

A Salute to Service

Help us ensure military treasures find their way home.

Treasurer's Note

Some days at my office are filled with opportunities to speak and share information, and other days are quiet discoveries – the latter usually resulting from abandoned safe deposit boxes. As with other forms of unclaimed property, the contents of these boxes are turned over to my office after financial institutions lose contact with the owner.

When military items are found in unclaimed property, their return is of the utmost importance to respect the service and sacrifices of our veterans. These items, serving as physical reminders of a person's dedication to their country, often hold significant sentimental and historic value. This Veteran's Day, we honor the bravery of all of Iowa's soldiers as we ask for your help in reuniting these service items and documents with their rightful owners.

Sincerely,

Roby Smith
Iowa State Treasurer

Help Return Military Items to Veterans and Their Loved Ones



1. **Silver Star:** This medal, in holding for Teresa Lindley and Thomas Lindley of Shellsburg, is the third-highest military combat decoration that can be awarded to a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and is awarded for gallantry in action.
2. **Vietnam Service Medal:** This medal, in holding for Donald R. Smith from Des Moines, was awarded to personnel of any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces who met certain criteria and served between July 3, 1965 and March 28, 1973.
3. **World War II Victory Medal:** This medal, in holding for Kimberly King and Billie King of Red Oak, was awarded to any member of the U.S. Armed Forces who served on active duty or as a reservist between December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946.

The figure of Liberation, holding a broken sword, rests her foot on the god of war's helmet, looking to the dawn of a new day.

4. **Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal:** This medal, in holding for Kimberly King and Billie King of Red Oak, was issued to commemorate service of Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel who met certain criteria for service in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater between December 7, 1941 and March 2, 1946.
5. **World War I Victory Medal:** This medal, in holding for Garold D. Hayes of Tama, was presented to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who served in World War I. Each Allied nation designed a medal with similar features, including a winged figure of victory and the same ribbon.
6. **Purple Heart:** This medal, in holding for Garold D. Hayes of Tama, is one of the most respected and recognized medals. The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have been wounded while serving.
7. **Good Conduct Medal (Army):** This medal, in holding for Russell S. Lindsay of Davenport, was awarded to enlisted members of the U.S. Army distinguished by exemplary behavior and fidelity who have completed three years of honorable service.

In addition to medals, here are some of the service memorabilia currently in abandoned safe deposit boxes:



To see if you or someone you know have money or items waiting to be claimed, search today at GreatLowaTreasureHunt.gov. Even if you've searched before, names are always being added to our list.

Search Now

Claiming Money on Behalf of Someone Who is Deceased

If a loved one has passed away and they have unclaimed property in Great Iowa Treasure Hunt, their money may be claimed on behalf of an open estate, or else the legal heir or heirs may claim the funds on behalf of the decedent. You can begin the process by searching for their name at GreatIowaTreasureHunt.gov, then follow the prompts on the site to complete a claim form. You will receive an email indicating what additional documentation is required to make the claim, which might include:

- **Affidavit of Administration:** The [Affidavit of Administration \(PDF\)](#) indicates how the owner's/decedent's estate was distributed.
- **Documents:** If you need copies of wills, order approving final report or other documents for an estate probated in Iowa, those can be obtained by contacting the Clerk of Court in the county where the probate proceedings were filed.
- **Death certificates:** For deaths occurring in Iowa, heirs can obtain a copy from the Iowa Department of Public Health's [Vital Records](#). County Recorders can also issue certified copies of all deaths occurring from 1954 to the present. Other states have similar resources if the death occurred outside of Iowa.

If you are unsure what is needed or only have some of the documentation requested, start by submitting copies of what you do have. Once we receive the information, the documentation will be reviewed and we will let you know if anything else is needed. If you have any questions, [contact](#) our Great Iowa Treasure Hunt's claims experts.

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