

WISCONSIN STATE  
LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE HEARING  
RECORDS

1999-00

(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

➤ **99hr\_AC-VMA\_Misc\_pt04**

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS

# WDVA Update

Available online at WDVA web site  
<http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/dva>

Spring 1999

Issue 20

### From the Secretary

*We honor the dead  
by serving the living*

**W**e are about to commemorate the last Memorial Day of this century. Now and for generations to come, this special day will always evoke vivid memories and deep emotions. It is day to honor our fallen comrades and express our endless gratitude for their sacrifices on our behalf. In this century, more than 14,300 Wisconsinites have died in our country's wars.

It also is day to remember our fellow veterans who served the country well and now are enjoying their final reward.

The veterans we honor on Memorial Day are no longer with us physically, but they will always be with us spiritually.

Veterans have a motto that we honor the dead by serving the living. And one of the most important benefits we can provide veterans and their families is the opportunity for home ownership.

Wisconsin is one of only five states that has a state-operated home mortgage loan program for its veterans. Since the program started in 1974, our department has provided approximately \$2 billion in home loans to more than 50,000 veterans. This program provides a significant benefit to veterans and strengthens the state's housing



Raymond G. Boland

industry and overall economy. Furthermore, surplus revenues from our home loan program have been transferred periodically to the Veterans Trust Fund to finance our other loan and grant programs.

Because of the significant benefits of our home loan program, I am working diligently to make changes in federal tax laws so that the program may continue well into the next century.

Federal tax law has an enormous impact on our home loan program, which is funded solely by the sale of general obligation bonds issued by the state of Wisconsin. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 limited the use of general obligation bonds that are exempt from federal taxes.

Because of this federal law, WDVA may not use tax-exempt general obligation bonds to fund home mortgage loans for veterans

who have been out of military service more than 30 years at the time of application or who entered service after 1976. This means that only veterans who served between approximately 1969 and Jan. 1977, are now "qualified" for home mortgage loans funded from the sale of tax-exempt bonds. Moreover, the time frame continues to decrease, and by the year 2007 no veterans will qualify.

The solution is to allow WDVA to once again use tax-exempt bonds for home mortgage loans to eligible veterans regardless of their dates of service and end the arbitrary and unnecessary division between federally qualified veterans and all other eligible veterans. A bill (HR 1215) introduced by U.S. Rep. Gerald Kleczka of Milwaukee will accomplish this goal.

I have been working recently with Congressional leaders in Washington to make this change in federal tax law, and we have made important progress. There's some tough opposition to this initiative, but I am optimistic that common sense and the desire to continue this important benefit for our veterans will ultimately prevail.

You can help by writing your Congressional representatives and requesting their support for HR 1215.



*Gov. Tommy Thompson addresses the audience at the Wisconsin Veterans Salute to the Legislature on Feb. 17 in Madison. In addition to the governor, other speakers included WDVA Secretary Raymond G. Boland, State Assembly Speaker Scott Jensen, State Senate President Fred Risser, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Chvala, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chair Rod Moen, State Senator Dave Zien, State Rep. Shirley Krug and State Rep. Terry Musser.*

## World War I veterans receive French award

**F**our Wisconsin veterans who served in France during World War I recently received the "National Order of the Legion of Honor" from the French government.

Another five Wisconsin veterans were approved for the medal but died before an official presentation could be scheduled. The families of the five veterans will receive the medals.

The French government is currently reviewing the applications of several other living Wisconsin veterans of World War I and award ceremonies will be scheduled.

"The United States gave decisive support during that war to French soldiers fighting to defend their country. Wishing to pay a solemn tribute to remaining survivors of this war, I have decided to award the Legion of Honor, France's highest decoration, to allied veterans — Americans particularly — who took part in the 1914 to 1918 war on French soil," said French President Jacques Chirac.

The four Wisconsin veterans who received the award presented by a representative of the French Consul General are:

- **Martin Vingar**, age 97, of Dodgeville: He enlisted in the Army at the age of 16 and departed for France in July 1918. While serving in the artillery, he manned 8-inch howitzers. He

returned to Wisconsin after the war and farmed for more than 50 years near Lamont, between Argyle and Dodgeville.

- **Golden Barritt**, age 99, of Barron: He enlisted in the Army in June 1918 at the age of 18 and served with the 117<sup>th</sup> Engineers of the 42<sup>nd</sup> "Rainbow" Division in France. He participated in the battle of Argonne. After the war, he lived on the West Coast before moving to the Barron area where he worked on a dairy farm. He was hired as a clerk in the Barron Post Office in 1930 and worked his way up to the position of postmaster.
- **Arthur Fiala**, age 100, of Kewaunee: He enlisted in the Army in February 1918 at the age of 19. He served in France with 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion and was assigned to duty near the French Alps cutting timber for railroad ties. His right hand was crushed in an accident and he was reassigned as a cook. He worked in factories before and after the war, including a stint at the Nash automobile factory in Kenosha.
- **Arthur Schmolinske**, age 103, of Oconto: He enlisted in the Army in April 1917 at the age of 21 and served with 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 32<sup>nd</sup> (Red Arrow) Division. He was wounded in the battle of Argonne in August 1918. After the war, he worked on farms and in factories before becoming an automobile mechanic. Eventually, he returned to farming in the Oconto area.

## Wisconsin Veterans Museum to sponsor Civil War living history program at Camp Randall May 21-22

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum will present a Civil War living history program, titled *"Echoes from the Battlefield"* on Friday, May 21 and Saturday, May 22, at Camp Randall's G.A.R. Park (east of the Camp Randall Sports Center "The Shell") in Madison. Admission and parking are free.

During the two-day encampment, Civil War re-enactors with their historically accurate uniforms and equipment will re-create the daily routine of soldiers in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Wisconsin Infantry Regiments during campaigns in 1862 and 1864. The re-enactors will perform Civil War military tasks, such as marching drills and inspections, as well as leisure time activities and meal preparation. Each day, vendors will sell food and beverages typical of the 1860s.



To open the program on Friday, May 21, tours for large groups will be provided from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Groups are required to register in advance for the tours.

The encampment will be open to the public from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and will feature military drills on the hour.

The encampment will be open again to the public on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday's events will include performances of Civil War era music by the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Band at 12:30 and 3 p.m. The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Band's performances will culminate with an evening concert from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Visitors are urged to bring blankets and lawn chairs for the evening concert.

"As part of the Sesquicentennial Statehood Day celebration in Madison last May, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum produced a very successful Civil War history program with an encampment at Camp Randall and a parade at the Capitol. Approximately 25,000 visitors toured the encampment and thousands more attended the parade and ceremony at the Capitol," said Richard Zeitlin, museum director. "Based on the success of last year's event, we're once again offering an opportunity to see firsthand what life was like in a Civil War camp and learn about an important part of Wisconsin's history in an interesting and informative way."

For more information, call the Wisconsin Veterans Museum at 608-267-1799 or the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs toll-free at 1-800-947-8387 (WIS-VETS). Information is also available on the museum's web site at <http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/dva/museum/wvmmmain.html>

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*On May 21 and 22, Camp Randall in Madison, which originally was a Union Army training center during the Civil War, will once again be filled with the sights and sounds of Badger State citizen-soldiers performing military duties, such as marching drills and inspections.*

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## **Wisconsin Veterans Museum adds room for lectures and presentations**

**T**he Wisconsin Veterans Museum is expanding its space on the second floor of 30 W. Mifflin St., to include a multipurpose room that can accommodate approximately 170 to 200 people for educational programs and lectures.

The state-of-the-art facility will have a rear-view projection system and a wireless microphone system. A new kitchen area will accommodate caterers of receptions for museum programs.

Included in the expansion are new office spaces for museum staff as well as work and storage areas.

The construction is expected to be completed by June.

The 1999-2001 state biennial budget bill, currently being considered by the Legislature, includes a provision for another expansion of the museum. This plan calls for the museum to construct a new library and research center on the third floor of 30 W. Mifflin to house the archives and photographic collections of the Wisconsin National Guard as well as other research materials.

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## **WDVA developing veterans' retirement center in southeast Wisconsin**

**T**he State Building Commission on March 17 unanimously passed the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs' (WDVA) 1999-2001 capital budget which includes the development of a veterans' retirement center at the Southern Wisconsin Center, near Union Grove.

WDVA's capital budget request is now under consideration by the Legislature along with the rest of state's 1999-2001 biennial budget.

The retirement center will include construction of a new 120-bed skilled nursing care facility and a 45-bed community-based residential facility for veterans and their spouses who can live independently but still require some assistance.

As part of the retirement center, WDVA will also renovate Garner and Beck Halls (two vacant buildings at Southern Center) for use as community-based residential facilities with approximately 40 beds each.

The estimated cost of the project is about \$23 million. WDVA has applied for a federal grant to cover 65 percent of the total funding for construction.

WDVA's goal is to open the first 40-bed community-based residential facility sometime late in the year 2000 when the renovation of Garner Hall is complete. WDVA is now developing the construction timeline for the other facilities.

Eventually, WDVA plans to add a variety of services at the retirement center, such as adult daycare.

The retirement center will serve veterans and their spouses in the state's most populous region. Approximately 40 percent of all Wisconsin veterans live within 50 miles of Southern Center, located in the town of Dover.

In 1998 at Southern Center, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) opened a community-based outpatient clinic, affiliated with the Zablocki VA hospital in Milwaukee, and WDVA opened a Veterans Assistance Center to help homeless veterans and those at-risk of becoming homeless get the services they need to obtain steady employment and affordable housing. WDVA also operates the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery, which borders Southern Center.

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## Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery to hold Memorial Day program on May 30

The Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery near Union Grove will hold its Memorial Day ceremony on Sunday, May 30, at 11 a.m.

WDVA Secretary Raymond G. Boland will be the featured speaker.

Other participants in the ceremony will include veterans' groups from Racine, Union Grove, Burlington and Kansasville, the Southern Wisconsin All Airborne Chorus and the Milwaukee American Legion Band.

Local Boy and Girl Scouts troops will place flags on the graves on May 29.

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## Wisconsin Veterans Home to hold its annual Open House

The Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, located on Highway QQ just south of Waupaca, will host its annual Open House celebration on Sunday, May 16. The public is invited to tour the Home and participate in all events.

The Open House activities include an antique car show with more than 125 cars and performances by the Habanero Jazz Band from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Home's Bandstand. A "dunk-em" tank, food booths, games and military equipment displays will provide something of interest for everyone. Bratwurst and hot dogs will be sold beginning at 11 a.m.

The "Chief Waupaca," an authentic sternwheel cruiser will give four free boat rides on the Chain of Lakes. Weather permitting, the boat will depart the Home's dock at 11 a.m., noon, 1 and 2 p.m.

For more information, contact Rich Calcut, public information officer, at 715-258-4247.

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## Conventions start around the state

Various veterans' organizations will be holding their state conventions in the coming months. The Submarine Veterans of World War II and the Wisconsin Association of Concerned Veteran Organizations held their state conventions in April. The Wisconsin County Veterans Service Officers Association held its spring conference May 3-6. Upcoming conventions include the following:

Military Order of the Purple Heart	June 4-6	Ramada Inn – Eau Claire
Marine Corps League	June 5	Chula Vista – Wis. Dells
Catholic War Veterans	June 5-6	Park Plaza – Oshkosh
Disabled American Veterans	June 10-12	Holiday Inn – Manitowoc
AMVETS	June 24-27	Holiday Inn – Manitowoc
Vietnam Veterans of America	June 25-27	Wisconsin Dells
Veterans of Foreign Wars	June 25-27	Paper Valley – Appleton
American Legion	July 9-11	La Crosse

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## **CVSO Association to present Veterans' Advocacy Award**

**T**he Wisconsin Association of County Veterans Service Officers is seeking nominations for its annual Veterans Advocacy Award. Nominees do not have to be veterans, however, they must have provided a service to veterans and their families and have demonstrated compassion and concern for veterans.

To nominate an advocate for the award, submit the following information to Robert Stone, Wisconsin Association of CVSOs, 311 East Miner Ave., Suite C230, Ladysmith, WI 54848.

- Identification (one page) — include name of nominee, address, phone and occupation along with the name, address and phone number of the individual submitting the nomination.
- Narrative (not more than two, double-spaced pages) — detailing the nominee's efforts on behalf of veterans and their families.

The deadline for nominations is June 1, 1999.

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## **Wisconsin begins fund-raising efforts for World War II Memorial in Washington**

**G**ov. Tommy Thompson signed into law on April 26 a bill that launches Wisconsin's efforts to raise money for the World War II Memorial planned for the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Ground-breaking for the \$100 million memorial is planned for Veterans Day 2000.

The law allows the state to match private contributions dollar-for-dollar up to a maximum state government donation of \$166,100. The goal is to raise a total of \$332,200 — or \$1 for every Wisconsin citizen who served in World War II — from state funding and private sources. WDVA is the agency authorized to collect all donations.

Individuals or groups wishing to make a tax-deductible donation may send a check to WDVA along with the form on page 9. The form also can be used to make donations in honor of a World War II veteran and other loved ones. Additional forms are available at County Veterans Service Offices or by calling WDVA toll-free at 1-800-947-8387.

All donations will be acknowledged by a certificate signed by the Governor and WDVA Secretary Raymond G. Boland.

See Fact Sheet on page 10.

See photograph on page 11.

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## Legislative Update

The following pending bills are being monitored by WDVA:

- ◆ **AB 10** (Rep. Schneider, Sen. Wirsch) — Provides that November 11 is a state government holiday.  
**STATUS** Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

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- ◆ **AB 11** (Rep. Schneider, Sen. Wirsch) — Appropriates \$80,000 for construction of a Korean War memorial at The Highground.  
**STATUS** Referred to Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

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- ◆ **AB 12** (Rep. Schneider, Sen. Wirsch) — Appropriates \$90,000 for perpetual care of the Korean War memorial at Plover.  
**STATUS** Passed Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs; referred to Joint Committee on Finance.

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- ◆ **AB 64** (Rep. Musser, Sen. Breske) — Requires school board to provide a program designed to instruct students about Veterans' Day and the contributions of veterans.  
**STATUS** Passed as amended by Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs; referred to Assembly Committee on Education.

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- ◆ **AB 65** (Rep. Musser, Sen. Wirsch) — Allows WDVA to accept contributions on behalf of Wisconsin veterans for construction of a WWII memorial in Washington, D.C.  
**STATUS** Passed Assembly and Senate. Signed into law by Governor on 4/26/99.

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- ◆ **AB 66** (Rep. Musser, Sen. Wirsch) — Exempts from the general sales tax, gross receipts from the sale of goods and services to a state veterans organization.  
**STATUS** Referred to Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions.

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- ◆ **AB 79 (SB 16)** (Rep. Pettis, Sen. Zien) — Provides that a person who desecrates a U.S. or state flag is guilty of a class E felony.  
**STATUS** Passed as amended by Committee on Judiciary and Personal Privacy. Passed Assembly. In Senate Committee on Judiciary and Consumer Affairs.

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- ◆ **AB 81** (Rep. Musser, Sen. Wirsch) — Creates a refundable individual and franchise tax credit for businesses that hire disabled veterans.  
**STATUS** Referred to Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

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- ◆ **AB 113** (Rep. Jensen, Sen. Zien) — Requires the U.S. flag to be displayed in every classroom in every public and private grade school; requires offering the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem in grades 1-12 daily.  
**STATUS** Passed as amended by Committee on Education Reform. Referred to Assembly Committee on Rules.

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- ◆ **AB 124** (Rep. Musser, Sen. Clausing) — Relates to creditable military service under the Wisconsin Retirement System.  
**STATUS** Referred to Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems.

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- ◆ **AB 139** (Rep. Sykora, Sen. Wirsch) — Creates an individual income tax exemption for military income received by certain members of the U.S. armed forces.  
**STATUS** Passed Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs; referred to Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions.

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Continued on page 8

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**Continued from page 7**

- ◆ **AB 254** (Law Revisions Committee) — Clarifies that the annual fishing license fee for disabled veterans is \$2.25.  
**STATUS** Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.
- ◆ **AJR 14** (Rep. Musser, Sen. Erpenbach) — Urges Congress and the President to enact legislation to allow concurrent receipt of military longevity pay and disability benefits.  
**STATUS** Referred to Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.
- ◆ **AJR 26** (Rep. Suder, Sen. Breske) — Proposes an amendment to the federal constitution empowering Congress to prohibit physical desecration of the U.S. flag.  
**STATUS** Adopted by Assembly. Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Consumer Affairs.
- ◆ **AJR 45** Memorializes Congress to not reduce the number of beds for intensive care and surgery at the VAMC at Iron Mountain, Mich.  
**STATUS** Referred to Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.
- ◆ **SB 69** (Sen. Moen, Rep. Montgomery) — Requires cemetery authorities to provide for burials during each season.  
**STATUS** Referred to Committee on Human Services and Aging.
- ◆ **SB 70** (Sen. Moen, Rep. Musser) — Gives WDVA authority to accept contributions of money on behalf of Wisconsin Veterans for the construction of a WWII memorial in Washington, D.C.  
**STATUS** Referred to Committee on Health, Utilities, Veterans and Military Affairs.
- ◆ **SB 88** (Sen. Welch, Rep. Musser) — Relates to creditable military service under the WRS.  
**STATUS** Referred to Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems.
- ◆ **SJR 7** (Rep. Musser, Sen. Moen) — Commemorates the achievements and contributions of the VFW on the occasion of its centennial.  
**(AJR 19)**  
**STATUS** Passed Senate and Assembly.



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

## WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION FROM WISCONSIN

Instructions: Complete the form and return it with your donation. Send to:

WDVA WWII Memorial Fund  
30 W. Mifflin St., P.O. Box 7843  
Madison, WI 53707-7843

Donators will receive a commemorative certificate acknowledging their financial assistance in building the memorial. Please print or type your name, address, and telephone number:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donation amount:

\$20    \$35    \$100    \$500    \$1,000    Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:

Check made payable to WDVA World War II Memorial Fund

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## THE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL REGISTRY OF REMEMBRANCES

To place a name in the Registry of Remembrances answer all questions that apply if the information is available. Please print and complete a separate form for each name you wish to register. Be sure your name and address appears on every form you submit. There is a maximum of four honorees per Certificate of Appreciation.

Honoree's Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Honoree's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Honoree's Hometown and State: \_\_\_\_\_

Honoree Status:    World War II Veteran    Civilian on the Home Front    Killed in World War II

Honoree's Service Branch if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Relationship to Honoree: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description of Wartime Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## **Fact Sheet**

# **National World War II Memorial**

### **Authorization**

President Clinton signed Public Law 103-32 on May 25, 1993, authorizing the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to establish a World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., or its environs. It will be the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during World War II and acknowledging the commitment and achievement of the entire nation.

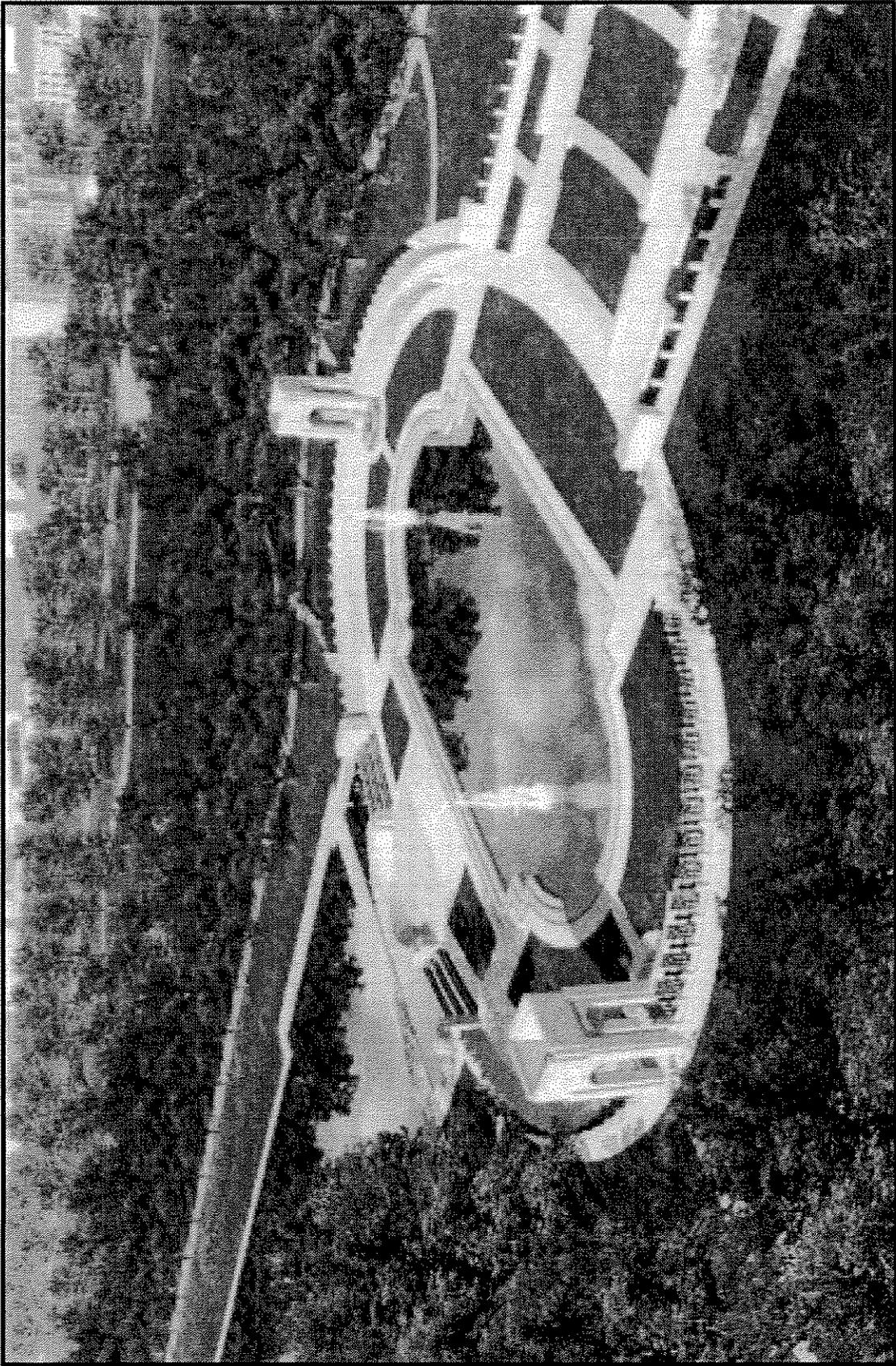
The law also authorized the president to appoint a Memorial Advisory Board to offer advice to the ABMC on site selection and design of the memorial, as well as to perform its primary duty of promoting and encouraging private donations for the building of the memorial. The board was appointed in September 1994, and works under the chairmanship of Pete Wheeler, commissioner of veterans affairs of the state of Georgia.

### **Purpose**

The memorial will honor the 16 million who served in the armed forces of the U.S. during World War II, the 406,000 who died, and the millions who supported the war effort from home. Symbolic of the defining event of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the memorial will be a monument to the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of the American people to the common defense of the nation and to the broader causes of peace and freedom from tyranny throughout the world. It will inspire future generations of Americans, deepening their appreciation of what the World War II generation accomplished in securing freedom and democracy. Above all, the memorial will stand as an important symbol of American national unity, a timeless reminder of the moral strength and awesome power that can flow when a free people are at once united and bonded together in a common and just cause.

### **Site**

The first step in establishing the memorial was the selection of an appropriate site. Congress provided legislative authority for siting the memorial in the prime area of the national capital, known as Area I, which includes the National Mall. The National Park Service, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission approved selection of the Rainbow Pool site at the east end of the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. President Clinton dedicated the memorial site during a formal ceremony on Veterans Day 1995.



*The national World War II Memorial will be located on a seven-acre site in Washington, D.C., between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.*



## How to get a copy of the WDVA Update

If you or someone you know would like to be added to our mailing list, please provide the following information and mail it to:

Julie Van Metre  
Wis. Dept. of Veterans Affairs  
PO Box 7843  
Madison, WI 53707-7843

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

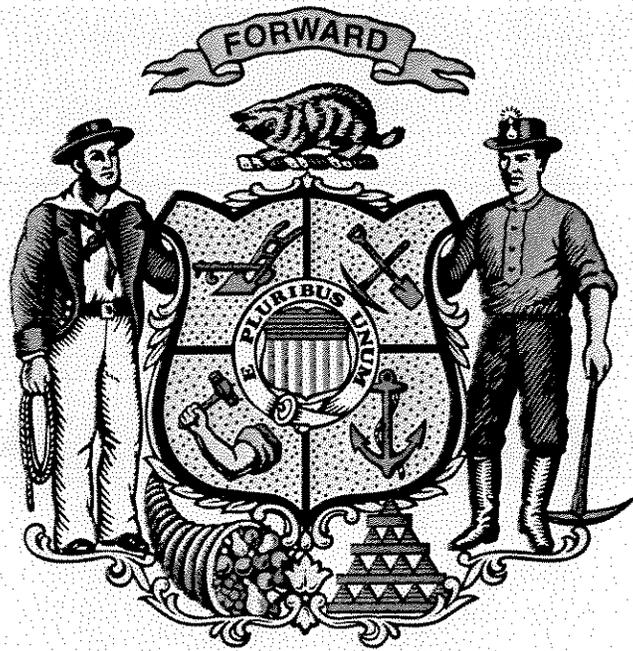
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# UW DVA UPDATE

Fall 1999  
Issue 21

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs  
Available online at WDVA web site <http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/dva>



## From the Secretary

Let's make the last Veterans Day of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the most memorable

Observances on November 11 will have special meaning this year because it will be the last Veterans Day of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The past 100 years have encompassed unprecedented progress in virtually every aspect of American life. And as we embark on a new century, and soon a new millennium, we are blessed with more opportunities and more freedom than any nation, at any period in history.

Yet we must always remember that the liberty we enjoy would not have been secured or maintained without the selfless service and sacrifices of millions of patriots who served in the armed forces in times of war and peace.

Please see SECRETARY, Page 2

## Highlights of new state budget WDVA benefits and services improved

The Governor has signed into law the state biennial budget, which will be in effect until June 30, 2001. The budget contains the following provisions affecting the WDVA and its programs:

- **Increase reimbursement for education grant programs**

The reimbursement rate for the Part-Time Study Grant and Tuition and Fee Reimbursement Grant programs was increased to 65 percent. The previous reimbursement rate was 50 percent. The reimbursement increase can be absorbed within the existing budgets for both grant programs.

Please see BUDGET, Page 4



Phyllis Perk and members of the United Women Veterans color guard get ready to march onto the field of Camp Randall stadium for a salute to veterans ceremony with the University of Wisconsin Band. The ceremony was held before the kick-off of the Badger football team's game against Murray State on Sept. 4, and veterans' color guards from Ashland to Janesville took part in the annual pregame ceremony.

**SECRETARY** Continued from Page 1

For this reason, I have called America's veterans the true heroes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. No other group has ever done so much good for so many around the world without regard for personal gain.

- **World War II history symposium**

To honor our heroes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum sponsored a World War II history symposium on October 16. The seminar included presentations on Wisconsin National Guard soldiers of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, who courageously battled the Japanese from New Guinea to the Philippines. [See *schedule of events for upcoming museum programs on page 6.*]

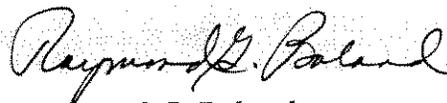
- **New Education Center**

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs has developed a new WDVA Education Center on the second floor of 30 West Mifflin Street, directly above the museum.

This state-of-the-art facility will be used for lectures, presentations, and other educational programs about the role of Wisconsin veterans in our nation's history. With Internet and tele-conferencing technology, my goal is to reach every campus and school in our state.

I hope that veterans' groups throughout the state are planning events for November 11 that will be memorable for years to come.

The last Veterans Day of this century is an opportunity to honor the heroes who served our country during the past 100 years. And as we pay tribute to these patriots, we can inspire all Americans to maintain throughout the next century our veterans' legacy of service and sacrifice.



Raymond G. Boland

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### **Adams named WDVA women veterans coordinator**

WDVA Secretary Raymond G. Boland has named Cheryl Adams, a WDVA employee, to be the agency's coordinator for women veterans' issues.

Ms. Adams will represent the WDVA secretary and the department in coordinating with other state and federal agencies. She will work directly with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), including VA medical centers that assist women veterans in Wisconsin.

Ms. Adams served in the Navy from 1970 to 1973 during the Vietnam War era. She is active in the United Women Veterans organization and is a member of the WAVES national chapter and the Women's Legion Post #448 of Milwaukee.

She has worked at the WDVA since 1991 as a program assistant. She will continue those duties in addition to her new role.

Boland said he was delighted that Ms. Adams had agreed to accept this new responsibility and that her enthusiasm and dedication will make her a strong advocate for women veterans.

### **WDVA secretary named best in the nation**

WDVA Secretary Raymond G. Boland has been named the nation's best state veterans affairs secretary by the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.

Boland received the Melvin Dixon Award as the top secretary for 1999 during the association's annual convention in Hawaii recently.

Boland was honored for his "outstanding administrative leadership with human insight and understanding in fulfilling the mission of NASDVA in serving the needs and problems of American veterans of all wars," according to the award citation.

The award is named in commemoration of Melvin Dixon, who served as the director of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs after World War II.

The award winner is chosen by a committee of peers, which was headed this year by Michael D'Arco, secretary of the New Mexico Veterans' Service Commission.

Boland has served as WDVA secretary since 1992. He is the first Vietnam War veteran to hold this position.

## Heiliger, Eslinger nominated for Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs

Gov. Tommy Thompson has nominated Donald L. Heiliger of Stoughton and Reba Eslinger of Spooner to six-year terms on the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs, which oversees the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA). The nominations must be confirmed by the State Senate.

Heiliger is a graduate of Madison East High School and the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he received a bachelor's degree in business in 1958. He also earned a master's degree in Latin American Studies from George Washington University.

He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Force through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps program at UW-Madison.

In 1967, while piloting an F-105 in the Vietnam War, he was shot down on his 44<sup>th</sup> combat mission and spent nearly six years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. After his return to the United States in 1973, he continued his Air Force career until 1985 when he retired with the rank of colonel. During his 30-year career, he served in diplomatic and military assignments in Israel, Uruguay, and Chile.

Heiliger, his wife, Cheryl, and three sons live in the Town of Dunkirk. He is a realtor and a school bus driver. He was elected to the Dane County Board in 1992 and has served in a variety of leadership positions including chairman of the Public Protection and Judiciary Committee and the Personnel and Finance Committee. He also serves on the Madison Area Technical College Board of Directors.

Mrs. Eslinger joined the Marine Corps in 1957 after graduating from high school in Blytheville, Arkansas. She worked in clerical assignments while stationed at El Toro, California, Marine Corps Base.

She joined the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) in 1976. After holding several leadership positions in local and district chapters, she became the first woman ever elected Wisconsin state commander for the DAV. As a volunteer at the Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee, she donated more than 1,800 hours of her time from 1983 to 1988.

On a national level, she became in 1992 the first woman to be a member of the National Executive Committee for the DAV.

She currently serves as president of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Board and has been a member of the board since 1991. She also has served on various committees advising the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs.

She is a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Mrs. Eslinger and her husband, Imbert, live in Spooner. They have twin daughters.

WDVA Secretary Raymond G. Boland said, "Don Heiliger and Reba Eslinger have contributed their time and talents in countless ways to help their fellow veterans. Both will be a great asset to the Board of Veterans Affairs, as we meet our goal of making a difference for Wisconsin veterans and their families."

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## Wisconsin Veterans Home is prepared for Y2K

The Wisconsin Veterans Home at King has diligently prepared for any possible Y2K computer problems to ensure there is no disruption in the high quality of service to its members at the start of next year, according to WDVA Secretary Raymond G. Boland.

"Efforts to prepare for Y2K began more than a year ago. The Home has inspected all of its key equipment, as well as computer software and hardware, for Y2K compliance and remedied any potential problems. Inspected items include all medical equipment, heating and air conditioning systems, fire detection systems, telephone systems, and food service equipment," Boland said. "In addition, the Home has contacted key vendors, such as pharmaceutical companies, to make sure they are Y2K compliant and can maintain delivery of supplies."

The Y2K readiness is not significantly different than the Home's continual preparation for other emergency situations, such as loss of electrical power due to storms.

**BUDGET** Continued from Page 1

- **Provide Tuition and Fee Reimbursement Grants to veterans attending private schools**

Under previous state statutes, veterans attending qualified private schools in Wisconsin were eligible for Part-Time Study Grants but not Tuition and Fee Reimbursement Grants. Now private schools in Wisconsin that meet the requirements for Part-Time Study Grants also meet the requirements for Tuition and Fee Reimbursement Grants.

- **Modify state residency requirement**

Those veterans who were not Wisconsin residents at the time they entered active-duty military service must have lived in Wisconsin for five consecutive years any time after discharge from active duty in order to be eligible for state veterans' benefits. The budget modifies the state residency requirement so that active-duty service in Wisconsin may count toward the five consecutive years of residency.

- **Increase maximum amount for Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP)**

The maximum amount a veteran may borrow with a WDVA Home Improvement Loan (HILP) was increased to \$25,000 with 15 years to repay. The previous maximum was \$15,000.

- **Increase funding for Health Care Aid Grant**

WDVA's spending authority for the Health Care Aid Grant (HCAG) program was increased by \$284,300 in each fiscal year. Combined with previous funding levels, the increase will allow HCAG total expenditures of up to \$1.2 million per fiscal year. Recent changes in Administrative Rules permit the WDVA to use up to 25 percent of the total HCAG annual budget to fund grants for dentures. With \$1.2 million in funding per fiscal year, the WDVA may now provide a total of \$300,000 in grants for dentures.

- **Increase funding for Veterans Assistance Program (VAP)**

To help homeless veterans and those at-risk of becoming homeless, the Veterans Assistance Program's budget was increased to \$686,500 in fiscal year 1999-2000 and \$765,200 in 2000-2001. The funding will provide on-going support for the new assistance center at Southern Wisconsin Center, near Union Grove, as well as the existing centers at Tomah/Fort McCoy, King, and

Milwaukee. Of the total budget amount, the federal government will provide \$304,900 in fiscal year 1999-2000 and \$295,000 in fiscal year 2000-2001. In addition, it is estimated that program revenue will generate \$80,000 annually.

- **Fully implement the Veterans Employment and Training Program**

The WDVA has spending authority of \$158,200 in fiscal year 1999-2000 and \$60,000 in fiscal year 2000-2001 to implement fully the employment and training program approved in the last biennial budget. This includes a one-time expenditure of approximately \$156,000 for the research, design, and development of an Internet-based service that will help veterans interested in teaching jobs get academic credit for military experience.

- **Fund operating expenses for the new cemetery in northern Wisconsin**

The WDVA's spending authority is \$389,800 in fiscal year 1999-2000 and \$275,000 in fiscal year 2000-2001 to operate a new state veterans cemetery, which will be built near Spooner. All of the expenditure authority in the first fiscal year will be used to purchase equipment for the cemetery. Subsequent funding will provide four full-time equivalent positions to operate the cemetery when it opens in 2000.

- **Improve the provision of benefits to Native American veterans**

The WDVA's spending authority is \$85,500 in fiscal year 1999-2000 and \$79,400 in fiscal year 2000-2001 to improve the provision of benefits to Native American veterans living on tribal lands in Wisconsin. The funding will finance a new full-time position for coordinating the policy and program development for Native American veterans. The WDVA also will fund grants that will be used by Wisconsin tribes to improve the provision of veterans' benefits. Funding for the grants and tribal coordinator position is part of the Governor's Native American Gaming Initiative.

- **Assume operation of the Wisconsin National Guard Museum**

To assume the operation of the Wisconsin National Guard Museum at Volk Field, the WDVA has received general purpose revenue

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**BUDGET** Continued from Page 4

funding (state tax dollars) of \$382,000 in fiscal year 1999–2000 and \$287,300 in fiscal year 2000–2001 to pay for 3.5 full-time positions and to create and operate a new library that includes the archives, manuscripts, and photographic collections of the Wisconsin National Guard. The new library, operated by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, will be located on the third floor of 30 West Mifflin Street. The new library will also contain the veterans museum's book collection currently located in the basement of the building.

- **Increase funding for Wisconsin Veterans Museum advertising and educational events**

The WDVA received \$10,000 of spending authority from the Veterans Trust Fund in each fiscal year for expansion of the museum's advertising in tourism publications, a banner display on the outside of the building, and publication of educational materials for students.



One of many exhibits at the Wisconsin National Guard Museum.

Entrance to the Wisconsin National Guard Museum at Volk Field.



"The Home has emergency electrical generators that are tested weekly, and maintenance personnel are available for repairs 24-hours every day," Boland said. "In addition, nursing staff and all employees are extensively trained in ways to safeguard the members during emergencies."

As a participant in the Wisconsin Department of Administration's disaster planning initiative, the Home has been thoroughly tested in its response to natural and man-made emergencies.

"Although it's unlikely there will be Y2K problems," Boland says, "I'm confident that the safety and comfort of our members and our staff will

be maintained in any situation."

Computers and other equipment at the WDVA's Central Office in Madison, Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Bureau of Claims in Milwaukee, and the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Cemetery near Union Grove have also been inspected and are Y2K compliant.

## Wisconsin Veterans Museum offers special exhibits and programs

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is offering a variety of programs this fall in the new WDVA Education Center on the second floor of 30 West Mifflin Street, above the museum. The center features a high quality, rear screen projection system accompanied by a modern sound system.

The museum sponsored a symposium on October 16 about the Wisconsin National Guard during World War II.

At the symposium, Jerry M. Cooper of the University of Missouri described the National Guard's organization and role on the eve of World War II. He is the author of the latest study on the subject.

Larry I. Bland, Virginia Military Institute, discussed General George Marshall's plans for the National Guard during the mobilization for World War II. Bland is the editor of the Marshall papers.

John Lundstrom, of the Milwaukee Public Museum, highlighted the strategic situation in the Pacific Theater during the year immediately following Pearl Harbor.

Tom Christianson, of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, presented the history of the Buna Campaign focusing on the Wisconsin National Guard's role in the U.S. Army's first offensive operation of World War II.

### Upcoming schedule of events for fall 1999:

- **Freedom Train North: Stories of the Underground Railroad in Wisconsin [Saturday, November 6 at 1 p.m.]**

Julia Pferdehirt, author and storyteller, will share stories from her book "Freedom Train North." She will discuss the lives of Wisconsin Civil War abolitionists who offered sanctuary and assistance to fleeing slaves.

- **Veterans Day [Thursday, November 11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.]**

The museum will host guided tours of its exhibit galleries and the new WDVA Education Center.

- **Freedom Train North: Stories of the Underground Railroad in Wisconsin [Saturday, December 4 at 10 a.m.]**

Julia Pferdehirt and Jerry Butler, illustrator, will tell stories about the people, places, and events on the underground railroad in Wisconsin, which are featured in the book "Freedom Train North." Butler will display his original illustrations from the book. He will also demonstrate art techniques used to create the illustrations.

- **Varian Fry — Assignment: Rescue, 1940-1941. [January 1-March 2, 2000]**

This exhibit tells the story of America's efforts to save individuals at risk under the "Surrender on Demand" clause of the Franco-German Armistice. Fry was chosen by the Emergency Rescue Committee to help political and intellectual refugees escape Nazi-occupied France. Guided, participatory tours will be available.

## USS Wisconsin to be moved to museum for public viewing

Navy officials announced recently that the battleship USS Wisconsin (BB-64) will be moved to the National Maritime Museum in downtown Norfolk, Virginia.

The 56-year-old vessel, which served in World War II, the Korean War, and the Gulf War, eventually will be open to the public.

"When the ship was decommissioned in 1991 after the Persian Gulf War, many veterans asked if it could be moved to a Wisconsin port for public display," said WDVA Secretary Raymond G. Boland. "Although this would have been a wonderful addition to our state, the ship's beam would not allow navigation through Sault Ste. Marie to Lake Michigan. In addition, there are no harbors on any of the Great Lakes deep enough to accommodate the 56,000-ton battleship."

"The Navy's decision to save the USS Wisconsin as a national treasure is a sound plan, and I'm confident it will attract scores of visitors," Boland said.

With massive 16-inch guns that could accurately launch a 2,700-pound projectile up to 24 miles, the Wisconsin certainly was one of the premier naval vessels of all time. The Wisconsin's armor was up to 17-inches thick, yet it was considerably faster than all previous American battleships as well as those of foreign powers. Along with its three sisters, the USS Missouri, New Jersey and Iowa, the Wisconsin featured exceptional speed, maneuverability, and firepower — as well as very long range.

During World War II, the Wisconsin with its crew of 2,700 served in the Pacific Theater.

Fortunately, not one crew member was lost or wounded, and the ship was never hit.

The ship saw extensive action in the Korean War and effectively bombarded targets along the coast. In March 1952, a North Korean artillery shell hit the ship's deck causing the Wisconsin's only battle scars in two wars.

After Korea, the Navy economized operations by retiring its massive battleships. The Wisconsin was decommissioned in 1958; the last of the Iowa class battleships to be mothballed.

After nearly 30 years of slumber, this sleeping-giant of a ship awoke for refurbishing. The Wisconsin was re-commissioned in 1988, and in January 1991 it fired high-tech Tomahawk missiles in the first action against Iraq in the Persian Gulf War.

Because of the post Cold War downsizing of the military, the Wisconsin was decommissioned again in 1991.

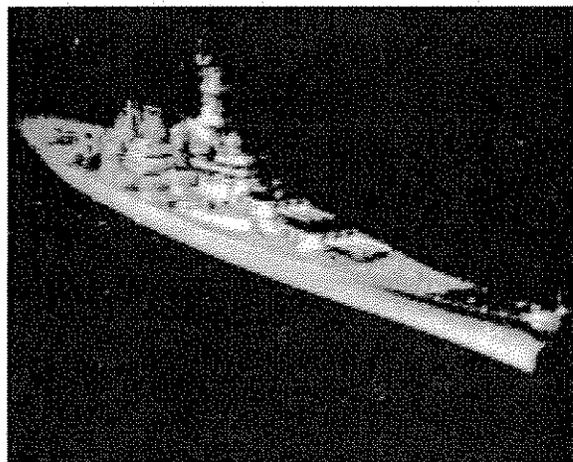
The citizens of Wisconsin supported this battleship for decades, and many items from the ship have been returned to the state.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum has a display of equipment from the battleship to complement its intricate 16-foot model of the ship. The War Memorial in Milwaukee is displaying a portion of the ship's silver service, which was used at receptions for dignitaries and officials at various ports that the ship called on.

"The USS Wisconsin, like its namesake, has a proud tradition of service," Boland said. "And soon citizens will be able to see, touch, and experience this symbol of American sea power."



USS Wisconsin silver service.



USS Wisconsin model in museum.

## Wisconsin heroes: A profile of gallant veterans from the Badger state

Hans Heg created and led a famed Wisconsin regiment during the Civil War

Hans Heg was the commander of the 15<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Volunteers, the famed Norske Regiment, during the Civil War.

From his native Norway, he moved with his parents to Muskego, Wisconsin.

At age 20, he headed to California during the Gold Rush of 1849 to seek his fortune. He returned to Wisconsin, however, to care for his family after his father died.

As a member of the new Republican Party founded in Ripon, he was active in state and local politics, which led to the position of Wisconsin commissioner of prisons.



Heg statue on Capitol grounds.

When the Civil War started in 1861, Heg answered President Abraham Lincoln's call for volunteers by recruiting an all Scandinavian regiment.

The majority of Heg's soldiers were Norwegians from Wisconsin, but he also traveled to Chicago to recruit Scandinavians who had just arrived in America. Although these immigrants could not speak English, Heg persuaded them to fight for their new nation.

By 1862, Heg had recruited 900 soldiers and was named the regimental commander. After training at Camp Randall in Madison, the regiment marched off to war.

Under Heg's command, the soldiers fought with valor and distinction in the Battle of Stones River in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on New Years Eve 1862. They fought in the Middle Tennessee Campaign in the summer of 1863, and the

regiment was the first to cross the Tennessee River in the effort to capture Chattanooga. Heg was promoted to brigade commander during the campaign and assumed command of regiments from Illinois and Kansas in addition to his own 15<sup>th</sup> Norske Regiment.

At Chickamauga, near the Georgia-Tennessee border, Heg's regiment fought in the bloodiest two-day battle of the war. He was mortally wounded on September 19, 1863, during a counterattack that saved the Union's line from collapsing. A monument to Heg stands at the Chickamauga National Battlefield.

In his home state, Heg is forever honored with a statue, prominently displayed in front of the State Capitol in Madison.

*[Note: A profile of a Wisconsin hero will be a regular feature of the WDVA Update.]*

## Wisconsin veteran named AMVETS national commander

Charles L. Taylor of Redgranite, in Waushara County, was elected national commander of AMVETS, the country's fourth largest veterans' service organization, on August 7. He is the first AMVETS member from Wisconsin to serve in this prestigious position.

A retired Navy chief counselor and Vietnam War veteran, Taylor joined AMVETS in 1986 and went on to serve in a variety of leadership positions, including state commander in 1991. He then served as National District IV commander for two years before being elected national second vice commander for programs in 1997.

In addition to AMVETS, he is active in other patriotic and fraternal organizations. In 1998, he was named a Melvin Jones Fellow, the highest honor bestowed by the Lions Clubs International Foundation.

He also has served on committees advising the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs.

The new national commander lives in Redgranite with his wife, Lynda. They have two children and two grandchildren.

## Congress is deliberating the Veterans Millennium Health Care Act

Congress is crafting legislation that includes provisions affecting long-term health care for veterans. The Veterans Millennium Health Care Act (H.R. 2116) would require the VA to operate a comprehensive long-term care program and to increase both home and community-based care, as well as respite care.

The legislation also mandates that the VA provide long-term care for 50 percent service-connected disabled veterans and veterans needing care for service-related conditions. To offset part of the cost of expanding veterans' access to extended care service, the measure requires the VA to institute co-payments by veterans who receive VA long-term care for non-service connected conditions. The VA also would be authorized to increase co-payments on prescription drugs and set reasonable co-payments on hearing aids and other devices provided for non-service connected conditions. Revenues would be applied to improving VA medical care.

The measure would also limit the VA's ability to close hospitals. It also would expand access to care for veterans who earned the Purple Heart and military retirees who are eligible for TRICARE but not VA priority care. The Department of Defense would reimburse the VA for the health care provided TRICARE eligible military retirees.

In addition, the act would extend the VA's authority to distribute grants to assist homeless veterans and would reform the criteria for awarding grants to state veterans homes for building and remodeling.

## Defense Bill expands Arlington National Cemetery

The House recently added \$1.7 billion to the Clinton Administration's budget request for the VA. According to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, some of the \$1.7 billion is targeted for expanding VA long-term care initiatives contained in the Veterans Millennium Health Care Act.

President Bill Clinton has signed into law the \$289 billion defense bill, which provides for the expansion of Arlington National Cemetery. The Pentagon will transfer nearly 37 acres from its Navy Annex to the cemetery and another eight acres from Fort Myer. The additional space is expected to yield another 30,000 gravesites. The Army, which supervises the Arlington cemetery, had predicted that it would run out of burial plots around the year 2025.

A separate provision of the defense bill authorizes the provision of honor guards at veterans' funerals.

## Legislative Summary for 1999-2000 Session

The following pending bills are being monitored by WDVA:

- ◆ **AB 10** (Rep. Schneider, Sen. Wirth) — Provides that November 11 is a state government holiday.  
**STATUS** Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

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- ◆ **AB 11** (Rep. Schneider, Sen. Wirth) — Appropriates \$80,000 for construction of a Korean War memorial at The Highground.  
**STATUS** Passed Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs; referred to Joint Committee on Finance.

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- ◆ **AB 12** (Rep. Schneider, Sen. Wirth) — Appropriates \$90,000 for perpetual care of the Korean War memorial at Plover.  
**STATUS** Passed Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs; referred to Joint Committee on Finance.

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- ◆ **AB 64** (Rep. Musser, Sen. Breske) — Requires school boards to provide a program designed to instruct students about Veterans Day and the contributions of veterans.  
**STATUS** Passed as amended by Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs; referred to Assembly Committee on Education.

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- ◆ **AB 65** (Rep. Musser, Sen. Wirth) — Allows WDVA to accept contributions on behalf of Wisconsin veterans for construction of a WWII memorial in Washington, DC.  
**(SB 70)**  
**STATUS** Signed into law by Governor on 4/26/99. **WI ACT 2**

Please see LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY, Page 10

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY** Continued from Page 9

- ◆ **AB 66** (Rep. Musser, Sen. Wirch) — Exempts from the general sales tax, gross receipts from the sale of goods and services to state veterans' organizations.  
**STATUS** Referred to Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions.
- ◆ **AB 79 (SB 16)** (Rep. Pettis, Sen. Zien) — Provides that a person who desecrates a U.S. or state flag is guilty of a class E felony.  
**STATUS** Passed as amended by Committee on Judiciary and Personal Privacy; passed Assembly; in Senate Committee on Judiciary and Consumer Affairs.
- ◆ **AB 81** (Rep. Musser, Sen. Wirch) — Creates a refundable individual and franchise tax credit for businesses that hire disabled veterans.  
**STATUS** Referred to Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.
- ◆ **AB 113** (Rep. Jensen, Sen. Zien) — Requires the U.S. flag to be displayed in every classroom in every public and private grade school; requires offering the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem in grades 1-12 daily.  
**STATUS** Passed as amended by Committee on Education Reform; referred to Assembly Committee on Rules.
- ◆ **AB 124** (Rep. Musser, Sen. Clausing) — Relates to creditable military service under the Wisconsin Retirement System.  
**STATUS** Referred to Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems.
- ◆ **AB 139** (Rep. Sykora, Sen. Wirch) — Creates an individual income tax exemption for military income received by certain members of the U.S. armed forces.  
**STATUS** Passed Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs; referred to Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions.
- ◆ **AB 254** (Law Revisions Committee) — Clarifies that the annual fishing license fee for disabled veterans is \$2.25.  
**STATUS** Passed Committee on Natural Resources; referred to Committee on Rules.
- ◆ **AB 326** (Rep. Rhoades, Sen. Clausing) — Grants creditable service under the Wisconsin retirement system for service in the National Guard or a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces.  
**STATUS** Referred to Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems.
- ◆ **AB 329 (SB 143)** (Rep. Kreibich, Sen. Moen) — Payment of health insurance premiums for state employees activated for military duty in the U.S. armed forces.  
**STATUS** Passed Assembly; passed Senate Committee on Health, Utilities, Veterans and Military Affairs.
- ◆ **AB 344** (Rep. Krusick, Sen. Grobschmidt) — Increases medical assistance payment to nursing homes to supplement wages and fringe benefits for direct care nursing staff.  
**STATUS** Referred to Joint Committee on Finance.
- ◆ **AB 352** (Rep. Seratti, Sen. Wirch) — Creates an individual income tax exemption for military income received by certain members of the U.S. armed forces.  
**STATUS** Referred to Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.
- ◆ **AB 384** (Rep. Nass, Sen. Fitzgerald) — Admission of veterans to the University of Wisconsin System.  
**STATUS** Referred to Committee on Colleges and Universities; withdrawn and referred to Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.
- ◆ **AB 448** (Rep. Musser) — Vietnam veterans' eligibility for veterans' benefits.  
**STATUS** Passed Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs; referred to Committee on Rules.
- ◆ **AR 11 (AJR 57)** (Rep. Musser) — Designating August 16 of each year as National Airborne Day.  
**STATUS** Adopted.

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY** Continued from Page 10

- ◆ **AR 12** (Rep. Vrakas) — Supporting an initiative seeking a just and peaceful resolution of the situation in Cyprus.  
**STATUS** Adopted.
- ◆ **AJR 14** (Rep. Musser, Sen. Erpenbach) — Urges Congress and the President to enact legislation to allow concurrent receipt of military longevity pay and disability benefits.  
**STATUS** Adoption recommended by Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs; referred to Committee on Rules.
- ◆ **AJR 26** (Rep. Suder, Sen. Breske) — Proposes an amendment to the federal constitution empowering Congress to prohibit physical desecration of the U.S. flag.  
**STATUS** Adopted by Assembly; referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Consumer Affairs.
- ◆ **AJR 45** (Rep. Sherman, Sen. Jauch) — Memorializes Congress to not reduce the number of beds for intensive care and surgery at the VAMC at Iron Mountain, Michigan.  
**STATUS** Passed Assembly; referred to Senate Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.
- ◆ **AJR 47** (Rep. Schneider) — Calls upon Congress to investigate the attack on the U.S.S. Liberty.  
**STATUS** Passed Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs; referred to Committee on Rules.
- ◆ **AJR 52** (Rep. Nass, Sen. Grobschmidt) — Commends the enlisted men and women of the Wisconsin Air National Guard as they celebrate "The Year of the Enlisted Force."  
**STATUS** Passed Assembly and Senate.
- ◆ **AJR 53** (Rep. Hubler, Sen. Jauch) — Commends the devoted service Kevin L. Reichert gave to his country, expresses sorrow at his death, and extends condolences to his family.  
**STATUS** Passed Assembly and Senate.
- ◆ **AJR 72** (Rep. Musser) — Urges Congress to raise the amount of pension paid to a surviving spouse.  
**STATUS** Passed Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs; referred to Committee on Rules.
- ◆ **SB 69** (Sen. Moen, Rep. Montgomery) — Requires cemetery authorities to provide burials during each season.  
**STATUS** Passed Committee on Human Services and Aging.
- ◆ **SB 88** (Sen. Welch, Rep. Musser) — Relates to creditable military service under the Wisconsin Retirement System.  
**STATUS** Referred to Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems.
- ◆ **SB 172** (Sen. George, Rep. Underheim) — Relates to discharge or other retaliation or discrimination against an employee of a health care facility/provider who reports a violation of the law or clinical or ethical standards.  
**STATUS** Referred to Committee on Judiciary and Consumer Affairs.
- ◆ **SB 210** (Sen. Chvala, Rep. Balow) — Exempts sales of U.S. and state flags from the sales tax and the use tax.  
**STATUS** Referred to Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions.
- ◆ **SB 256** (Sen. Drzewiecki, Rep. Pettis) — Requires WDVA to prepare a booklet that describes the proper procedures for flag etiquette.  
**STATUS** Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Housing and Government Operations.
- ◆ **SJR 7** (Rep. Musser, Sen. Moen) — Commemorates the achievements and contributions of the VFW on the occasion of its centennial.  
**STATUS** Passed Senate and Assembly.
- ◆ **SJR 22** (Sen. Moen, Rep. Musser) — Designates the week of November 7-13, 1999 as "Hire a Veteran Week" in Wisconsin.  
**STATUS** Passed Senate.

**How to get a copy of the WDVA Update**

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