and as many as 700 veterans of World War I. Most of these veterans are in their 70's, 80's and 90's. There are approximately 24,000 to 25,000 war-time veterans who reside in northwestern Wisconsin. This makes up about 5% of the total population of Wisconsin veterans.

The projected construction cost of \$3,000,000 and annual operating budget of between \$250,000 and \$350,000. The construction would consist of a multi purpose administration building, public restrooms, roadways, parking areas, a ceremonial site and a burial garden utilizing pre-set crypts.

In the fall of 1998 a Process Action Team was developed and a list of criteria to be used in evaluating potential sites for the location of the northwestern cemetery. The criteria included consideration of visibility, accessibility, topography, surrounding properties, utility connections, and acquisition cost. Personnel from WDVA and DOA reviewed nine potential sites, and two were selected to present to the team for their review and recommendation. The two locations were the Sawyer County Metcalf property and the Washburn County property known as Beaver Brook.

The team reviewed pictures of the two sites, as well as a written description and a map of each site. After discussing the pros and cons of each site, a vote was taken. Based on information reviewed and criteria, the Process Action team unanimously recommended that, upon donation by the Washburn County and favorable soil analysis, the Northwest Cemetery be constructed on the parcel of land referred to as Beaver Brook.

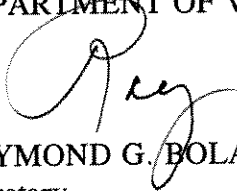
The Northwest cemetery would have the capability of interring 250 veterans a year and will be situated on 100 acres of land.

I have enclosed photos of the Beaver Brook site and reference material for your review. On June 19, 1998 I will propose the Beaver Brook site selection to the Board of Veterans Affairs for their approval.

These facilities will not only provide a final resting place for those who served, they will also preserve the legacy of unparalleled sacrifice made by Americans in the 20th century to bring freedom to the world.

The Department looks forward to working with you on Northwest Cemetery project. Mr. John A. Scocos, my Executive Assistant will be my point of contact on this matter and be reached at (608) 266-3081.

Sincerely,
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS


RAYMOND G. BOLAND
Secretary



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



30 West Mifflin Street, P.O. Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843
(608) 266-1311 FAX (608) 267-0403
1-800-947-8387 (WIS VETS)
Tommy G. Thompson, Governor
Raymond G. Boland, Secretary

Attention Editors and News Directors

News Release

Friday, June 19, 1998
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Steve Olson
608-267-3582

Site near Spooner chosen for new state veterans cemetery

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) has selected 80-acres of land, known as Beaver Brook, near Spooner as the site for a new state veterans cemetery, WDVA Secretary Raymond G. Boland announced today.

The site, which will be donated to WDVA by Washburn County, is approximately three miles south of Spooner on the eastside of Highway 53.

The selection of Beaver Brook was unanimously approved today by the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs, which oversees WDVA's programs.

Using criteria developed by the federal government for citing national veterans cemeteries, WDVA chose Beaver Brook because it is centrally located (between Eau Claire and Superior) to serve the maximum number of veterans and their families, and it has minimal overlap of service with the Fort Snelling National VA Cemetery in Minneapolis.

It also is easily accessible from a major four-lane highway and has scenic countryside with terrain and soil suitable for a cemetery.

[more]

New state veterans cemetery --- add one

Furthermore, Washburn County is donating the land, which will reduce the total cost of the cemetery project and expedite its completion.

“We thoroughly examined nine sites in northwestern Wisconsin as possible locations, including land around Stone Lake near the border of Washburn and Sawyer counties,” Boland said. “Beaver Brook best met all the criteria, and I feel it will become an outstanding cemetery.”

The estimated cost for cemetery construction is approximately \$3 million and will be funded with a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

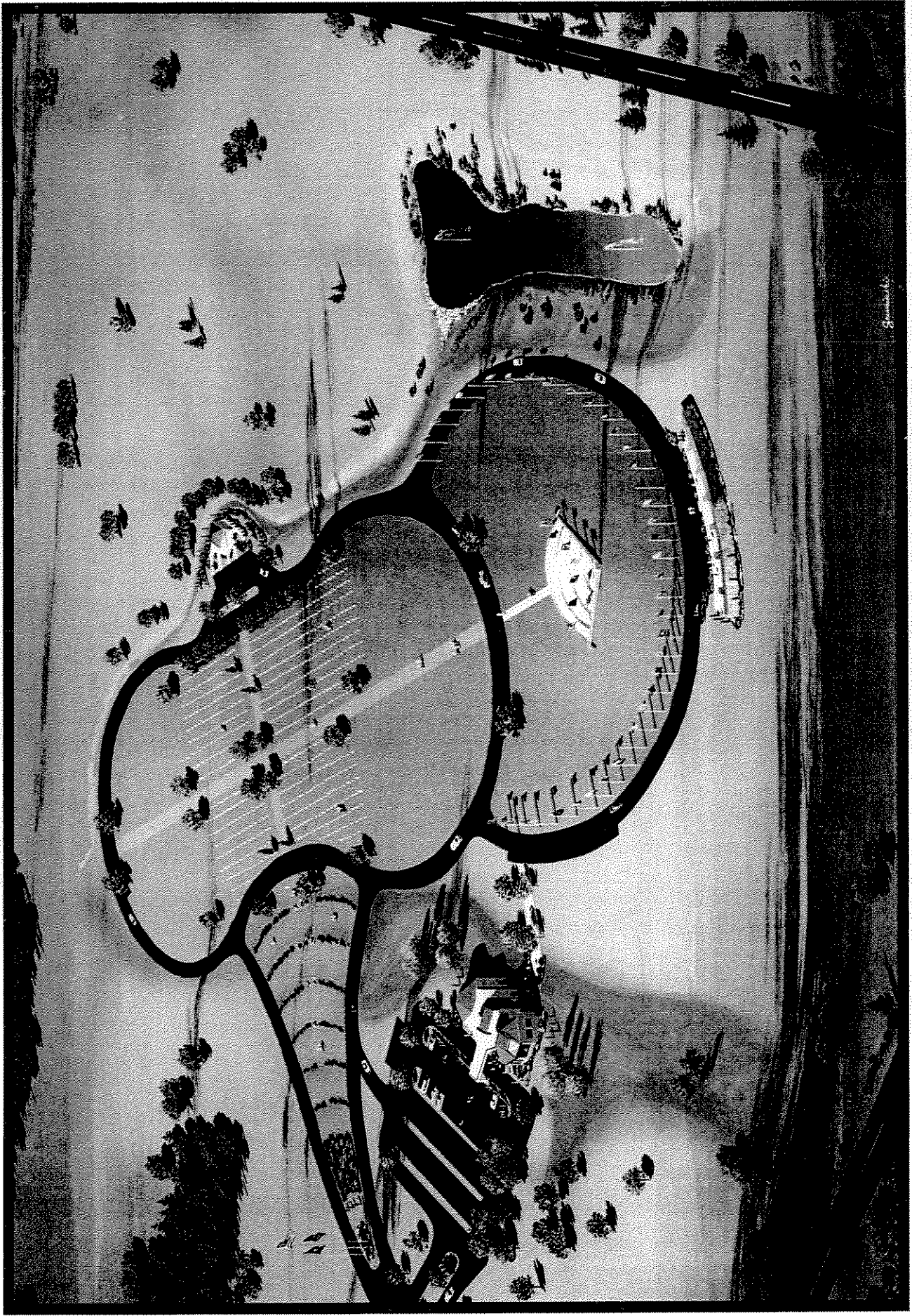
Currently, the VA funds 50 percent of state cemetery construction expenses, but legislation is progressing through Congress that would raise the VA funding level to 100 percent of construction costs.

A ground-breaking ceremony for the new cemetery is planned for November 1998, and it is expected to open in the spring of 2000.

WDVA recently completed construction of the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery near Union Grove in Racine County. To serve central Wisconsin, WDVA operates a cemetery adjacent to the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King in Waupaca County.

“The addition of a state veterans cemetery in northwestern Wisconsin fulfills our department’s pledge to provide the best possible coverage throughout the state. Even though the Wood National VA Cemetery in Milwaukee has reached its burial capacity, approximately 82 percent of Wisconsin veterans will live within 75 miles of a veterans cemetery when the new cemetery is completed,” Boland said. “With the great support of Gov. Tommy Thompson and the Legislature, we can ensure that veterans and their families will receive the burial benefits they’ve earned without having to travel great distances.”

Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery



The new cemetery will feature a committal chapel & administration building (far left), memorial plaza, outdoor committal shelter, and columbarium wall for cremation urns.

Overview:

To provide veterans and their families in southern Wisconsin with a final resting place that acknowledges and honors their achievements and sacrifices on behalf of our nation, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs has opened the Southern Wisconsin Veterans' Memorial Cemetery near Union Grove, in Racine County. It replaces the Wood National VA Cemetery in Milwaukee, which has stopped accepting casket burials.

Situated on state-owned farmland at the Southern Wisconsin Center, the 105-acre cemetery site encompasses gently rolling hills with serene, natural beauty. Cemetery architects have called it "an ideal site."

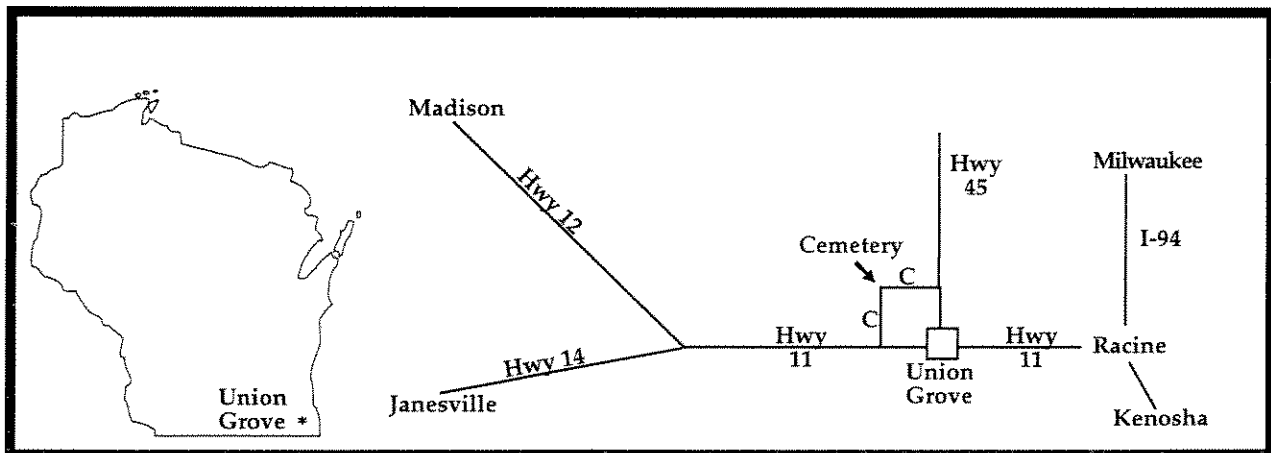
As a lasting tribute to those who served in the armed forces, the new cemetery will remind future generations that veterans were instrumental in preserving our nation's freedom.

The cemetery is conveniently located (see map) and easily accessible from metropolitan Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha. The cemetery is designed to serve the needs of 350,000 veterans who reside in southern Wisconsin, the state's most populous region. Forty percent of all Wisconsin veterans live within 50 miles of Union Grove and 50% live within 75 miles.

The cemetery is expected to inter about 650 veterans and family members annually. It has the capacity to meet burial demand for 60 or more years. The cemetery has the capability to bury caskets now and will accept cremation urns for placement in a temporary entombment structure. The urns will be moved to a permanent burial garden or a columbarium wall when construction is completed in 1997.

Construction of the cemetery is being financed by \$1.24 million from the state and approximately \$1.96 million in a VA matching grant. The Wisconsin Army National Guard has contributed engineering work valued at about \$220,000. The total cost of cemetery construction is about \$3.45 million.

Major highways leading to Union Grove



Eligibility for interment:

Veterans whose military service and state residency fulfill the following requirements are eligible.

Military service:

- Veteran was discharged or released from active duty service under honorable conditions, **OR**
- Veteran served at least 20 years in the National Guard or Reserves and qualified for retirement pay (or would have qualified for retirement pay except death occurred before age 60), **OR**
- Veteran died while on active duty.

Residency:

- The veteran was a Wisconsin resident at the time of entry into military service, **OR**
- The veteran entered military service from another state but was a Wisconsin resident at the time of death, **OR**
- The veteran entered military service from another state but was a Wisconsin resident at some point for at least five consecutive years after discharge from active duty.

The following family members of eligible veterans are also eligible, in most cases.

- Spouses.
- Unremarried surviving spouses.
- Dependent children.

Fees:

The next-of-kin of an eligible veteran will be assessed no fees by the cemetery for the gravesite, an engraved headstone or marker, the opening and closing or perpetual care.

A fee of \$250 will be assessed for the interment of spouses, unremarried surviving spouses and dependent children of eligible veterans. *(There is no fee charged if the spouse or unremarried surviving spouse was a member of the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King at the time of death.)*

The cemetery will assess the funeral director a charge for the cost of a grave liner or columbarium niche.

Timeline for development:

- June 1, 1996 — Construction began.
- September 30, 1996 — First interment.
- February 1997 — Begin construction of chapel/administration building.
- November 1997 — Dedication of cemetery.

Donations:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will match dollar-for-dollar any donation of money or in-kind materials from veterans' groups, other organizations and individuals received before the completion of construction in late 1997. Donations may be earmarked for a specific item (listed below). General donations are also encouraged. All contributions will be acknowledged in an appropriate manner.

Donations are needed for:

- Flags for the committal chapel, outdoor committal shelter, avenue of flags.
- Flag poles.
- Grave location information kiosk.
- Entrance gate.
- Ceremonial area plaza.
- Outdoor committal shelter.
- Landscape features such as trees, shrubs and paths.
- Reflecting pond.
- Accessories for the committal chapel/administration building, such as skylights, bay windows and artwork.
- The cemetery will also need ongoing volunteer support for activities such as color guards, landscape maintenance, decorating of graves, etc. While not eligible for matching funds from the VA, this volunteer participation will be critical to the success of the cemetery.

For more information about donations please contact Marian Lewandowski, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, at (414) 878-5660. If you are interested in donating, please send a check to: WDVA Cemetery Fund, 30 W. Mifflin St., Madison, WI 53707-7843.

Advanced planning: * There is no fee or obligation *****

Veterans may make arrangements in advance for burial at the new cemetery. For more information about advanced registration for burial, call (414) 878-5660 or complete and return the attached form to: S. WI. Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 21731 Spring St., Union Grove, WI 53182.

Name _____

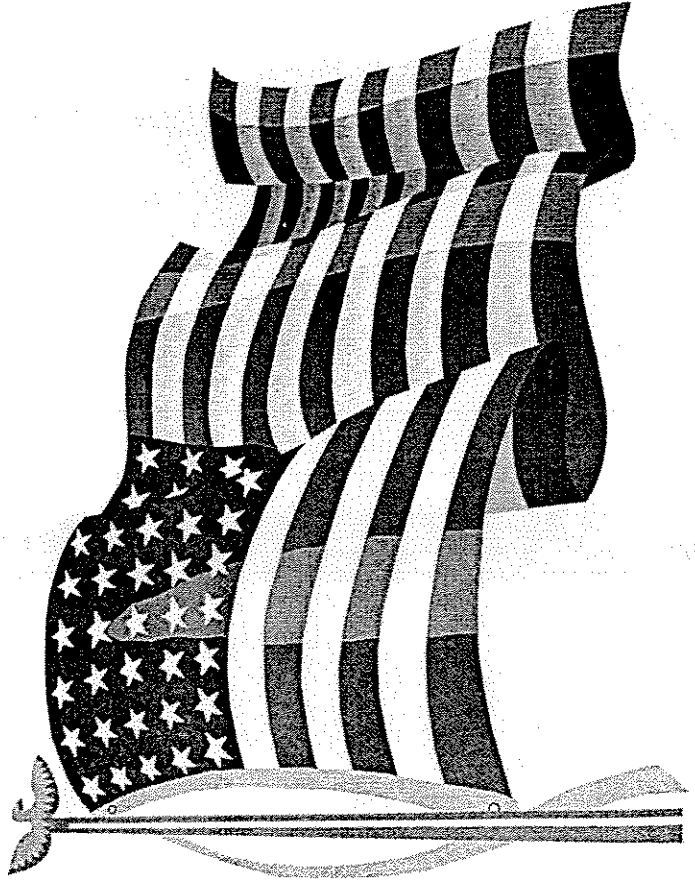
Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

NORTHWEST WISCONSIN
VETERANS
MEMORIAL CEMETERY

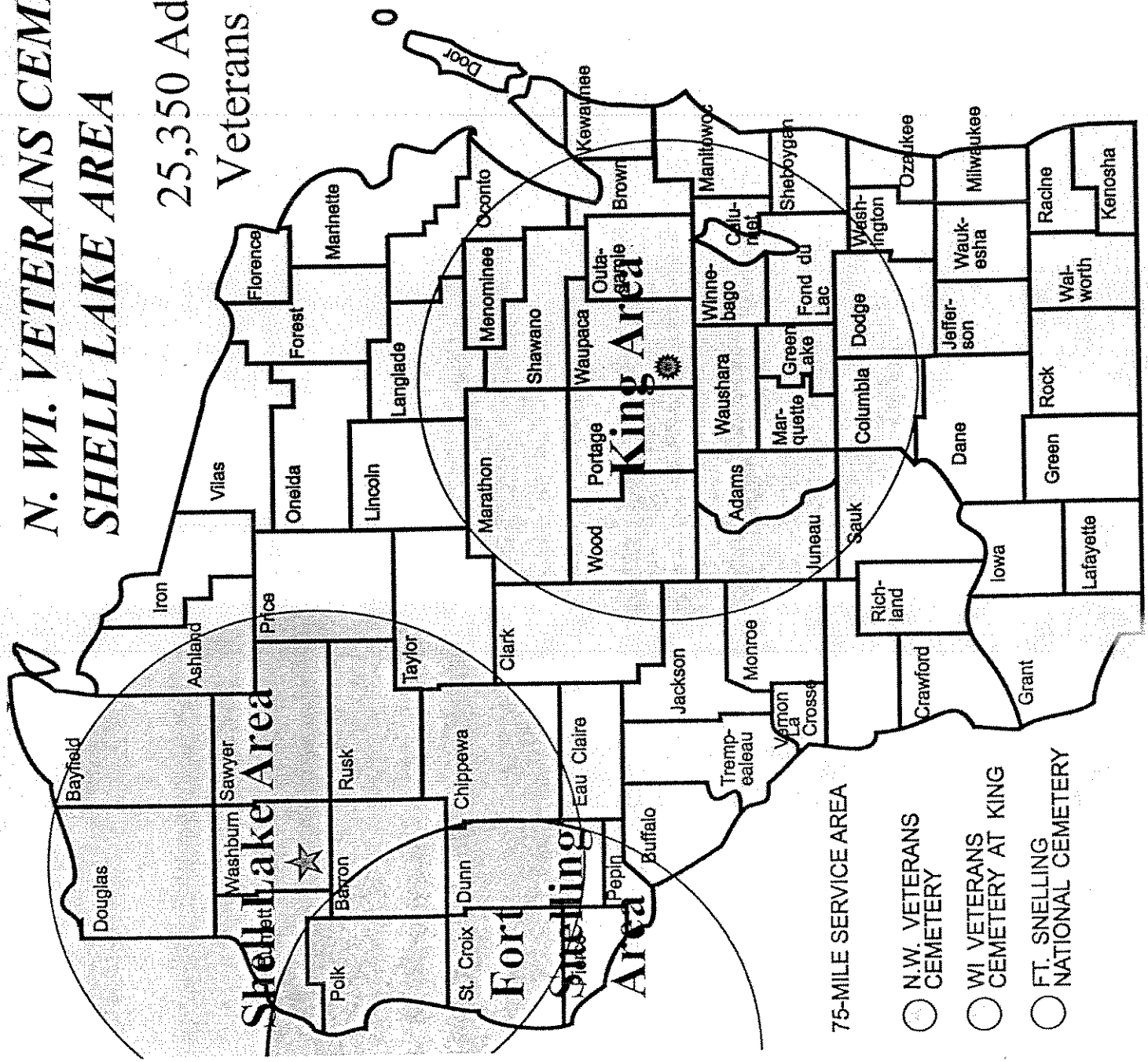


LOCATION OBJECTIVES

- Maximum Geographic Coverage
- Maximum Veterans Served
- Minimize Overlap with other Service Areas

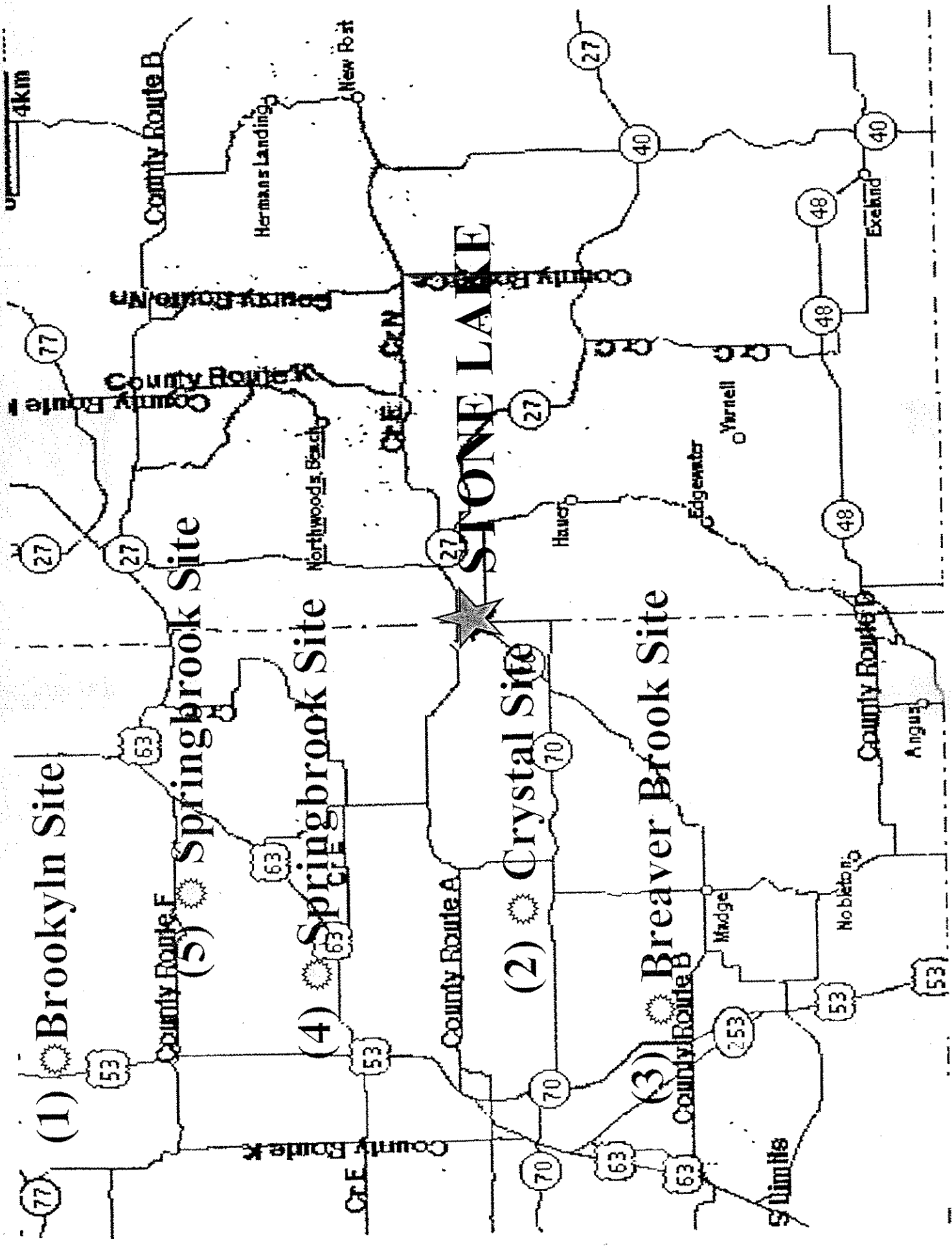
N. WI. VETERANS CEMETERY SHELL LAKE AREA

25,350 Additional
Veterans Served



75-MILE SERVICE AREA

- N.W. VETERANS CEMETERY
- WI VETERANS CEMETERY AT KING
- FT. SNELLING NATIONAL CEMETERY



(1) Brooklyn Site

(5) Springbrook Site

(4) Springbrook Site

(2) Crystal Site

(3) Breaver Brook Site

STONE LAKE

4KM

County Route B

County Route K

County Route N

Herman's Landing

New Post

Northwoods Beach

Cr.E Cr.N

Hancock

Edgewater

Yarnell

County Route E

Angus

Noletton

Stimilis

Madge

77

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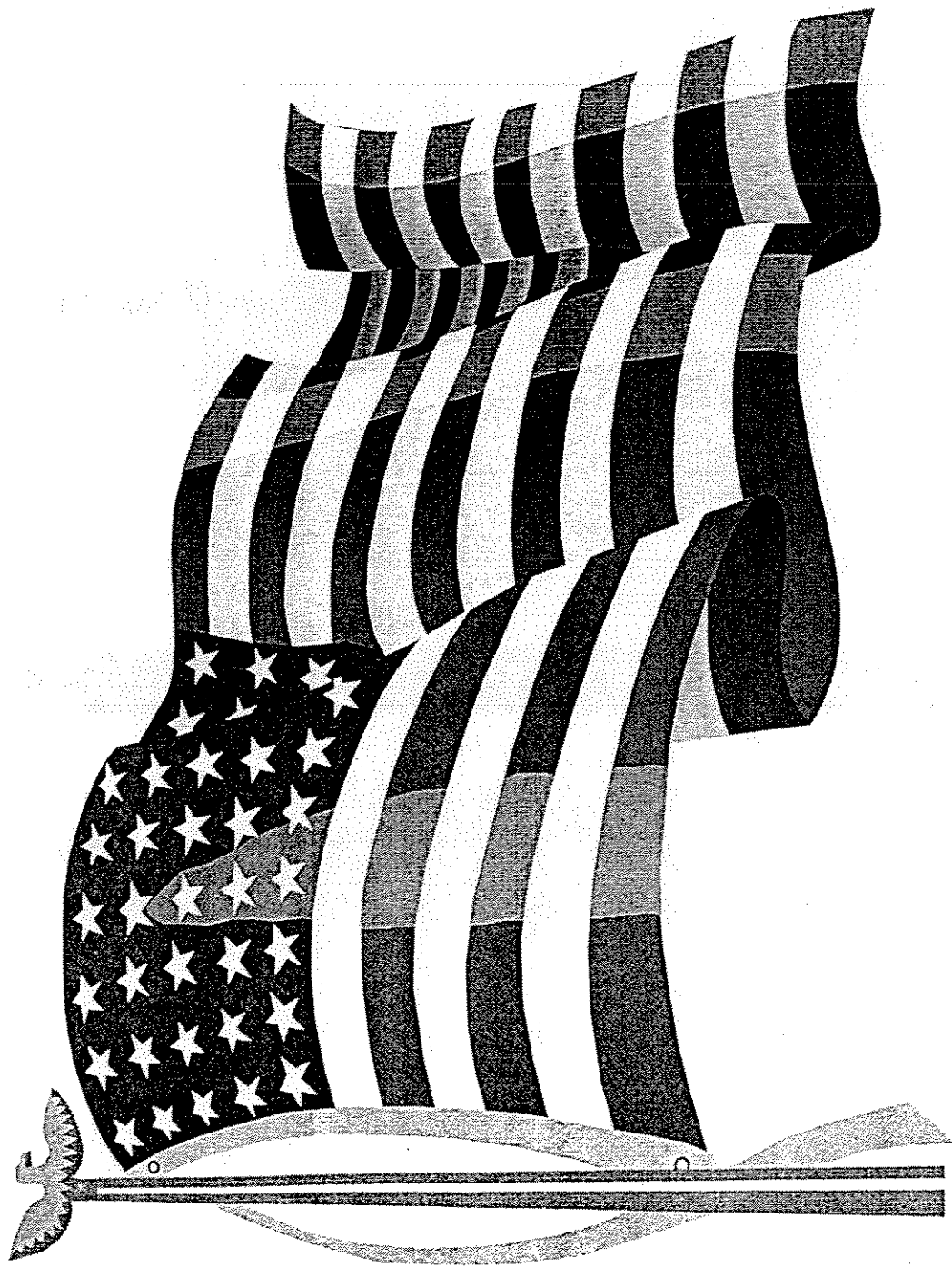
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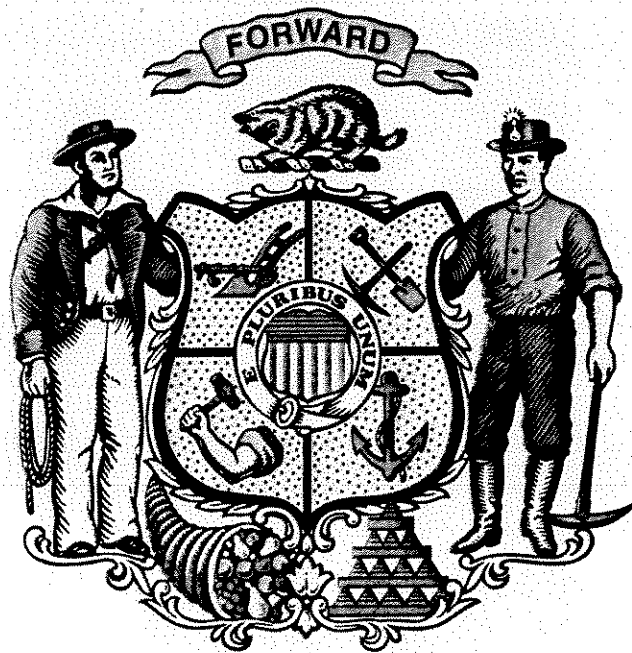
48

53

SITE CONSIDERATIONS

- Easily Accessible from Major Highway
- Appropriate Ambiance/Scenic Terrain
- Neighboring Features
- Site Preparation
- Environmental Testing





State of Wisconsin

Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

Jon E. Litscher
Secretary



137 East Wilson Street
P.O. Box 7855
Madison, WI 53707-7855

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS

DATE: July 22, 1998

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Jon E. Litscher, Secretary

SUB: Department of Employment Relations' *Veterans Employment Report*

This correspondence is to inform you of the status of the *1998 Veterans Employment Report*. Our goal, as always, is to produce an accurate and reliable report on the veteran status of civil service employes. Therefore, a new veterans status survey had to be developed to collect necessary information on veterans. This legislative session there were changes in the definition of "veteran" and the inclusion of recent military campaigns. In addition, enhancements will be made to the payroll file which will improve our ability to produce accurate and timely reports in the future.

Earlier this week, the Department of Employment Relations (DER) sent notification to all agency heads that the survey and corresponding instructions will be sent to them in the next two weeks. Once the survey is received, each agency will distribute a copy of it to every employe of the agency. In this phase, the agencies will have four weeks to distribute, collect and return the surveys to DER.

When the surveys are returned, DER staff will review them for completeness and then forward them to National Business Systems (NBS) for data entry. NBS will forward a computer tape to the Department of Administration that will interface with the payroll file. This phase will take about five weeks.

After the data is entered onto the payroll file, Division of Affirmative Action staff will conduct a random review of the database for accuracy and completeness. The *Veterans Employment Report* will be produced following this phase, which will take about five weeks. I anticipate the *Report* to be completed no later than December 1, 1998. I appreciate your understanding regarding the delay in this year's *Report*, but we believe it is necessary to do a survey to validate accuracy.

If you have questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



State of Wisconsin, Department of Veterans Affairs
30 West Mifflin Street, P.O. Box 7843
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7843

Date: August 16, 1998

From: Paul L. Fergot, Ex POW
Member, Council on Veterans Programs

Re: Activities and Membership Report

The Department of Wisconsin, American Ex-Prisoners of War has a current membership of 1045 total members of which 336 are spouse members, 159 are widow members, and 550 are ex-prisoners. Of the total number of members, 590 belong to one of eight Wisconsin Chapters.

Like all veterans organizations whose members are primarily from WW II, our ranks are rapidly dwindling. During the memorial portion of our most recent convention, August 10-12, fifty nine members in attendance recognized twenty five members deceased in the past year. Along with the aging comes difficulty in traveling, some loss of leadership skills, and some changes in priorities.

Nevertheless in the 1997-98 and 1998-99 years the Department made equal donations of \$100 to each of the following organizations: High Ground, Zablocki VA, Middleton VA, Minneapolis VA, Tomah VA, Iron Mountain VA, Wisconsin King, and Med-search, a total of \$800 per year. The eight chapters have made similar contributions.

The Department continues to sponsor a statewide Essay Contest for middle school students.

In 1999 the Department voted to eliminate its traditional Mid-Winter Conference, leaving only the August Convention as a state get-together.

We anticipate that as our membership continues to get smaller some of the chapters will have to disband or merge, and that eventually we may have only the Department. We are sad to see our members leave us, but glad that conditions are such that we do not anticipate an increase in numbers of those who are eligible to join our organization.

Respectfully submitted,


Paul L. Fergot