



CHRIS TAYLOR

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ♦ 76th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release

November 11, 2019

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Rep. Taylor Honors Veterans and Calls for Protections for Survivors of Military Sexual Assault

MADISON—Today in observance of Veterans Day, Representative Chris Taylor (D-Madison) joined the Madison Veterans Council, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Governor Tony Evers, and Senator Tammy Baldwin in honoring veterans and their families at a ceremony in the Wisconsin State Capitol.

In addition to celebrating her father, who served in the United States Army, Rep. Taylor called for greater protections for veterans, and those currently serving, who have experienced sexual violence within the armed services. As reported in the Wisconsin State Journal, all four branches of the U.S. military received a total of 5,684 reports in 2017 from members who said they had been sexually assaulted during their service, which was up 10% from 2016. Between 2013 and 2017, the Wisconsin National Guard received 52 reports of sexual assault, and they are currently undergoing an investigation into how they handle allegations of sexual assault.

Rep. Taylor issued the following statement:

“On Veterans Day, I remember my father who served in the United States Army. If he were still with us, he would say it was one of the best experiences of his life. Today, as we recognize all veterans, we must commit to supporting them more robustly as they return home. Our 345,000 veterans should not be worrying about finding their next meal or a place to stay for the night.

“We must also recognize that the act of serving needs to be free of sexual assault and harassment, and we must support those who experience this and those who are brave enough to report it. Too many of our veterans and current servicepeople have experienced sexual violence perpetuated by those with whom they are supposed to entrust their lives. This is a disturbing trend in our armed forces, including our own Wisconsin National Guard, and it is all of our responsibilities to call it out and protect those who dedicate their lives to protecting us.”

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