FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 10/31/2018

6th ANNUAL VETERAN SUICIDE AWARENESS 20 MILE RUCK MARCH or 2.0 MILE WALK

GREEN BAY, WI- The 6th Annual Veteran Suicide Awareness Ruck March will take place on Saturday, November 10th at The K.I. Convention Center in downtown Green Bay. This ruck march has brought together members of our community and people from various parts of our country over the last six years to raise awareness for Veteran suicide. Participants can get a better understanding of the struggles that many Veterans face by putting themselves in their shoes for 20 miles or 2.0 miles.

20 Veterans complete suicide every day in the United States, according to the recent study from the Department of Veterans Affairs. 4th H.O.O.A.H WI’s annual Veteran Suicide Awareness Ruck March is focused around the number of Veterans lost to suicide daily by walking 20 miles while carrying a 20 lb backpack (optional). This event is open to the public and encourages people with or without a military background to participate. Participants can sign up to walk 20 miles or 2.0 miles and raise money to help our local veterans. Since the event first started six years ago, the number of Veterans that die by suicide each day has decreased from 22 each day to 20 Veterans each day. As that number continues to decrease so will the distance we walk every year around Veterans Day.

"That 20 pounds is another way to make the journey more difficult, to put you in the shoes of what we think the veteran may feel like: alone, deserted, stranded," explained William Kocken, co-founder of 4th H.O.O.A.H WI. “The success we have seen with this event is overwhelming and we are grateful for the community’s continued support.”

“After losing my boyfriend I made it my goal to carry on his memory and someday end Veteran suicide. We are able to put a face on Veteran suicide with all the boot tributes submitted by loved ones. Just because Jeremy passed away it doesn’t mean that the memory of him ever will,” said Kayley Goffard, event volunteer and 4th H.O.O.A.H WI board member.

COST: $20 to walk 20 miles or 2.0 miles. Sign up online at https://hooahinc.org/event/2018_wi_march/ (Day of registration available. Limited event t-shirt availability for day of registration.)

For more information about 4th H.O.O.A.H WI please visit www.hooahwi.org

For more information about the Ruck March please contact Kayley at kgoffard@hooahinc.org or call (920)621-5212

4th H.O.O.A.H (Helping Out Our American Heroes) WI is a local 501(c)3 non-profit organization that supports area Veterans, service men and women and their families. Co-founded in 2013 by Nicholas Gries and William Kocken, 4th H.O.O.A.H WI has been able to help thousands in the state of Wisconsin through the generosity of donations and volunteers.