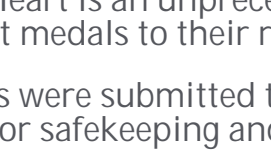


Michael W. Frerichs
ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

MAY 2023 E-NEWSLETTER



Treasurer's Note

Remembering Those Who Sacrificed, On Memorial Day and Always

As Memorial Day approaches, I am reminded of Operation Purple Heart.

Operation Purple Heart is an unprecedented mission to return Purple Heart medals to their rightful owners.

The military honors were submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office for safekeeping and return as part of the Unclaimed Property program, also known as I-Cash or missing money.

These medals personify honor, sacrifice, and duty. We respectfully ask the citizens of Illinois to help us return these medals into the loving care of their families.

Military medals are among the most difficult items to return because neither the Armed Forces nor the federal government maintains a comprehensive list of awardees.

We hope that Memorial Day gatherings will spark a memory or provide a clue so that these medals can be returned. We have an unparalleled record in returning military honors, especially the Purple Heart, as a direct result of friends reaching out to friends and asking a simple question: "Did you see the story about missing Purple Hearts and could that be your Dad's?"

That is exactly what happened earlier this year, when we returned a Purple Heart an Army Specialist earned in Vietnam. A friend heard about our efforts and contacted the soldier's youngest daughter and asked, "Could this be your Dad's?"

In an effort to find the rightful owners, the Illinois State Treasurer's Office has released additional information that the owners or their relatives might recognize. A thorough vetting of inquiries will occur once an electronic claim is made at www.illinoistreasurer.gov/icash.

Misrepresenting oneself in an effort to recover unclaimed property is a crime, will not be tolerated, and the State Treasurer's Office will seek prosecution to the fullest extent of the law, especially with regard to military honors.

Each of the Purple Heart medals was inside a bank safe deposit box. Each bank determined the safe deposit box was abandoned because the owner(s) of the box had not touched it in several years. As a result, the contents of each safe deposit box were turned over to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office.

In most cases, the conflict in which the Purple Heart was awarded, such as World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, or Desert Storm, is unclear or unknown.

We have made great strides in recent years when it comes to returning Purple Hearts to their rightful owners. Yet we have further work to do. We continue to pursue leads and to ask for the public's help so we can return additional Purple Hearts.

The names below are the names associated with the bank safe deposit box and might not be the name of the awardee. The dates below correspond to when the contents of the bank safe deposit box containing the Purple Heart were turned over to the Treasurer's Office, not when the Purple Heart was earned or awarded:

Robert Cawthon, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Nov. 1, 1992, from Fifth Third Bank in Oak Park. There is conflicting information about where Robert lived. Information suggests the awardee was in the infantry.

Raymond Wilson, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Nov. 13, 1995. Raymond lived in Chicago and banked with Chicago Community Bank, which subsequently was sold.

Lawrence M. Burns, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Nov. 5, 1997. Lawrence lived in Homewood and banked with Advanced Bank in Homewood. Information also suggests a financial relationship with Homewood Federal Savings and Loan. Today, there is information to suggest Mr. Burns chooses to live in a remote area in California.

Linda K. Moore, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Oct. 17, 2001. Linda lived in Peoria and banked with National City Bank in Peoria, which subsequently was sold. Information suggests a relationship with John L. Moore.

Bernice Smith, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Nov. 18, 2002. Bernice lived in Oak Park and banked with MB Financial Bank in Oak Park. The bank subsequently was sold.

David Gorski, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Oct. 30, 2003. David lived in Darien and banked with Hinsbrook Bank & Trust. Contents suggesting a relationship with World War II also were present, although it is difficult to determine if that is when the Purple Heart was earned.

Vincent G. Tuttle, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Oct. 25, 2018. Vincent lived in Decatur and banked with Busey Bank in Pekin. Information suggests Mr. Tuttle's father, Delbert Gleason Tuttle, is believed to be the Purple Heart recipient. Vincent might be experiencing unsecure housing. Years ago, he frequented House of Miracles Pentecostal Church in Decatur.

Toni Alexander, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Oct. 26, 2018. Toni lived in Channahon and banked with First Midwest Bank in Shorewood. Channahon straddles Grundy and Will counties and is near Morris. A Bible also was in the safe deposit box. Information suggests Toni was the owner of the safe deposit box and the Purple Heart recipient was Private Charles J. Alexander, who earned the honor for wounds received against the enemy in the Central Pacific area on July 30, 1944. He might have been a Marine and might have been wounded during battle on Marianas Island.

Isbell Servina, or Mary A. Shayer, or Vincent P. Shayer, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Oct. 31, 2018. It is believed they lived in Chicago. Each name was on the safe deposit box. A will for Mary and a trust for Vincent also were in the safe deposit box.

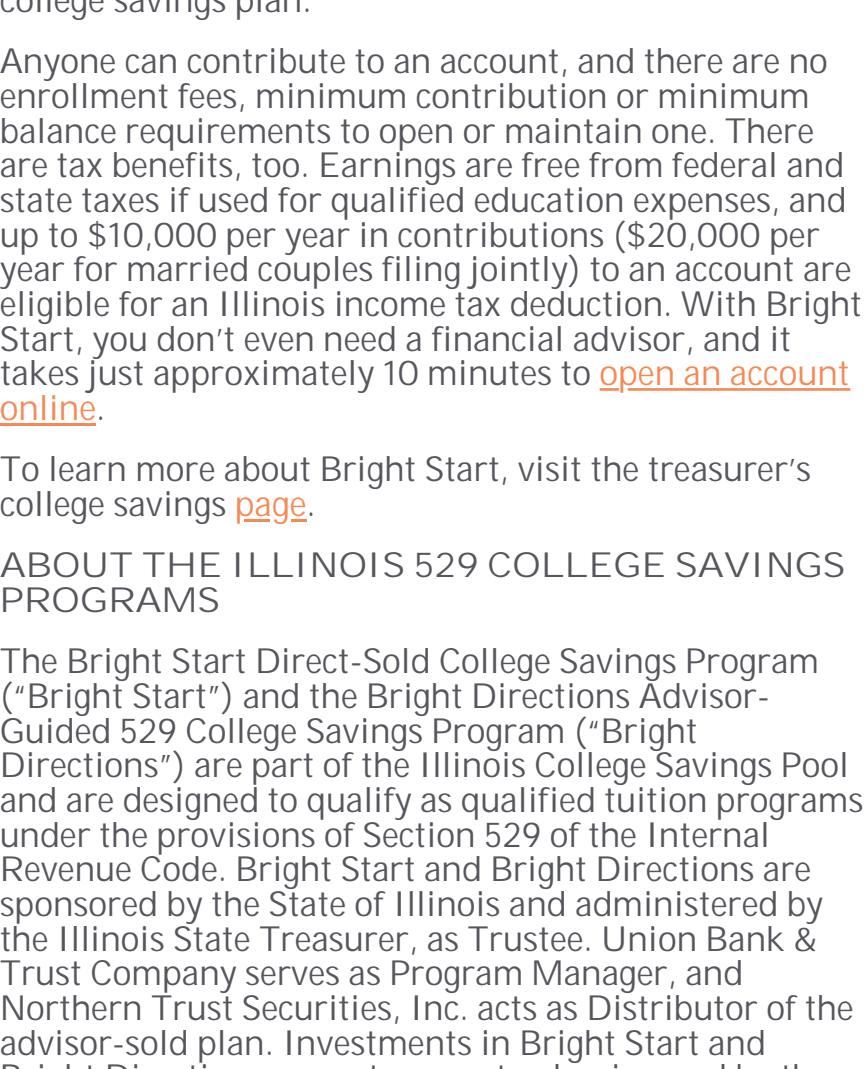
Michelle Steward and Patricia VanHasselaere, submitted to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office Oct. 31, 2018. It is believed they lived in Round Lake. A will for Patricia also was in the safe deposit box.

To these heroes, and to all who have served our country with honor, we express our deepest gratitude on Memorial Day and every day.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Frerichs

Illinois State Treasurer



Purple Heart, Other Military Medals Returned by Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs

Since 2015, the Illinois State Treasurer's Office has successfully reunited eight Purple Hearts with their owners or heirs. It did so through an internal investigatory process, and the office is required by law to try to return unclaimed property no matter how long it takes. Private entities holding abandoned or misplaced property are not compelled to try to identify nor locate the owner.

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office safeguards \$3.5 billion in unclaimed property. Typically, a bank account, investment product, or contents of a safe deposit box are turned over to the Treasurer's Office if there is no activity for several years. Unclaimed property is submitted twice each year – financial institutions in the fall; and non-financial institutions, such as business associations, utilities, and life insurance companies, in the spring.

Returned Purple Hearts and other medals

December 13, 2016 (Springfield) – Korean War – Returned [Purple Heart and Combat Infantryman Badge](#) to Barbara Ann Reynolds, daughter of Korean War Veteran Corporal John W. Naylor of Springfield. Cpl. Naylor served in the Army.

April 5, 2017 (Chicago) – Vietnam – Returned [Purple Heart, Vietnam Service Medal, and National Defense Medal](#) to Vietnam Veteran Specialist Harold J. Walker (of Vicksburg, Mississippi, formerly of Chicago). SPC Walker served in the Army (1969-70) in the 23rd Infantry Division.

May 22, 2017 (Peoria) – World War II – Returned [Purple Heart](#) to Ceonstance Barr, daughter of World War II Veteran Corporal Edward H. Dunn of Peoria. Cpl. Dunn served in the Army (1943-45) as part of Battery A of the 808th Field Artillery Battalion in Europe where he was a Scout (reconnaissance) and Rifle Sharpshooter.

November 6, 2017 (East St. Louis) – Vietnam – Returned [Purple Heart](#) to Tommie Turner, brother-in-law of Vietnam Veteran Specialist Willie G. Riley, formerly of East St. Louis. SPC Riley served in the Army (1967-69). The medal then was presented to his widow, Lori, and children at Calverton National Cemetery in New York on Veterans Day.

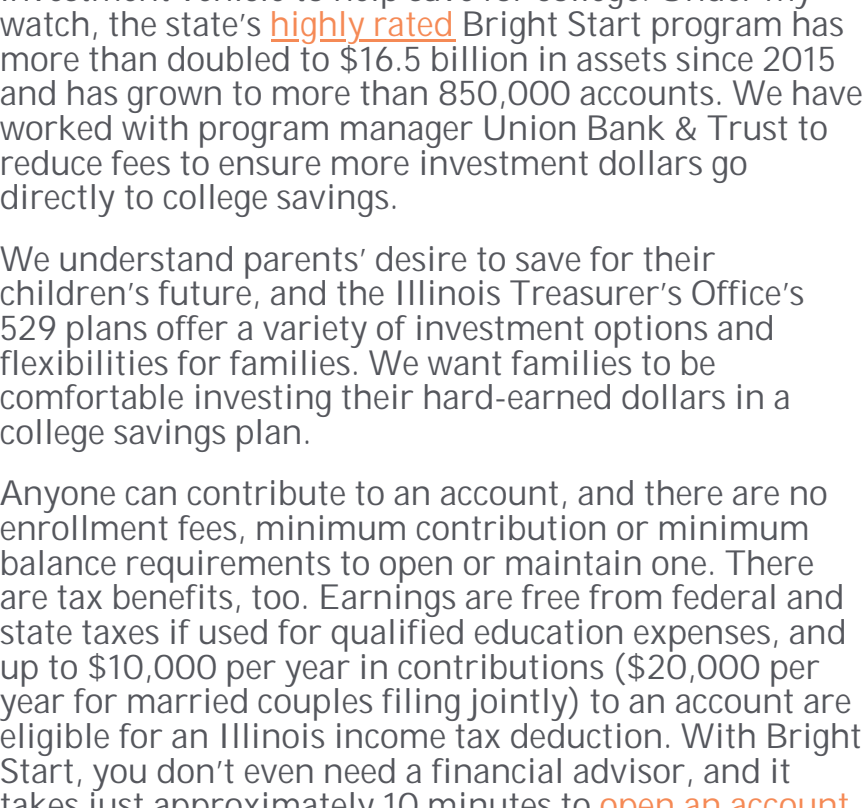
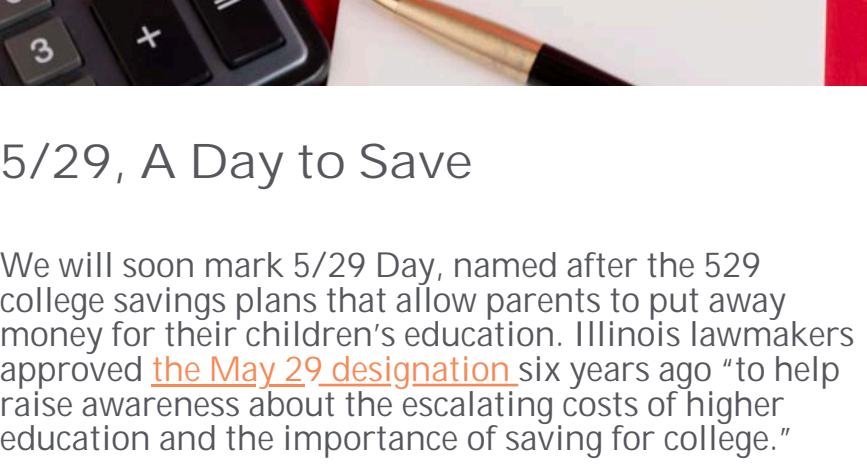
December 19, 2017 (Springfield) – Vietnam – Returned [Purple Heart](#) to Bertha Richard, niece of Vietnam Veteran Private First-Class Andrew Gust Richard of Elkhart. PFC Richard served in the Marine Corps (1968) in B Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 3rd Marine Amphibious Force as a Rifleman. He was killed in action (KIA) June 19, 1968 (age 21) in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam, at Bac Dong Ban, Go Noi Island, while participating in Operation Allen Brook. His tour in Vietnam began on February 26, 1968. He is buried at Camp Butler National Cemetery outside of Springfield.

June 28, 2018 (Chicago) – Vietnam – Returned [Purple Heart](#) to Phyllis Furlough, daughter, and Kenneth Furlough, grandson, of Vietnam Veteran Private First-Class Phillip Allen Morris of Harvey. PFC Morris served in the Army (1964-67) in the 101st Airborne Division, A Company, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry (when received Purple Heart) as an Armor Crewman and Armor Intelligence Specialist and in the Army Reserves (1967-70). He was wounded in battle on January 13, 1966. PFC Morris passed away in 1997.

March 11, 2019 (Joliet) – World War II – Returned [Purple Heart](#) to Barbara Martens, niece of First Lieutenant Walter B. Ingledew, Jr. The Chicago native enlisted in the Army Air Forces in 1942 and served in the 428th Fighter Squadron, 474th Fighter Group, Ninth Army Air Force as a Fighter Pilot. He was active over Normandy on D-Day and received his Purple Heart after he was killed in action when his plane was shot down over France on August 14, 1944. He was 23 years old.

March 5, 2023 – (Springfield) – Returned [Purple Heart](#) to children of Army Specialist Kenneth R. Wiest. Specialist Wiest earned the Purple Heart while serving in Vietnam. He died in O'Fallon, Illinois, in 1998 at age 48.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



5/29, A Day to Save

We will soon mark 5/29 Day, named after the 529 college savings plans that allow parents to put away money for their children's education. Illinois lawmakers approved [the May 29 designation](#) six years ago "to help raise awareness about the escalating costs of higher education and the importance of saving for college."

In Illinois, the [Bright Start](#) program is a tax-advantaged investment vehicle to help save for college. Under my watch, the state's [highly rated](#) Bright Start program has more than doubled to \$16.5 billion in assets since 2015 and has grown to more than 850,000 accounts. We have worked with program manager Union Bank & Trust to reduce fees to ensure more investment dollars go directly to college savings.

We understand parents' desire to save for their children's future, and the Illinois State Treasurer's Office's 529 plans offer a variety of investment options and flexibilities for families. We want families to be comfortable investing their hard-earned dollars in a college savings plan.

Anyone can contribute to an account, and there are no enrollment fees, minimum contribution or minimum balance requirements to open or maintain one. There are tax benefits, too. Earnings are free from federal and state taxes if used for qualified education expenses, and up to \$10,000 per year in contributions (\$20,000 per year for married couples filing jointly) to an account are eligible for an Illinois income tax deduction. With Bright Start, you don't even need a financial advisor, and it takes just approximately 10 minutes to [open an account online](#).

To learn more about Bright Start, visit the treasurer's college savings [page](#).

ABOUT THE ILLINOIS 529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAMS

The Bright Start Direct-Sold College Savings Program ("Bright Start") and the Bright Directions Advisor-Guided 529 College Savings Program ("Bright Directions") are part of the Illinois College Savings Pool and are designed to qualify as qualified tuition programs under the provisions of Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. Bright Start and Bright Directions are sponsored by the State of Illinois and administered by the Illinois State Treasurer, as Trustee. Union Bank & Trust Company serves as Program Manager, and Northern Trust Securities, Inc. acts as Distributor of the advisor-sold plan. Investments in Bright Start and Bright Directions are not guaranteed or insured by the State of Illinois, the Illinois State Treasurer, Union Bank & Trust Company, Northern Trust Securities, Inc., the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or any other entity.

An investor should consider the investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses associated with municipal fund securities before investing. This and other important information is contained in the fund prospectuses and the Bright Start Program Disclosure Statement and Bright Directions Program Disclosure Statement (issuer's official statement), which can be obtained from your financial professional, on BrightStart.com, and BrightDirections.com and should be read carefully before investing. You can lose money by investing in a portfolio. Each of the portfolios involves investment risks, which are described in the Program Disclosure Statement.

An investor should consider, before investing, whether the investor's or designated beneficiary's home state offers any state tax or other benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors that are only available for investments in such state's 529 plan. Investors should consult a tax advisor.



Smile!

Cream of the Crop Photo Contest

As schools wrap up the academic year, State Treasurer Michael Frerichs reminds young Illinois photographers to submit photos for the 2023 Cream of the Crop Photo Contest. The contest, for students ages 8 to 18, provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their creative skills and highlight agriculture in our state.

"Illinois is an agricultural leader, thanks to its dedicated professionals in the industry, millions of acres of rich soil, and diversity in products," Frerichs recently said about the contest. "For more than a decade, our state's young photographers have done a wonderful job of capturing the beauty that Illinois has to offer through the Cream of the Crop Photo Contest. We're confident that this year's contest participants will continue that tradition. I encourage students to grab their phones or cameras, explore Illinois agriculture, and share their vision."

The Treasurer's Office is accepting electronic submissions for the Cream of the Crop Photo Contest at www.CreamoftheCropContest.com. Top photographs will be chosen in three age-based categories: ages 8-10, 11-14 and 15-18. Each student may submit up to two photos by June 12, 2023.

Now in its 11th year, the contest provides a way for Illinois students to showcase their most innovative or scenic pictures that depict their vision of agriculture in our state. More than 500 students have submitted nearly 1,000 photos since the contest's debut in 2013.

The Cream of the Crop Photo Contest is part of the Illinois State Treasurer's Ag Invest program. Winning photos will be featured in Ag Invest marketing material and the 2023-2024 Cream of the Crop calendar, as well as at the 2023 Illinois State Fair.

Ag Invest, one of the nation's largest agricultural linked deposit programs, provides loan opportunities for Illinois farmers and agri-businesses to start, expand or add value to their farm operations.

Since 2015, when Frerichs became treasurer, the program has supported more than 5,000 agriculture borrowers and partnered with more than 35 financial institutions.

The State Treasurer's Office Cares. Engagement means to us and about to help you look up Unclaimed Property on I-Cash and to answer questions about the Bright Start college savings plan and other programs. Come visit us when we're in your neighborhood!

Michael W. Frerichs

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 20	CAMP FIRE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE DOG ADOPTION & OPEN HOUSE 443 Trout Farm Road, Springbrook	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
MAY 20	LOCKPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY FUN DAY 1463 S. Farrell Road, Lockport	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
MAY 20	ROCKFORD PARK DISTRICT FOOTBALL TRAINING CAMP 8800 E. Riverside Blvd., Loves Park	9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
MAY 20	JUSTICE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RIB ROAST 8001 S. 82nd Ave., Justice	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
MAY 20	TAKE KIDS FISHING DAY 1012 N. 5th St., Herrin	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
MAY 23	REP. ANTHONY DELUCA SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR 3114 Enterprise Park Ave., South Chicago Heights	8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
MAY 23	FOUNTAINDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY INVESTED IN YOU EVENT 300 W. Brimfield Road, Bellingbrook	6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
MAY 24	HANOVER FOOD PANTRY & ROTARY CLUB OF BARTLETT 7431 Astor Ave., Hanover Park	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
MAY 24	PALOS HEIGHTS FARMERS MARKET 12217 S. Harlem Ave., Palos Heights	8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
MAY 25	VILLAGE OF MOKENA I-CASH EVENT 11904 Carpenter St., Mokena	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
MAY 25	SEN. ANN GILLESPIE I-CASH EVENT 1012 N. 5th St., Herrin	4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
MAY 26	REP. LARRY WALSH SHRED DAY & I-CASH EVENT 2455 S. Navajo Dr., Channahon	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
MAY 30	PLAINFIELD PARK DISTRICT 14807 S. Ravinia Ave., Plainfield	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
MAY 31	ORLAND TOWNSHIP SENIOR HEALTH FAIR 14807 S. Ravinia Ave., Orland Park	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
JUNE 1	HILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FARMERS MARKET 8652 W. 95th St., Hickory Hills	7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

If you would like to contact the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer, please visit our [contact us](#) page.

To modify your e-mail options or opt out of receiving the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer's electronic communications, please [click here](#).

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