



JIM STEINEKE MAJORITY LEADER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 5th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(608) 266-2401
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0005
Rep.Steineke@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

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CONTACT: Rep. Jim Steineke

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(608) 266-2401

Farm Safety Family to be Named Assembly ‘Hometown Heroes’

MADISON – The Wisconsin State Assembly will recognize Bob and Diane Biadasz from Rosholt, Wisconsin as “Hometown Heroes” at the upcoming Assembly session on February 11th.

The Biadasz family, who was nominated by their State Representative, Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point), tragically lost their son, Mike, in a farming accident on August 15, 2016. Mike was agitating a manure pit, which released hydrogen sulfide gas, killing Mike and sixteen cattle nearby. After suffering such a heartbreaking loss, the Biadasz family have worked to educate other farmers about the dangers of manure agitation and the need to use air monitors to detect dangerous gases.

“I commend Bob and Diane for taking a loss no parent should have to endure, and turning that into a selfless act for their community and fellow farmers,” said Assembly Majority Leader Jim Steineke (R-Kaukauna), who selected the Biadasz family for the award. “Their willingness to lead on this issue while simultaneously mourning the loss of their son has surely saved fellow farmers’ lives. I am proud to honor them as Assembly Hometown Heroes.”

The Biadasz family has hosted safety workshops, fundraising events, and initiated media outreach to ensure farmers are educated on the dangers of manure pit agitation. A year after Mike’s death, the Mike Biadasz Farm Safety and Education Memorial Fund donated \$40,000 to the National Farm Medicine Center and Marshfield Clinic Center for Community Outreach to establish a rebate program for farmers who rent portable gas monitors.

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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