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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Cochrane Veteran to be Named Assembly ‘Hometown Hero’**

**MADISON** – The Wisconsin State Assembly will recognize Allen “Al” Kochenderfer from Cochrane, Wisconsin as a “Hometown Hero” at the upcoming Assembly session on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Kochenderfer, who was nominated by his State Representative, Treig Pronschinske (R-Mondovi), is a Vietnam veteran, where he piloted a helicopter for 2,111 hours of combat duty. Upon returning home after being honorably discharged, he served 18 years with the Wisconsin Army National Guard, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

“I’d like to thank Al for his selfless service in defense of our country and state – that alone makes him a hero,” said Assembly Majority Leader Jim Steineke (R-Kaukauna), who selected Kochenderfer for the award. “Al’s unwavering commitment to his community once he returned from service truly sets him apart as an Assembly Hometown Hero.”

After retiring from the Army National Guard, Al served 40 years as a veterans’ advocate for the VFW in Buffalo City. Additionally, he became the Service Director for the Scenic Valley Emergency Medical Service (SVEMS) for 39 years, advocating for rural Ems and volunteering his free time.

“Through his dedication and service, he has shown us what it means to be a true hero,” said Rep. Pronschinske. “We cannot thank Al enough for his 43 years of service as a volunteer EMT, 18 years in the Wisconsin National Guard, and 2,111 combat hours in the Vietnam War fighting to protect our freedom.”

The Wisconsin State Assembly sees giving back to the community as one of the most valuable characteristics one can have. The Assembly Hometown Heroes program seeks to identify and recognize individuals from around the state who give of themselves to make a difference in our communities and in the lives of those around them. Hometown Hero Award winners are invited and introduced as a special guest at an Assembly floor session and given the opportunity to speak.

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