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Woody Woodchuck Will Salute Area Veterans July 5

(Wausau) A Fifth of July celebration may just trump Fourth of July celebrations in Wausau this year. Hundreds of area veterans will be honored on Armed Forces Night July 5 before and during the Wisconsin Woodchucks 6:30 p.m. game at Athletic Park in Wausau. The tribute to all veterans is being presented by the Never Forgotten Honor Flight, Yach's Body and Custom and the Disabled American Veterans. Honor Flight organizers have provided free tickets (compliments of Yach's) to many of the WWII veterans and guardians who traveled to Washington D.C. last April 27. One lucky veteran will be selected to throw out the first pitch. Representatives of Central Beer Distributors, Rothschild, plan to present a second check to the Never Forgotten Honor Flight organization based on the results of a Memorial Day to Fourth of July Miller High Life sales promotion. The money will help fund the group's next Honor Flight scheduled to depart CWA on October 4.

A U.S. Marine Color Guard, special armed forces music, lots of flags, a salute from Woody Woodchuck and other surprises (including a possible military flyover) also will be part of the celebration honoring all veterans from all branches of military service. The first 500 fans to enter the park will receive a red, white and blue mini bat, and the first 1,000 fans will receive a pack of Woodchuck alumni baseball cards. The Woodchucks remain in first place today atop the crowded Northwoods League South Division with a record of 16 wins and 10 losses. For ticket information, email tickets@woodchucks.com, or call (715) 845-5055. Some tickets may also be available at the gate prior to the game.

The Never Forgotten Honor Flight is a non-profit organization that flies veterans from 19 area counties at no charge to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials erected in their honor. Donations to support the Honor Flight can be made online at www.neverforgottenhonorflight.com. Checks made payable to the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin, with Never Forgotten Honor Flight noted in the lower left hand corner, can be mailed to: Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin, 500 First Street, Suite 2600, Wausau, WI 54403.

Veterans and guardians who wish to participate in the trip must submit an application that is available at the Web site www.neverforgottenhonorflight.org. Guardians are required to pay a \$500 fee to participate.