



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**REP. HINTZ: STATEMENT ON HMONG-LAO VETERANS DAY**

OSHKOSH - Following the designation of May 14th as Hmong-Lao Veterans Day in Wisconsin, Assembly Democratic Leader Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh) issued the following statement:

**“The contributions of Hmong veterans to the United States during the Vietnam War have long gone unrecognized. From rescuing downed American pilots, flying combat missions, to gathering intelligence behind enemy lines, Hmong soldiers fought side by side with American forces to defend our shared values of freedom.**

**“It is unfortunate that Wisconsin’s recognition of Hmong-Lao Veterans Day is long overdue. Many of these veterans have made the long journey home, or have passed on. But Act 31 lives on with their descendants and the communities they’ve built from the ground up.**

**“The creation of Hmong-Lao Veterans Day in Wisconsin enshrines their legacy as Americans and transforms decades of loss and trauma into pride. It symbolizes the years since leaving Southeast Asia and making America their new home. It acknowledges the sacrifices Hmong veterans and elders have endured, lessening the burden of grief for future generations to carry.”**

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