

VETERANS DAY 2022

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Thursday, November 10, 2022

SPECIAL SECTION

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



The United States, Wisconsin and POW/MIA flags in front of the Oconto County Courthouse glow green in support of veterans for Operation Green Light. The new national collaborative initiative of the National Association of Counties is designed to support military veterans, as well as raise awareness about the unique challenges faced by many veterans and the resources that are available at the county, state and federal levels to assist veterans and their families. The idea is catching on in communities around the area.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

NATIVE MEMORIAL, 2 • TOP ADVOCATE, 5 • CALENDAR OF EVENTS, 9 • SPECIAL DONATIONS, 10

Local group to attend Native Veterans Memorial dedication

Delegation to march in processional

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The National Native American Veterans Memorial opened on Nov. 11, 2020, on the grounds of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. Two years later on the other side of the pandemic, the memorial is scheduled to have its official dedication on Veterans Day 2022.

The tribute to Native heroes recognizes for the first time on a national scale the enduring and distinguished service of Native Americans in every branch of the U.S. military.

Bruce Wilber, Menominee County veterans service officer, plans to be one of a dozen Menominee veterans who will be in Washington on Veterans Day for the dedication.

Sen. Tammy Baldwin sent a letter inviting tribes to participate in a procession along the National Mall from the museum to the ceremony stage in front of the U.S. Capitol. He credited the tribe's Christine Barwick with organizing the trip for about a dozen members of the Veterans of Menominee Nation and American Legion Post 497.

The group feels honored to be included in the ceremony, which Indian nations represented from across the United States, Wilber said.

"Native Americans have the

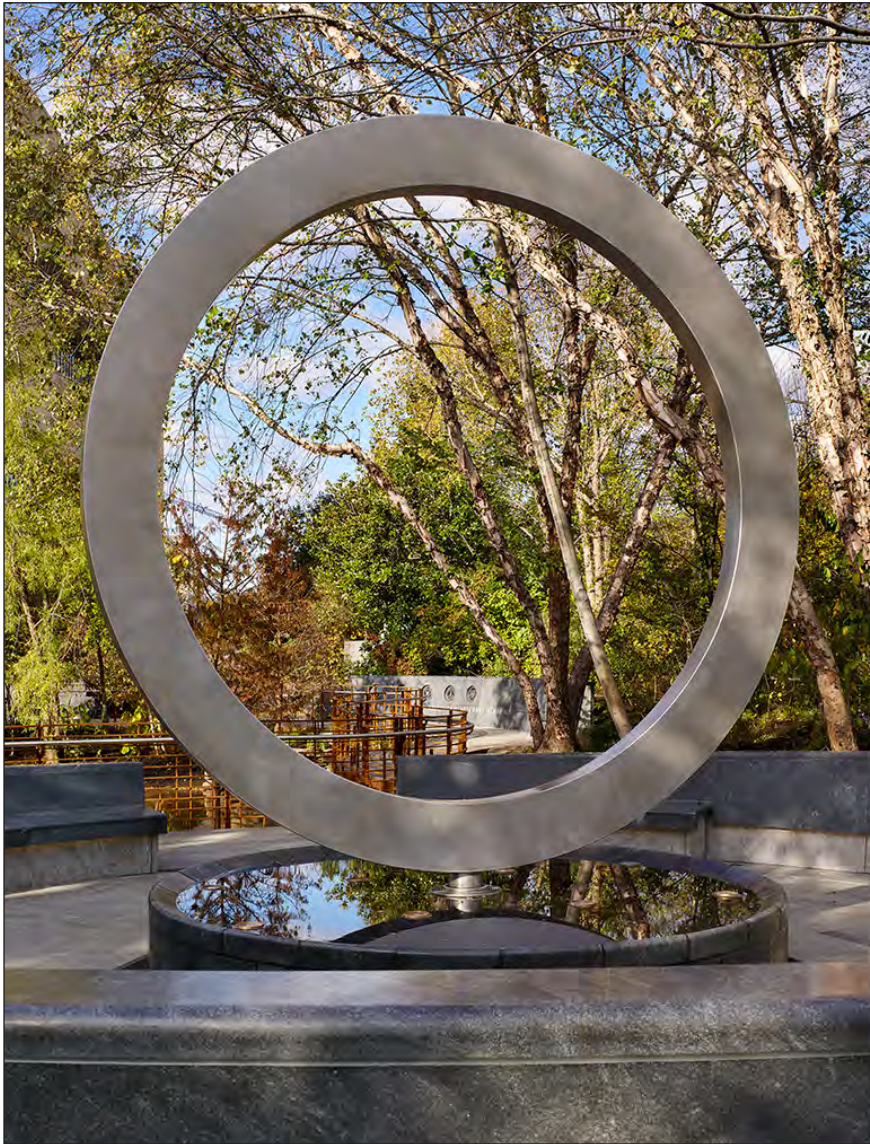
highest per-capita enlistment rate of any ethnic group," he said. "We're looking forward to being part of it."

The dedication and processional will honor American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian veterans and their families. The proceedings will be livestreamed, with the procession beginning around 1 p.m. and the dedication ceremony at 3 p.m.

The memorial design shows an elevated stainless-steel circle balanced on an intricately carved stone drum, incorporating water for ceremonies, benches for gathering and reflection, and four lances where veterans, family members, tribal leaders, and others can tie cloths for prayers and healing.

The intention is to create an interactive yet intimate space for gathering, remembrance, reflection, and healing, and aims to honor and welcome Native American veterans and their families, and educate the public about their contributions.

A group of Native and non-Native jurors unanimously selected the design concept Warriors' Circle of Honor by Harvey Pratt (Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma) from among more than 120 submissions. Pratt is a self-taught artist whose works include themes of Native American history and tradition and the Cheyenne people.



Cheyenne and Arapaho artist Harvey Pratt designed the National Native American Veterans Memorial on the grounds of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

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Hansen named veterans advocate of the year

Bruce Hansen of Oconto County has been selected as the County Veterans Service Officer Association of Wisconsin Veterans Advocacy Award winner for 2022.

Hansen has been a longtime supporter of the veterans of Oconto County, primarily through his appointment as a veterans commissioner, membership in veteran service organizations, a volunteer driver for the county transportation program and a volunteer at the VA clinic and hospital.

He has served on the Oconto County Veterans Commission since December 2013.

He has been a volunteer driver for the Veterans Service Office since 2010. During that time he has logged 789 trips for a total of 127,589 miles taking veterans to their VA medical appointments. By far the most miles driven by any of the county's volunteer drivers, Hansen's mileage is the equivalent of driving over five times around the earth, transporting veterans.

While waiting for veterans at their appointments, he volunteers at the courtesy/information desk at the VA clinics in Green Bay and Appleton and the VA medical centers in Milwaukee and Iron Mountain.

In addition, Hansen is a 12-year



From left, Bruce Wilbur, vice president of the County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin, and Ron Christensen, Oconto County veterans service officer, congratulate Bruce Hansen, winner of the association's 2022 Veterans Advocacy Award, and his wife, Lois Hansen. CONTRIBUTED

continuous member of the American Legion Post 283 in Suring and a lifetime member of Disabled American Veterans Chapter 45 in Oconto Falls.

Ron Christensen, Oconto County veterans service officer, said Hansen has a drive to continually serve others, beginning with his enlistment in the U.S. Air Force and his service in Vietnam. After active service he

continued to fill that need to serve by enlisting in the Army reserve.

"Just as back then, he has continued to serve his community and the veteran community every day. Unfortunately he has had to cut back on his volunteer service due to some health concerns," Christensen said. "With that said, he still serves as a member of the Oconto County Vet-

erans Commission and continues to drive for a few special veterans along with maintaining his membership in veteran organizations."

Asked about retiring, Hansen said, "I'm cutting back, not quitting."

Hansen always puts others needs before himself and is a pillar of the veteran community of Oconto County, Christensen said.

Marinette County native helped establish Veterans Day

In 1915, Harvey Higley graduated from the University of Wisconsin. Just two years later, the life of this Marinette County native changed forever when the United States declared war on Germany, entering into World War I.

Higley, a chemical engineer, walked out of private employment and entered service in the greatest conflict the world had known. He

served in France, and for the rest of his life, one of his greatest concerns was caring for his fellow veterans. He served as secretary of veterans affairs under President Dwight Eisenhower, and among Higley's lasting achievements was establishing Veterans Day as a national holiday.

Higley believed that the nation owed its veterans for their sacrifice. "The contract between the gov-

ernment and those men, it has to be paid," he said.

A lifelong Republican, Higley rose to national prominence with Eisenhower's election as president in 1952. From 1953 to 1957, Higley served in the cabinet, guiding policy during the period when the country had more veterans than at any other time: after both World War II and the Korean War. Higley considered it his mission

to protect the rights of those veterans.

In 1954, Higley helped lead the charge to create a national holiday to honor all veterans. Working with U.S. Rep. Ed Rees of Kansas, he worked to pass a bill that changed the name of Armistice Day, which celebrated the end of World War I, to Veterans Day, a "day dedicated to the cause of world peace."

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**VETERANS
★ DAY ★**

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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A sampling of local events honoring veterans

MENOMINEE COUNTY

Nov. 11

KESHENA: Keshena Primary School Veterans Day observance, N530 State Highway 47. 8:30 a.m. Veterans eat with the youth and view a pageant from the children.

KESHENA: Veterans Day ceremony honoring the warriors, 11 a.m., Veterans Park, state Highways 47 and 55.

OCONTO COUNTY

Nov. 10

GILLETT: Coffee with a Vet, 11 a.m., Gillett Public Library Community Center, 204 E. Main St. Cookies and coffee from the Cookies and Co. Sweet Shop and the Cracked Cup.

Nov. 11

OCONTO FALLS: Veterans Day program, 9 a.m., Oconto Falls High School, 210 N. Farm Road. Reception for veterans 8:30 a.m. in the commons, followed by the program in the auditorium. Veterans Day concert at 10:30 a.m. at Oconto Falls Elementary School, 415 Marie Volk Drive.

OCONTO FALLS: Veterans Day brick placement, 2 p.m., Oconto Falls Area Veterans Monument, 200 N. Farm Road. Veterans in attendance will be announced by Staff Sgt. Kurt Buhrandt of the National Guard. Legion Post 302 Oconto Falls will perform The Missing Man Table Ceremony.

SURING: 20th annual veterans



Veterans from American Legion Post 302 salute during the 2021 Veterans Day program at Oconto Falls High School.

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spaghetti dinner, 3-6 p.m., Red Maple Country Club, 501 Golf Course Road. Spaghetti with meatballs and garlic bread will be served; carry-outs are available on request. The spaghetti dinner is free for veterans; cost for guests and the general public is \$7 per person. Hosted by Vets 4 Vets of Northeast Wisconsin. Cash bar and dining room service at Red Maple, with silent auctions, raffles and bingo. Oconto County Veteran Service Officer Ron Christensen will be the keynote speaker.

SHAWANO COUNTY

Nov. 10

SHAWANO: Salute to veterans,

Shawano Community Middle School (SCMS), 1050 S. Union St. Veterans welcome to a breakfast in SCMS's cafeteria from 8:15-8:45 a.m. The program starts at 9 a.m. in the main gymnasium with main speaker Brigadier Gen. (Ret.) Joane K. Mathews. At 10 a.m. a Black Hawk helicopter will land at the football practice field for a static display until noon.

Nov. 11

BIRNAMWOOD: Veterans Day Assembly, 9:30 a.m., Birnamwood Elementary/Middle School, 337 Main St. School assembly followed by cookies and coffee for veterans.

BOWLER: Mohican Veterans, American Legion commemoration, 10 a.m., Bowler High School, 500 S. Almon St. Presentation with choir, band and video; 11 a.m., American Legion rifle salute.

GRESHAM: Veterans Day Commemoration, 10:35 a.m., Gresham High School, 1200 N. Main Ave. Music, speakers in the gym. After the program, participants walk to the flagpole outside of the school, where taps is played and the flag is lowered to half staff.

SHAWANO: Allied Vets Council Veterans Day program, 11 a.m., Shawano County Courthouse, 311 N. Main St. (In case of rain, the ceremony will be held at Shawano Ambulance Service, 220 N. Main St.) Invocation: Pastor Uriah Williams, Peace United Church of Christ. Pledge of Allegiance: American Legion Post Commander Joe Schwobe. National Anthem: Patty Ainsworth. Main Speaker: Shawano County Sheriff-elect George Lenzner. Naming of deceased veterans: Dennis Bohm and Jennifer Langlois, Shawano County Veterans Service assistant. Wreath presentation: Lil Benzinger, U.S. Marine Corps, 1989-2004, and Susan Raddant, U.S. Air Force, 1973-1978. Rifle volley: VFW Post 2723. Taps: Led by Brent Buettner. Benediction: Pastor Uriah Williams. Closing: Dennis Bohm.

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Birnamwood-based chain honors veterans

In honor of Veterans Day, Mr Brews Taphouse is partnering with Folds of Honor (FOH) to provide life-changing scholarships to the families of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service through a weeklong, donation-based campaign.

Founded by Steve Day in 2013, Mr Brews Taphouse is a full-service craft brew pub and restaurant known for its gourmet burgers and wide selection of locally sourced craft beer. Its headquarters is in Birnamwood, and the brand currently owns and operates 14 locations throughout Arizona, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky and Wisconsin.

From Nov. 7-13, Mr Brews will offer guests \$5 in Brews Bucks for every \$2 donation to FOH, a nonprofit organization founded in 2007 by Lt. Col. Dan Rooney of the U.S. Air Force that has awarded more than 44,000 scholarships as part of its mission to honor the sacrifice and legacy of fallen soldiers. Mr Brews is com-

mitted to donating \$10,000 to Folds of Honor by the end of the campaign. The brand was able to see the impact that last year's \$7,700 donation had on the Torian family, who lost highly decorated Master Sgt. Aaron Torian of the U.S. Marine Corps. This donation benefitted Master Sgt. Torian's wife and three children, who lost a loving husband and father.

"We're proud to partner once again with Folds of Honor to make an impact in the lives of the families of American heroes," said Carrie Martin, Mr Brews vice President of operations Services. "It was amazing to know what our donation efforts went towards with the Torian family, and we can't wait to help another family this year. We hope to see everyone make a stop by their local Mr Brews during our fundraising week and do their part."

Mr Brews also plans to donate 10% of its total sales on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, to Folds of Honor.

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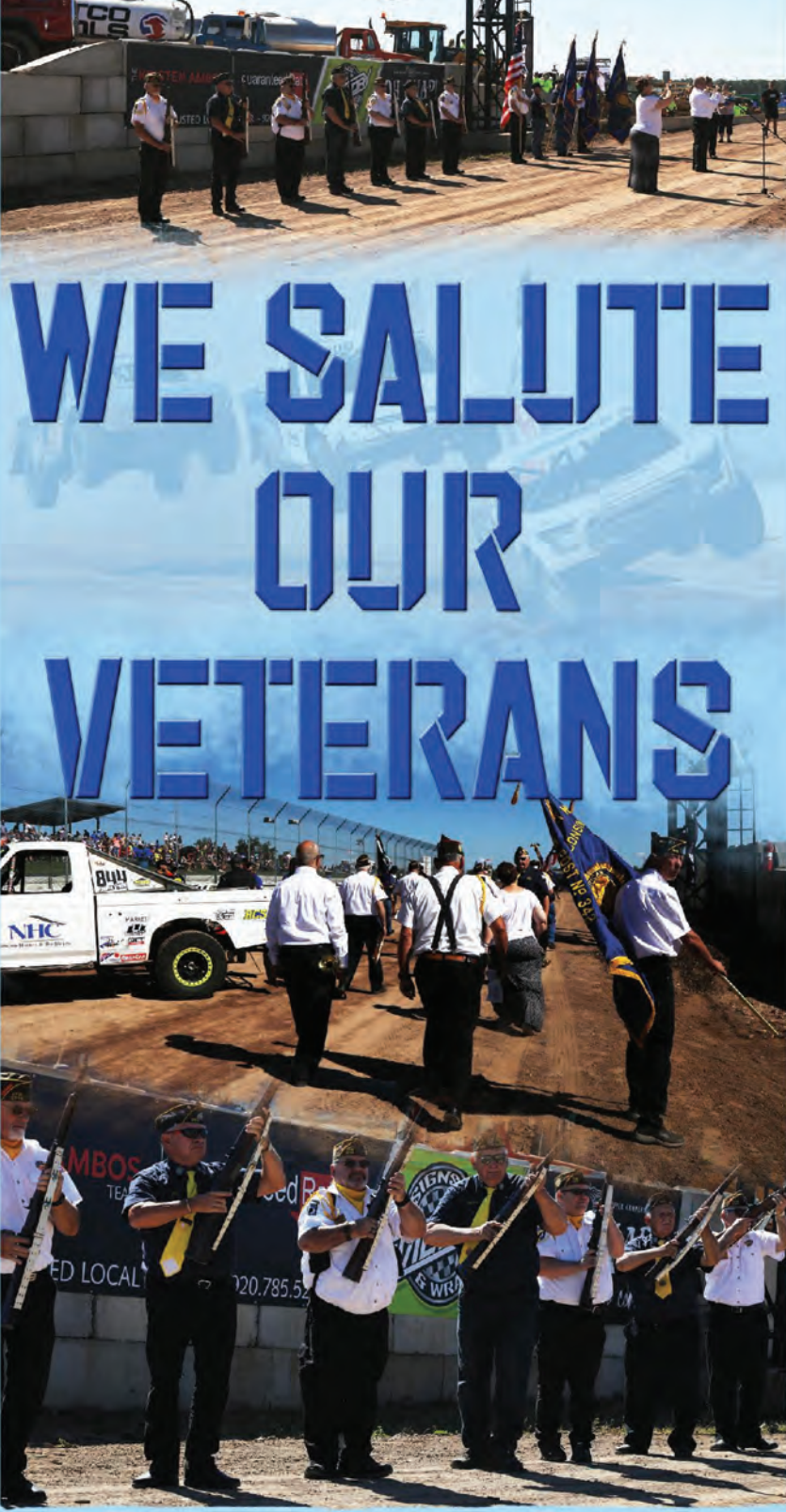
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