



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER #92

Relating to a Proclamation that the Flag of the United States and the Flag of the State of Wisconsin be Flown at Half-Staff as a Mark of Respect for Marine Sgt. Duane O. Cole of the United States Marine Corps Who Lost His Life in World War II

WHEREAS, Marine Sgt. Duane O. Cole, a veteran of World War II and a member of the United States Marine Corp assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force was killed in action on November 20, 1943, during an attempt to secure the island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands;

WHEREAS, his remains were reportedly buried in either Division Cemetery 5 or Cemetery 26, previously known as the Central Division Cemetery, and his name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl in Honolulu, Hawaii, along with others missing from World War II;

WHEREAS, Sgt. Duane O. Cole's remains were accounted for on September 3, 2019, by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, following the 2014 discovery and excavation of Cemetery 26 by the non-profit History Flight, Inc.;

WHEREAS, on October 3, 2020, Sgt. Duane O. Cole will be laid to rest and given full military honors at the Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Spooner, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the people of the United States and the State of Wisconsin are forever grateful for the service, selflessness, and sacrifice of Marine Sgt. Duane O. Cole of the United States Marine Corps.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TONY EVERS, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State, hereby order that the flag of the United States and the flag of the State of Wisconsin shall be flown at half-staff at all buildings, grounds, and military installations of the State of Wisconsin equipped with such flags beginning at sunrise on **Saturday, October 3, 2020**, and ending at sunset on that date.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this second day of October in the year of two thousand twenty.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Evers".

TONY EVERS
Governor