

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER



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Spring/Early Summer 2014

Update, Challenges, and Opportunities

It has been a good year for our veterans in Iowa. Gov. Terry E. Branstad signed the Home Base Iowa Act into law at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum at Camp Dodge on Memorial Day. He also signed Senate File 2352 that provides an exemption of property taxes for 100% service connected disabled Iowa veterans and spouses as well as those receiving Dependency and Indemnity payments.

Our office is working closely with the Iowa Department of Revenue to establish and implement guidelines for submission of applications by qualified veterans and family members. It is a challenging issue. The form and initial guidelines have been established and distributed. There is more work to be completed in order to make the legislation encompassing of those that it was intended to assist.

These bills were the cornerstones of Governor Branstad's Condition of the State address at the beginning of the legislative session. The bills received outstanding bipartisan support in the Senate and House and were passed with unanimous votes. They mark unprecedented veterans legislation that we hope we can build on even further in the future.

"Our bipartisan Home Base Iowa plan will work to match veterans with high-paying careers in Iowa," said Branstad. "These men and women have fought for our country, and acquired unique skill sets and training in the military. Now, with the Home Base Iowa plan signed into law, Iowa stands ready to welcome them to our communities and match them with the quality jobs across the state."

The Home Base Iowa Act is one part of the overall Home Base Iowa initiative, a first-of-its-kind program developed to honor our country's veterans by recruiting them, and active duty service members, for private-sector job opportunities in Iowa. Congressman Leonard Boswell and Casey's CEO Bob Myers, both veterans, serve as the co-chairs of the initiative.

The Home Base Iowa Act (Senate File 303) fully exempts military pensions from state income tax, putting Iowa on more equal footing with states such as Florida and Texas, and our Midwestern neighbors such as Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. In addition, the bill fully exempts military survivor benefits from state income tax.

Several other measures are included in the bill. Iowa's licensing boards will adopt rules allowing credit for military training and experience in the licensing process. Private-sector companies now have authority to follow the public sector's lead by allowing a preference in hiring and promoting veterans. The special plate issuance fees charged for plates associated with military service have been eliminated. Note that this is the issuance fee and not the registration fee.

Additionally, the bill increased funding for the Military Homeownership Assistance (MHOA) Program to \$2.5 million for fiscal year 2015 which begins on July 1, 2014. This is a \$900,000 increase over last year.

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Update, Challenges, and Opportunities Con't.

With next year's funding now adopted, the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) Board has authorized IFA to resume funding all approved MHOA grants upon submission of a complete reimbursement request from a participating lender. Effective immediately, lenders may resume inclusion of the grant on the HUD-1 and fund approved grants at closing. It is no longer necessary for borrowers to wait for funds to be applied as a principal reduction. The new legislation will change some other program parameters effective July 1. The new legislation is under review by IFA at this time. Additional information will be provided about the changes and how they will be implemented as soon as the review is completed.

The Military Homeownership Assistance Program provides eligible service members and veterans with a \$5,000 grant that may be used toward entry cost assistance, such as down payment and closing cost assistance on a qualifying home purchase. Eligible service members may access the Military Homeownership Assistance Program to be used with a qualifying mortgage or cash purchase transaction.

The \$1.2 million construction project at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery is nearly complete after a year of construction. The vehicle storage building is complete. The signage that will be installed soon will complete the new 960-niche columbarium plaza. The new pumps for the irrigation system have been tested and will be ready to go on line soon.

The activity at the cemetery remains high. The number of interments is increasing. We will very soon pass 2,000 interments at the cemetery since the dedication on 3 July 2008. About 40% of those have come in the past two years. All of the twenty weekly service times were utilized two weeks ago. That was a record and very busy week for the cemetery staff – a staff that does an outstanding job of serving our veterans and their families at this time of need and comfort.

I want to commend and thank the many volunteers from the Knights of Columbus and others in the community who support the staff and help make the cemetery a very beautiful location and final resting place for our veterans. Thank you!

Our office has been involved in a number of community outreach programs ranging from the Veterans Job Fair in April – to speaking engagements around the state – to this week's Governor's Volunteer Recognition Program ceremony that I chair and am the master of ceremonies. This was the 31st year of a program that is designed to provide an opportunity for the state agencies and departments to recognize volunteers who support our programs. Our Department recognized several groups and individuals who support the cemetery.

The recent Memorial Day ceremonies conducted at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery and at the Veterans Memorial in downtown Des Moines had record attendance. The skies were threatening, but that didn't deter families and others from coming to honor those who had served and made a sacrifice for our country. It was very gratifying.

More activities that we have been involved with can be found in this newsletter. Thank you to all who helped make them successful.

We will soon have the parade coming down the Grand Concourse as we celebrate the Iowa State Fair Veterans Day on Monday, 11 August. The parade will be followed by patriotic band concerts by the Iowa Army National Guard's 34th Army Band, who will also be in the parade, and the All-Iowa Military Veteran Band. We hope to see you there.

In closing, I want to thank everyone reading this for all you do for our veterans and their families. They served us proudly and now many of them need our assistance. We have a responsibility and opportunity to do good things for them and assist them however we can.

I wish all of you a wonderful and safe summer.

–Executive Director Robert King

Honoring Iowa Veterans - A Photo Scrapbook

Home Base Iowa Career Fair 2014

April 24, 2014 brought the first Home Base Iowa Career Fair – held at the Camp Dodge Freedom Center. Over 50 employers, veteran organizations, universities, and employer support participated. The day-long event included candidate support (resume review, mock interviews, coaching) and a free lunch courtesy of Casey’s. Also on hand were the Des Moines Vet Center and the Mobile Vet Center Van and the Trade Council’s welding van.



Bob King, Governor Branstad, Kathleen Souhrada

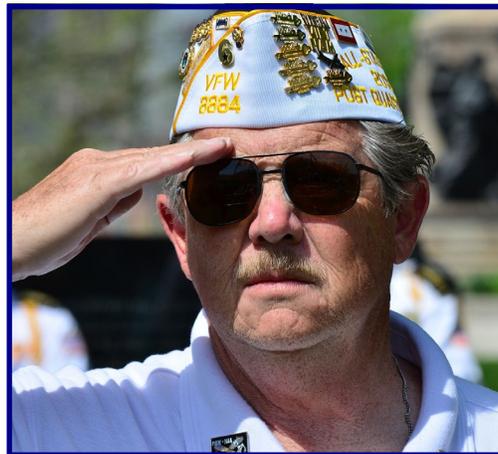
The Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs and Home Base Iowa partnered with the Iowa Business Council and the Central Iowa Building Trades to create career opportunities for unemployed and underemployed veterans. A very special thank you goes to Kathleen Souhrada and Karen Dixon from Principal Financial Group for their dedicated hard work and support and to all the many volunteers who made the career fair a resounding success!



Photos by Robert Nandell

Honoring Iowa Veterans - A Photo Scrapbook, Con't.

Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day 2014



Photos by Robert Nandell

Honoring Iowa Veterans - A Photo Scrapbook, Con't.

Memorial Day 2014 – Iowa Veterans Cemetery



Photos by Robert Nandell

Honoring Iowa Veterans - A Photo Scrapbook, Con't.

Memorial Day Volunteers

The Iowa Veterans Cemetery is lucky to have dedicated groups of volunteers who arrive every year full of enthusiasm and goodwill to help with Memorial Day preparations. IVC is grateful for the volunteer time they spend at the cemetery!



Wells Fargo volunteers



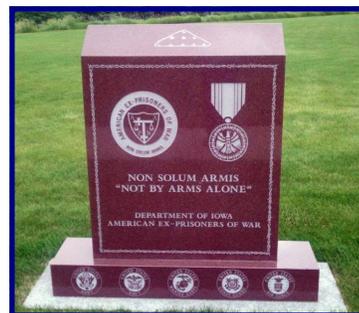
Principal Financial Group volunteers

Iowa Veterans Cemetery

Ex-POW Monument Dedication



Dedication of the Prisoner of War Monument was held at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery on Saturday, June 7, 2014. The ceremony included comments from Bob Steben – IDVA, and Larry Spencer and Carroll Bogard – both former POWs. A reception at the American Legion Post 403's reception center preceded the dedication.



The Iowa Veterans Cemetery reports that through June 20, 2014 there are:
 Applications on file (still living): 6,978 Interments: 1,988
 Veterans interred: 1,617 Dependents interred: 371



Iowa Veterans Cemetery Facts:
 Caskets: 601 Cremations: 1,329 In Memory of markers: 58

County News

from Melissa Gray – Mills County

William ‘Bill’ Blackburn, one of the eight Army Air Force veterans listed below, is a Mills County VA Commissioner. The presentation originally set for last fall was canceled, and Bill was a little disappointed, but he was extremely excited when he got the message that it had been rescheduled for April. Congratulations and “Thank You” to Bill Blackburn.

[Nine U.S. Army Air Forces personnel to receive the POW Medal](#)

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III presented the Prisoner of War Medal to 8 World War II era U.S. Army Air Forces personnel and to the family of a ninth airman during a ceremony at the Pentagon on Wednesday, April 30, 2014.

The Secretary of the Air Force, Deborah Lee James, authorized the award of the POW Medal to 143 USAAF airmen who were interned in the Wauwilermoos, Switzerland, prison camp during World War II.

In 1943 and 1944, the men were flying bombing missions into the heart of Nazi Germany and were shot down over Switzerland. General Welsh stated that, “During that time period, for these men and their bomber crew-mates, the chance of surviving a combat tour without being shot down, captured, or killed was about 25 percent – a 1-in-4 chance of survival. Aircraft loss rates of 30 to 50 percent were not uncommon on missions against the most well-defended targets.”

“It’s the kind of courage we read about in books, that people make movies about and that these humble, grateful survivors praise on their fallen comrades, but rarely seem to recognize in themselves,” Welsh said. “But make no mistake about it - these men have that kind of courage.”

The 8 surviving POW Medal recipients, listed below, traveled to the Pentagon to receive the award: Lieutenant Colonel (retired) James I. Misuraca, Major (retired) James V. Moran, First Lieutenant Paul J. Gambaiana, First Lieutenant James F. Maron, Technical Sergeant Alva H. Moss, Staff Sergeant John M. Fox, Sergeant **William G. Blackburn**, and Sergeant George E. Thursby.

Please read more about their incredible story here: <http://www.airforcetimes.com/article/20140430/NEWS05/304300070/WWII-POWs-held-Swiss-camp-get-overdue-medal>.



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III (center) presented nine Prisoner of War Medals to Army Air Corps veterans and family members during a ceremony April 30, 2014, at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. From the left are Tech. Sgt. Alva H. Moss, Sgt. William G. Blackburn, 1st Lt. Paul J. Gambaiana, retired Lt. Col. James I. Misuraca, retired Maj. James V. Moran, 1st Lt. James F. Mahon, Staff Sgt. John G. Fox, Sgt. George E. Thursby. The son and grandson of Staff Sgt. Thomas J. Sinitsky, who died recently, accepted the award on his behalf.

(U.S. Air Force photo/Jim Varhegyi)

County News Con't.

from Bremer County



Nancy Edwards, Administrator & CVSO, Bremer County

Nancy Edwards, Administrator and CVSO for Bremer County, is retiring on June 30, 2014 and we are very sorry to see her go! She has touched MANY lives throughout her 6 careers (and still counting). So far she has been a kindergarten teacher, has farmed with her husband while raising 4 sons, was the Director of Religious Education/Youth Minister, an Administrator for Family Resource Centers, worked Case Management in Bremer County, and then Administrator and CVSO for Bremer County. She also holds a long list of certificates including many from NAMI, and an even longer list of volunteer activities. But most of all, she has spent a lifetime of dedicated duty and has helped hundreds fill out a claim, provided emergency service, helped many through a rough patch, and answered the call in thousands of other ways and made an impact on hundreds of lives.

Nancy will be greatly missed by the veteran community in Bremer county, and by all the veterans whose lives she has touched.

Iowa's Fallen Heroes

Lance Cpl. Adam F. Wolff, 25, an Ottumwa native and Cedar Rapids resident, died Friday, June 20, 2014 while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He was one of three Marines killed in a Taliban attack by a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan. Two other Marines also perished and were identified as Staff Sgt. David H. Stewart, of Stafford VA., and Lance Cpl. Brandon J. Garabrant, of Peterborough, N.H. A military service dog that accompanied the Marines also died.

Wolff was assigned to the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. He was a combat engineer who was deployed to Afghanistan in March 2014. He enlisted in the Marines in December 2012 after moving to Cedar Rapids and was promoted to lance corporal in February 2014. His awards include the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Adam was a 2006 graduate of Cardinal High School. He grew up in rural Wapello County and moved to Cedar Rapids to live with his brother, a police officer.

Survivors include his mother, Deb Hall, and four siblings: twin brother Aaron, brother Nathan, and sisters Amanda and Angela.

Funeral arrangements are pending at this time, but the family indicated they may have a service in Ottumwa on Saturday, June 28.



Lance Cpl. Adam Wolff

Local News and Updates

Found Dog Tags

The following is a text excerpt from a KCCI story broadcast on 27 February 2014. (You can watch the story video here: <https://screen.yahoo.com/fort-dodge-man-mails-veteran-045254854.html>.)

To Get Home

It's been more than 40 years since the U.S. ended our involvement in the Vietnam War. According to the Veterans Administration, some 83,000 Vietnam veterans live in Iowa. Over the past 10 years a California man has undertaken an admirable but overwhelming task to help reunite Vietnam vets with a small piece of their military history. As Mark Tauscheck reports, the latest veteran to receive one of this man's surprises in the mail is from Fort Dodge.

Tom Dorsey arrived in Vietnam in 1967 – a member of the 173rd Airborne – assigned to a mobile combat unit that performed helicopter assaults into areas of Viet Cong activity. Tom Dorsey: “We did 15 to 21 days in the jungle then we'd come out for 4 or 5 days and get ready to go back.” Tom grew up in Callender, the oldest of 11. He never married; he now lives in Fort Dodge and Vietnam is a distant memory that came rushing back...with a phone call... “I'm the original ‘Doubting Thomas’. I thought this was a scam – asked what are they after.”

Bryan Marks: “There's a lot of skepticism around getting that phone call...it was half a lifetime ago for most of the veterans.” Bryan Marks is a fire fighter in California. Ten years ago he was vacationing in Vietnam when he saw many of the city markets had old military dog tags for sale. “The tags are sold all over the place – out on the street. It was just kind of hit or miss finding them.” Some were real, some were fake – he bought every one he could get his hands on - \$1 to \$3 a pop. Since then he's returned 530 of the real ones...to veterans...or their surviving family members. “Every tag that we had we would go on the Vietnam Wall online, and view it. It would actually have service numbers and we could check the name against it. There were a number of tags from soldiers who were killed in action.”

Tom Dorsey: “I don't even remember having it in Vietnam...I'm sure I did.” Tom didn't miss his dog tag. “It's just that someone would go through that much effort to return it.” ...But he cherishes the letter that arrived with it... “Mr. Dorsey – great talking to you the other day – can't believe it's been 46 years since you have had this dog tag. I'm glad it's finally home, thank you very much for your service, take care, Bryan Marks [calling from] California.”

[It was] “just something worthwhile, to do it was just a way to make – put a smile on somebody's face, and thank someone for their service and that's all this was all about.” Bryan Marks says he is now being helped by a woman in Florida who heard about his efforts and volunteered to help him track down more veterans...including Tom Dorsey. Bryan says he still has more than 500 dog tags that he hopes to return. [Source: *KCCI*]



Korean War Veterans Honor Flight

The Polk County supervisors unanimously approved a \$125,000 grant to the Central Iowa Honor Flight Committee for the September 30 flight to visit the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The grant will pay for the cost of the trip, including the flight, and shirts and hats the veterans will receive. The flight also includes a dinner at Veterans Auditorium for the veterans and their families.

The flight will give Korean War veterans a chance to see the Korean War Memorial as well as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and others. The September trip will be the second for Korean War veterans; the first was in 2013.

Local News and Updates Con't.

Food Pantry for Veterans Opens in Cedar Rapids

A new food bank for veterans and their families has opened in Cedar Rapids. The Iowa Veterans Welcome Center is operating the pantry out of the Veterans Memorial Building located on May's Island in downtown Cedar Rapids.

The Iowa Veterans Welcome Center was organized in 2013 by a group of Vietnam War veterans. The group moved into the Memorial Building in February 2014. They offer a veterans community center space – with computers, couches, televisions, pool tables and a small kitchenette – for veterans.

This is the third food pantry specifically for veterans in Linn County; the others include Linn County Veterans Affairs and the Veteran Affairs Outreach Center. Iowa Veterans Welcome Center assistant director Paul Hoin said the new food bank will coordinate its efforts with the other food banks and organizations offering services to veterans.

After an initial donation followed by food drives twice each summer since 2010, the Welcome Center volunteers aren't resting now that their food bank is open. They are also hoping to purchase a van to facilitate visits to homebound veterans and to help veterans get to doctors appointments and social activities.

The Iowa Veterans Welcome Center food bank is located in the mezzanine level of Veterans Memorial Building, 50 2nd Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, IA. Hours are 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Tuesday and Thursday; 10:00 am - 12:00 pm on Saturdays. To receive food, proof of service is required in the form of a Veterans Affairs ID or DD214.

The upcoming Linn County Veterans Charity Gold Outing on August 22 at Ellis Park Golf Course will raise funds for the food pantry and other area veterans service. For more information, visit Linncovetsgolf.org. [Source: Cedar Rapids Gazette, 6-4-14]

Did you know? Irene Triplett receives a \$73.13 pension payment from the U.S. government each month for her father's military service—in the Civil War. The 84-year-old is the last child of any Civil War veteran on the benefits rolls. There are still 16 widows and children of veterans of the 1898 Spanish-American War receiving military pensions, and 4,038 widows, sons, and daughters of World War I vets. [Source: *Wall Street Journal*]

Veterans Day at the Iowa State Fair 2014

Although the official first day of summer isn't until June 21, it's not too early to begin planning for the 2014 Veterans Day Parade at the Iowa State Fair! This year's parade will be Monday, 11, 2014 beginning at 11:00 a.m.



A link to the 2014 Parade Entry Application can be found on IDVA's website: <https://va.iowa.gov>. Application deadline is no later than Friday, August 1, 2014.

Parade participants will be admitted free again this year. Vehicle "parking permits" will be provided only to parade entry vehicles entered in the parade. *Please*

remember these permits are extremely limited; consider carpooling! The participants riding in the vehicles will be admitted free and will get their hand stamped outside of Gate 4.

Those veterans attending the fair but not participating in the parade will receive a \$3.00 discount off the

ticket price on Monday, August 11 only. They are also required to present an ID that shows military/veterans status.

Questions? Call the IDVA office: 800-838-4692 or 515-252-4698 or email Mari.Mielke@iowa.gov.

Local News and Updates Con't.

Governor Appoints New Board Members to Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs

On May 1, 2014, Governor Branstad appointed the following new members to the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs: Monica Blakley, Iowa Air National Guard, to replace Todd Jacobus; Richard Goebel, VFW, to replace Becky Dirks Haugsted; and Elizabeth Ledvina, American Legion, to replace Darlene McMartin. All three terms run from May 1, 2014 to April 30, 2018.

Iowa Veterans Council Honors Daryl Beall

State Senator Daryl Beall was honored on June 10, 2014 by the Iowa Veterans Council in the Whitehill Chapel at the Iowa Veterans Home for his work on behalf of Iowa's veterans. Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs commissioner Dan Gannon and Dave Thornburg, state commander of DAV presented him with the award.

Senator Beall chairs the Veterans Affairs committee at the statehouse and was elected in 2010 to his third 4-year term in the Iowa Senate; he represents district 5 (Calhoun, Humboldt, Pocahontas, and Webster counties). He has been a tireless advocate for veterans and was honored this year for his leadership in helping pass the full homestead exemption credit for 100% disabled veterans and exempting military retirement pay from Iowa income taxes. Beall expressed his pride in the non-partisan vote for veterans. [Source: Dan Gannon;



Dan Gannon, Daryl Beall, Dave Thornburg

Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive!

The Spirit of '45 Express arrived at the Iowa State Capitol on April 1, 2014 – making its first Iowa stop during a national tour to mark the anniversary of two dates: August 14, 1945– the day Japan surrendered, marking the end of World War II and August 14, 2015 – the 70th anniversary of the event.

The ceremony included comments and a proclamation from Governor Branstad proclaiming August 14, 2014 as Spirit of '45 day in Iowa; a presentation to the governor and comments from Jerry Yellin, a World War II pilot; and a wreath laying by both Branstad and Yellin. The Governor urged Iowa communities to honor World War II veterans on August 14, 2014. For additional information, visit spiritof45.org.



Local News and Updates Con't.

Iowa WWI Pilot Returns Home After 70 Years

More than 70 years after completing his 89th fighter escort mission, U.S. Army Air Corps 1st Lt. Louis L. Longman has returned home to Iowa.

Longman, a 26-year old Clinton, Iowa native serving with the 433rd Fighter Squadron, 475th Fighter Group, 5th Air Force, U.S. Army Air Corps, was last seen April 16, 1944 as his unit returned from a B-25 bomber escort mission over Hollandia, New Guinea. A Lockheed P-38 "Lightning" fighter pilot, Longman was on the return leg of the mission in a P-38J aircraft when his unit encountered severe weather in the Markham Valley. Longman's last reported location was in the vicinity of Bogadjim, New Guinea, as his formation broke up. The 5th Air Force lost 53 pilots and crewmen that day in what became known as "Black Sunday."

Longman was officially declared deceased on February 27, 1946, but his remains were never recovered. In February 2005, the Joint Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command - Central Identification Library (JPAC) received information of a possible aircraft crash site in Madang province, Papua New Guinea. In August 2007, human remains, as well as parts of a U.S. P-38J aircraft were recovered by a JPAC Investigation Team. Additional remains and physical evidence were also recovered in 2009 and 2010 by JPAC personnel.

In 2011, JPAC's Research and Analysis Group concluded a historical association drawn from Missing Air Crew Report #4501 and the excavation site. The location of the excavated aircraft crash site and the wreckage reported by JPAC personnel, consistent with a Lockheed P-38J Lightning, support this historical association.

Longman's brother, 2nd Lt. Richard T. Longman, a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress navigator stationed in England, was also reported as Missing in Action after being shot down in February 1944. Richard spent the next 14 months as a prisoner of war at Stalag Luft 1, near Barth, Germany, before being liberated in May 1945.

Louis Longman was born Jan. 23, 1918 in Murdock, Minn. to George F. and Ellen T. (Cleary) Longman. He graduated from St. Mary's High School in Clinton, Iowa in 1936, and participated in a wide variety of school activities, including basketball, football (All-State honorable mention), yearbook sports editor, dramatics, and class officer positions.

Longman enlisted in the U.S. Army on Feb. 19, 1942, and transferred into the U.S. Army Air Corps in June. Longman completed his primary flight training at Cal-Aero Academy in Ontario, Calif., then completed Basic (Merced Army Airfield, Merced, Calif.) and Advanced (Williams Army Airfield, Mesa, Ariz.) Flight Training, receiving his pilot wings on April 12, 1943. He left the U.S. for duty in the Pacific theater in July 1943 and was assigned to the 433rd Fighter Squadron, 475th Fighter Group, 5th Air Force, U.S. Army Air Corps.

Among his military awards and honors is the Air Medal (with numeral "2"), American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal (w/4 Bronze Service Stars), World War II Victory Medal and Pilot Wings.

He was preceded in death by his parents. His four brothers and four sisters are also deceased.

A memorial service and interment was held at the Rock Island Arsenal National Cemetery, with full military honors provided by the Iowa National Guard. Governor Branstad ordered all flags at half-staff to honor Lt. Longman.

[Source: Col. Greg Hapgood, Director of Public Affairs, Iowa National Guard; Office of Governor]



U.S. Army Air Corps
1st Lt. Louis L. Longman

70th Anniversary: D-Day



“You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world. Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle hardened. He will fight savagely.

“But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

“I have full confidence in your courage and devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory! Good luck! And let us beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.”

— *General Dwight D. Eisenhower’s address to his troops on June 6, 1944.*



“I have also to announce to the House that during the night and the early hours of this morning the first of the series of landings in force upon the European Continent has taken place. In this case the liberating assault fell upon the coast of France. An immense armada of upwards of 4,000 ships, together with several thousand smaller craft, crossed the Channel. Massed airborne landings have been successfully effected behind the enemy lines, and landings on the beaches are proceeding at various points at the present time. The fire of the shore batteries

70th Anniversary: D-Day Con't.



has been largely quelled. The obstacles that were constructed in the sea have not proved so difficult as was apprehended. The Anglo-American Allies are sustained by about 11,000 firstline aircraft, which can be drawn upon as may be needed for the purposes of the battle. I cannot, of course, commit myself to any particular details. Reports are coming in in rapid succession. So far the Commanders who are engaged report that everything is proceeding according to plan. And what a plan! This vast operation is undoubtedly the most complicated and difficult that has ever taken place. It involves tides, wind, waves, visibility, both from the air and the sea standpoint, and the combined employment of land, air and sea forces in the highest degree of intimacy and in contact with conditions which could not and cannot be fully foreseen.

“There are already hopes that actual tactical surprise has been attained, and we hope to furnish the enemy with a succession of surprises during the course of the fighting. The battle that has now begun will grow constantly in scale and in intensity for many weeks to come, and I shall not attempt to speculate upon its course. This I may say, however. Complete unity prevails throughout the Allied Armies. There is a brotherhood in arms between us and our friends of the United States. There is complete confidence in the supreme

commander, General Eisenhower, and his lieutenants, and also in the commander of the Expeditionary Force, General Montgomery. The ardour and spirit of the troops, as I saw myself, embarking in these last few days was splendid to witness. Nothing that equipment, science or forethought could do has been neglected, and the whole process of opening this great new front will be pursued with the utmost resolution both by the commanders and by the United States and British Governments whom they serve. I have been at the centres where the latest information is received, and I can state to the House that this operation is proceeding in a thoroughly satisfactory manner. Many dangers and difficulties which at this time last night appeared extremely formidable are behind us. The passage of the sea has been made with far less loss than we apprehended. The resistance of the batteries has been greatly weakened by the bombing of the Air Force, and the superior bombardment of our ships quickly reduced their fire to dimensions which did not affect the problem. The landings of the troops on a broad front, both British and American- -Allied troops, I will not give lists of all the different nationalities they represent-but the landings along the whole front have been effective, and our troops have penetrated, in some cases, several miles inland. Lodgments exist on a broad front.”



– *Winston Churchill: D-Day. On June 6, 1944 Churchill addressed the House of Commons with this speech. He detailed successes in both Italy and the initial successes of the landings on Norman beaches by the huge allied liberating armies.*



“This... is London.”

– *Edward R. Murrow D-Day broadcast:* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mh3Tp9Lrhh0>

– *D-Day: June 6, 1944 as it happened hour by hour:*

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-two/10878674/D-Day-6th-June-1944-as-it-happened-live.html>

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