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Veteran and Avid Volunteer to be Named Assembly ‘Hometown Hero’

MADISON – The Wisconsin State Assembly will recognize Bill Kelly from Langlade County, Wisconsin as a “Hometown Hero” at the upcoming Assembly session on February 12th.

Kelly, a veteran who served in the Philippines and Japan in the late 40s and early 50s, was nominated by his State Representative, Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma), for his work within the Salvation Army in Langlade County. Kelly has been with the organization for the past 18 years. Notably, when he became head of the bell ringers 15 years ago, they brought in \$12,000; by 2015, they were bringing in \$100,000 each year.

“The difference Bill has been able to make in his community is truly remarkable,” said Assembly Majority Leader Jim Steineke (R-Kaukauna), who selected Kelly for the award. “I am proud to have the Assembly recognize his heart for service and giving.”

As a testament to his commitment to the cause, Kelly still braves the cold and snow each winter to bell ring. His spirit of giving back has been a staple of the community and has inspired others around him, young and old, to also turn their attention to charitable causes.

“Bill Kelly not only bravely served his country, but has selflessly given his time and energy to the Salvation Army in our district, engaging the community and completely transforming the organization,” said Rep. Felzkowski. “I look forward to honoring him on Tuesday.”

The Wisconsin State Assembly sees giving back to the community as one of the most valuable characteristics one can have. The Assembly Hometown Heroes program seeks to identify and recognize individuals from around the state who give of themselves to make a difference in our communities and in the lives of those around them. Hometown Hero Award winners are invited and introduced as a special guest at an Assembly floor session and given the opportunity to speak.

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