



NOVEMBER 2021 E-NEWSLETTER



Honoring our Military

Operation Purple Heart

Today, I ask you to help me with Operation Purple Heart, an unprecedented mission to return 11 Purple Heart medals to their rightful owners.

The military honors were entrusted to my office as part of the Unclaimed Property program after their owners could not be found. It is my duty to find their owners and reunite them with their medals.

These medals personify honor, sacrifice, and duty. They belong in the loving care of families rather than hidden inside our cold basement vault.

We hope attention to the recent Veterans Day celebrations and tributes will spark a memory or provide a clue so that we can return these medals.

Each of these medals was in a bank safe deposit box that had been untouched for years. The last names associated with the safe deposit box, the date in which the medal was recorded with the state treasurer's office, and the location of the bank:

- Cawthon, Received Nov. 1, 1992, Portland, Oregon
- Wilson, Received Nov. 13, 1995, Chicago
- Burns, Received Nov. 5, 1997, Homewood
- Moore, Received Oct. 17, 2001, Peoria
- Smith, Received, Nov. 18, 2002, Oak Park
- Gorski, Received, Oct. 30, 2003, Darien
- Tuttle, Received Oct. 25, 2018, Decatur
- Alexander, Received Oct. 26, 2018, Channahon
- Isbell or Shayer, Received Oct. 31, 2018, Chicago
- Steward or VanHasselaere, Received, Oct. 31, 2018, Round Lake
- Wiest, Received Oct. 23, 2019, O'Fallon

We have an unparalleled record in returning these military honors and we will build on this success, with your help. Our ask is simple: Do you know a Veteran? Did he or she live in any of these communities? Bank in these communities? Maybe a son or daughter later moved to one of these communities?

Let's start that conversation.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Frerichs
Illinois State Treasurer

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College Financial Aid

FAFSA Frequently Asked Questions

The time is now for families to apply for financial aid.

FAFSA – **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** – is a must on the to-do list.

When you complete the FAFSA, you can choose up to 10 schools to receive your information. Each of these schools then can prepare a financial aid package tailored to your needs. You can choose these schools even before you apply to them.

In fact, FAFSA is so important to paying for college that Illinois lawmakers require graduating high school students to complete the form or, as eligible, the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid as a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma. A waiver provision allows the student to opt-out for any reason.

Families do not need to fear FAFSA. Although some find the concept intimidating, a typical family can finish the application in about 45 minutes.

The first obstacle is where to start. You and your child each will need a username and password. You and your child can complete the application separately or together. You and your child will need social security numbers and W2 information. (There is an alternative application if a social security number is a challenge.) FAFSA also is available for some adults seeking to apply, or re-apply, for college. If an applicant, or their parent, has filed a tax return, there is an easy way during the FAFSA application process to automatically pull that information into the application.

Even though Oct. 1 was the first day to fill out a FAFSA for students who plan to attend college next fall, do not let the calendar stop you. However, the sooner you apply, the better.



Honoring Our Fallen

Tomb of the Unknowns and Illinois

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery is a sacred memorial that belongs to us all.

It also has an Illinois connection.

In 1921, Edward F. Younger of Chicago was a 23-year-old soldier in eastern France. In his hands were a bouquet of red and white roses and in front of him were four caskets with unknown remains of U.S. soldiers who perished during the Great War.

His orders: Choose one coffin to represent all U.S. soldiers killed during World War I.

His choice: The coffin third from his right.

"Something seemed to stop me each time I passed that third one's coffin," he said, describing the selection he made on Oct. 24, 1921. "Something seemed to say, 'Pick this one.'"

Today, 4,723 unknown soldiers who died in battles dating to the Civil War are buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, along with more than 400,000 other war veterans.

Since 1948, a 24-hour military guard has kept the public from getting near the white marble sarcophagus.

Adapted from [this article](#).

ILLINOIS TREASURER
MICHAEL W. FRERICHS

I-CASH

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