



JAMES W. EDMING

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 87TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony in Support of Assembly Bill 245

Assembly Committee on Ways and Means

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Good morning Chairman Macco and committee members. I am grateful for this opportunity to come before you today and speak in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 245. I would like to thank Senator Jacque for continuing to work with me on this important legislation.

For many years Wisconsin has been a national leader in providing benefits and services to our veterans. AB 245 builds upon that by expanding the eligibility for the Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit. Currently, a veteran's service-connected disability rating must be 100% in order to qualify for this credit. Under AB 245, veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 70% and above would now qualify. The maximum credit that an eligible person could claim is multiplied by the percentage of that person's service-connected disability rating. For example, an eligible veteran with a 70% disability rating may claim a 70% property tax credit.

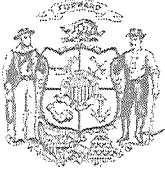
As I've traveled around my district over the past few years, increasing the eligibility for the Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit is one of the primary concerns I've heard from veterans and veterans' organizations. From my conversations with colleagues here in the legislature and our statewide veterans' organizations, I've learned that this issue is also a priority for veterans across our state.

I am sure many of you have seen news stories of deserving wounded combat veterans receiving support from the community and non-profits to either build or renovate a home to accommodate their disability. However, these improvements often increase the property value and the amount of property tax owed. Due to their injuries, a number of these veterans are living on fixed incomes and struggle to pay their property taxes. Unfortunately, under current law unless a veteran has a 100% service-connected disability rating they do not qualify for property tax relief under the Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit.

As I'm sure you know, Wisconsin has some of the highest property taxes in the nation. I know there are some who have concerns that this legislation only provides property tax relief for a small number of Wisconsinites and feel that we should focus on providing broader property tax relief. While I support efforts to find ways to provide more property tax relief, I believe that increasing the eligibility for the Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit is a great first step.

When our veterans joined our nation's armed forces, they did so knowing that they may give their life in service to our country. It is only right, that we help to better support those who were significantly injured while serving in our armed forces. By expanding the eligibility for this tax credit we are providing needed property tax relief that will allow more of our disabled veterans to stay in their homes.

Mr. Chairman and members, I ask for your support of AB 245 and thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you today.



ANDRÉ JACQUE

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*Testimony before the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
State Senator André Jacque
October 12, 2021*

Chairman Macco and Committee Members,

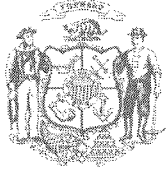
Thank you for holding this hearing on Assembly Bill 245, the Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit Fairness Act.

This legislation reduces the eligibility threshold for an eligible veteran or the unremarried surviving spouse of an eligible veteran to claim the veterans and surviving spouses property tax credit under the individual income tax system. Currently, a veteran must have a service-connected disability rating of 100 percent. Under this bill, a veteran or their surviving spouse may claim the credit if the veteran's service-connected disability rating is at least 70 percent, and the maximum credit that a claimant may claim is multiplied by the percentage of the claimant's service-connected disability rating (i.e. a veteran with a 70% service-connected disability rating may claim a 70% property tax credit). A memo from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau estimated that the net effect on our state's General Fund would be less than \$1 million annually for making the changes proposed by AB 245 for veterans with an 80% or greater service-connected disability, with a greater effect for those between a 70% and 80% rating.

It is thoroughly appropriate for veterans with serious service-connected disabilities that those without a 100% rating should still qualify for significant property tax relief on at least a prorated basis to assist them in staying in the homes and communities here in Wisconsin that they contribute and have contributed so much toward. For example, combat wounded veterans returning from overseas to Wisconsin have received assistance in building a home (or remodeling to accommodate their disabilities) from nonprofit groups, only to be challenged in paying their property taxes on a fixed income and challenged health because of the improvements and the fact that they are ineligible for the Disabled Veterans Tax Credit because their service-connected disability is only rated at 90% or less by the Federal government. Beyond compromised health, fixed incomes, and unemployment or underemployment, there is also frequently a loss of household income due to the need for the spouse of a disabled veteran to leave their job or reduce hours to care for their loved one.

The Wisconsin Disabled Veterans & Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit provides eligible veterans and unremarried, surviving spouses a refundable property tax credit for their primary, in-state residence and up to one acre of land. The veteran would have had to been a resident of Wisconsin at the time of death for an unremarried spouse to qualify for the benefit. The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs verifies the veteran's eligibility for the program. The credit is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue through the state income tax return. Claimants who choose to receive the Disabled Veteran credit are unable to receive the WI Renters and Homeowners Property Tax Credit.

Identical legislation ([2019 SB 116](#)) passed the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Revenue and Financial Institutions last session by a unanimous 9-0 vote, and the Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military



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Affairs (2017 AB 436) the session prior by a unanimous 14-0 vote, with strong support from numerous veterans groups who have testified in support, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, County Veterans Service Officer Association of Wisconsin, AMVETS, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

When they deployed, our veterans wrote out a blank check with their lives to defend our way of life, and we will never be able to fully repay them. This legislation is a common sense way to better meet our ongoing commitment to those who have sacrificed and suffered hardship for our freedom.

Thank you for your consideration of Assembly Bill 245.



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

Department of Wisconsin

**STATEMENT OF
MATTHEW KEMPAINEN
DAV WISCONSIN COMMANDER
ACCOMPANIED BY
AL LABELLE
DAV WISCONSIN BENEFITS PROTECTION TEAM LEADER
RICHARD MARBES
DAV PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
AND
MICHAEL A. HERT
IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 12, 2021**

Chairman Macco and distinguished Members of the Committee:

Good morning! Thank you for allowing DAV (Disabled American Veterans) this opportunity to present our view on Assembly Bill 245 (AB 245) Relating to: *reducing the eligibility threshold to claim the veterans and surviving spouses property tax credit.*

As you may know, DAV is a non-profit veterans service organization (VSO) comprised of over 1 million wartime service-disabled veterans, nationwide. In Wisconsin, we have nearly 15,000 members.

Each year, DAV helps more than 1 million veterans with Benefits, Transportation, Advocacy, Employment, and Volunteerism. Well over Eighty percent (80%) of our total expenditures go to Service.

All our members are wartime wounded, injured or ill veterans, many of them severely. They have sacrificed much in defense of our freedoms.

DAV WISCONSIN, 1253 Scheuring Road, Suite A, De Pere, WI 54115-1070
Phone: (920) 338-8620 Fax: (920) 338-8621 e-mail: gbdav@sbcglobal.net

For those who do not know me, I am DAV State Commander Matt Kempainen. For 7-years I served in the U.S. Army as an Infantryman and during my time of service, I was deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq 3-times.

During these deployments, I participated in numerous reconnaissance operations. Many involved engagements with hostile forces. I have been blown up multiple times but never physically wounded. Each reconnaissance operation was unique, but all were intense.

Upon separation, readjustment to the private sector was difficult. Thanks to VA services and my involvement with DAV, I have achieved a degree of normalcy. Helping veterans has given me purpose

The same cannot be said for 15 of my 'battle buddies'. Their readjustment difficulties lead them to self-destructive behavior, eventually leading to suicide. May they Rest in Peace.

Regarding AB 245, the bill expands eligibility to the Wisconsin Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit to veterans with a 70% service-connected disability rating as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The property tax will be prorated.

Veterans with a 70% rating will pay 30% of their property tax and the remaining 70% is credited. 80% pays 20% with the remaining 80% credited. 90% pay 10% with 90% credited. Currently, only veterans with 100% are eligible for the Property Tax Credit. They pay no property tax.

This bill will touch more than just veterans. Since most veterans live off limited means, the returned money will be used for essentials like house and car repairs which in turn will help others in the community.

Additionally, it will help lighten the burden of affected veterans and make their sacrifice have more purpose. As a 100% service-connected veteran, I find the extra money a big relief knowing it will provide essentials for my family in times of need.

In the last legislative session, an identical bill was the #1 priority of the Big 3, consisting of The American Legion, DAV, and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Despite our efforts, it met some opposition in the legislature. Sadly, it stalled. To prevent a reoccurrence, we intend to double our efforts.

In this session, AB 245 will again be the #1 priority of the Big 3. DAV's emphasis will be the sacrifice of our membership in defense of freedom. We do not view AB 245 as an earned benefit, but as bill which honors our sacrifice.

It is now my pleasure to turn our testimony over to Benefits Protection Team Leader (BPTL) Al Labelle.

BPTL Labelle

Good morning! Thank you, Chairman Macco, for holding this important hearing. We look forward to working with you to see AB 245 moves out of Committee as the first step in its final passage.

DAV is heavily involved in legislation both on Capitol Hill in Washington and here in Madison. We do this to see those who sacrificed for our freedoms receive the benefits they earned and to honor those heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice.

For those not familiar with my military background, I am a Navy veteran who mainly served on the USS Okinawa LPH-3 which was basically an aircraft carrier for helicopters.

In 1967 during the Vietnam Conflict, we performed 9 amphibious landing operations in 7 months. Once an operation was underway, we became a Combat Hospital ship, treating wounded and KIAs. The wounded were placed on the Starboard side of the hangar deck while the Killed-In-Actions or KIAs were on the Port side.

The wounded went to a makeshift ICU and surgery rooms The KIAs went to the ship's morgue which emanated a pungent odor which caused personnel to become nauseous and to gag.

For those who may have further interest in this subject, there is video entitled *Vietnam, 1967 – Amphibious Combat – Chapter 2* on YouTube.¹

On AB 245, DAV has always been a strong supporter of the Wisconsin Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit and advocated for its original passage and its previous expansions.

After reviewing the Wisconsin demographics compiled by VA, it is apparent to us that that this bill will help many aging veterans.² Many of them live with limited income and resources.

The study shows well over half the veterans residing in Wisconsin who receive VA Compensation are 65 years or older. If expanded to 55 years or older, it becomes an extremely significant majority.

Additionally, the population of Wisconsin is graying.³ We believe expanding eligibility for the Property Tax Credit may provide a remedy to this situation. This expansion is a potential inducement for younger transitioning veterans, seeking employment, to move to the state.

It is now my honor to introduce DAV Past National Commander (PNC) Richard “Dick” Marbes whose efforts in helping veterans in need is legendary.

PNC Marbes

Good morning! Thank you, Al, for the kind words.

Briefly, in 1955 I enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. While performing my duties in Germany, I suffered a severe injury which required my medical evacuation to the United States and resulted in amputation of my right leg.

¹ *Vietnam, 1967 – Amphibious Combat – Chapter 2*:
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=dXwng8gvHJg&fbclid=IwAR2fhSgrTLK65-LIEKdKW7ADwr9jM3E2y8r8IUqm8OjkREdzvXggMX5Umml&d=n>

² Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Data Governance and Analytics, United States Veterans Eligibility Trends & Statistics (USVETS) 2018. Prepared by National Center for Veterans Analysis & Statistics

³ Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for Wisconsin: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019, U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, June 2020

Following rehabilitation at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, I was medically retired in 1958.

Subsequently, I became heavily involved with DAV at the Chapter, State and National level. In 1993, I was elected DAV National Commander. During my tenure, many innovative programs were instituted which became the foundation of DAV's emphasis on Service to veterans.

Today on the national level, I serve as President of the DAV Charitable Service Trust which supports nonprofit organizations that provide services to veterans, their caregivers, and families.

At the state level, I serve as State Treasurer and co-Transportation Manager of the DAV van program, which provides veterans free rides to their VA medical appointments.

At the chapter level, I am involved in our grants to needy veterans. Additionally, I continue to be a volunteer driver in the DAV van program if needed.

Performing these many duties requires me to spend many hours at DAV State Headquarters. A significant number of calls we receive concern the expansion of the property tax credit. The following is typical:

"Currently, my husband is at 90%. He is 65 now and unemployable. It will be a godsend to my husband and me if AB 245 goes through, especially since our expenses are dramatically increasing like the cost of my medical insurance going up to \$1,200 per month."

As a long-time veteran advocate, it is my belief that the legislature needs to pass this bill. The need is great.

To conclude our testimony, it is my pleasure to introduce Immediate Past Commander Mike Hert.

IPC Hert

Thank you, Dick!

My family's love of this nation led me to enlist in the military. My father served in World War II and my son is currently serving in the Army.

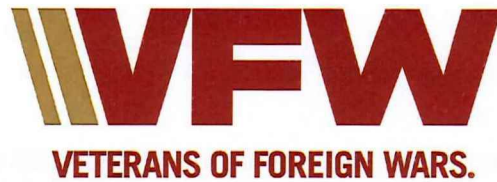
Counting my time on Active Duty, in the National Guard and the Army Reserves, I served a total of 31 years, protecting our nation. I started as a Private and rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel before being medically retired due to multiple orthopedic issues.

My military service included one tour in Afghanistan, two tours in Iraq, and two tours in the Horn of Africa. At each location, disposal of waste was done using Burn Pits which emitted noxious toxins. My medical record shows 15 documented encounters with burn pit toxins. Currently, I suffer from asthma and scarring on my left lung due to toxic exposure.

I am the Immediate Past Department for DAV. During my tenure, I attended many chapter meetings and many other veteran events. This made me well aware how important expansion of the property tax credit is in the veterans' community. It is desperately needed.

Pursuant to our Resolution 2021-77, DAV strongly supports AB 245 as written. We urge this Committee and the legislature to pass the bill, hopefully unanimously, in an expeditious manner.

This concludes our testimony, Mr. Chairman. We would be pleased to respond to any questions you or other Committee Members may have.



Wisconsin

October 12, 2021

Chairman Macco and Members of the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means;

The Veterans of Foreign Wars-Department of Wisconsin expresses its support for AB 245 and thanks Representative Macco and the committee for holding this hearing today. Special thanks to Representative James Edming and the 26 bi-partisan co-sponsors who have brought this bill forth. AB 245 is the #1 legislative priority for the VFW and if there were only one Veterans-related bill the legislature passes this session, we urge it to be this one.

Since September 11, 2001, the United States military has been at a non-stop state of war and military readiness never seen before in our nation's history. From Afghanistan to Iraq, Libya to Syria, Yemen to Niger, the Philippines to Indonesia, and countless other locations around the globe, our brave men and women have been answering the call to protect our liberties. After their return, they have been diagnosed with numerous physical, mental, and moral injuries which have detrimentally impacted their daily lives. Although the federal VA has determined in its infinite wisdom that these Veterans can attain and maintain "gainful" employment, for many, there is nothing gainful about it. Their income generating potential is forever diminished and their choice of career is forever limited. AB 245 would be a game-changer for these Veterans and its passage will allow them to afford the purchase of a home in which to raise a family, or often, to stay in the home they did.

When it comes to property tax relief for our most severely injured Veterans, Wisconsin lags its Midwest neighbors. Iowa offers an exemption of almost \$2,000 if one serves in the military for 18 months or more; Minnesota provides significant reductions in the market value assessed upon homes owned by those disabled Veterans who are 70% or more; and Illinois offers full property tax exemption for 70% or more service-connected Veterans. That's right, Illinois already provides 100% property tax relief to those Veterans who are 70% or more service connected. AB 245 does not even go this far yet this is the 3rd legislative session that the VFW and our fellow VSOs have pursued its passage. What is Wisconsin waiting for? Passing AB 245 not only brings us more in-line with our neighbors, but it also sends a clear message to our state's most severely injured Veterans that their elected officials care about reducing the ever-increasing property tax burden they face. By doing so, we also raise the profile of Wisconsin as the place where we want Veterans to settle down to after leaving the military. Make no mistake, when active duty servicemembers are transitioning out, they compare the different benefits offered by states they are considering moving to. Providing a benefit such as AB 245 would establish, will certainly result in more hard-working Veterans moving to Wisconsin which will strengthen our economy and our local communities.

As you consider this bill with your staff and colleagues, please keep in mind that AB 245 is not a “hand-out”, and it is certainly not “special treatment.” It is the RIGHT thing to do for those who raised their right hand for you, and it honors the promise to provide them with the treatment and benefits they need upon their return. There should be nothing “special” about honoring a promise, especially to those who wore our nation’s uniform in the defense of each one of us.

Further, it is no secret, that we as a nation are confronted by an epidemic of Veteran suicide and have been trying desperately to curb its tide. Efforts have been made in mental health counseling, employment assistance, and numerous other areas. Everyone in this room knows the impact on your psyche if you cannot provide for your family but what if you are a severely disabled Veteran who is already struggling mentally? Imagine the detrimental impact when telling your spouse and kids they cannot move into a home due to high property taxes, or even worse, telling them they are losing the house they are in? This may be the straw that breaks a Veteran’s back, and they become another unfortunate statistic. AB 245 is an opportunity for our state legislature to provide an invaluable tool in addressing Veteran suicide and I ask you to keep this in mind as you debate its passage.

The over 26,000 members of the VFW in Wisconsin have made the collective decision to pursue this legislation for as long as it takes to become law. They are watching and they are asking for your support of AB 245. Please help us make a real-world positive impact in the lives of Wisconsin’s severely injured Veterans and their families.

Thank you,

Jason E. Johns

State Legislative Committee Chair
Immediate Past State Commander
Veterans of Foreign Wars-Department of Wisconsin

The American Legion,
Department of Wisconsin
2930 American Legion Dr.
Portage WI 53901
(608) 745-1090
wilegion.org



Founded on four pillars:
• Veterans Affairs &
Rehabilitation
• National Security
• Americanism
• Children & Youth

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

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee,

Thank you for holding this hearing on AB-245. I want to thank the authors and their staffs for the work they have put into this proposal.

The American Legion is the largest Veterans Service Organization in the Nation. In Wisconsin, we have over 50,000 members. We have just over a century of advocating for veterans and service members.

"to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan"

A Lincoln
March 4, 1865

These words from the closing of President Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural Address continue to challenge us as both a state and nation. The American Legion accepted this challenge over a century. One of our four founding pillars is Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. This includes their families.

It is from this foundation that we come before you today in support of AB-245. This proposal reduces the threshold for claiming the disabled veteran and surviving spouse property tax credit from a 100% disability rating to 70%. I have included for you information on similar programs from our neighboring states. Each state provides a different benefit. Wisconsin would not be the first or only state in the region to have a threshold below 100%.

A similar bill was heard in the last legislature. A question was raised by committee members in the Assembly concerning means testing. This is not only unacceptable, it does not comply with the uniformity clause of the Wisconsin Constitution. Some of our neighbors do have limits; however, they do not have our constitution.

A member of Post 216 in Lodi is a Viet Nam era veteran. He served in country in the mid to late 60's. Norm supported his family as a custodian in the local school system. His wife cared for children. He has diabetes, an agent orange presumptive disease. He also has stage four lung cancer. He was finally given a disability rating of 100%. This property tax credit would have made a difference earlier than it did if this was enacted previously. The Lodi School District is a property rich lower income district. This affected his property tax bill each year.

The veterans affected by this proposal reside in every legislative district in the state. The data is in your folder for FY 2019.

These individuals answered the call of the nation. They were willing to make the sacrifices asked of them and go where the nation sent them. It is now our responsibility to care for them. The state has many benefits to assist returning veterans rejoin society. Many of these are related to job skills and education. However, this is our opportunity to assist individuals survive. According to federal data, veterans earn less than non-veterans. Where does this leave our disabled veterans and female veterans who sacrificed so much?

(Three copies of this form must be prepared and filled out)

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
102nd ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
JULY 14-18, 2021 – MIDDLETON, WI

Resolution: 16.2021

Subject: Support for Revising the Wisconsin Veteran and Surviving Spouses
Property Tax Credit to Provide for a Graduated Benefit

Submitted by: Department Legislative Committee

Referred to Convention Committee on Legislative

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Veterans AND Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit provides veterans and unremarried surviving spouses a refundable property tax credit on their primary Wisconsin residence; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Wisconsin Legislative Committee reviewed the existing legislative resolutions at the Department Spring Meetings held in Baraboo, WI on May 7, 2021; and

WHEREAS, The definition of an eligible veteran found in § 71.07(6e) Wis. stats.as follows;

- A. A veteran who served on active duty under honorable conditions in the U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated in the U.S, armed forces
- B. A veteran who was a resident of Wisconsin at the time of entry into active service or had been a resident of Wisconsin for any 5-year period after entry into that service
- C. A veteran who is currently a resident of Wisconsin for purposes of receiving veterans benefits under Ch. 45 Wis. stats.
- D. A veteran has either a service-connected disability of 100% under 38 USC 1114 or 1134 or 100 percent disability rating based on individual unemployability; and

WHEREAS, The definition of an eligible unremarried surviving spouse is found in § 71.07(6e) Wis. stats.as follows;

- A. A unremarried surviving spouse of a veteran who had served on active duty under honorable conditions in the U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated in the U.S, armed forces and who was a resident of Wisconsin at the time of entry into active service or had been a resident of Wisconsin for any 5-year period after entry into that service and who while a resident of Wisconsin, died on active duty
- B. A unremarried spouse of a veteran who had either a service-connected disability of 100% under 38 USC 1114 or 1134 or 100 percent disability rating based on individual unemployability.
- C. A unremarried spouses of an individual who died in the line of duty while on active or inactive duty, while on active duty or inactive duty for training purposes as a member of the National Guard or a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces and who was a resident of this state at the time of entry into that service or who had been

a resident of Wisconsin for any consecutive 5-year period after entry into that service and who was a resident of this state at the time of death.

- D. A unmarried surviving spouses who began to receive or continues to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from the Federal VA; and

WHEREAS, veteran eligibility is verified by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and the program is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue; and

WHEREAS, several states provide a similar benefit to veterans. Each state provides a program unique to its needs; now therefore Be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin in Department Convention assembled in Middleton, Wisconsin July 14-18, 2021, that The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin supports a revision to the Wisconsin Veterans and Surviving Spouse Statute to provide for a graduated property tax credit for Wisconsin disabled veterans and surviving spouses.

For Convention Committee Use

This is to certify that the above resolution was duly acted upon by the Department Convention held in Middleton, Wisconsin, July 2021.

Signature



Chairman or Secretary

Of Convention Committee on

Legislative

Approved Rejected _____

Approved as amended _____

Consolidated _____

Rewritten _____

Refer to standing committee on _____

Other action _____

FY 2019 VA Disability Compensation Recipients by County

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Enterprise Integration, United States Veterans Eligibility Trends & Statistics (USVETS) 2019

**** small cell counts have been suppressed to protect the identity of Veterans. Some categories may not sum to the total due to**

FIPS code	State	County Name	Total: Disability Compensation	Service-connected Disability Rating					Age			Sex	
				0% to 20%	30% to 40%	50% to 60%	70% to 90%	100%	17-44	45-64	65 or older	Male	Female
55001	Wisconsin	Adams	527	158	99	94	101	75	74	135	318	504	23
55003	Wisconsin	Ashland	310	107	52	45	71	35	49	105	156	286	24
55005	Wisconsin	Barron	820	332	142	110	136	100	138	201	481	779	41
55007	Wisconsin	Bayfield	356	140	56	43	70	47	34	82	240	338	18
55009	Wisconsin	Brown	3,125	902	624	488	735	376	929	924	1,272	2,810	315
55011	Wisconsin	Buffalo	234	94	33	35	41	31	32	62	140	223	11
55013	Wisconsin	Burnett	535	240	89	72	81	53	66	111	358	507	28
55015	Wisconsin	Calumet	461	137	95	71	105	53	122	140	199	412	49
55017	Wisconsin	Chippewa	1,060	426	182	140	196	116	222	311	527	984	76
55019	Wisconsin	Clark	521	193	101	73	97	57	76	123	322	483	38
55021	Wisconsin	Columbia	857	280	191	111	167	108	215	222	420	780	77
55023	Wisconsin	Crawford	261	89	40	42	52	38	50	61	150	242	19
55025	Wisconsin	Dane	5,042	1,693	973	778	1,019	579	1,427	1,461	2,154	4,497	545
55027	Wisconsin	Dodge	988	347	170	155	183	133	290	262	436	905	83
55029	Wisconsin	Door	422	146	68	65	84	59	64	84	274	391	31
55031	Wisconsin	Douglas	1,039	384	176	129	218	132	194	269	576	977	62
55033	Wisconsin	Dunn	705	265	139	90	129	82	159	213	333	649	56
55035	Wisconsin	Eau Claire	1,425	494	248	209	298	176	371	393	661	1,319	106
55037	Wisconsin	Florence	113	31	20	12	34	16	18	38	57	**	**
55039	Wisconsin	Fond Du Lac	1,172	389	228	179	239	137	326	329	517	1,052	120
55041	Wisconsin	Forest	282	82	34	41	81	44	33	81	168	271	11
55043	Wisconsin	Grant	648	235	118	108	125	62	145	156	347	588	60
55045	Wisconsin	Green	470	184	70	71	88	57	95	112	263	441	29
55047	Wisconsin	Green Lake	249	84	43	36	56	30	44	60	145	235	14

FY 2019 VA Disability Compensation Recipients by County

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Enterprise Integration, United States Veterans Eligibility Trends & Statistics (USVETS) 2019

**** small cell counts have been suppressed to protect the identity of Veterans. Some categories may not sum to the total due to**

55049	Wisconsin	Iowa	301	101	59	37	72	32	79	78	144	288	13
55051	Wisconsin	Iron	121	35	18	18	26	24	19	39	63	**	**
55053	Wisconsin	Jackson	441	140	71	67	100	63	83	149	209	405	36
55055	Wisconsin	Jefferson	993	349	185	156	192	111	243	273	477	909	84
55057	Wisconsin	Juneau	561	201	89	86	114	71	119	172	270	509	52
55059	Wisconsin	Kenosha	2,232	575	374	362	595	326	645	802	785	1,958	274
55061	Wisconsin	Kewaunee	279	94	47	43	68	27	57	68	154	260	19
55063	Wisconsin	La Crosse	2,063	698	388	330	442	205	487	597	979	1,881	182
55065	Wisconsin	Lafayette	152	56	21	24	26	25	41	31	80	**	**
55067	Wisconsin	Langlade	456	126	83	70	109	68	65	126	265	430	26
55069	Wisconsin	Lincoln	566	161	88	97	127	93	104	145	317	523	43
55071	Wisconsin	Manitowoc	1,109	332	229	170	233	145	276	316	517	998	111
55073	Wisconsin	Marathon	1,760	583	324	252	347	254	416	490	853	1,621	139
55075	Wisconsin	Marinette	1,038	278	190	168	254	148	189	302	547	960	78
55077	Wisconsin	Marquette	316	112	59	47	59	39	53	90	173	288	28
55078	Wisconsin	Menominee	56	18	**	12	11	**	**	**	28	**	**
55079	Wisconsin	Milwaukee	9,458	2,711	1,595	1,364	2,378	1,410	2,434	3,063	3,961	8,436	1,022
55081	Wisconsin	Monroe	1,727	478	279	307	443	220	359	725	643	1,527	200
55083	Wisconsin	Oconto	680	206	126	94	156	98	144	160	376	633	47
55085	Wisconsin	Oneida	787	208	133	125	190	131	147	224	416	725	62
55087	Wisconsin	Outagamie	2,176	678	444	358	455	241	693	609	874	1,982	194
55089	Wisconsin	Ozaukee	789	258	138	114	174	105	205	233	351	722	67
55091	Wisconsin	Pepin	159	59	22	31	36	11	17	47	95	148	11
55093	Wisconsin	Pierce	686	283	124	78	123	78	159	181	346	637	49
55095	Wisconsin	Polk	913	408	182	106	132	85	155	233	525	864	49
55097	Wisconsin	Portage	1,094	441	197	154	195	107	260	285	549	1,028	66
55099	Wisconsin	Price	346	124	55	57	77	33	53	83	210	328	18
55101	Wisconsin	Racine	2,248	713	384	338	540	273	597	705	946	2,052	196
55103	Wisconsin	Richland	221	78	44	31	42	26	34	50	137	208	13
55105	Wisconsin	Rock	2,002	666	401	310	395	230	511	600	891	1,844	158
55107	Wisconsin	Rusk	320	127	68	38	49	38	30	78	212	306	14
55109	Wisconsin	Saint Croix	1,501	639	264	186	253	159	345	397	759	1,383	118
55111	Wisconsin	Sauk	1,066	393	173	153	216	131	190	296	580	979	87

FY 2019 VA Disability Compensation Recipients by County

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Enterprise Integration, United States Veterans Eligibility Trends & Statistics (USVETS) 2019

**** small cell counts have been suppressed to protect the identity of Veterans. Some categories may not sum to the total due to**

55113	Wisconsin	Sawyer	456	188	83	60	71	54	52	107	297	436	20
55115	Wisconsin	Shawano	642	196	121	106	137	82	139	197	306	583	59
55117	Wisconsin	Sheboygan	1,087	355	209	165	221	137	305	306	476	992	95
55119	Wisconsin	Taylor	313	110	60	47	60	36	61	86	166	288	25
55121	Wisconsin	Trempealeau	465	167	71	81	103	43	79	125	261	438	27
55123	Wisconsin	Vernon	461	150	81	79	88	63	86	126	249	427	34
55125	Wisconsin	Vilas	613	192	115	90	122	94	77	137	399	576	37
55127	Wisconsin	Walworth	1,143	360	235	172	247	129	296	296	551	1,041	102
55129	Wisconsin	Washburn	501	204	73	64	91	69	66	132	303	471	30
55131	Wisconsin	Washington	1,373	435	278	219	295	146	455	340	578	1,235	138
55133	Wisconsin	Waukesha	3,520	1,152	685	512	748	423	1,021	893	1,606	3,220	300
55135	Wisconsin	Waupaca	807	243	141	116	195	112	157	228	422	747	60
55137	Wisconsin	Waushara	552	216	94	72	105	65	58	144	350	522	30
55139	Wisconsin	Winnebago	2,207	722	432	315	500	238	647	650	910	2,006	201
55141	Wisconsin	Wood	1,275	479	224	173	236	163	275	314	686	1,195	80
			75,654				16,254	9,457	18,156	21,663	35,806		6,530

Hello, my name is James P. Quinn and I'm a 52 year old 80% disabled veteran. I served as a U.S. Marine during wartime in the early 1990's and I also served in the U.S. Army during Operation Iraqi Freedom where I was deployed for 18 months, which is when I sustained my injuries. While I am blessed to still be able to work full time, the injuries to my knees, back, and PTSD make it increasingly difficult to sustain full time employment and someday soon, I will no longer be able to work due to my disabilities. I don't know what impact that will have on my finances, but I know that SB245 will go a long way towards assisting me to remain in my home. I sacrificed my quality of life while being put in harms way to protect your lives and homes. Now I'm asking you to help to protect mine. Please make SB245 a priority. Put veterans first on your agenda. Thank you for your time and may God Bless you all.

Sincerely,

James P. Quinn
U.S. Marine and Army Soldier