



## Office of the County Executive

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### For Immediate Release

**May 20, 2020**

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## **Dozens of Volunteers Place United States Flags at 100+ Cemeteries for Veterans** Individuals, civic groups, and others place over 6,500 flags countywide

*West Bend, WI* – On each Veteran gravesite, United States Flags are placed in the weeks preceding Memorial Day. Washington County utilizes roughly fifteen lead volunteers to coordinate dozens and dozens more to place the flags for the roughly 6,500 Veterans buried in the county. Veterans who pass after Memorial Day each year, will receive a flag and metal Veterans burial marker of their era. Approximately 518 Veteran gravesites in Washington County are [Civil War Soldiers](#).

“Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who work every year to place these flags,” said County Executive Josh Schoemann. “As a Veteran of post-9/11 conflicts, this cause is deeply personal for me. This year it is especially important to remember the Veterans, who have passed. Each day we lose Veterans who served in WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the war on terrorism. We cannot overlook them, even during a pandemic. I am proud of our citizens who ensured our Veterans are not forgotten.”

Last year on Memorial Day weekend, County Executive Schoemann and his wife, Jodi, joined County Clerk Ashley Reichert and her husband, Justin, a Veteran, to organize a nearly forty-mile trek across the county. The purpose of the campaign was to fund an endowment to forever honor the Veterans of Washington County and construct a monument to honor Veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom at the Wisconsin 9/11 Memorial.

An endowment was specifically created to ensure the permanent funding for the remembrance of Veterans each Memorial Day. The flag program costs approximately \$6,500.00, with increases each year due to higher costs of flags and markers, as well as more deceased Veterans.

For more information on the County’s flag program or how to get involved, please contact Kurt Rusch, County Veterans Service Officer.

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