



THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin
Announces David Wischer as Department Commander**
Wischer's focus will include Veteran suicide prevention and awareness

Portage, WI – The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin, is proud to announce the election of David Wischer as Department Commander at the 101st Annual Convention in Middleton on July 20, 2019.

Commander Wischer is passionate about preventing the loss of our service men and women through suicide: “We are losing too many heroes. During my year as Commander, I will strive to bring better awareness and understanding to Veteran suicide and help provide more effective programs for Veterans in need of assistance with substance abuse.”

To accomplish his mission, Commander Wischer has established the theme of “Focus on the Future by Moving Forward Together.” According to data from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, 132 Wisconsin veterans committed suicide in 2016. Commander Wischer will travel throughout the state to raise awareness of the challenges that our veterans face. Camp American Legion serves as a safe place for veterans and their families to heal and reconnect. Commander Wischer will expand services and programming through Camp American Legion to raise suicide awareness and better serve our veterans and their families.

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Commander Wischer currently resides in West Allis. He is a veteran of the United States Army, 1974-1977, assigned to the 3rd Battalion/77th Armored Division at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Commander Wischer is a 39-year Honorary Life Member of the H.A. Todd Jr., Wisconsin Motor Post #537 of Milwaukee.

He has served on the National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee; served as the Department Vice Commander, Department Fundraising Committee, Department Sergeant at Arms, Department Membership Committee, District Sergeant at Arms and chaired many fundraising, membership, Troop and Family Support Initiatives. Wischer was recognized by National for his efforts in revitalizing the 5th District's Post 479. He is a “Badger Big 10” Membership Recruiting award recipient and served as the 2010 National Convention Parade Marshal.

A volunteer at The American Legion Badger Boy's State, Wischer always supports Americanism programs while serving as Sergeant at Arms for the Department's Regional and State Oratorical finals. As The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin focuses on the future, Wischer will reassemble the Strategic Planning Committee and work with them to actively develop and execute a plan to: assess organizational structure, produce better leaders through training, increase active membership, improve communications and improve finances.

The Commander has two sons, Steven and James, and is grandfather to Ethan, Jack, and Natalie.

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The Wisconsin American Legion is the state's largest veterans' service organization with over 53,000 members and 500 posts in communities across Wisconsin serving troops, veterans and youth since 1919. For more information on the Legion's programs and membership, please visit www.wilegion.org.

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The mission of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin is to provide service to veterans, their families and their communities.