

# Dept. of Veterans Affairs: Talking Spirits Cemetery tours continue despite restrictions

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**MADISON**—For a 23<sup>rd</sup> year, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum will continue its renowned “Talking Spirits Cemetery Tours,” but with a spin. The “Talking Spirits Cemetery Tours: Myths and Realities” will be presented as a 360-degree virtual tour, launching October 15, 2020 at [MadisonCemeteryTours.com](http://MadisonCemeteryTours.com).

Due to current restrictions on gatherings set forth by the City of Madison, the museum was unable to obtain a permit for the event at the historic Forest Hill Cemetery on Madison’s near west side. That did not deter the staff from devising a plan to tell the stories of Wisconsin veterans and others interred there.

“This year’s tour presents a unique challenge, and an equally unique opportunity. Using virtual technologies to show you the cemetery, we can take you to remote locations on the grounds and provide you with more stories and details which we haven’t been able to tell on previous tours,” said museum director, Chris Kolakowski.

Embedded in the virtual tour are all the anticipated features of the in-person tour. It includes featured vignettes performed by actors who bring to life the tales of four intriguing people. Learn about the man for whom Truax Field is named, Madison’s oldest woman—who has a secret, a Civil War soldier who was shot in the head—and lived, and the capitol’s veteran gardener who suffered a tragic loss on the Fourth of July.

In addition to these riveting tales of Wisconsinites from the past, museum guides share accounts of unique points of interest on the grounds, such as the Caitlin

Chapel, Union Rest, Confederate Rest, the effigy burial mounds within the veterans section of the cemetery, stories from the 1918 Pandemic, and more.

More information is available at [MadisonCemeteryTours.com](https://www.MadisonCemeteryTours.com).