

For Immediate Release: November 4, 2021 Contact: Rep. Nancy VanderMeer (608) 266-8366

Receives Award from Funeral Service & Cremation Alliance of Wisconsin

Madison – On Tuesday, Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) received the Friend of Funeral Service Award from the <u>Funeral Service & Cremation Alliance of Wisconsin</u> at their annual conference in Pewaukee. It is the first time that the Funeral Service & Cremation Alliance of Wisconsin has given out a legislative award.

VanderMeer was recognized primarily for her advocacy and recent legislative efforts on behalf of the organization's members from throughout the state and the 70th Assembly District. During the 2017-2018 Legislative Session, Rep. VanderMeer authored, passed, and was able to get <u>legislation</u> signed into law that makes it easier for individuals throughout the state to enter the funeral services field and complete ongoing professional training while aligning with appropriate industry expectations. Additionally, during the 2019-2020 Legislative Session, VanderMeer authored, passed, and was able to get <u>legislation</u> signed into law that addressed issues that Milwaukee Area Technical College, the state of Wisconsin's only mortuary training program, was having with statutory training requirements and subsequently, attracting and retaining students from Wisconsin in their program.

"I'm happy to receive the award and have enjoyed the chance to work with the Funeral Service & Cremation Alliance of Wisconsin," VanderMeer said. "The public recognition is nice, but what's really special is hearing directly from residents of Monroe and Wood Counties, in particular, that have benefitted from these legislative efforts. For a variety of reasons, these types of very personal services are important to have close to home for local residents and important to have access to for local communities. Both of these legislative efforts were geared toward training Wisconsin workers close to home and eliminating outdated statutes to align with industry expectations so that that service providers can meet the demand for their services, and workers interested in the profession can study, train, and enter into the industry here in Wisconsin," VanderMeer continued.

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The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties