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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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September 29, 2021
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Merrill Student Named Assembly ‘Hometown Hero’

MADISON – The Wisconsin State Assembly recognized Michael Dickman as a “Hometown Hero” yesterday during its legislative session.

Dickman was nominated by his state representative, Calvin Callahan (R-Tomahawk), for his heroic actions that saved a man’s life.

“Michael showed immense bravery and selflessness in the face of danger,” said Assembly Majority Leader Jim Steineke (R-Kaukauna) who selected him for the award. “His courage to wade through deep snow, especially during severe temperatures, remind us all of what it means to be a model citizen.”

Back in 2019, while on his way to school, Dickman followed calls for help through drifts of snow and negative wind chills to Lonnie Strauss who was stuck in the treacherous weather. Strauss had fallen off a loading dock behind a remote building and was trapped for over two hours. Dickman ran to a nearby road for help, but after no one stopped, he continued on to an adjacent building and called emergency services. Strauss was rescued and spent the following night in the hospital with frost bite. Dickman’s actions were deemed to be lifesaving.

“Michael is a truly courageous constituent of mine whose actions saved another person’s life,” said Rep. Callahan. “I am proud to present him with the Hometown Hero Award and encourage him to continue being the brave, young role model for others that he is today.”

Wisconsinites have a long, prominent history of community service and selflessness. In keeping with this tradition, the Wisconsin State Assembly created the Hometown Heroes program to identify and recognize individuals from around the state who are working to make their communities a better place. Award winners are invited to the State Capitol and given an opportunity to speak on the Assembly floor as a special guest.

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Representative Steineke serves as the Assembly Majority Leader in addition to representing Wisconsin’s 5th Assembly District, which includes parts of Brown and Outagamie counties.

[A photo of Rep. Callahan presenting the Hometown Hero Award can be found here.](#)