



## OFFICE OF ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

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### **Treasurer Frerichs Returns Purple Heart to Daughter of World War II Veteran**

**PEORIA** – Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs today returned a Purple Heart medal to Constance Barr, the daughter of late World War II Veteran Corporal Edward H. Dunn of Peoria, at a ceremony in front of the World War I and World War II Veteran’s Memorial in Peoria.

The Purple Heart is one of the most recognized and respected medals awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces. Cpl. Dunn’s medal was discovered in a safe deposit box that was surrendered to the treasurer’s office as unclaimed property in 1993.

“It is a great honor to return this Purple Heart Medal to the daughter of an Illinois WW II Veteran,” said Frerichs. “We must continue to honor and recognize the sacrifices made by the men and women who have served our country. Today, we are especially proud to reconnect this Illinois family this special keepsake.”

Born in Ransom, Illinois and later a resident of Peoria, Cpl. Edward Dunn enlisted in the United States Army in 1943 at the age of 34. He was deployed in 1944 assigned to Battery A of the 808<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion and held the occupation of Scout 761 and was qualified as a Rifle Sharpshooter.

During his service in World War II, he travelled through France, Belgium, and Germany where he participated in the Rhineland Campaign and the Western Allied Invasion of Germany (Central Europe Campaign) as part of the European Theater Offensive. In addition to the Purple Heart Medal, Cpl. Dunn received the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Battle Stars, four Service Stripes, two Overseas Service Bars, and a Good Conduct Medal. These medals were not part of the safe deposit box that held his Purple Heart Medal.

Cpl. Dunn returned to Illinois upon the completion of his service to his wife Bertha and gained employment as an Inspection Foreman for the Hiram Walker & Sons Distillery in Peoria. He also served as the Mayor of the Village of Bellevue from 1954-1969. He passed away in 1970 at the age of 61.

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The treasurer's office presently has more than 100 unclaimed military medals. Military medals are never auctioned and kept until the owners or family members are found.

The treasurer's office is the custodian of unclaimed property, including lost bank accounts, insurance policy proceeds, and forgotten safe deposit boxes. Items are surrendered after private entities tried for at least five years to locate the owners. Because thousands of items are surrendered each year, residents should check I-Cash every six months. Visit [www.illinoistreasurer.gov/ICASH](http://www.illinoistreasurer.gov/ICASH) or call 217-785-6998.

**Frerichs' office never charges money to search for unclaimed property.**

### **About the Illinois Treasurer**

The Illinois Treasurer is the state's chief investment officer and Frerichs is a Certified Public Finance Officer. He protects consumers by encouraging savings plans for college or trade school, increasing financial education among all ages, and removing barriers to a secure retirement. As the state's Chief Investment Officer, he actively manages approximately \$25 billion. The portfolio includes \$13 billion in state funds, \$7 billion in college savings plans and \$5 billion on behalf of local and state governments. The investment approach is cautious to ensure the preservation of capital and returns \$28 to the state for every \$1 spent in operations. The Treasurer's Office predates Illinois incorporation in 1818. Voters in 1848 chose to make it an elected office.

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