



OFFICE OF ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs to Return Missing World War II Purple Heart Medal

Operation Purple Heart to Reunite 15th Medal With Family with Ties to Decatur and Peoria

Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs (FRAIR'iks) will hold a reunification ceremony on **Wednesday, July 2**, to return a Purple Heart medal to the family of a late World War II veteran.

The event will be held on **Wednesday, July 2, 2025**, at **10 a.m.** at the **World War II Memorial, 1 Gary K. Anderson Plaza, Decatur, IL**, outside the Decatur Civic Center. The media is invited to attend.

The missing medal is being returned as a result of [Operation Purple Heart](#), Treasurer Frerichs' unprecedented mission to return the iconic medals to their rightful owners. The military honor is given to individuals wounded or killed during military combat.

The State Treasurer's Office receives the military medals for safekeeping from abandoned bank safe deposit boxes as part of Illinois' Unclaimed Property program, also known as I-CASH or missing money.

This will be the 15th Purple Heart medal that Treasurer Frerichs has returned, a national record. The Macon County Honor Guard is expected to be part of the ceremony, and the late veteran's family will speak and take questions.

WHEN: 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 2, 2025

WHERE: World War II Memorial, 1 Gary K. Anderson Plaza (rain location is inside the Decatur Civic Center)

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