World Wars I and II Memorial at Elmwood Cemetery
Comprising a Field of Memorial Crosses and the American Legion Monument

WW II Veterans Honored in the Field of Memorial Cross

Terrance William Bailey
Richard Leslie Barton
Francis F. Bietler
Harold E. Blair
Norton J. Bowman
Marvin H. Brainard
Lawrence Clark Brashear
Kenneth R. Bricker
William E. Briscoe
Charles W. Brown
Evan S. Brown
George H. Bunnell
John David Chaney
Chester O. Coggin
Dennis Marion Coggin
Rufus Owen Colclasure
Glen W. Crawford
George W. Crowder
Charles Jack Cunningham
Clyde R. Daniel
Robert E. Davis
C. J. Dearmond
Edgar E. Eakin
Leslie E. Etchason
James Fellows

Eugene H. Fleener
Ray J. Foster
Roy H. Fry
William J. Gray
William Ralph Gray
Bill B. Grogan
August C. Haak, Jr.
David L. Hagen
Dewitt Hagen
Charles D. Hall
James Leon Handley
Raymond P. Harmon
Norman H. Heiden
Curtis McKee Henderson
Ruben Otis Henson
Harold Harvey Hoard
Clyde Hoskins
Andrew Hough
Loren Carol Keith
Charles C. Kraucunas
Everett E. Kurr
George S. Lagle
Roscoe Lewis Lamb
Robert E. Lawrence
Ralph Leroy Martin
Loren Arnold Maxwell

J. Edward McIntire
William M. Morgan
Donald Max Murphy
Maurice A. O’Dell
Wallace E. Pearce
Chester A. Rapp
George F. Reynolds
George O. Rosenberg
Edwin L. Schoonover
Delmo A. Smith
Jack Sparks
Milton R. Stanley
Ivan L. Stoops
Merle N. Stoops
Ishmael F. Tackitt.
Joseph F. Tolliver
Ralph B. Turner
Lusco Isaac Wickiser
Harlan A. Wildbur
George Wireman
Don Edwin Woods
James Allen Yates
Orin Arthur Yates
Harry E. Young
Hubert Zerkel
At Elmwood Cemetery in Flora, Illinois, is a Memorial Cemetery for WW I and WW II Veterans. It was originally constructed and dedicated by Post 14, American Legion, on Memorial Day, 1945. Since then, there have been several changes over the years resulting, today, in a concrete plot about 50 x 50 feet square with spaces for 99 White Memorial Crosses, 90 of which are installed. Eighty-five of the crosses bear names of veterans from the local area who were Killed in Action or Died in Service from other causes. Seventy-six of these are WW II Veterans.

On May 29th of 2004, the National WW II Memorial in Washington, D. C., was dedicated. “The World War II Memorial honors the 16 million who served in the armed forces of the U.S., the more than 400,000 who died, and all who supported the war effort from home. Symbolic of the defining event of the 20th Century, the memorial is a monument to the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of the American people.”

One of the Master Design Features of this Memorial is an electronic database called the WW II Registry of Remembrances. “The memory of America's World War II generation is preserved within the physical memorial and through the World War II Registry of Remembrances, an individual (and searchable) listing of Americans who contributed to the war effort. Any U.S. citizen who helped win the war, whether a veteran or someone on the home front, is eligible for the Registry. Names in the Registry will be forever linked to the memorial's bronze and granite representations of their sacrifice and achievement.”

On Memorial Day 2005, as Keynote Speaker at the Elmwood Ceremony, I announced that as part of my Registry Enrollment Project, my Research Assistant, Jean McDaniel, and I had successfully enrolled the 76 Elmwood Memorial Cemetery WW II Honorees in the WW II Registry of Remembrances (see Memorial Day Address Text at Tab A). And, for those without access to The Registry via the Internet, we would make a book with printed honoree pages for these honored veterans available for public viewing at Flora Library. This is that book.

We hereby dedicate this “Elmwood Memorial Cemetery WW II Veterans National Registry of Remembrances Print Collection” to the honored memory of those 76 fallen local heroes, and donate it for the use of the public at the Flora Library, this 28th Day of June, 2005.

___________________________                                            ___________________________
Robert Medley Gatewood                                                                      Jean McDaniel
Lt. Col. USAF (Ret.)                                                            Research Assistant

(Please see next page for additional information about the Registry and a request.)
More About the WW II Registry of Remembrances

The Registry combines four distinct databases that can be searched for names of those whose service and sacrifice helped win the Second World War. The Registry includes the names of Americans who are:

- Buried in American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) overseas military cemeteries.
- Memorialized on ABMC Tablets of the Missing
- Listed on official War and Navy Department Killed in Service rosters now held by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).
- Honored by public enrollment in the Registry of Remembrances.

The first three of these are rather impersonal, as they are constructed from rather dry government data, but useful to a degree in finding a little bit about a veteran’s military statistics, but only if they died in service, and they are very incomplete. And they list no civilians on the home front.

The fourth data base is the most important because only it can contain a mix of available public data, but also plus purely personal information (including many photographs) that clearly come from the person him/herself, or family, or friends of the honoree. Notice, I didn’t say Veteran, because there are many civilians on the home front already in the registry, and there should be many more. This registry data base will eventually be the largest and best of the four because it is not being put together from any government lists by some government committee. It is being built, honoree by honoree, exclusively by inputs from private citizens like any of you … and me … with private knowledge of and information about their honorees in addition to public records.

If you would like to learn more about the Registry, visit it on the Internet at wwiimemorial.com and click on WWII Registry. If you’d like to search, you may do so by Last Name, First Name, and State (any or all). A more interesting Search is to look for all the names currently entered for a particular Hometown and State (search for only those two entries), using the Advanced Search feature. Enjoy.

A Couple of Requests

The data available on the 76 honorees varied widely. For 18 of them, it was only their names on the Elmwood Memorial Crosses. Consequently, we are in search for more information and/or photographs for those with little information and no photograph. If you can add anything pertaining to any of the honoree’s data and particularly about their hometown, branch of service, and activities during WW II (or about how to contact whomever honored the Veteran, other than Gatewood); please fill out a Data Sheet on that person that you’ll find at Tab B, and leave it with the Librarian who will pass it on to us. Be sure to date it and include your name and contact data too.

Finally, whether or not you can provide additional data about any of the honorees, please sign and date the Reader Log found at Tab C, and provide any comments you’d like to make. We’d appreciate you spreading the word to others that this book is available and in need of further information – perhaps from the general local population.

Thanks,

Medley Gatewood and Jean McDaniel
Additional Data Sheet (Date: ______________)

Honoree: _________________________________________________________________

Branch of Service: _________________________________________________________

Hometown: __________________________________________________________________

Honored By (Contact Info for Those Other than Gatewood): _________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Activities During WW II: _____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

(Enlisted/Drafted? Dates of Entry to Active Service and Where? Training and Military
Occupational Specialty/Job? Military Unit and Theater(s), Battles, Operations, and Campaigns
Participated In? Wounds/Captured? Earned Awards and Decorations. Discharge Rank, Date,
and Where? Etc.?)

Your Name and Contact Info: ________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
## Reader Log

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