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Contact: Adjutant Nathan Gear
608-745-1090

Contact: Legis. Chair Al Labelle
715-207-8870

Contact: Adjutant David Green
608-221-5276

Veteran Groups Request Property Tax Relief for State's Most Severely Injured Veterans

Madison, WI- Wisconsin's top 3 Veteran Service Organizations appeared before the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Revenue yesterday expressing their support for SB 243, a bill that would reduce the eligibility threshold to claim the veterans and surviving spouses property tax credit.

SB 243/AB 245 is a bi-partisan effort authored by State Senator Andre Jacque (R)-De Pere, State Senator Lena Taylor (D)-Milwaukee, and Representative James Edming (R)-Glen Flora. Currently, the Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit is only available to those Veterans who have received a 100% service-connected or individual unemployability rating as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs. SB 243/AB 245 would expand the credit, on a pro-ratio basis, to those Veterans who have a 70, 80, or 90% service-connected rating.

"We strongly support the eligibility expansion of the Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit contained in SB 243/AB 245. This will be extremely beneficial to many in our membership who have sacrificed, both physically and mentally, in defense of our freedoms. We do not view SB 243/AB 245 as an earned benefit, but as bills which honor their sacrifice." said Matt Kempainen, State Commander for the Disabled American Veterans. "After reviewing the Wisconsin demographics compiled by VA, it is apparent to us that these bills will help many aging Wisconsin veterans, who have limited income and resources. To honor their sacrifice, we urge passage of SB 243/AB 245." he further added.

"SB 243/AB 245 provides a long overdue and vitally necessary hand-up to those who served our country bravely and suffered severe injuries as a result" says David Wischer, State Commander for the Wisconsin American Legion. "With the ever-increasing property tax faced by homeowners in Wisconsin, many of these severely injured veterans are unable to afford owning a home, or worse, face losing the one they have. We must fight to assure they are not deprived of this very basic element of the American dream that they fought to protect, home ownership."

"I am proud to join with my fellow state commanders on behalf of our over 90,000 combined members in advocating for SB 243/AB 245" says VFW State Commander Jason Johns. "This legislation, when enacted, would be a game-changer for so many of our severely injured Wisconsin Veterans. They have sacrificed so much and continue to live with the physical, mental, and moral injuries they incurred while defending our liberties. The state legislature has a wonderful opportunity to help these Veterans afford a home in which to raise their families or continue living in the one they did."