

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Flag at Lake Leota Honors Rock County Veteran

Evansville, Wis., July 4, 2023 - This Fourth of July, the American Flag flying under the fireworks at Lake Leota park was more than a centerpiece for a fun and festive celebration. It represented a Rock County veteran who just happened to be born on July Fourth.

The flag belonged to the recently deceased Sgt. William F. Markee. After a storm earlier in the year, Boy Scout Troop 514 discovered their American Flag was destroyed by the heavy wind. Unfortunately, the scouts didn't have another flag to replace it. When Sgt. Markee's family learned about this, they donated one of his flags to honor his memory.

Markee was a member of Wisconsin's 32nd Red Arrow Infantry Division. He was proud of his service for the country and always took part in Memorial Day and Independence Day festivities. Since he shared a birthday with our country, he often hosted large parties and firework shows to celebrate both occasions. As a patriot, Markee always made sure he had a flag flying over his house, and this Fourth of July one of those flags was proudly displayed in the center of the Lake Leota park celebration.

Markee passed away in December 2022, making this the first Fourth of July without him. Thankfully, his memory and sacrifices for our country could still be honored on our nation's, and his own, birthday.

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Summer Adventures in Scouting

Evansville, Wis., August 2023 - Boy Scout Troop 514 was busy this summer. From snorkeling in the northern lakes of Rhinelander to harnessing the power of the sun to camping in the desert with bison, the scouts had plenty of adventures.

On their first ever trip to Tesomas Scout Camp, the troop participated in a wide range of activities, like climbing, boating, and shooting sports. While they had a lot of fun, the scouts were also working hard to earn a variety of merit badges. Unfortunately, there were no hodag sightings during the trip, but the scouts did make friends with a skunk that ran through their campsite.

Some scouts also visited the UW-Whitewater at Rock County campus to earn the Weather merit badge with the help of Dr. Bob McCallister. Over two sessions, McCallister taught the scouts how hail and storms are formed, what causes wind, and how to respond in severe weather situations. The scouts also participated in weather-related experiments. Some highlights included playing with air pressure, making a miniature solar system, and adjusting the angle of the University's solar panel to produce more electricity. The troop wants to send a big thanks to Dr. McCallister for everything he did!

In a final summer hurrah, the scouts set off on their grandest adventure of the year: a trip to South Dakota. Their expedition began with a visit to Mount Rushmore where they hiked through the pine forests and got to know the stony presidents. After spending some time in the Black Hills, they made their way to Badlands National Park for even more adventures. In the Badlands, the scouts identified a fossil and reported it to park rangers earning them an official fossil-finder award. Craving something more wild, they packed up their tents and walked into the barren Badlands wilderness for some backcountry camping. Trekking over prairies, cliffs, and game trails, the scouts faced dangerous animals like bison and rattlesnakes before returning to their basecamp and heading to Wall Drug to refresh with some free ice water and 5¢ coffee.

While their biggest adventures of 2023 may be over, Troop 514 still has a lot of great events on the way. Stay tuned for more from the scouts!

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