



**MARCH 2019 E-NEWSLETTER**

Treasurer's Note

## Honoring our Veterans



I recently had the distinct honor to return a Purple Heart and two Air Medals to the surviving family members of Lieutenant Walter B. Ingledew, Jr.

Mr. Ingledew – friends and family called him ‘Bud’ - bravely served our country as a fighter pilot. He was killed in action in Europe during WWII.

Ingledew’s niece, Barbara Martens, accepted the Purple Heart and Air Medals during a reunification ceremony at the Stone City VFW Post 2199 in Joliet.

Ingledew, a Chicago native, enlisted in the Army Air Force in 1942. He served in the 428<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 474<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, Ninth Army Air Force. He was active over Normandy on D-Day and perished when his plane was shot down over France on Aug. 14, 1944. He was 23 years old.

The medals were surrendered to the treasurer’s office as unclaimed property. We used public records to identify and locate Barbara.

“There’s the happiness and the joy of receiving the medals back, and there’s the sorrow that goes with the fact he left behind a mother, father, and a sister who never really quite got over his loss,” Barbara said.

This is the seventh time our office has reunited a Purple Heart with the soldier or the soldier’s family. Still, we have more than 100 unclaimed military medals and decorations. We work every day to return these honors to the rightful owner.

We must never forget the sacrifices made by men and women who have served our country, and we must never lose sight of the true meaning behind these medals and the people who earn them.

Sincerely,  
**Michael W. Frerichs**  
Illinois State Treasurer



Saving Your Own Money

## A Secure Retirement

The Illinois Secure Choice retirement savings program eclipsed the \$1 million mark in less than three months.

More than 9,000 people who did not have an employer-based retirement account now use Secure Choice to set aside their own money for their future.

More information – **and testimonials from business owners** – can be found at [www.ilsecurechoice.com](http://www.ilsecurechoice.com).

Half of Illinois’ private-sector workers do not have access to an employer-sponsored retirement plan and one-third of retirees rely upon Social Security for 90 percent of their retirement income.

Secure Choice is designed to address this crisis. By the end of 2019, companies at least two years old with at least 25 employees will need to either offer their own

retirement savings plan or join Secure Choice. There is no cost to the company; in fact, employers are legally prohibited from contributing and do not have to manage the investments.

Connecting retirement savings with work is crucial to saving. Workers are 15 times more likely to save when an employer offers a payroll deduction, according to research conducted by AARP.

When fully implemented, Secure Choice will help 1.2 million workers save for retirement.

More information on how to register is at [www.ilsecurechoice.com](http://www.ilsecurechoice.com).



Cream of the Crop

## Pride in Agriculture

The 2019 Cream of the Crop photo contest officially is open.

Grade school and high school students are invited to submit innovative and scenic photos that depict their vision of agriculture in our state.

The photo contest is part of the Illinois State Treasurer's Ag Invest program. Winning photos are used in informational materials for the Ag Invest program, the Ag Invest calendar, and featured at the Illinois State Fair. For contest rules, click [here](#).

Ag Invest is one of the nation's largest agricultural linked-deposit programs. It helps hundreds of Illinois farmers, ag businesses and agriculture professionals. The treasurer's office, through Ag Invest, partners with eligible lenders to offer farmers annual or long-term loans which can be used for operating costs, equipment purchases, construction-related expenses, and livestock purchases.

Want more information on the loan program? Call (217) 558-6217 or click [here](#)

TREASURER FRERICHS  
**CELEBRATES**  
**WOMEN'S**  
**HISTORY**  
**MONTH**



On the Horizon

## Treasurer Frerichs Celebrates Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month, a month-long celebration commemorating and encouraging the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American history. Treasurer Frerichs will host an event in Chicago that will take place beginning at Noon on Tuesday, March 26th on the concourse level of the James R. Thompson Center.

All are welcome.

Additional details are available on the Treasurer's [Facebook page](#).