

# Purple Heart Finds Permanent Home

Plus, more from our Unclaimed Property Day celebration!

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

## A Note from the Treasurer



*Figure 1 Treasurer Smith reunites Nancy Clark with a Purple Heart found in a relative's abandoned safe deposit box.*

Did you know John F. Kennedy is the only U.S. president to receive a Purple Heart? Or, the first woman to receive a Purple Heart was Army Lt. Annie G. Fox, who was serving as a chief nurse in Hawaii during the attack on Pearl Harbor? There are many untold stories from Purple Heart recipients (an estimated 1.8 million, to be exact), and I was lucky enough to be part of one by reuniting it with the rightful owner.

Get the details of this story and more in our first unclaimed property newsletter of 2025.

Roby Smith  
Iowa State Treasurer

## [Reuniting A Purple Heart](#)

Excitement. Compassion. Relief.

These are just a few of the many feelings I had when reuniting Nancy with a Purple Heart found in a relative's abandoned safe deposit box. My office had been safekeeping the military medal since 2020 when a financial institution turned it over as unclaimed after losing contact with the box's original owner.

We may not know the full story, but I think we can all agree it was monumentally significant for the individual and their loved ones. I'm proud to have been part of the process of returning it to those who can truly cherish it.

Watch the heartfelt presentation:



Figure 2 Watch a special presentation from Great Iowa Treasure Hunt

Stay Tuned...

The excitement doesn't end here. We recently came into possession of another safe deposit box containing a Purple Heart for Herman Eggers of Waterloo, a soldier who was injured in Korea.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#) to stay up-to-date with how that story unfolds!

## Successful Unclaimed Property Day

This year, more than 13,000 Iowans were reunited with their lost assets during our Unclaimed Property Day campaign. What is the value of those claims? Over \$4.6 million! One lucky Iowan is being reunited with more than \$266,813 alone!

The purpose of this national celebration is to raise awareness of unclaimed property and encourage people to search. While the day is over, our efforts of the campaign run all year long. Help us by forwarding our newsletter so more families can learn about Iowa's only legitimate unclaimed property source.

[Video: What is Great Iowa Treasure Hunt?](#)

## We LOVE Reuniting Iowans with Their Money

We might not have the key to these people's hearts, but we do have the key to reuniting them with their \$100+ in unclaimed money! Hint: it's a simple search at [GreatIowaTreasureHunt.gov](http://GreatIowaTreasureHunt.gov).

Name	City	Name	City
Douglas Valentine	Anamosa	Delores M Sweet	Saint Charles
Zachary J Sweet	Ankeny	Candy Calderon	Sioux City
Candy Pennington	Davenport	Candy Dewerff	Sioux City
Daniel Love	Hartford	George Love	Storm Lake
Esther Valentine	Plano	Anna Love	Waterloo

Not on the list? There's more where these came from! Search now and your day might get a little sweeter.

[GreatIowaTreasureHunt.gov](http://GreatIowaTreasureHunt.gov)

## The Results Are In

We survey people who were reunited with their assets after completing a Great Iowa Treasure Hunt claim. Here's what they had to say about their experience.



My claim was a little tricky in that I had to prove it was mine from nearly eight years ago. The website had great guidance on the info I needed to submit, and my \$600+ claim was successful! Without this website, I would have never known about my "lost treasure."



It was so easy and simple. I received a letter in the mail about something I had been missing from college. It provided steps on how to claim my property, and it took me maybe all of five minutes. That following week I received my items.



This is a truly exceptional service. Thank you so much for streamlining the process and doing what is right.