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**Michael W. Frerichs**  
ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

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