



## Iowa Gold Star Military Museum Newsletter

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July, August and  
September 2024

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- ◆ and much more!

### Look What's Happening at the Museum

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ Museum Closed - Thursday, July 4th All day
- ◆ Movie Night - Monday, July 8th 6 pm - 9 pm
- ◆ Author, Linda McCann - POW's in Iowa , Saturday, August 10th at 11 am
- ◆ Iowa State Fair Veterans Day, Monday, August 12th - Parade and Vendor Booth 9 am - 2 pm
- ◆ Museum Closed - Labor Day - Monday, September 2nd All day



### Volunteer Spotlight

Memorial Day is the largest event at the museum. This year we had over 1,700 visitors, served 544 breakfast meals, handed over 300 flowers and served over 800 ice cream cones!

This quarter we are recognizing the volunteers that volunteer for special events at the museum.

Pastor Craig Ferguson and the members of the Johnston River of

Life Church in Johnston, Iowa have been volunteering/partnering with the museum for over 10 years - serving breakfast at 6:00 a.m. to visitors on Memorial Day.

Museum volunteer Jerry Jensen stated that he just gets out of the way because the church is always



Pictured: Johnston River of Life Church

ready to serve breakfast to all the visitors with a smile. The breakfast runs smoothly thanks to Johnston River of Life Church (museum volunteers too)!

(continued on page 2)



Iowa Gold Star Military Museum  
7105 Northwest 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Johnston, Iowa 50131  
Phone: (515) 252-4531

#### MUSEUM STAFF

State Quartermaster..... Colonel Michael Harris  
 Museum Director .....Sherrie Colbert  
 Museum Curator .....Michael W. Vogt  
 Volunteer Coordinator..... Ben Elliott

#### HOURS

Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
 Saturday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
 Sunday - Monday Closed

## Volunteer Spotlight - Continued

(continue from page 1)

The Daughters of the American Revolution, Camp Dodge Chapter are always asking what they can do to help the museum in any way they can. One of the ways they



Pictured: Kennetha Klein, Karla Wright, Michael Booker Sr., Nancy Geiger, Katie Lunning and Jennifer Ewing

Not Pictured: Jane Ferguson

give back is to help with a variety of activities at Memorial Day and helping with the Plant a Flower for a Veteran Project. The one thing I noticed is how the DAR volunteers, Jane Ferguson and Michael

Booker, Sr. look forward to seeing each other every year! There is more laughter and smiles that come out of that garage!!

The friendships that the museum shares with these groups and volunteers are priceless.

At the museum, we understand that volunteering often requires personal sacrifice and we want **ALL** volunteers to know that every minute you've contributed has been invaluable.

Your selfless dedication and the hours you've invested have not only enhanced the museum's ability to serve but have also left an indelible mark on the individuals

we aim to assist. We are truly honored and privileged to have you on our team!!

### WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK....

- Walnut Creek Downtown Church who helped on Friday, May 24th with cleaning and prepping the museum for the Memorial Day event.
- Outside Scoop, for the delicious ice cream
- Life Serve Blood Center for the Blood Drive Event
- Iowa Veterans Band
- Sara Robinson/Veterans Perspective
- Simon Conway Radio Program
- The Vendors
- The Museum Volunteers

\*Plant a Flower for a Veteran Project is sponsored by Goode Greenhouses in Des Moines and Piney Ridge in Johnston.



Check out more events and event information at our website:

<https://goldstarmuseum.iowa.gov/>

Follow us on Facebook and YouTube



Want to visit the museum?!

We give group tours for all ages!

*Admission is always free!*

A visit to the museum is a fantastic way to enhance your classroom curriculum, while engaging learners of all ages with hands-on, educational experiences of our Iowa military veterans.

To schedule a tour please contact the Museum at (515) 252-4531,

or email us at [goldstarmuseum@iowa.gov](mailto:goldstarmuseum@iowa.gov).

# VIETNAM LIVING HISTORY EVENT JUNE 1 –2, 2024



# MEMORIAL DAY 2024 HIGHLIGHTS!

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL MAJOR GENERAL STEPHEN OSBORN FOR YOUR SUPPORT!





# Daughters of the American Revolution

and Southern Pecan *Pie* are a sample of recipes, along with stories, provided by our friends at the Gold Star Museum.

Visit the Museum Store for your copy today!

To learn more about DAR go to [DAR.org](http://DAR.org). The Camp Dodge Chapter is available to serve our community with programs and guest speakers, contact us at [CampDodgeDAR@gmail.com](mailto:CampDodgeDAR@gmail.com).

## Camp Dodge Chapter

Submitted by Kathy Sells, Regent

In celebration of our first year as a newly organized chapter, we're excited to share with you our newest publication: "*Cooking with the Camp Dodge Daughters.*" More than a cookbook, you will find 92 pages, 73 recipes, and countless stories from 33 charter members and several of our special friends.

Rhubarb Custard Pie, Old Fashioned Sugar Cookies, Microwave Peanut Brittle, Night Before Sticky Buns, Chocolate Layer Cake, Chicken Alfredo Bake,

**BIG NEWS!** The Camp Dodge Chapter has been approved as a sponsoring chapter for the new Children of the American Revolution Society (C.A.R.) with Katie Lunning serving as the Senior Organizing President. The National Society of the Children of the American Revolution trains good citizens, develops leaders, and promotes love of the United States of America and its heritage among young people. If you know a child who would be eligible for membership in C.A.R. (lineage to a patriot), please reach out to Katie Lunning at [CampDodgeDAR@gmail.com](mailto:CampDodgeDAR@gmail.com).



Left to Right: Karla Wright, Ben Elliot, and Kathy Sells.



Pictured: Museum Volunteer Jake Chapman and DAR Regent Kathy Sells.

**HAPPY 93RD BIRTHDAY JAKE!!**



If you are interested in knowing more about the DAR – go to [dar.org](http://dar.org). If you think you have lineage to a Revolutionary War Patriot (making you eligible to join the DAR) contact a Camp Dodge Chapter member. We stand ready and eager to help. If you need a speaker/presenter on American history, or about the DAR, contact us.

# USS DES MOINES

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Navy's last all gun heavy cruiser was the De Moines class built by Bethlehem Steel Company Fore River, Quincy Massachusetts. The United States Navy used the Baltimore class of heavy cruisers as the blue print making Des Moines larger and upgraded with a newly developed semiautomatic 8"gun. It was obvious that navel planners expected a longer war with twelve cruisers planned. However, only



three ships of the class were completed, the nine remaining ships were cancelled at the end of World War II. The three were Des Moines CA-134, Salem CA-139 and Newport News CA-148. Designation "CA: stands for heavy cruiser and "CL: stands for light cruiser.

The ship was home to 1500 officers and men who had some of the conveniences of the larger battleships. A crew's lounge, library, retail store, dental and medical spaces, post office, barber shop, soda fountain and laundry. The Des Moines also published its own bi-monthly newspaper and as on all ships movies were shown

nightly. The ship was named "Daisy Mae" from a crew contest to name the onboard ships paper. The name was picked from the popular cartoon strip in the 1950's "Li'l Abner." The busty blonde bomb shell won the contest and the name stuck as Des Moines nick name.

Daisy Mae has a varied operating schedule designed to maintain the readiness of the Navy to meet the "24 hour, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year" demands of defense.

Her job was to remain ready for the next conflict to come, cruising from her home port at Newport and after 1950, from Norfolk, VA, she was part of all types of exercises in the North Atlantic, Mediterranean and in the East Coast waters serving as a flagship for the 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet.

On 18 February 1958, she left Norfolk for the Mediterranean once more, this time to remain as flagship for the 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet until July 1961 when she was placed out of commission in reserve. In her day she serves as a lady of diplomacy hosting many dignitaries including, President Dwight Eisenhower, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth of England, King Paul and Queen Frederika of Greece, Ali Kahn, Prince Albert of Belgium, and many more.

Her class was completed too late for service in World War II but they were employed extensively as fleet flagships during their active careers. The Des Moines was completed with two stern catapults and had capacity for four (4) floatplanes; the catapults were not completed. Instead she operated utility helicopters on the stern with a hanger plus an elevator. Her weapons were massive her main 8-inch/55 caliber guns in three triple turrets had a muzzle velocity of 2,800 ft. per second with a range of 30,100 yards. Each shell weighted 260lbs with armor piercing being 335 lbs. Each 451 ton turret had a crew of 45 men and the funds had the rate of fire of 10 rounds per minute. The ammo resembled the 5-inch having the projectile incased in a brass cartridge. Not having the silk power bag as the propellant increased the rate of fire and the safety for the crew.

After decommission in 1961, she was mothballed In the South Boston Navel Annex and eventually at Philadelphia, where she remained until 2006. After an attempt failed to turn her into a museum ship she was towed to Brownsville, Texas, for scrapping, and by July 2007, Daisy Mae was razor blades.

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# Curator Corner

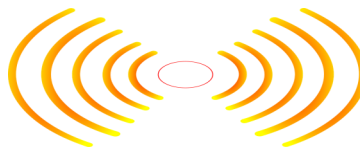
By **Jamison Stone,**  
**and Brennan Severidt,**  
**Museum Interns**

At first glance this looks like an unassuming box in which soldiers may have carried various field supplies. However, this is not a storage unit, but instead a WR1/P radio used in WWII. This radio's purpose was to be on the front lines with German soldiers and was used for entertainment, and also doubled as a speaker for announcements, and was affectionately nicknamed "Rudi." This could be run with either batteries or plugged into an electrical outlet. The bottom of the box has ports in which a microphone can be connected and used for making announcements and the radio would then become a speaker. It also came with a pair of headphones, which connect into

two ports at the top near the speaker, for hearing announcements or listening to entertainment. This radio had the capability to receive long- and short-distance broadcasts. The fuse box located to the furthest right of the speaker, could be used as a heater per the instructions.

Labeled on the fuse box is a warning, informing soldiers that if a fuse is blown it can be operated, but due to possibly becoming a fire hazard, they could only operate it under direct orders.

For more information on this item check out [tuberadio.com/robinson/museum/WR1P/](http://tuberadio.com/robinson/museum/WR1P/).



## New Museum Program Starting in July!!!

The museum has a new partnership with the City of Des Moines Park & Recreation Department to bring the museum to the summer day campers. The new pilot program "**Curator in the Park**" starts **July 9th and runs every Tuesday through August 9th.**

Our theme this summer is the history of the Tuskegee Airmen and Military Aviation. There will be hands on learning experience for day campers and a little something to remember their day.

Want the museum to present to your organization?  
Contact the museum at:

**515-252-4531** or [goldstarmuseum@iowa.gov](mailto:goldstarmuseum@iowa.gov)



# THE DEMON OF UNREST

## by Erik Larson



Reviewed by Bill Fanter

Erik Larson is a New York Times #1 Bestselling author having written books like *Devil in the White City*, *In the Garden of the Beasts*, *Dead Wake*, and *Isaac's Storm* in recent years. He writes nonfiction. Like a fine artist, he creates a great picture out of many little snapshots of documented history which are beautifully woven together. The stories are supported by true facts, liberally authenticated in the generous index provided.

Larson describes his stories require a beginning, middle, and end supported by a narrative theme or spine. He says the spinal structure is like an unadorned Christmas tree needing accessories to give it full beauty and it's his job to find the shiny ornaments in the form of hidden stories contained in diaries, letters, and memoirs. He digs like Ken Burns. Even heavily studied subjects (like the Civil War) can yield unexpected surprises and revelations in the hands of a skilled archivist.

The cover of the book does little to amplify the story within the pages. It's really not about the siege of Ft. Sumter or, at least, not merely about this relatively small fight by Civil War standards. In fact there was never even a breach in the walls of the fortress. The Union Commander of Sumter, Major Robert Anderson, ultimately surrendered rather than see his troops starve. The battle itself lasted only 34 hours and there were no deaths reported. It was a small prelude to the war it began. Sometimes big doors swing on small hinges.

The Fort was owned by the government of the United States but situated on an island in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina, the heart of the Confederacy. The battle, of course, derives its significance from the fact that it contains the first exchange of gunfire which would

launch the greatest war in the history of the United States. Over 750,000 soldiers died in the conflict

The book is a page turner of intensity. Political skirmishes within the Union and the Confederacy and between agents of the North and South abound. Larson keeps the intensity rolling by jumping from one conflict to another - from Lincoln's distrust of his Secretary of State, William Seward, (whom he had defeated for the Republican Nomination for President) to Seward's arrogant disloyalty to the man who had bested him. The Confederacy had its own internal struggles with the avid secessionists, James Hammond and Edmund Ruffin who were traveling the south stirring up rebellion and refuting the voices urging people to keep calm and carry on. Ruffin lost two sons in the conflict. He ended his life shortly after the war.

The real story here consumes about 90% of the book and is about what brought this country to blows... Slavery! It's about the politically charged antebellum environment and the efforts to change the inexorable course of two locomotives racing towards collision.

Lincoln was elected President in November of 1860 and the story told is about the five months between his election, the certification of the election results in January of 1861 and the inauguration on March 2, 1861. Lincoln succeeded James Buchanan in the Presidency and we learn that he has said his worst time of governance during the Civil War Era was between the election in November of 1860 and the date of the vote to certify the election held January 1861. There were multiple assassination plots discovered by the Pinkerton detectives and many strategies to protect the president elect so that he might see his inauguration. For example, his staff even rerouted his train schedule while traveling to his election certification and inauguration

to scuttle an assassination plot they had discovered.

This story is not one of military strategy. Rather it is the story of political actions driving the parties to war. It is a story of mistakes, arrogance, ambition, perfidy, poor communication, hubris, and individual stubbornness.

Many fascinating characters bring enlightenment to the political unrest raging through the country as the division was laid bare and states began succeeding from the union. We learn of the awkward communications Lincoln had with leaders of the Confederacy such as Jeff Davis, Governor Pickens of South Carolina, and General Beauregard of the South Carolina Militia. Communications were often sent by messenger rather than in written format to maintain security and often the Lincoln message was not clearly rendered or was distorted by the ambitions of the emissary. For example, Lincoln's choice for Secretary of State, William Seward, took it upon himself to represent that Lincoln intended to evacuate Sumter with no battle required. Actually Lincoln, while slow in acting, was planning to reinforce Sumter rather than cut and run. When the actions were shown to be contrary to the representations by Seward the Confederates felt betrayed and dishonored and it proved to be the match which ignited the war. The Code Duello had been broken. Chivalry trumped all arguments for patience.

When the actions were shown to be contrary to the representations by Seward the Confederates felt betrayed and dishonored and it proved to be the match which ignited the war. The Code Duello had been broken. Chivalry trumped all arguments for patience. (continue on page 9)

## THE DEMON OF UNREST by Erik Larson

(Continued from page 8)

The Code of Honor of the Southern Gentility is prominent in providing the backdrop for much of the interaction between the parties. It is symbolized by the Code Duello provided as an introduction to every chapter where chivalry drives decision. Indeed, it was alive and well throughout the South during this era and there was much offense taken by secessionist leaders when discovering Lincoln's apparent treachery in misleading them about intentions to evacuate Sumter.

The parallels between the five antebellum months preceding Lincoln's certification vote by Congress and the polarization in America on January 6, 2022 are inescapable. Larson began this book well before President Biden was elected but the clumsiness of efforts at conflict resolution are similar. The author says that "it is unsettling that in 1861 two of the greatest moments of national dread centered on the certification of the Electoral College vote and the presidential

inauguration." Larson set out to try to capture the real suspense of those long ago months when the country lurched toward catastrophe, propelled by hubris, duplicity, false honor, and unsatisfiable craving on the part of certain key actors for personal attention and affirmation. He wonders what malignant magic brought Americans on both sides to the point where they could actually imagine a war of fratricide. One has to wonder if a third party mediator or some entity was available to insulate each side from fumbling negotiations or in promoting a different outcome.

## A Little Bit Funny

What do you call a bear with no teeth?

**Answer: A gummy bear!**

- by Jennifer J. Hammond

Why did the optometrist set his clock to military time?

**Answer: To see 20:20**

- Reader's Digest

HAVE A JOKE YOU WANT TO SHARE?!

SUBMIT IT TO:

[GOLDSTARMUSEUM@IOWA.GOV](mailto:GOLDSTARMUSEUM@IOWA.GOV)

(FAMILY APPROPRIATE JOKES ONLY)



## SAVE FUTURE EVENT DATES

### September and November Events

- **September 21st at 11 AM**

The Final Salute Presentation/Mini Workshop - Help veterans and others who have been forgotten.

- **November 9th at 11 AM**

Ankeny Community Chorus will perform honoring Veterans! Light refreshments will be served.

- **September 1st - November 8th**

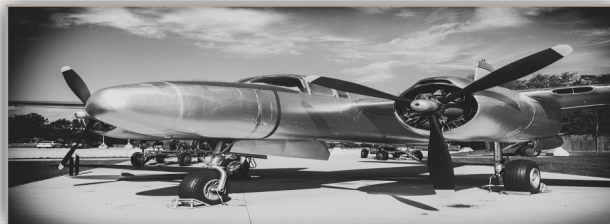
The museum will be a collection site for veteran care packages that will be mailed out on November 9th by the Blue Star Mothers of Central Iowa. Call the museum for more information 515-252-4531.

# WORLD WAR II TRIVIA

1. *World War II Started when Germany invaded which Country?*
2. *Early in the war, in his first address to the British House of Commons, Prime Minister Winston Churchill said, “I have nothing to offer but...”?*
3. *Which technology helped the U.K. defeat Germany’s months long air offensive against it in the Battle of Britain?*
4. *Which fortuitous circumstances help reduce U.S. losses at Peral Harbor?*
5. *Because Japan conquered the Dutch East Indies, which of these goods was the first to be rationed in the United States?*
6. *Japan launched an attack on the United States mainland by using which curious method?*
7. *Which city was the site of a 900-day siege during WWII?*
8. *Which U.S. president won the Navy and Marine Corps Medals for his heroism during WWII?*
9. *“Little Boy and “Fat Man” were nicknames for what?*
10. *What did the Germans call the Tuskegee Airmen?*
11. *Which language was used by the U.S. military to encode messages that were never deciphered by the enemy during WWII?*



*\*If you want to learn more about WWII and the answers to questions 6 and 11? Visit the museum to learn more!*



**Answers:** 1. Poland; 2. Blood, toil, tears and sweat; 3. Radar; 4. No American aircraft carriers were in port; 5. Tires; 6. Helium balloons; 7. Leningrad; 8. John F. Kennedy; 9. Atomic Bombs; 10. Red-tailed devils; 11. Navajo and Meskwaki; and Native American languages