Honor, Sacrifice, and Duty



Treasurer's Note

## **Operation Purple Heart**

We continue our unprecedented mission to return 11 Purple Heart medals to veterans or their loved ones.

These medals personify honor, sacrifice, and duty. Today, I ask you to help us return these medals to the loving care of their families.

The military honors were submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office for safekeeping and return as part of the Unclaimed Property program, also known as <u>I-Cash</u> or missing money.

Military medals are among the most difficult items to return because neither the Armed Forces nor the federal government maintains a comprehensive list of awardees.

Each of the 11 Purple Heart medals was inside a bank safe deposit box. Each bank determined the safe deposit box as abandoned because the owner(s) of the box had not touched it in several years. As a result, the contents of each safe deposit box were turned over to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office.

In most cases, the conflict in which the Purple Heart was awarded, such as World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, or Desert Storm, is unclear or unknown.

The names below are the names associated with the bank safe deposit box and might not be the name of the awardee. The dates below correspond to when the contents of the bank safe deposit box containing the Purple Heart were turned over to the treasurer's office, not when the medal was earned or awarded:

- **Robert Cawthon**, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Nov. 1, 1992, from Fifth Third Bank in Oak Park. There is conflicting information about where Robert lived. Information suggests the awardee was in the infantry.
- **Raymond Wilson**, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Nov. 13, 1995. Raymond lived in Chicago and banked with Chicago Community Bank, which subsequently was sold.
- Lawrence M. Burns, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Nov. 5, 1997. Lawrence lived in Homewood and banked with Advanced Bank in Homewood. Information also suggests a financial relationship with Homewood Federal Savings and Loan. Today, there is information to suggest Mr. Burns chooses to live in a remote area in California.
- Linda K. Moore, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Oct. 17, 2001. Linda lived in Peoria and banked with National City Bank in Peoria, which subsequently was sold. Information suggests a relationship with John L. Moore.
- **Bernice Smith**, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Nov. 18, 2002. Bernice lived in Oak Park and banked with MB Financial Bank in Oak Park. The bank
- David Gorski, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Oct. 30, 2003. David lived in Darien and banked with Hinsbrook Bank & Trust. Contents suggesting a
- Vincent G. Tuttle, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Oct. 25, 2018.
  Vincent lived in Decatur and banked with Busey Bank in Pekin. Information suggests Mr. Tuttle's father, Delbert Gleason Tuttle, is believed to be the Purple Heart recipient.
- Vincent might be experiencing unsecure housing. Years ago, he frequented House of Miracles Pentecostal Church in Decatur.
  Toni Alexander, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Oct. 26, 2018. Toni lived in Channahon and banked with First Midwest Bank in Shorewood. Channahon straddles Grundy and Will counties and is near Morris. A Bible also was in the safe deposit box. Information suggests Toni was the owner of the safe deposit box and the Purple Heart recipient was Private Charles J. Alexander, who earned the honor for wounds received against the enemy in the Central Pacific area on July 30, 1944. He might have been a Marine and might have been wounded during the battle of Mariana Islands.
- Isbell Servina, or Mary A. Shayer, or Vincent P. Shayer, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Oct. 31, 2018. It is believed they lived in Chicago. Each name was on the safe deposit box. A will for Mary and a Trust for Vincent also was in the safe deposit box.
- Michelle Steward or Patricia VanHasselaere, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Oct. 31, 2018. It is believed they lived in Round Lake. A will for Patricia also was in the safe deposit box.
  Kenneth Wiest, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Oct. 23, 2019. Kenneth is believed to have lived in O'Fallon, the second-largest city in the Metro East
- region and Southern Illinois. It is five miles from Scott Air Force Base and 18 miles from Downtown St. Louis. Information suggests a potential connection to Desert Storm and Vietnam.

Our ask is simple. If you recognize a name, and you know they lived in or near the city that's listed, then reach out to them or their relatives because maybe we have their Purple Heart.

Sincerely,

## **Michael W. Frerichs**

Illinois State Treasurer





**Personal Finance** 

When Zero Interest, Isn't

The holidays are coming. Many of us will purchase items for loved ones. Not enough of us will create a budget and show the discipline to stick to it.

Planning a budget today can prevent a credit card hangover in January.

So, when planning the budget, keep in mind the "deferred interest" plans that are expected to be bountiful this year.

Deferred interest plans are credit plans offered by retailers and typically charge zero percent initially.

However, should you leave an unpaid balance—even as small as \$1—or if you miss a single payment, the interest applies retroactively to the entire purchase amount.

Or, said another way, that zero percent interest just became as much as 20 percent or more simply because you missed one payment or forgot to zero-out the account.

As a cash-management tool, a credit card can be useful.

But it should not be used to take out a loan—even if that got-to-have-it item is on sale.







## **Did You Know?**

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office predates Illinois incorporation in 1818. Voters in 1848 chose to make it an elected office. Today, the investment approach is cautious to ensure the preservation of capital.

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