



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER #241**

**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 Staff Sergeant Ralph H. Bode Who Lost His Life in World War II**

**WHEREAS**, United States Army Air Force Staff Sergeant Ralph H. Bode tragically lost his life during his service in World War II at the age of 20;

**WHEREAS**, a native of Racine, Staff Sgt. Bode was a member of the 700th Bombardment Squadron, 445th Bombardment Group, 2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force in the European Theater;

**WHEREAS**, on September 27, 1944, Staff Sgt. Bode's aircraft was shot down while on a bombing mission over Kassel, Germany, and a finding of death was issued by the War Department on September 28, 1945;

**WHEREAS**, in September 1951, the American Graves Registration Command recovered remains from the crash site and interred them at the Luxembourg American Cemetery in Luxembourg and the North African American Cemetery in Tunisia;

**WHEREAS**, Staff Sgt. Bode's remains were positively identified by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, and he was accounted for in December 2023;

**WHEREAS**, a rosette will be placed next to Staff Sgt. Bode's name on the Walls of the Missing at the Luxembourg American Cemetery;

**WHEREAS**, the people of the United States and the state of Wisconsin are eternally grateful for the service, selflessness, and sacrifice of Staff Sgt. Bode and welcome him home so that he may finally be laid to rest; and

**WHEREAS**, Staff Sgt. Bode will be buried on September 27, 2024, in Racine.

**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 Friday, September 27, 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-fifth day of September in the year of two thousand twenty-four.

TONY EVERS  
Governor

By the Governor:

  
SARAH GODLEWSKI  
Secretary of State