

Executive Update



Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

September 11, 2009

Message from County Executive Walker

Eight years ago, my two sons were getting ready to go to Roosevelt Elementary School when the first plane hit the World Trade Center. For days, they were exposed to images about the twin towers falling to the ground, the hole in the side of the Pentagon and the plane that crashed into the field in Pennsylvania. I worried that their only memories of 9/11 and the aftermath would be of horror and death.

Certainly, I want to insure that my kids (and the rest of us) never forget the innocent lives lost that day eight years ago. And I don't want them to ever forget the patriots – the fire fighters, law enforcement officers and other first responders – who ran into the disaster as others were running out. And I don't want them to ever forget the men and women in our Armed Forces – many of whom answered the call to serve in the days after 9/11.

We can never forget.

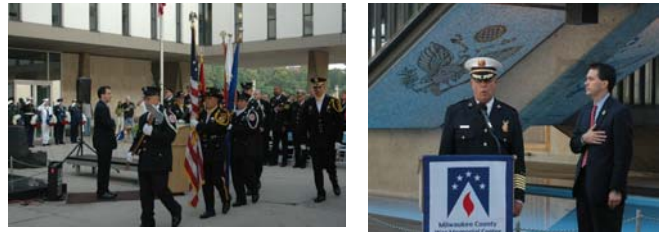
At the same time, I want to make certain that my kids remember what else happened eight years ago. The President had asked all Americans to stand outside their homes on the Friday after 9/11 and so my wife mentioned it to a few parents at school. We opened the front door a bit before 7:00 and were surprise to see that our lawn was filled with school kids, parents and neighbors.

All of us were looking for something to cling to that evening. We got out candles and sang God Bless America. We were united with our neighbors and with others all across this great country (and with other freedom loving people around the globe).

That is the image I want my sons, who are now both in high school, to remember. It is that no matter how hard we are hit, Americans come back united. That, too, is something we must never forget.

Scott

9-11 Observance



County Executive Walker hosted a 9-11 observance at the War Memorial. (Above, L-R) Milw.Cnty. Sheriff's Office and Milw.Cnty. Fire Dept. present the Colors; Greenfield Fire Chief Russ Spahn sings the National Anthem.



Badger Detachment Marine Corps League rifle salute and bugler Nathan Hennlich of Cudahy HS playing Taps.



Rhonda Begos (left photo, above) moved the audience with her rendition of God Bless America.



Walker rings the USS Milwaukee 1906 bell in memory of those lost on 9-11; the five branches of the Armed Forces participated in the wreath-laying ceremony (photos above). James Duff, Acting Director of MC Veterans Services led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Bishop William Callahan led the prayer.

EMS Funding



County Executive Walker held a news conference at the West Allis Fire Department to announce his 2010 recommended budget for Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Joining Walker at the West Allis Fire Department were Sup. Mark Borkowski, Milwaukee County fire chiefs, emergency medical technicians, and local elected officials. The budget maintains the same level of EMS support as 2009, with \$3 million to participating municipalities and \$3.8 million for central medical administration and training.

The county turned over control for Advanced Life Support billing to the municipalities in 2007, resulting in a 23% increase in total revenue for the municipalities.

30th Senior Olympics



County Executive Walker, shown above with Joan Brenk – Chair of the opening ceremonies for the 30th Annual Wisconsin Senior Olympics, addressed the audience of about 400 athletes and their families. Stephanie Stein, Director of the Department on Aging also participated in the event.

Increases to budget for Disabilities, Family Care



County Executive Walker announced recommended increases in the 2010 budget for Family Care and programs for persons with disabilities at a news conference held at ARC (Advocacy, Resources, Commitment) of Greater Milwaukee.

The proposed budget would provide an additional \$4.8 million in tax levy support to expand the Family Care program, including \$945,000 in additional funding for the Disabilities Resource Center. The expansion of Family Care will eliminate the waiting list for long-term support services for approximately 3,000 adults with physical and developmental disabilities.

Funding for the Wil-o-Way summer camp for persons with disabilities will increase and camp accessibility will be improved at both Wil-o-Way and Grant Park.

Community Events

County Executive Walker attended the MMAC Milwaukee Night in Washington, D.C., and a 9-11 observance in Cudahy this week. He will address the visitors at the opening ceremonies of Indian Summer Festival at the Summerfest grounds on Sept. 11 and at Tosa Fest on Sept. 12; kick off the launch of 500 kites at the Frank Mots International Kite Festival at Veterans Park at noon on Saturday, Sept. 12; and walk in the annual Mexican Independence Day Parade on Sunday, Sept. 13.