



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE AMERICAN LEGION CELEBRATES 100 YEARS *Centennial Event Celebrations Throughout Wisconsin*

Portage, WI (March 13, 2019) – The American Legion celebrates its 100th birthday on March 15, 2019. It is the largest wartime veterans service organization with over 2 million members in 13,000 posts across the nation. Wisconsin is home to over 50,000 members and over 500 posts. The American Legion, established by an act of Congress in 1919, was instrumental in getting the original GI Bill through Congress and the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The public and press are invited to an Open House on Saturday, March 16, from 9 a.m. - Noon at the Department Headquarters in Portage, Wisconsin. Visitors may tour the Wisconsin American Legion Museum and Learning Center. Kids can meet Josh Dog and make cards for veterans and active military staff. A Veteran Service Officer along with active members will be onsite to answer questions. Refreshments are provided.

Work of The American Legion comes to life at the local Posts. Wisconsin posts are celebrating and hosting special events throughout year. They will join together September 4-8, 2019, at the Columbia County Fairgrounds for Celebration of Freedom. This statewide public event features the American Vietnam Traveling Tribute Wall and vocal performer, Chris Kroeze. Schools, youth and community groups, families, and veterans are encouraged to join the Wisconsin American Legion as they celebrate our freedom, honor those who have and continue to serve, and teach each other about the importance of patriotism.

Programs and services offered by The American Legion stem from the four pillars upon which it is built: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation; National Security and Foreign Relations; Americanism; and Children and Youth. American Legion members contribute significantly to their individual communities. Members give thousands of pints of blood each year and donate generously by way of scholarships, community projects, emergency aid and youth activities.

In 2018, The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin Service Office located in Milwaukee, assisted veterans and their families in attaining over 335 Million dollars in due benefits. Camp American Legion, in Lake Tomahawk, is known to thousands of Wisconsin Veterans as a place to heal and grow. Since 1925, Camp has provided a camping experience and special programs free of charge to veterans and their families. Thousands of youth have also benefited as part of American Legion Baseball, Boys State, Oratorical Contests, Scouting, Junior Shooting Sports, Scholarships, Junior ROTC and the Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Agency.

The mission of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin is to provide service to veterans, their families and their communities. For more information on the Legion's programs and membership, please visit www.wilegion.org.

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Photos: Wisconsin American Legion Museum and Learning Center
Wisconsin American Legion Headquarters
Josh Dog

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