.American Legion
Ottawa Post #33

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October 10, 2026

RE: 18th Annual 24-Hour Honor Guard Vigil/Ottawa, IL

Dear Commander/President, and Members,

You are again invited to participate with American Legion Post 33 and other area veteran groups in a 24-Hour Honor Guard Vigil in Washington Square, downtown Ottawa. The dates will be Friday, Nov. 6th through Saturday November 7th.

The opening ceremony will be at 4:45 PM on Friday. We keep it simple. A combined area Color Guard will Place the Colors, then we present wreathes followed by brief remarks, then place the Lead Honor Guard. The closing ceremonies will be at 5:00 PM Saturday with the Rifle Salute, TAPS, and Retirement of the Colors. Boy Scout Troop 745 will again assist. Sign-up sheet is posted on the Legion Main Office door. We open 11am weekdays.

We will have tents (thanks to Illinois Valley Labor Management) for the command post, where you report in (early) for a fifteen-minute shift. Food and coffee will be available. We will provide the weapons. There is an enclosed shelter /Sentry Post (chairs available), should it be raining or if a veteran is wheelchair bound. The memorial area is handicap accessible.

We encourage you to have your family and/or grandchildren stand with you, for patriotism's sake. The dress code is, to have some form of military bearing (no shorts or flip-flops) and to dress for the weather. If you can still wear your uniform, great; however, e.g., a POW/MIA sweatshirt and/or a Branch of Service cap is acceptable. Extra garrison caps will be available, if one has a need. No alcohol is allowed in the park, by law. We stand, rain or shine. A "Stand-By" team is needed, in case of no-shows. [Jeeps; Bagpipers; Flutes for Vets; w/TALARC Field Day. New this year: Bags Tournement.]

The sign-up sheet is posted at the Legion. You can also call me to sign you in; my number is 815-993-3956. For any more questions, contact info below. Also, we could use chaperones to help assist veterans coming from the area nursing homes, to be pushed over the terrain for a duty time about 9-10:30 am on Sat., or to visit for some conversation and snacks at the camp fire.

Thank you again for your past participation in making this event a great success. I hope we can count on you again this year!

Sincerely yours in service,

John Duback, Committee Chair. Cell: 815.993.3956//Email: "chongofsb@yahoo.com"