

VETERANS DAY 2023

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Friday, November 10, 2023

SPECIAL SECTION



It all began as Armistice Day

Veterans Day established in 1954 to commemorate all those who served

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

It was called The Great War, the War to End All Wars, and in the aftermath of its conclusion at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, civilized nations vowed to remember the sacrifices of those who had fought in the world war, especially those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Beginning with a solemn ceremony at Buckingham Palace on the morning of Nov. 11, 1919, Armistice Day became an annual time of remembrance.

In the United States, which entered the war a year and a half before the Armistice and lost 116,000 soldiers, President Woodrow Wilson marked that first anniversary by praising the Allied effort to achieve the peace.

"Out of this victory there arose new possibilities of political freedom and economic concert. The war showed us the strength of great



Students at Wittenberg Elementary/Middle School stand for veterans as they leave the gym during the 2021 Veterans Day ceremony at Wittenberg Elementary/Middle School. FILE | NEW MEDIA

nations acting together for high purposes, and the victory of arms foretells the enduring conquests which can be made in peace when nations act justly and in furtherance of the common interests of men," Wilson said in that first presidential Armistice Day message.

Commemorations of Nov. 11 were initially focused on honoring the military dead of the First World War

and the return to peace. Just prior to or after World War II, many countries changed the name of the holiday, and several changed the focus to include all veterans of their armed services; a few honor their war dead, both uniformed and civilian. The United States in 1954 changed the name to Veterans Day.

In the United States, Veterans Day honors American veterans, both living and deceased. The official day of national remembrance of those killed in action is Memorial Day, which predates World War I.

President Dwight Eisenhower, who as an Army general had led U.S. forces in World War II and was elected in the waning days of the Korean War, issued the first Veterans Day proclamation in 1954 after Congress voted to change the name of the national holiday:

"Whereas it has long been our custom to commemorate Nov. 11, the anniversary of the ending of World War I, by paying tribute to the heroes of that tragic struggle and by rededicating ourselves to the cause

of peace; and

"Whereas in the intervening years the United States has been involved in two other great military conflicts, which have added millions of veterans living and dead to the honor rolls of this Nation; and

"Whereas the Congress passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926 (44 Stat. 1982), calling for the observance of Nov. 11 with appropriate ceremonies, and later provided in an act approved May 13, 1938 (52 Stat. 351), that the 11th of November should be a legal holiday and should be known as Armistice Day; and

"Whereas, in order to expand the significance of that commemoration and in order that a grateful Nation might pay appropriate homage to the veterans of all its wars who have contributed so much to the preservation of this Nation, the Congress, by an act approved June 1, 1954 (68 Stat. 168), changed the name of the holiday to Veterans Day:

"Now, Therefore, I, Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States of America, do hereby call upon all of our citizens to observe Thursday, Nov. 11, 1954, as Veterans Day. On that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain. I also direct the appropriate officials of the Government to arrange for the display of the flag of the United States on all public buildings on Veterans Day."

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Bohm honored as veterans advocate of the year

By **KEVIN PASSON**
Editor-in-chief

Dennis Bohm, of Shawano, is the 2023 Shawano County veteran advocate of the year, Paul Pionke, Shawano County veterans service officer, has announced.

"He promotes the definition of volunteer in his multiple roles within Shawano County," Pionke said.

Among Bohm's many volunteer efforts is his role in serving as a driver for disabled veterans for the Shawano County Veterans Service Office.

"Dennis has been transporting veterans to the area VA clinics (Appleton, Green Bay, Milwaukee) for 19 years," Pionke said. "He has approximately 250,000 miles behind the wheel in all kinds of weather, ensuring veterans get to their VA appointments safely."

Bohm is a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans, American Legion and AMVETS, and is associated member of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

He served as AMVETS com-

mander for seven years and is currently the American Legion chaplain. He has performed numerous hours performing honor guard duties to fellow service members' funerals and presenting the flag to local widows.

Bohm was the opening night speaker at the recent Shawano County Fair and honor guard commander, calling the posting of the colors on opening night.

He is also a member of the Soldiers and Sailors Committee, ensuring needed veterans are assisted with information and possible funds to make ends meet during difficult times.

"Dennis never has a mean word to say, has a wealth of local knowledge and is always full of vigor and energy," Pionke said. "Without a doubt, he musters the definition of volunteer, always willing to help with knowledge and information regarding anything to do with all of the several organizations within Shawano and Shawano County. A man definitely worth the award."

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com



Dennis Bohm, center, was recently honored as the Shawano County veteran advocate of the year by Bruce Wilber, left, president of the County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin and the Menominee County county and tribal veterans service officer; and Paul Pionke, Shawano County veterans service officer.

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Wilber elected president of state veterans service officer association

Menominee County veterans service officer Bruce A. Wilber Jr. on Oct. 12 became the president of the County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin, making him the first Native American to serve in that position in the association's 87-year history.

Wilber also serves as the tribal veterans service officer for the Menominee Tribe, so his election is doubly historic since no tribal veterans service officer previously served as president of the association.

"Bruce's election as president of the County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin is something we can all be very proud

of," said Menominee County Board Chairperson Elizabeth Moses. "It is testament to how credible he is as an advocate for veterans and their families, given that his colleagues have asked him to represent their collective interests statewide. Moreover, Bruce's achievement is proof positive that no matter how small we are as an organization, it is possible to make outsized contributions that have far-reaching effects."

Wilber has served as the county and tribal veterans service officer since August 2016. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army, former tribal judge and has served in numerous other capacities as a public servant.



Veterans from American Legion Post 502 were honored at the Wittenberg Elementary/Middle School during the 2021 Veterans Day ceremony.

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Vets 4 Vets offers free Christmas trees for veterans

Vets 4 Vets of Northeast Wisconsin is again offering free Christmas trees to local veterans. The organization partnered with Uncle Paul's Christmas Trees, and vets and their families are welcome to come out from 1-4 p.m. Nov. 26 to cut down a Christmas tree to take home, free of charge.

Advance reservations are requested to join the seventh annual Trees 4 Vets, held at Uncle Paul's Tree Farm, 11489 State Highway 32 in Breed, north of Suring. This family-friendly event will feature "cut your own" Christmas trees, bonfire, hot chocolate and holiday treats. Assistance with cutting the tree will be available, if needed.

To reserve a spot, contact the organization via Facebook page messenger or comment on the Trees 4 Vets post (search Vets 4 Vets of Northeast Wisconsin); by mail at P.O. Box 135, Suring, WI 54174; or call/text Dan at 414-627-9866.

Vets 4 Vets of Northeast Wisconsin is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Suring-based organization made up of veterans and non-veterans that raises funds to provide direct support to enrich the lives of veterans in Northeast Wisconsin. The group also contributes to local veterans service and support agencies.



Enjoying a brisk November 2022 day and the Trees 4 Vets event at Uncle Paul's Tree Farm are, from left, Tom Koenig, Vets4Vets of Northeast Wisconsin President Brandy Rybak, Vice President Steve Robillard, and veteran Tina Christensen.

CONTRIBUTED



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

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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Veterans Day programs in local schools, communities

Area schools are planning special Veterans Day programs for Nov. 10. 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



Signs line North Farm Road on Nov. 5, each with the name of a member of American Legion Post 302, leading to the Oconto Falls Veterans Area Veterans Monument. WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

a.m.

- 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:

NOV. 10

SHAWANO: Fallen Angel Memorial Truck, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Qu-alheim's True Value, 1345 E. Green Bay St. One-of-a-kind memorial pays homage to the fallen Wisconsin men and women of the Persian Gulf wars — Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan.

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.

NOV. 11

WITTENBERG: Veterans Day Ceremony, 10:55 a.m., Ho-Chunk Gaming, N7198 U.S. Highway 45. Keynote speaker Dr. Jeremy Rockman, USMC, Vietnam War combat veteran.

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

PULASKI: Pulaski High School Jazz Veterans Dinner Dance, 7-9 p.m., Pulaski High School, 1040 St. Augustine St.

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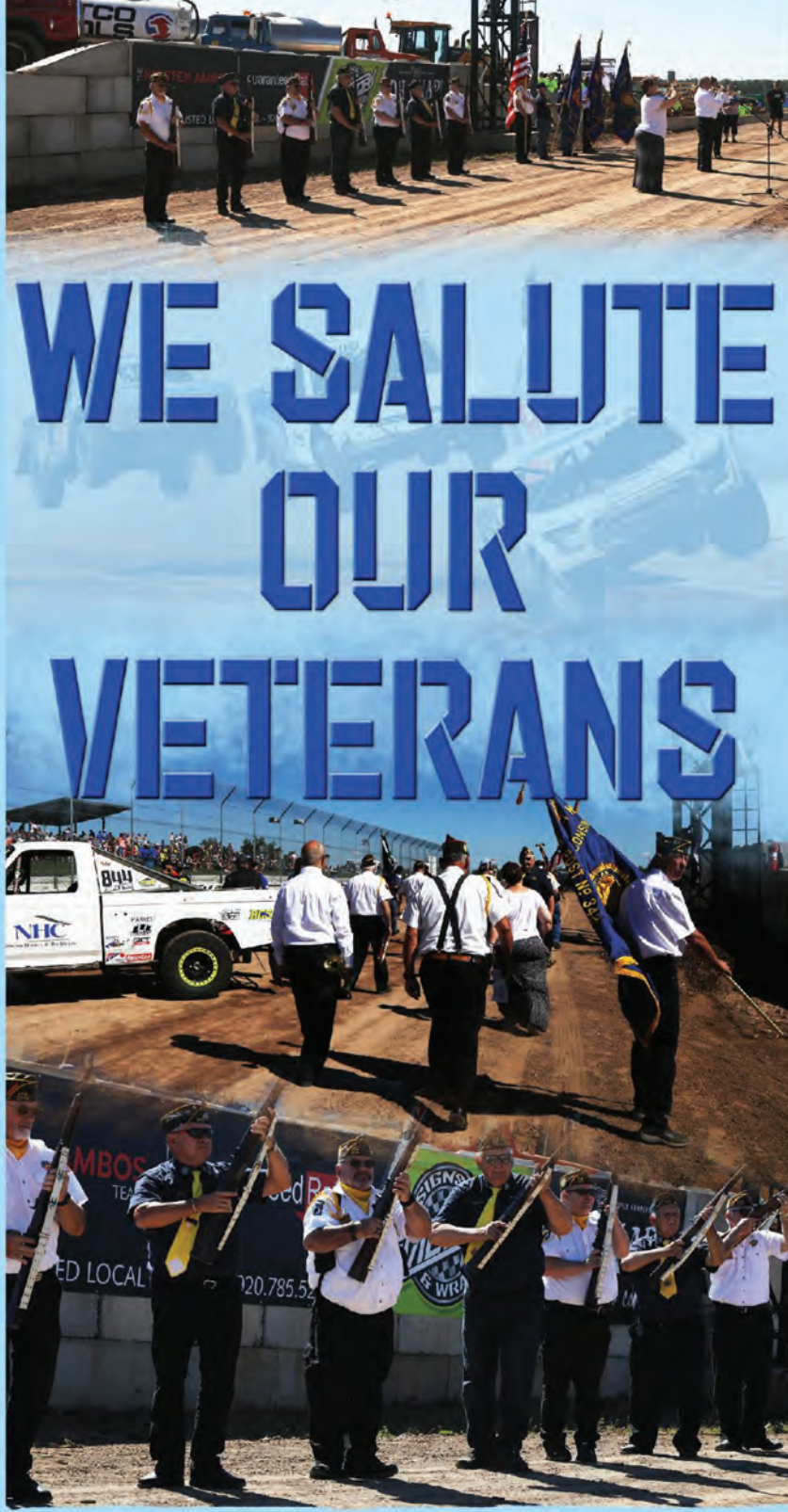
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Operation Green Light for Veterans

Shawano and Oconto counties are among counties across the country that are joining Operation Green Light for Veterans to shine a light on the issues veterans face and highlight the resources available to veterans at the county, state and federal levels.

The initiative of the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO) invites the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs to join Operation Green Light and show support for veterans by lighting public buildings green from Nov. 6-12.

"By shining a green light, county governments and our residents will let veterans know that they are seen, appreciated and supported," said the NACo announcement.

This is the second year that local counties have participated in the Operation Green Light for Veterans initiative.



The United States, Wisconsin and POW/MIA flags in front of the Oconto County Courthouse glow green in November 2022 to support Operation Green Light for Veterans.

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