

# IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER



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515-242-5331 800-838-4692 <https://va.iowa.gov>

## Late Fall 2012

### — from the Director:

I had the honor of providing remarks for the Cedar County Historical Society Museum dedication of their Military Room on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Cedar County residents have donated or loaned hundreds of artifacts to the museum for this special exhibit. The program was excellent, and included Civil War era music played on a violin and piano.

Three organizations combined their efforts for the dedication — the Cedar County Historical Society, the Soldiers' Monument Association, and the Open Prairie Chapter of the NSDAR. The Historical Society's website includes this information: "Cedar County families have contributed soldiers to every war the United States has fought in since the Civil War." They have a long proud heritage of service. Of course, when you send men and women to war, they don't all come home. Cedar County has lost 3 warriors since 9-11 and 117 warriors since the



Civil War (116 men and 1 woman).

Since Tipton is a 3 hour drive from my home, I had a lot of time to listen to the radio. One of the stories that caught my attention was about preserving our history in this electronic age. It really is something we should be concerned about. My husband's mother kept every letter he wrote home from Vietnam. We have them now to pass

on to his children. Are family members today printing out emails to save for the next generation? And what about the artifacts?

We must be diligent and deliberate in preserving our military heritage. Please do your part and encourage others to preserve our military experiences, so we can pass them on to our children and grandchildren.

—Jodi Tymeson



## Iowa's Fallen Heroes

Sgt. Joseph A. Richardson, 23, formerly a resident of Algona, died November 16, 2012, while serving on active duty in Paktika Province, Afghanistan. Richardson was killed when enemy forces attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire. Also killed in the attack was Sgt. Channing Hicks, of Greer, South Carolina.

Richardson was assigned as an infantryman to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas. He was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> in October 2008 and had previously served in Iraq. This was his first deployment to Afghanistan. Joseph had recently reenlisted for six more years in the Army.

Richardson was born on September 10, 1989 and grew up in Algona, Iowa. He moved and graduated from Booneville (Arkansas) High School in 2008. His awards and decorations include: the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (posthumous), Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Ribbon (posthumous), and the combat Infantry Badge.



*Sgt. Joseph Richardson*

Survivors include his wife Ashley, his mother Ginette Richardson, his father and stepmother Greg and Teresa Richardson, two sisters, a brother, two stepsisters, a stepbrother, and many more grandparents and family members.

Funeral Services are pending at this time. [Source: Gregory Hapgood, *Iowa National Guard Public Affairs Officer*]



Pfc. Brandon F. Buttry, 19, a resident of Shenandoah, Iowa, died November 5, 2012, while serving on active duty in Panjwai District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. This district is considered a volatile area of the country that the Taliban considers part of its homeland. Buttry was on duty in a watchtower at the time of his death, but other details are not yet available.



*Pfc. Brandon Buttry*

Buttry was assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. He deployed to Afghanistan in August 2012, earned his combat infantry badge in October, and had been in combat less than four months. He is the brigade's 16<sup>th</sup> casualty since it deployed to southern Afghanistan this year. This was his first deployment.

Brandon was one of Don and Pam Buttry's 14 children — 11 of whom are adopted. The children were home-schooled. His family said that Brandon always wanted to serve his country in the military, and committed to the Army as soon as he could. His civilian and military education included high school test-based equivalency certificate, Military Occupational Specialty: 11B-Infantryman. His awards and decorations include National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with campaign star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and NATO Medal.

Brandon Buttry is survived by his parents and siblings Mandy, Luke, Missy, Zach, Macey, Austin, Shantelle, Shamelia, Micah, Noah, Savannah, Moses, and Shanya.

Funeral services were held in the First Baptist Church in Shenandoah on November 15, 2012. Burial took place in the Rose Hill Cemetery.

## Iowa's Fallen Heroes

A memorial service was held for 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant William L. Holcom on Monday, September 17, 2012, at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery with full Air Force honors.



*William Holcom*

Lt. Holcom served in World War II from 1943 to 1946 as an Army pilot and was awarded the Air Medal Citation. After his discharge, he attended the Drake University College of Pharmacy and received his Bachelor of Pharmacy degree in 1950. He was called to active duty in the U.S. Air Force as a pilot-navigator in 1951 and assigned to South Korea. Holcom saw combat duty aboard a Douglas B-26B Invader with the 13<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group. On August 8, 1952, during a night mission, the crew reported that their plane, "The 7<sup>th</sup> Chadwick," had been hit and they were bailing out. There was no further contact and the crew was reported missing in action after failing to return. Lt. Holcom and crew were Declared Killed in Action on December 31, 1953 after the fighting in Korea ended and prisoners were repatriated. He was awarded the Purple Heart posthumously.

Also lost was Commander Bob Neighbors, a professional baseball player who appeared briefly with major league baseball's St. Louis Browns, and Staff-Sergeant Grady Weeks.

[Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob\\_Neighbors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Neighbors)]



A memorial service was held for Machinist Mate 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Harry E. Clark on September 18, 2012, at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery with full Navy honors.

Harry E. Clark was a Machinist's Mate, Second Class in the U.S. Navy and served on the USS Fechteler, a Buckley-class destroyer escort of the U.S. Navy.

Fechteler was launched on April 22, 1943 at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard and was commissioned 1 July 1943. Between 8 September 1943 and 31 December, Fechteler made two voyages on the key convoy route New York-Netherlands West Indies-North Africa, escorting vulnerable tankers carrying fuel and other oil products essential to modern warfare. After overhaul at New York City, the ship took part in experimental anti-submarine exercises in Narragansett Bay, from which she sailed on 28 February 1944 for the Azores and Derry, Northern Ireland. Arriving on 6 March 1944, Fechteler joined the escort of a New York-bound convoy, reaching the United States on 22 March.



*Harry Clark*

On April 1, 1944, Fechteler sailed from New York for Hampton Roads, Virginia, where she joined a convoy for Bizerte, arriving on 22 April after coming under heavy enemy air attack two days before. Homeward-bound, Fechteler was torpedoed by German submarine U-967. As the ship began to break in two and sink, it was abandoned. Twenty-nine of the crew were killed and 25 wounded. Harry Clark died on May 5, 1944 and was buried at sea. He was awarded the Purple Heart posthumously. [Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Fechteler\\_\(DE-157\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Fechteler_(DE-157))]



## Iowa's Fallen Heroes

### Sgt. Steven Mullins Honored at Hoover H.S. Flag Dedication Ceremony

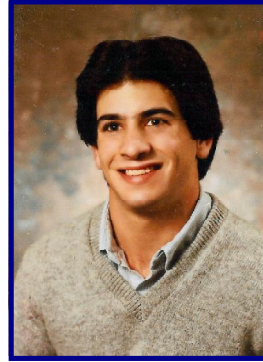
On October 3, 2012, a flag dedication ceremony was held at Hoover High School in honor and memory of Sergeant Steven W. Mullins, a 1982 Hoover High School graduate. Steven, born July 7, 1964, died December 12, 1985 – 27 years ago – in an airplane crash in Newfoundland that took the lives of all 257 passengers, including 248 soldiers. Mullins was a member of the Army's 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division; he and other members of his unit were returning from a peacekeeping mission in the Sinai and crashed following refueling in Gander, Newfoundland, Canada.

Steven was born in Long Branch, New Jersey, before moving with his family to Des Moines. He attended Rice Elementary, Meredith Junior High, and Hoover High School. He competed and was a serious and focused track athlete who represented Hoover at the Drake Relays as well as the State Track meet. He held the long jump record of 22' for 18 years, from 1982-1998. He has been described as “full of life, an enthusiastic participant in all school-related activities, a leader and team player, and a friend to all classmates.”

A large American flag now hangs prominently in Hoover High School's Technology Learning Center. Congressman Leonard Boswell arranged to have it flown over the U.S. Capitol in Steven's honor on his 48<sup>th</sup> birthday. Iowa National Guard Lt. Col. (and Iowa Veterans Commissioner) Todd Jacobus worked with Hoover principal Doug Wheeler and Steven's cousin Nancy Williams to have the flag hung in the



Sgt. Steven Mullins



Senior Picture



100m finishline  
at Drake Stadium



Todd Jacobus &  
Leonard Boswell

library, along with photos of Mullins and copies of his awards. Steven was posthumously promoted to the rank of Sergeant. His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal (with two Oak-Leaf Clusters), the Air Assault Badge, and the Expert Infantryman Badge.

In a *Des Moines Register* article [10-4-12], Hoover principal Doug Wheeler said, “What you put on your walls shows what you value. This flag serves as a reminder that the opportunities students have, come from the sacrifices of others. This flag serves as a reminder that individuals can do great things, that students can make a great impact. ...when [students] see this flag they will be reminded that they live in a country that values education and opportunity for all.”

Also speaking at the dedication ceremony were Steven's mother, Sandi McCann; Lt. Col. Townley Hedrick from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team 101<sup>st</sup> AA Division, Fort Campbell, KY; Ron Peterson, retired Hoover track coach; Nancy Williams, cousin of Steven and AIB College of Business President; and Congressman Leonard Boswell. Ms. Williams closed the ceremony with an emotional reading of “Final Flight,” by H. Greening.

A formation of 248 trees stands near the Post Headquarters on Fort Campbell, as a memorial of those who served, and a remembrance ceremony has taken place on the anniversary of this incident each year.

★ ★ ★

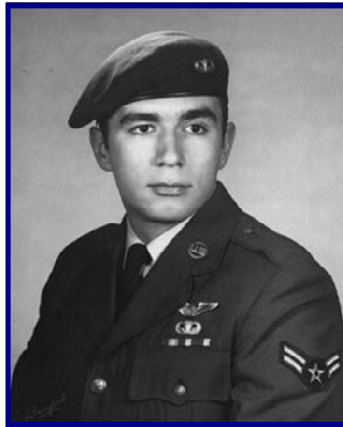


## Iowa's Fallen Heroes

### CMSgt. Douglas King Memorial Expressway Dedicated

A local committee in Muscatine, Iowa has endeavored for months with state and local officials to rename the U.S. Highway 61 Bypass in Muscatine County in honor of Douglas King, a 22-year-old who was killed on Christmas Day, 1968 while trying to rescue a downed U.S. Air Force pilot in Laos during the Vietnam War. He was awarded the Air Medal, Silver Star, and Distinguished Flying Cross, and was posthumously promoted to the rank of chief master sergeant.

On Saturday, October 20, the "Douglas King Memorial Expressway" (U.S. Highway 61 Bypass) was officially "renamed." Over a half-dozen speakers celebrated the life and heroism of King. His sister Sherry King, said, "We're not born heroes. We become heroes by the way we live our lives." And his brother Jeff went on to say that, "I'm proud



*Douglas King*

to be his brother, and I'm proud of the local community for giving him this honor."

Rep. Jeff Kaufmann, R-Wilton, called King's record of rescuing fellow service-men "an expression of his heart almost beyond my comprehension... If that doesn't restore your faith in young people," he said, "I don't know what will." "King's story will go down as a model of what happens when ordinary people are called on to do extraordinary things," Kaufmann said.



*Muscatine County Expressway Dedication*

King was Muscatine's only MIA in Vietnam. Sara Creamer, VA Administrator in Muscatine County, drove the DAV van to the ceremony and participated in the motorcade in memory of Mr. King. She commented, "It was very humbling and an honor to participate."

*Continued on page 13*



## Iowa Veterans Cemetery

### IVC Welcomes a New Team Member

We have a new member of the IDVA team at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery. Brad Perkins is a combat veteran of Iraq (combat engineer), and served from 2002-2008 with Bravo Company 224<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion.

Brad is originally from Hedrick, Iowa, and grew up on a farm. He has brought expertise with turf maintenance to his position as Cemetery Maintenance Grounds worker at IVC. He started studying in a turf ground maintenance



*Brad Perkins*

program in 1997 and, using that training, worked for 8 years on a golf course, and most recently six years at Ottumwa Cemetery.

He is a single parent of a 6-year old son and 5-year old daughter — both of whom are in kindergarten.

Brad began his new position on October 1. We welcome him as a fantastic addition (and the youngest) to the IDVA staff.



## Honoring Iowa's Veterans

### Veterans Day 2012

Veterans were honored on Sunday, November 11, 2012, at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery Remembrance Ceremony. Brigadier Gen. Janet Phipps was the featured speaker, and spoke of the changing veteran: "America now has the largest population of young veterans since the Vietnam War...I encourage you to



recognize the changing face of veterans and think about how you can help them."

Another Veterans Day ceremony was held late morning at the cemetery on the 11<sup>th</sup>. A new VFW Memorial Monument (pictured at left) was unveiled along the Memory Walk.

### Fourth Annual Veterans History Project

The AIB College of Business reported that more than 24 Iowa veterans documented their wartime recollections at the 4th annual Veterans History Project held on Veterans Day 2012. AIB has now documented more than 100 veterans' stories.

The oral histories will be archived at the Gold Star Museum in Johnston and the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. Participants re-



ceive DVDs and transcribed copies of their interviews.

The Veterans History Project "collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war."

(<http://www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home.html>)

### Wounded Warriors in Iowa for Pheasant Hunt

Four U.S. soldiers flew into Des Moines on November 9, 2012 to take part in a pheasant hunt in northern Iowa that coincided with Veterans Day. Four Marines from Camp Lejeune arrived – three purple hearts and one soon to be a purple heart – with varying degrees of wounds.



The hunt took place on the farm of Bernard

Becker of Lakota. Becker says the idea of inviting the soldiers to the state evolved in conversations with his son. Becker said his son was in Washington at Arlington cemetery when the bodies of the Navy Seals who died in a helicopter crash were buried. That moved them to contact the Wounded Warriors Project. Visit: [www.radioiowa.com](http://www.radioiowa.com) for more on this story and how you can help.

Veterans Day 2012 marked the first veteran's day without a living United States World War I veteran. Frank W. Buckles (pictured in uniform, age 16 in 1917) was born on February 1, 1901 in Bethany, Missouri and died February 27, 2011, age 110. He enlisted in the United States Army in August 1917 and served through November 1919, driving ambulances and motorcycles near the front lines in Europe. During

### World War I Veteran



World War II, he was captured by Japanese forces and was held in the Philippines as a civilian prisoner for three years.

Buckles was awarded the WWI Victory Medal and the Army of Occupation of Germany Medal in 1941, as well as the French Legion of Honor Medal. His funeral was held on March 15, 2011, at Arlington Cemetery, with President Obama in attendance.

## Honoring Iowa's Veterans

On Thursday, September 20, Governor Branstad signed the 2012 POW/MIA Recognition Day proclamation in the governor's formal office at the state capitol.

- WHEREAS,** nearly 1,700 Americans are still missing from the Vietnam War, approximately 8,000 unaccounted for from the Korean War, 120 from the Cold War and over 78,000 from WWII, one MIA in Iraq, and one POW in Afghanistan; and
- WHEREAS,** their families, friends and other concerned Americans still must deal with uncertainty concerning their fates; and
- WHEREAS,** U.S. Government intelligence and other evidence indicate that most countries in which U.S. losses occurred could provide greater assistance to answer questions about missing Americans; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Iowa commends and endorses the national commitment to account fully as possible for Americans still missing from our nation's wars; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Iowa calls on the President, Secretary of State, and Secretary of Defense to consistently raise with foreign counterparts the need for increased action to help account for our missing -alive and dead- and return them to the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Iowa calls on Congress to ensure that the POW/MIA-related government officials and organizations assist in accomplishing the principled mission of accounting for our missing veterans, thus signaling nations around the world that America stands behind those who serve;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terry E. Branstad, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim, September 21, 2012**

### POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

In the state of Iowa in honor of the two U.S. personnel missing and captured in Iraq and Afghanistan, returned U.S. POW's, and all Americans still captured, missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, Korean War, Cold War, and WWII, and ask all citizens to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies.



## Honoring Iowa's Veterans, Con't.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday in September each year. The Department of Defense website states that more than 83,000 Americans are missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, and the 1991 Gulf War. In observance of this day, the National League of Families POW/MIA flag is flown at major military installations, national cemeteries, post offices, VA medical facilities, and national war memorial sites — as well as at the White House and certain federal government offices. In President Obama's 2012 proclamation, he said:

“As long as members of our Armed Forces remain unaccounted for, America will bring our fullest resources to bear in finding them and bringing them home. It is a promise we make not only to the families of our captured and our missing, but to all who have worn the



uniform. Our Nation continues to recover the remains of fallen heroes we lost in the Vietnam War, the Korean War, World War II, and other conflicts. And as these patriots are finally laid to rest, we pray their return brings closure and a measure of peace to those who knew and loved them. During this day of recognition, let us honor their sacrifice once more by expressing our deepest gratitude to our service members, our veterans, our

military families, and all those who have given so much to keep our country safe.”

The 2012 POW-MIA Recognition Day, sponsored by Disabled American Veterans (DAV), was held on September 19, 2012 at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum. Among the honored, 15 Iowans who were held as POWs during crises in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Iran were in attendance. They are:

1. **CARROLL BOGARD** - captured on 8 Aug 1944, and spent 87 days as a POW
2. **SYD DENGLE** - was a POW at Luft 17, near Krems, Austria, from 11 Apr 1944 - 6 May 1945, and served in the Army Air Corps.
3. **WILLIAM DUTCH** - captured at Corregidor, Philippines
4. **HOWARD GREINER** - was a POW from 2 Mar - 2 Apr 1945
5. **LEE HAZEN** - was a POW in Luft 4 from May 1944 - May 1945
6. **KEVIN HERMENING** - was taken prisoner in Tehran on 4 Nov 1979 and freed on 20 Jan 1981, after the hostile takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran
7. **DARWIN HILL** - was hit by shrapnel from a grenade, and then captured in Korea
8. **BILL KAUZLARICH**
9. **HOWARD LINN** - served as a B24 Flight Engineer. On 18 May 1944, his aircraft received major damage from strafing run. Significant fire throughout aircraft. He bailed out after signaling to the rest of the crew that the aircraft was fatally damaged. He and one other crew member of the 9 man crew made it out of the aircraft. Parachuted to the ground and was captured. Was with 2,000 POWs; 500 of them died within 57 days
10. **ALLAN PACKER** - shot down over Hamburg, Germany, on 17 Jan 1945, and was a POW in Moosburg until the end of the war
11. **ART PHILBROOK** - served with the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; sent to Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, on 18 Feb 1941, captured at the Poe River near the Anzio Beachhead, and liberated by the 47<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion
12. **JOHN PHILLIPS** - shot five times in the stomach and arm by a machine gun. Captured by the SS. Liberated on 29 Apr 1945 by Patton's Army at Moosburg.
13. **DALE RAY** - represented by wife Jackie Ray. Dale served with the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, and was captured in North Africa at the Battle of Kasserine Pass
14. **LARRY SPENCER** - shot down while flying an F4 off of the USS Enterprise, and was held captive at the Hanoi Hilton from 18 Feb 1966 - 12 Feb 1973
15. **CHUCK WALTER**



## Federal News and Updates

### VA Completes Over 1 Million Compensation Claims in 2012

The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), which oversees the delivery of disability compensation and other benefits to the nation's veterans, processed over one million disability claims during fiscal year 2012, marking the third year in a row VBA claims processors have exceeded the one million mark.

In August, VA had its most productive claims processing period in its history, completing a record 107,462 claims and surpassing the previous monthly record of 103,296 set in 2010. This high level of production is accompanied by an increase in the overall accuracy of rating decisions, which has risen from 83 to 86 percent since September 2011, as determined by VA's national quality assurance program.

"We have made great strides, but we realize much work remains to be done to better serve veterans," said Undersecretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. "Too many veterans still wait too long. That's unacceptable, and that is why VA has begun implementing a paperless, digital disability claims system – a lasting solution that will transform how we operate and eliminate the claims backlog."

While claims production is at historic highs, incoming disability claims have increased nearly 50 percent since 2008, outpacing VA's current claims processing capacity. VA's goal is to process all disability claims within 125 days, at a 98 percent accuracy level, and eliminate the claims backlog by 2015.

"Our employees are working very hard to sustain this level of production," said Hickey. "This is a testament to their dedication to meeting the increasing needs of our veterans."

This year, VBA is beginning a nationwide organizational transformation to increase its claims decision output by retooling procedures and deploying paperless data systems that will speed claims processing and improve quality. All 56 VBA regional offices will be operating under the new organizational model by the end of 2013.

For a different perspective on the issue of "the backlog" (claims), read here: *Veterans Wait for Benefits as Claims Pile Up* [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/28/us/veterans-wait-for-us-aid-amid-growing-backlog-of-claims.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/28/us/veterans-wait-for-us-aid-amid-growing-backlog-of-claims.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0)



### Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012

From the 1950s through the 1980s, people living or working at the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, were potentially exposed to drinking water contaminated with industrial solvents, benzene, and other chemicals.

On August 6, 2012, Public Law 112-154 (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-112publ154/pdf/PLAW-112publ154.pdf>) was enacted to amend Title 38, United States Code, "to furnish hospital care and medical services to veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, while the water was contaminated at Camp Lejeune, to improve the provision of housing assistance to veterans and their families, and for other purposes." To be eligible for care under the provisions of this bill, the veteran or family member must have served on active duty or resided at Camp Lejeune for not fewer than 30 days between January 1, 1957, and December 31, 1987.

The link provided above is a guide to help those who may be referred to assist VA Medical staff who may be contacted by veterans and/or family members regarding Public Law 112-154.

## Federal News and Updates Con't.

### Special Tax Considerations for Veterans

The IRS has asked that we assist in getting this information out to veterans:

Disabled veterans may be eligible to claim a federal tax refund based on:

- an increase in the veteran's percentage of disability from the Veteran's Administration (which may include a retroactive determination) or
- the combat-disabled veteran applying for, and being granted, Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC), after an award for Concurrent Retirement and Disability.

To do so, the disabled veteran will need to file the amended return, Form 1040X, Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, to correct a previously filed Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ. An amended return cannot be e-filed. It must be filed as a paper return. Disabled veterans should include all documents from the VA and any information received from Defense Finance and Accounting Services explaining proper tax treatment for the current year.

Please note: It is only in the year of the VA reassessment of disability percentage (including any impacted retroactive year) or the year that the CRSC is initially granted or adjusted that the veteran may need to file amended returns.

Under normal circumstances, the Form 1099-R issued to the veteran by Defense Finance and Accounting Services correctly reflects the taxable portion of compensation received. No amended returns would be required, since it has already been adjusted for any non-taxable awards.

If needed, veterans should seek assistance from a competent tax professional before filing amended returns based on a disability determination. Refund claims based on an incorrect interpretation of the tax law could subject the veteran to interest and/or penalty charges. ( <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Military/Special-Tax-Considerations-for-Veterans>)

#### Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Filing Amended Returns for Disabled Veterans:

*I've been told that my Form 1099-R is wrong and that I should file an amended tax return to get a refund because my pension income is actually not taxable. Is that right?*

Under normal circumstances, the Form 1099-R issued to the veteran by the Defense Finance and Accounting Services correctly reflects the taxable portion of compensation received.

*I received an email that states I'm due a refund from IRS, because I get disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Do I need to file an amended tax return?*

The Defense Finance and Accounting Services generally would not send an email to veterans advising them to file an amended return.

*The Veterans Administration just sent me a determination letter that increased my disability percentage from 30% to 50%, retroactive to 2010. What should I do?*

Because the redetermination is retroactive, your previously taxable pension income can now be reduced by the adjustment. You may file amended returns, Forms 1040X, for tax years 2010 and 2011. Be sure to file the 1040X for 2010 before the three year statute of limitation expires (generally, April 15, 2013).

<http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Military/Frequently-Asked-Questions-Regarding-Filing-Amended-Returns-for-Disabled-Veterans>

## Local News and Updates

### Iowa National Guard's Red Bulls Recognized

One of the Iowa National Guard's most famous units, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division ("Red Bulls") was awarded the Department of Defense's prestigious *Citizen Patriot Unit Award*. The *Citizen Patriot Unit Award* is awarded annually to one individual and one military unit across the Department of Defense organization.

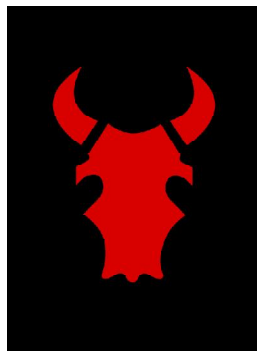
Lt. Gen. William E. Ingram Jr., Director of the Army National Guard stated in the presentation that, "Red Bulls' distinguished themselves and made substantial contributions to the security and defense of the nation, while serving in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom." "More importantly," he continued, "recognition is due in light of the tremendous standard in which their mission was accomplished with the loss of four service members. They will not be forgotten."

The unit left Iowa in July 2010 for training at Camp Shelby in Mississippi and arrived in Afghanistan in November 2010, where they transitioned into "Task Force Red Bulls." Iowa Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tim Orr stated: "As in previous conflicts, the Red Bulls lived up to their history and the reputation of Iowa's Citizen-Soldiers as some of the finest and most dependable Soldiers in the Army, and are therefore...most deserving of the Citizen Patriot Unit Award."

Visit the official webpage of the Iowa Red Bulls here: <http://iowaredbulls.armylive.dodlive.mil>. For more information on the *Citizen Patriot Unit Award*, visit their site: <http://ra.defense.gov/rfpb/awards/index.html>. [Source: Col. Greg Hapgood, *Iowa National Guard Public Affairs Officer*]

#### Did You Know?

- ♦ The entire length of U.S. Highway 34 in the state of Iowa honors the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, as it is called "The Red Bull Highway," in honor of the shoulder patch those in the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division wear.
- ♦ Marvin D. Cone designed the famous "Red Bull" shoulder sleeve insignia. He enlisted in the Iowa National Guard's 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in 1917, during which time he won a training camp design competition



now known as the "Red Bull." But did you also know that Marvin Cone is a famous Iowa painter, whose name belongs in the group of American Regionalist painters that include Grant Wood, Thomas Hart Benton, and John Stewart Curry? Cone was a native of Cedar Rapids and had a lifelong friendship with Grant Wood. You can view a large collection of Cone's paintings at the Winifred Cone Gallery at Coe College in Cedar Rapids.



### Gold Star Museum

#### Flying Tiger Replica Installed

The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum recently installed a full-scale replica Curtis P-40B "Tomahawk" fighter aircraft in honor of Iowans who served during the early days of World War II in the American Volunteer Group (AVG) — also known as the original "Flying Tigers." This newest exhibit honors the accomplishments of four Iowans who served with the Flying Tigers: Keith Christensen, Noel Bacon, Robert Neal, and William Reed.

The full-scale replica is painted in the color scheme and markings of the P40B flown by Reed, who is credited with destroying 17.5 Japanese aircraft during his service with the AVG and the U.S. Army Air Force's 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force in the Pacific Theater during WWII. The aircraft was hoisted approximately 30 feet to the museum ceiling!

*Continued on page 12*



Continued on from page 11



★ Visit the Gold Star Museum for a complete historical and visual experience of the Curtis P-40B. ★

## Gold Star Museum Notable Iowa Veterans

A new photo exhibit has recently opened at the Gold Star Military Museum at Camp Dodge. "Notable Iowa Veterans" was photographed by Grandview University Professor Emeritus Dr. Bill Schaefer, and honors 40 living Iowa veterans.

Last year, the Gold Star Museum curated another show of Schaefer's photographs, entitled "Faces of WWII, Clarke County, Iowa" – a series of photographs of all the WWII survivors in Clarke County. In an interview on *Radio Iowa*, Bill said "I'm really photographing this for the future for 50, 100, 200 years that will be put somewhere that people can access, so I



Veteran Bill Barnes

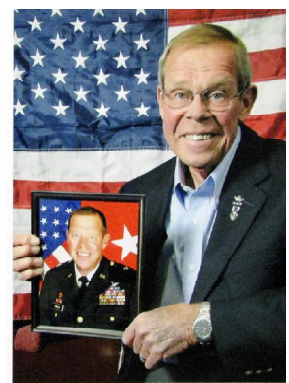
see it as a history project."

Some of the portraits were a surprise...Who knew, for instance, that legendary Iowa opera star Simon Estes was a veteran? Our own IDVA Executive Director Jodi Tymeson (Maj. Gen., IANG, Retired) and her husband John Tymeson (Maj. Gen., USA/IANG, Retired) are included among the many notable veterans.

Listen to an IPR program and interviews with some of the subjects here: <http://news.iowapublicradio.org/post/notable-iowa-veterans>.



Jodi Tymeson, March, 2012 Photo by Bill Schaefer



John Tymeson, September, 2012 Photo by Bill Schaefer

## Local News and Updates Con't.

### \$500,000 Funding for Local Homeless Veterans

Congressman Leonard Boswell announced in September that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has awarded \$511,146 to the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) of Greater Des Moines to help serve homeless Veterans.

"Homelessness among our veterans is a serious issue and this funding will help very low-income veterans with their transition to permanent housing situations," Boswell said. "I congratulate the YMCA of Greater Des Moines on their award and thank them for their continued work serving our community and our veterans."

The funding will provide a daily average of 12 beds for homeless veterans utilizing a 'Transition in Place' housing model in an effort to promote increased housing stabilization.

The award is part of more than \$28 million in grants to fund 38 projects in 25 states and the District of Columbia to provide temporary housing to homeless veterans through the Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program. GPD helps to close gaps in available housing for the nation's most vulnerable homeless veterans, including women with children, Indian tribal populations, and veterans with substance use and mental health issues. Community-based programs funded by GPD provide homeless veterans with support services and housing.

[Source: <http://boswell.house.gov/index.cfm?sectionid=24&itemid=1233>]

The Iowa Veterans Cemetery reports that through November 1, 2012 there are:  
Applications on file: Over 7,118 ♦ Interments: 1,338 ♦ Veterans Interred: 1,109  
Iowans Interred: 1,199 ♦ Other states represented: 33 ♦ *In Memory of Markers*: 44

### Lionel Richie Rocks!

Take a look at this video link from *CBS This Morning*. The story follows one of our Iowa National Guard Aviation units – stationed out of the Daven-



port Army Aviation Flight Facility – from their deployment to Iraq in November 2010 through November 2011. "Lionel Richie Becomes a Mascot for Iowa National Guard Unit."

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7423464n&tag=showDoorFlexGridRight;flexGridModule>

### Iowa Realty Helps Vets

In a recent Sunday edition of *The Des Moines Register*, "Rose & Thistle" section, a "Rose" was awarded to Iowa Realty for, "contributing more than just talk to the problem of high unemployment among veterans." Iowa Realty has created a "Veterans to Realtors Program" to help military veterans get into the real estate business. Iowa Realty is said to be the first real estate company in the country to offer this assistance. The program covers start-up costs, initial technology fees, and continuing education. For more info visit: <http://www.iowarealty.com/vets>.

*Continued from page 5*

Visit: <http://www.scally.com/mia/king.html> to read a complete account of Douglas King's heroism.

[Source: Muscatine Journal: [http://muscatinejournal.com/news/local/gratitude-expressed-a-muscatine-veteran-s-sacrifice-and-name-are/article\\_45a1de0e-1bdc-11e2-b7b0-001a4bcf887a.html](http://muscatinejournal.com/news/local/gratitude-expressed-a-muscatine-veteran-s-sacrifice-and-name-are/article_45a1de0e-1bdc-11e2-b7b0-001a4bcf887a.html)] and Sara Creamer, VA Administrator, Muscatine County VA.

## Local News Briefs & Recent Events

### Local Veteran featured in USA Today's Vietnam War Commemoration Issue

On November 8, 2012, *USA Today* published a commemorative issue recognizing the 50 year anniversary of the Vietnam War. One Vietnam Veteran from each state and territory was profiled in this special edition of the paper. Iowa's profiled veteran was Dan Gannon, a resident of Ankeny, who represents the Vietnam Veterans of America on the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs.

A common theme amongst the 50 veteran profiles are stories of soldiers who ultimately eased their post-war struggles by visiting the Wall in Washington D.C. and by becoming veteran volunteers. Dan Gannon stated that his healing began when he first visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. He now assists veterans through the Commission, through his volunteer efforts at the local VA hospital, and many other venues. In the article, Dan states, "The near-daily acts of bravery [he] witnessed on the battlefield are the memories he prefers to keep."

Find additional stories and details here: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2012/11/08/the-vietnam-war-50-years-later/1691969>.

### ING Retires Last Vietnam Veteran

On Sunday, November 4, 2012, Col. Ronald L. Albrecht, age 58, became the last veteran of the Vietnam War in the Iowa National Guard to retire. He had 36 years of service and was given a brevet promotion to general and presented with the Legion of Merit by Major General Tim Orr.

Albrecht enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1971 and was deployed to Vietnam from 1972-73 on the USS Ranger aircraft carrier. He took a break of service for 5 years - during which he earned two bachelor's degrees – and then enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard in 1983. In 2009-2010, Albrecht served in Iraq. "He called himself a traditional soldier who adheres to the traditions of the Iowa National Guard." [Source: *The Des Moines Register* (11-5-2012)]

### Women Veterans Appreciation Day



Women veterans were treated to an "Women Veterans Appreciation Day" on Saturday, November 17, 2012, at the Gold Star Museum, Camp Dodge. Michelle Finley, Women Veterans program manager at VA Central Iowa organized the event. Keynote speaker was BG (Ret) Jodi Tymeson, Executive Director, Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs.

### Veteran Job Fair



IDVA recently participated in the "Hire Our Heroes" job fair held at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. One hundred thirty-two employers participated; there were 903 available jobs. 400 veterans walked through the door! Employers talked to over 1,722 participants and 324 resumes were collected. If you have a position to fill, contact Shawn Hippen: [shawn.hippen@jcep.info](mailto:shawn.hippen@jcep.info)



## County News Briefs

Welcome to our newest County Administrators of Veterans Affairs:

Gary Boseneiler, Johnson County  
Melissa Gray, Mills County  
Craig Sorenson, Osceola County

The following County Veterans Affairs offices now have fantastic Facebook pages:

Bremer County: <https://www.facebook.com/BremerCountyVeteransAffairs>

Franklin County: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Franklin-County-Iowa-Veterans-Affairs/491676350865748>

Jasper County: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Jasper-County-Veterans-Affairs-Office/235591313229371>

Palo Alto County: <http://www.facebook.com/PaloAltoCountyVeteransAffairs>

Wright County: <http://www.facebook.com/WrightCountyVeteransAffairs>

## In Memoriam — Jerry Parmley

We are saddened to report that Worth County Veterans Affairs Director Jerry Parmley passed away on Monday, October 8, 2012.

Jerry was a sweet and generous man who had a genuine interest, understanding, and compassion for fellow veterans. He was an active



*Vietnam Veterans of America Post 790*

member of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 790, and with his chapter, posted the colors proudly for every Iowa Vietnam Veterans Day since its inception in 2009. In addition to his duties as county director, he proudly organized an all-veterans picnic every summer. We will miss him.

## Iowa Veterans Home Celebrates Its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

December 1, 2012, will mark the 125th anniversary of the Iowa Veterans Home — the largest veterans' care facility in the United States!

IVH will celebrate on December 1st at 10:30 a.m., with a keynote address by Governor Branstad and additional remarks from local elected officials.

Iowa Veterans Home's motto is, "Iowa forgets not the defenders of

the union." It was created to meet the needs of many of the state's Civil War veterans and spouses who had not yet lived long enough to see the creation of Social Security, the GI Bill, and other legislation that directly or indirectly assisted veterans.



*Iowa Veterans Home First Building*

Governor Samuel Kirkwood initially proposed building a home for disabled Civil War veterans. Marshalltown citizens raised \$30,000 to meet the Iowa House and the Senate's approval for the site of the Iowa Soldiers Home. In March 1886, the General Assembly appropriated \$75,000 for the purchase of a site and another \$25,000 to maintain the home for one year.

Early rules of the home said that "No person shall be admitted to

the home who has an income of \$16.00 per month or more." Read more here:

<https://www.timesrepublican.com/page/content.detail/id/554833/IVH-to-celebrate-125th-anniversary-Dec-1.html?nav=5005>

## County News, Con't.

### Honor Flight Winnebago: 8-7-12 Purple Heart Honor Flight

This was Honor Flight Winnebago's 8<sup>th</sup> flight in 3 years and their last. Winnebago County's VSO Jack Caputo declared, "It's been a fantastic journey!"





## County News, Con't.

### Story County Freedom Flight

Story County veterans left on their freedom flight to Washington, DC on Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 — cheered on by hundreds of well-wishers gathered at the Des Moines airport. More than 150 WWII, Korea, and Vietnam veterans — ages 60 to 91 — visited their memorials in the nation's capitol, beginning with Arlington Cemetery.

Before the flight however, families, friends, and neighbors gathered for a special send-off ceremony in Ames City Auditorium on Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. During the ceremony, one Korean and three World War II veterans were surprised to receive honorary high school diplomas at a much-belated high school graduation. (Operation Recognition Honorary Diplomas are honorary high school diplomas to qualifying veterans who did not complete high school in Iowa due to armed service enlistment. See IDVA's website for more info.) Tom Beasley, consultant for veterans affairs in the Iowa Department of Education, participated by introducing each veteran and diploma. Veterans walked to center stage as Brett McLain, Story County VSO, presented them with a framed copy of their new diplomas. The veterans also received acceptance letters to Iowa State University!

The Honor Flight veterans were also happily surprised to have an old-fashioned “mail call” on their flight back home. Each veteran received about 7 letters - from family and friends. Story County was proud to honor their veterans from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam for all of their sacrifices.

More photographs can be found on Story County's Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/StoryCountyFreedomFlight#!/media/set?set=a.277726415680129.66612.168220229964082&type=3>



Laverne Childers



Gene Richardson



Sherald Sydnies



Merrill Vansice



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