

WHEREAS; members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community have served honorably in the United States Armed Forces throughout the nation’s history; and

WHEREAS; LGBTQ service members have defended the United States in every major conflict of the modern era and have contributed to the strength, readiness, and effectiveness of the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS; generations of LGBTQ service members served under policies and social conditions that required them to conceal their identities or risk investigation, discrimination, discharge, or the loss of military careers and benefits; and

WHEREAS; on September 20, 2011, the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” took effect, allowing gay, lesbian, and bisexual service members to serve openly and marking an important milestone in the history of the United States military; and

WHEREAS; despite this historic milestone, there has been a significant increase in discriminatory policies in recent years, making continued efforts to combat hateful rhetoric, policies, and legislation that target LGBTQ service members—transgender individuals, in particular—more important than ever to ensure that all LGBTQ people are treated equitably and with dignity under the law; and

WHEREAS; LGBTQ veterans continue to strengthen their communities through public service, civic leadership, volunteerism, entrepreneurship, education, advocacy, and service to their fellow veterans; and

WHEREAS; recognizing LGBTQ Veterans Day honors the service and sacrifice of LGBTQ veterans from every generation and affirms that all who have worn the uniform of the United States deserve the gratitude and respect of the nation they served; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins Wisconsinites in recognizing the service, sacrifice, and continuing contributions of LGBTQ veterans and expressing gratitude to all who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim September 20 2026 as

LGBTQ VETERANS DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 16th day of September 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State