

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 25, 2017 **Contact:** Roger Putnam 608-577-7175

WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION NAMES NEW STATE ADJUTANT Wisconsin Legion Leads Nation Placing Women in Leadership Positions

(Portage, Wis.) – The Wisconsin American Legion executive committee this week named Amber Nikolai its next state adjutant becoming the first woman to hold that position in Wisconsin history.

"The Wisconsin American Legion is a model for the nation as we provide qualified women leaders in an organization traditionally led by men," said Laurel Clewell, the second woman state commander in state history. "Our state has also provided the first woman to currently head the national organization as well – Denise Rohan. Great credit is due to the Wisconsin Legion, for being an incubator for women leadership and strengthening the commitment to aggressively serve our honorable veterans."

Nikolai is a Navy veteran who served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and was the Agency Liaison for The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Home at King from 2012 until last month. Nikolai has a long and active history of advocating for the care of veterans in the VA system.

"I am honored to serve our more than 53,000 Wisconsin veterans and view it as my mission to work with Commander Clewell, our staff and my executive board to elevate the fight for the rights and services of our veterans," said Nikolai.

Nikolai's appointment is effective immediately. She replaces former adjutant David Kurtz.

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The Wisconsin American Legion is the state's largest veterans' service organization with over 53,000 members and 506 posts in communities across Wisconsin serving troops, veterans and youth since 1919. For more information on the Legion's programs and membership, please visit <u>www.wilegion.org</u>.