



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GARY HEBL
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
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INFORMATIONAL COLUMN

HONOR VETERANS' SACRIFICE AND SERVICE EVERYDAY

MADISON - November 11th is Veteran's Day, when we honor the soldiers that have defended our county in the past, and the future veterans who will come home soon. Forty-eight Wisconsin soldiers have died in the war in Iraq and our thoughts are with their families, as well as with the thousands of young men and women currently serving in that conflict.

I don't believe that we should only honor veterans one day out of the year. That is why I have maintained my commitment to strong veteran's benefits programs. The least we can do as a county and as a state is take care of the soldiers and the families that have sacrificed so much to keep us safe. Veteran's benefits were first started following the Revolutionary War, and today we continue that legacy, helping veterans with their education, employability, housing, and health care.

Some soldiers that come home may be permanently disabled and in need of our support. For that reason, I supported the state budget the Legislature passed last summer. It contained expanded benefits for veterans and for their families, including provisions that would allow the spouses or children of veterans who died or were disabled in the line of duty to have 100 percent of their tuition and fees waived at any UW system campus or technical college. Disabled veterans who wish to go to college can also have half of their tuition and fees waived.

Certain veterans and their families can also apply for a credit for the full amount of their property taxes. This benefit allows disabled or elderly veterans, spouses of veterans killed while on duty, or the spouses of certain other veterans to remain in their homes. New provisions also make it easier for veterans to buy, build or improve their homes. It expands eligibility for housing loans and reduces restrictions on their use.

For more information on eligibility for veteran's benefits, please call the Dane County Veterans Service Office at 608-266-4158, or contact my office at 608-266-7678. Respect for veterans is one of the values I hold dear in Wisconsin. Once they have served honorably they should not be forced to struggle at home. I will continue to support programs that will benefit our veterans.

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