



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER #236**

**Relating to a Proclamation that the Flag of the United States and the Flag of the State of Wisconsin Be Flown at Half-Staff as a Mark of Respect for Sergeant Jack Hohlfeld Who Lost His Life in World War II**

**WHEREAS**, United States Army Air Forces Sergeant Jack Hohlfeld, son, brother, uncle, hero, and friend to many, tragically lost his life during his service in World War II;

**WHEREAS**, born in Vernon County and raised in La Crosse and Trempealeau Counties, Sergeant Hohlfeld voluntarily enlisted in the United States Army in 1938 and was assigned to the Philippines as a member of the Headquarters Squadron, 24th Pursuit Group;

**WHEREAS**, on December 8, 1941, Sergeant Hohlfeld and members of the 24th Pursuit Group were engaged in combat and were soon overtaken by Japanese forces and forced to surrender as prisoners of war;

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Hohlfeld survived the Bataan Death March and was held captive in the Cabanatuan Japanese POW Camp until his death on December 26, 1942, after which he was buried in Common Grave 811 with five other service members, before being moved to the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in 1948;

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Hohlfeld's family, including his late mother, Mary, and niece, Sharon, have worked tirelessly to advocate for his identification, and his remains were positively identified by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency in May 2024;

**WHEREAS**, the recipient of the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, WWII POW Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal with Foreign Service clasp, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one Bronze Service Star, WWII Victory Medal, Presidential Unit Citation with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Honorable Service Lapel Button-World War II, Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, and Philippine Defense Ribbon with Bronze Star, Wisconsin proudly welcomes Sergeant Hohlfeld home; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Hohlfeld will be buried on August 26, 2024, in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, TONY EVERS**, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State, hereby order that the flag of the United States and the flag of the State of Wisconsin shall be flown at half-staff at all buildings, grounds, and military installations of the State of Wisconsin, beginning at sunrise on Monday, August 26, 2024, and ending at sunset on that date.

**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 twenty-third day of August in the year of two thousand twenty-four.

TONY EVERS  
Governor



By the Governor:

  
SARAH GODLEWSKI  
Secretary of State