WHEREAS; millions of Americans have served in the United States Armed Forces to preserve and defend the freedoms and quality of life enjoyed by folks across the country; and

WHEREAS; according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), there are more than 18 million veterans nationwide, including more than 350,000 living in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; every year, Veterans Day and Veteran Recognition Week present Wisconsinites and Americans with the opportunity to recognize those who have served and to thank them and their families for the sacrifices they have made on behalf of the people of the United States; and

WHEREAS; veterans of every conflict and war deserve to be honored for their bravery, service, and sacrifice, and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) has long maintained its commitment to helping veterans succeed in their civilian lives by offering vital assistance to them and their families in the form of healthcare, vocational and rehabilitation programming, services, and grants; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, the state of Wisconsin joins WDVA, the VA, and community organizations that serve veterans across the state, along with all Wisconsinites and Americans, in expressing sincere gratitude for the brave and selfless individuals who have served on behalf of the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim November 11 2023 as

VETERANS DAY

and further proclaim November 5 through 11 2023 as

VETERAN RECOGNITION WEEK

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 30th day of October 2023.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State