



# Cedar County Veteran News

## The Official Newsletter of the Cedar County Veterans Affairs Office

### IOWA VETERANS CEMETERY

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Summer 2007

The Iowa Veterans Cemetery will be the first state-owned and operated veterans cemetery in the State of Iowa. The cemetery will serve the veteran population throughout the state and will provide sufficient burial space for more than twenty years in the first phase of the project. When construction is completed, any eligible veteran, their spouse and eligible dependents may be interred at the cemetery. State residency will not be a prerequisite to be interred at the cemetery.

Construction should begin on the project in late July 2007, with an anticipated opening around Memorial Day 2008. Thanks to the generous contribution of land by two donors and a combination of a federal grant and state funds,

and the tireless efforts of many veterans and family members have a new state benefit in the form of dignified military burial. A groundbreaking ceremony took place on November 11, 2006.

The cemetery is centrally located and runs along Interstate 80 west of Des Moines in Dallas County near the community of Van Meter. Exit 1-80 at the Van Meter Exit (Exit 113) and head south ("R" Avenue). The cemetery entrance will be easily identified just southeast of the Interstate. A



temporary sign now marks the location of the "Future Home of the Iowa Veterans Cemetery."

The site is composed of mostly flat to gently rolling hills with open meadows and a variety of trees, grasses and shrubs. The design of the cemetery remains in keeping with the natural beauty of the surrounding countryside.

To learn more about the Iowa Veterans Cemetery, please visit [www.iowava.org/vetcemetery](http://www.iowava.org/vetcemetery).

#### Special points of interest:

- Monthly Commissioner Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. in the Cedar County Veteran Affairs Office.
- The normal office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. However, please remember that the office is operated by 1 staff member. Therefore, there will be times when the office is closed. For your convenience, it is best to call 886-2170 before coming to the office to set up an appointment time.

### Veterans Affairs Administrator earns National Accreditation

Cedar County Veterans Affairs Administrator Patty Hamann, received National Accreditation in June during a week long schooling in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

During the class time things were taught about various benefits, qualifications, and entitlements based on service time of Veterans. Patty was

able to attend this schooling because Cedar County Veterans Affairs was eligible for some State grant money that was available for the first time to all Iowa counties this year. The County received a total of \$6,244 in grant money.

This training will enable the office to be more proficient at filing Federal claims for those

eligible Veterans without them having to go to the VA in Iowa City. This is a great advantage to Cedar County Veterans.

If you have questions regarding a possible claim or changing your existing rating decision from the VA, please contact the office to make an appointment to discuss your file.

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## Communication Square

Thank you to all the service organization members that came in support and honor at Spc. David Behrle's funeral services. A special thank you to all of the Cedar County Commissioners for spreading the word and helping me organize a wonderful showing of support for the family.

Our thoughts and support is unending for the families of:

- Sgt. Aaron Sissel
- Ssg. Don Griffith, Jr.
- Spc. David Behrle

## Veteran Commissioners

Who are your Cedar County Veteran Commissioners?

- Everett Kruckenberg, Chairman
- Bruce Jeffries                      John Sauer
- Marlin Hillyer                      Richard Moon

### Contact information:

To contact a Commissioner or the Cedar County Veteran Affairs Office:

Phone: 563-886-2170 or

Email: [phamann@cedarcounty.org](mailto:phamann@cedarcounty.org)

## Honor Guard for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Here are some interesting facts about the Tomb of the Unknowns:

How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why?

*21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.*

How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?

*21 seconds for the same reason as the previous answer.*

Why are his gloves wet?

*His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.*

Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time, and if not, why not?

*He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes and about face, and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.*

How often are the guards changed?

*Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.*

What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?

*For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5'10" and 6'2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30".*

Other requirements of the Guard:

*They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or of duty for the rest of their lives.*

*They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform (fighting) or the tomb in any way.*

*After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their live or give up the wreath pin.*

*The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt. There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.*

*The first six month of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.*



## Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming

events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find “filler” articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your news-



*Caption describing picture or graphic.*

letter to a Web publication. So, when you’re finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

## Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is grow-

ing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

*“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”*

## Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or



*Caption describing picture or graphic.*

enhances the message you’re trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are

also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.

**The Official Newsletter of the  
Cedar County Veterans Affairs  
Office**

400 Cedar Street  
Tipton IA 52772  
Your Address Line 3  
Your Address Line 4  
Phone: 555-555-5555  
Fax: 555-555-5555  
Email: xyz@microsoft.com



*Your business tag line here.*

**We're on the Web!**  
**example.microsof**  
**t.com**

*This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.*

*It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.*

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## Back Page Story Headline

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your

organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.



*Caption describing picture or graphic.*

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third

Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.