

U.S. Rep. Gallagher: Honors 2023 Northeast Wisconsin Veteran of the Year

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APPLETON, WI — Today, Rep. Gallagher announced that longtime Wisconsin resident and Army veteran John Gillespie was selected to be the 2023 Northeast Wisconsin Veteran of the Year. During a ceremony at American Legion Post 38, Gallagher recognized Gillespie for his distinguished career in the military and the many contributions he's made to Northeast Wisconsin. He also presented Gillespie with a certificate and [congratulatory entry in the Congressional Record](#) highlighting his recognition as the 2023 NEW Veteran of the Year.

“John has led a life of selfless service and sacrifice that has had an immeasurable impact on Northeast Wisconsin. From founding the Rawhide Boys Ranch to creating a faith-based, peer-to-peer assistance program for veterans, he's touched the lives of many and made our small slice of the world a better place to live and raise a family. He truly embodies what it means to be the Northeast Wisconsin Veteran of the Year, and I couldn't be prouder to recognize him with this award for his service, dedication, and excellence,” **said Rep. Gallagher.**

Gillespie has dedicated his life in service of others. One of his most notable contributions to the community was the creation of the Rawhide Boys Ranch, which he established with the help of former Packers quarterback Bart Starr and now serves over 750 at-risk youth in Wisconsin. Beyond his work with the Rawhide Boys Ranch, Gillespie has also dedicated much time and effort to projects like establishing Plamann Park, as well as volunteering with American Legion Post 38 in Appleton.

Click [HERE](#) for photos available for broadcast and distribution.

Background:

This is the third year Rep. Gallagher has [solicited nominations for this award](#) in an effort to honor a veteran in Northeast Wisconsin who continues to display exemplary service after they return home. Rep. Gallagher received over 50 nominations this year, which is a testament to the exceptional veteran community we have in NEW.

The selection committee judges candidates for Veteran of the Year based on the following criteria:

- **Service:** The veteran demonstrates selfless service to our nation and Northeast Wisconsin through public service or volunteering,
- **Excellence:** The veteran demonstrates going above and beyond the call of duty, whatever the job may be, while in the military or in retirement, and
- **Dedication:** The veteran demonstrates a clear commitment to our country and community, and a passion for improving life in Northeast Wisconsin.