



David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

NEWS RELEASE

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Sheriff Encourages the Public to Turn Out for the 50th Annual Veterans Parade

Milwaukee, WI – Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. will participate in the 50th Milwaukee Veterans Day parade stepping off tomorrow, November 9 at 11:00 a.m. The parade runs through downtown Milwaukee, starting at 4th and Kilbourn and ending at the War Memorial on Milwaukee's lakefront. (Parade route information: http://www.honourmilitary.us/?page_id=61).

The Sheriff finds it important to participate in this parade that honors our veterans. Sheriff Clarke received the Americanism Award from the Milwaukee County War Memorial Veterans Board of Directors in 2009, which is not typically awarded to elected officials.

Area elected officials are invited to participate. Among those will be County Executive Chris Abele. If he can participate without some sense of shame after his lack of support for War Memorial funding, it should be to no one's surprise. Elites know no shame.

News accounts regarding the funding debate indicated that County Executive Abele threatened to veto the funding plan and said, "Right now, it's something that dumps more cost on taxpayers." He chided Board Chair Dimitrijevic for trying to play Santa Claus to the War Memorial and museum groups with taxpayer money. She accused Abele of standing in the way of a reasonable resolution of upgrading the center and resolving turf issues between the art and veterans groups.

Abele also issued a statement restating his opposition to the level of county support sought by the museum and War Memorial Board. Abele called for the board to reject the proposed deal.

The county owns the War Memorial building and the lakefront property on which it sits. "We own the building, and the building has been poorly maintained," Supervisor Gerry Broderick said. The county's level of operating support has changed little in more than a decade, while costs continue to rise, he said.

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Sheriff Clarke said, “it is a fitting memorial to those who have served and sacrificed in the U.S. Armed Services to protect our nation and it cannot be ignored. Personally, I use this day to honor my father’s service in the United States Army as an Airborne Ranger in the Korean War. This memorial is a small token in appreciation of their service. Abele’s opposition to supporting this memorial is tantamount to opposing increases to veteran pay and pension benefits. The least we can do in honor of their service and sacrifice is to do everything we can in support of this memorial. I feel forever indebted to our veterans.”

The War Memorial stands as a testament to those whose dedication to our country cost them the supreme sacrifice – their lives. The mission of the War Memorial remains, “To Honor the Dead by Serving the Living.”

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