



## **BRAD PFAFF** **STATE SENATOR**

### **Senator Brad Pfaff: Honoring Our Veterans with Action and Gratitude**

Each November, as our communities gather to celebrate Veterans Day, we are reminded of the extraordinary courage and commitment of the men and women who have selflessly fought for our nation's freedom. But we must remember, Veterans Day is more than a date on the calendar, it is a moment to say thank you and to renew our promise to those who have served.

Veterans were on the front lines defending our freedom and democracy, often far from home and at a personal cost. Their strength and sacrifice shaped the story of America, and their continued service in our communities keeps that story alive.

I am honored that part of my role as a Wisconsin State Senator and member of the State Building Commission includes investing in those who served. From improving our state's veteran cemeteries to championing a new Wisconsin Veterans Museum, I've worked to honor their legacy and ensure their stories are told to future generations. But honoring Wisconsin's veterans goes beyond preserving history, it is also about taking care of veterans living in our communities.

I'm proud to support new legislation that would provide additional funding to the Veterans Mental Health Grant Program. We know that people who have served in the military face unique mental health challenges, and it is our job to ensure they get the help they need. Additional funding for this program should transcend party lines, as it provides targeted support to mental health providers who care for our veterans. This bill is about connecting veterans to care close to home and ensuring that no one who has served our country faces a crisis alone.

I recently co-sponsored legislation to fund Wisconsin's GI Bill fully. Over the past 20 years, access to the GI Bill has expanded, but funding hasn't kept up, forcing colleges and technical schools to cover the shortfall in tuition reimbursements for veteran students. Our bill ensures the state honors its commitment by providing the resources schools need to support those who've served.

Earlier this year, the State Senate also approved legislation to extend veteran benefits to those who served in Laos in support of the United States during the Vietnam War. The bill, providing long-overdue recognition of their sacrifice, is now awaiting approval by the State Assembly.

Freedom isn't free—it's protected by the courage of those who serve. This Veterans Day, let's honor our heroes with action that guarantees every veteran receives the respect, support, and care they've earned.