



Monday, November 11, 2024

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NEW MEDIA INC.
Friday, November 8, 2024

Veterans Day programs planned in local schools, communities

Area schools are planning special Veterans Day programs for Nov. 11. Here is a sampling of the events, which are open to the community.

- Bonduel High School, 400 W. Green Bay St., Bonduel — Program 8 a.m., senior citizen breakfast 8:30 a.m.
- Bowler High School, 500 S. Almon St., Bowler — Program 10 a.m. in the high school gymnasium.
- Gillett School District, 208 W. Main St., Gillett — Program 9 a.m. at Gillett High School.
- Keshena Primary School, N530 State Highway 47-55, Keshena — Breakfast 8 a.m., program 9 a.m.
- Lena School District, 304 E. Main St., Lena — Program 10 a.m. in the high school gymnasium.
- Menominee Indian Middle School, N3455 State Highway 47, Neopit — Veterans invited to lunch 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Menominee Indian High School, N500 State Highway 47-55, Keshena — Open Lab, veterans asked to share stories of service with students, 2-3:30 p.m.
- Oconto Elementary School, 810 Scherer Ave., Oconto — Breakfast 8 a.m. followed by program.
- Oconto High School, 1707 Superior Ave., Oconto — Veterans muster 10 a.m. for 10:30 a.m. program.
- Oconto Falls High School, 210 N. Farm Road, Oconto Falls — Program 9 a.m. in the field house.
- Oconto Falls Elementary School, 415 Marie Volk Drive, Oconto Falls — Program 10:30 a.m. in the school gymnasium.
- Suring School District, 411 Algoma St., Suring. — Program 1:30 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.
- Tigerton High School, 213 Spaulding St., Tigerton — Program 10:30 a.m.
- Wittenberg Elementary and Middle School, 300 S. Prouty St., Wittenberg — Program 9:30 a.m.

Other community events, all on Nov. 11 except as indicated:

Suring: Vets 4 Vets Spaghetti Dinner, 3-6 p.m., Red Maple Country Club, 501 Golf Course Road. Spaghetti dinner, silent Auctions, bingo, 50/50 and meat raffles, DJ music. \$7 per person, veterans eat free.

Wittenberg: Veterans Day Ceremony, 10:45 a.m., Ho-Chunk Gaming, N7198 U.S. Highway 45. Keynote speaker Justin Fisher, Commander, Veterans of Menominee Nation.

Shawano: Allied Vets Council Veteran Day Program, 11 a.m., Courthouse, 311 N. Main St.

Pulaski: Pulaski High School Jazz Band Veterans Performance, 7-9 p.m. Nov. 9, Pulaski High School, 1040 St. Augustine St.



Eric Lemieux, who served in Iraq and Afghanistan with the U.S. Army, raises the American flag on a pole outside Ho-Chunk Gaming Wittenberg on Nov. 11, 2023, for Veterans Day.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



Retired Col. Richard Kucksdorf gives students some details about American's past not in the history books during a speech in 2023 at Shawano Community Middle School for its annual Veterans Day ceremony.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



Speaker Byron Nolde points to assembled local veterans and said they deserve everyone's thanks during the community Veterans Day observance in 2023 at Oconto Falls High School.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA



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Dan & Diane



*Honor Our
Veterans!*

Wittenberg Legion memorial wall dedicated

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

American Legion Post 502 in Wittenberg dedicated its memorial wall Sept. 14 with more than 200 people present to check out the big addition to the village's Washington Park.

Three slabs of marble boast the names of hundreds of people who fought and died defending freedom in World War I and every war after that up to the present day. However, the wall isn't quite done as two more slabs are on order and will be added next spring.

Besides the marble walls, the area also boasts two eagle sculptures that look like they're watching the hallowed area where residents can come to see their loved ones' names and remember what they did to ensure that they can live free today.

All told, the wall pieces and the eagle sculptures cost the Legion \$85,000, with contributions of \$20,000 each from the Wittenberg Village Board and Wittenberg Town Board, as well as a \$25,000 donation from an anonymous donor. Also, each veteran's family had to pay for their individual plaques, and so many expressed interest that the three original walls were not enough to bear the names.

The memorial has been a project 10 years in the making for the Legion, and no one was happier to see the walls go up than Post 502's adjutant, Steve Passehl.

Passehl noted that Schneider Monument in Shawano helped the Legion to get the stones all the way from Greece. He said that the stones are similar to the ones memorializing members of the military in Washington, D.C. He pointed out that the two additional slabs on order are due to the heavy participation by communities in western Shawano County and beyond.

Work on the project began in earnest in 2023, according to Passehl.



More than 200 people came out for the dedication ceremony Sept. 14 for the Wittenberg American Legion's memorial wall. Three marble slabs, including the one shown, came all the way from Greece, and two more slabs will be installed next spring due to the high interest of local families to add their loved ones' names.

"It makes me so proud," he said. "It's actually a lot of work to do this project, and I'm glad that we got most of it done."

Passehl added that the two additional stones won't arrive until next year, because they can only be installed when frost isn't in the ground.

Dale Fandry, Post 502's commander, was pleased with the turnout, and he believes it shows the support the community has for those who serve in the military.

"There's a minimum amount of people in the service that are protecting most people in this country, and they serve for honor, courage and democracy," he said.



LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Steve Passehl, left, adjutant for American Legion Post 502, speaks about the importance of the new memorial wall bearing the names of hundreds of veterans from the Wittenberg area who fought and died defending America during a dedication ceremony Sept. 14 at Washington Park.

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Honor Flight serves veterans of all eras

The Never Forgotten Honor Flight is a Wausau-based organization formed in November 2009. Its goal is to fly area veterans who served during World War II, the Korean War or the Vietnam era to Washington, D.C., to visit the memorials built in their honor.

The Never Forgotten Honor Flight is an affiliate of the national group Honor Flight Network, which began this activity in 2005, and began flying with commercial charter aircraft in 2006 from Dayton, Ohio.

The only qualification for a veteran to take an honor flight trip is to have served in the United States military, in any capacity anywhere, and received an honorable discharge before May 7, 1975.

There are now 128 "hubs," or cities in 44 states from which flights originate. As of Dec. 31, 2023, these hubs have collectively flown 295,787 veterans since 2005.

The Never Forgotten Honor Flight Hub has flown, as of Oct. 28, 4,814 veterans including 106 sets of brothers, 13 husbands and wives, 71 female veterans. There have been 1,048 World War II veterans; 1,267 Korean War veterans; 2,499 Vietnam era veterans; and 2,976 guardians.

This is a one day trip, with veterans spending most of the time at the World War II, Korean and Vietnam

memorials. Veterans also visit the Lincoln Memorial, Air Force Memorial, Iwo Jima Memorial (Marine Corps War Memorial), Arlington National Cemetery and the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. A city tour is also part of the day, viewing Washington's prominent buildings and other memorials.

Priority is given to those veterans who served during the World War II era, then the Korea era and lastly the Vietnam era. If a veteran is certified terminally ill by a doctor but able to travel, he or she moves up the priority list no matter what their era of service.

The Never Forgotten Honor Flight is supported by private and commercial donors and many veterans and civic organizations, schools, churches, employees of corporations, foundations and individuals. There is no paid staff; the operation is entirely run by volunteers.

Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Make checks out to Never Forgotten Honor Flight and mail to 225780 Rib Mountain Drive #234, Wausau, WI 54401. Donations can also be made at <https://neverforgottenhonorflight.com>.

A \$500 gift fully funds one veteran to go on his or her trip.



Among the monuments visited during an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It stands as a symbol of America's honor and recognition of the men and women who served and sacrificed their lives in the Vietnam War. Inscribed on the black granite walls are the names of more than 58,000 men and women who gave their lives or remain missing.

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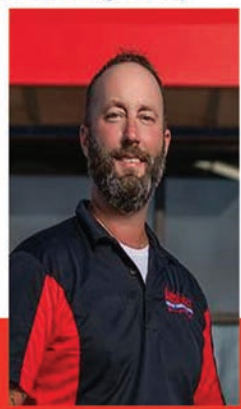
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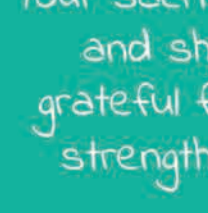
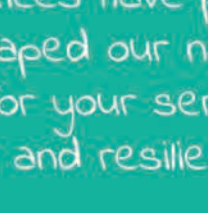
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Story of Veterans Day goes back to World War I

Veterans Day is intended to thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military — living and dead — whether in wartime or peace.

In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who serve have sacrificed and done their duty.

While Veterans Day is often confused with Memorial Day, the two observances serve different purposes and have different histories. Memorial Day, which has its roots in the post-Civil War effort to “memorialize” all those who died in that war, has become a modern holiday to remember those from all wars and conflicts who gave their lives in service to the country.

To ensure the sacrifices of America’s fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000 the U.S. Congress passed and the President signed into law “The National Moment of Remembrance Act” to “encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity” by encouraging and coordinating com-

memorations of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance. The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for two minutes of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation.

Veterans Day, however, was first known as Armistice Day as a celebration of the resolution of World War I, a peace recognized historically on the date and time of that event, Nov. 11, 1918, at 11 a.m., and salutes surviving service members as well as those who have passed away since their service.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming Nov. 11 as Veterans Day and called upon Americans everywhere to rededicate themselves to the cause of peace.

He issued a presidential order directing the head of the Veterans Administration (now the Department of Veterans Affairs) to form a Veterans Day National Committee to organize and oversee the national observance of Veterans Day.

In 1968, in keeping with the Monday Holiday Bill, Congress briefly moved Veterans Day to the fourth

Monday in October, but it became quickly apparent that the American public held fast to the historical significance of the First World War armistice on Nov. 11, and in 1978, Veterans Day was returned permanently to its traditional date.

Hence, the Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year on Nov. 11 at Arlington National Cemetery. At 11 a.m. Eastern Standard Time, a color guard made up of members from each branch of the military renders honors to America’s deceased veterans during a tradition-rich ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The President or his representative places a wreath at the Tomb and a bugler sounds “Taps.” The balance of the ceremony, including a Parade of Flags by Veterans Service Organizations, takes place inside the Memorial Amphitheater, adjacent to the tomb.

On Oct. 7, 2016, President Barack Obama signed the Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act. The law requires that the president issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe a two-minute national moment of silence on Veterans Day at 2:11 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.



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Veterans march front and center at parades



Shawano area veterans carry the flags at the start of the Shawano Community High School homecoming parade in October with banners honoring other veterans hanging from the light poles in the background. KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

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for those who
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As Veterans Day approaches, take a moment, if even in your own thoughts, to consider the sacrifice of our military men and women, and their families. If you see a veteran (lots of vets wear their 'Vietnam Veteran' hats proudly, all year round!) stop them and say 'Hey, thanks for your service.' Proudly fly your American flag at home (and take it down at night, unless you've got a light shining on it!). Consider adopting a soldier. No matter what you do, remember that even the smallest of actions have an impact.



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