



The Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs wishes to thank the following individuals and organizations for their help in making this ceremony possible:

- ★ Dr. John Bailey and Dr. Karen Becker, UNL Music Department
 - ★ Ravnan String Quartet
- ★ Joe Brownell, UNL Military/Veteran Success Center
- ★ Staff Sergeant Dylon L. Taylor and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln ROTC
- ★ Roxanne Smith and the Nebraska Capitol Commission
 - ★ Tom Mooney and Tracy Johnson, Nebraska State Historical Society
- ★ Timoree Klingler, Office of the Clerk of the Legislature
 - ★ Kami Voboril and the Deborah Avery Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution
- ★ Sheets Family and the American Legion Post in Pleasant Dale

Information contained in this program was gathered from the following sources:

"Marker Monday: Alliance Army Air Field - Nebraska State Historical Society." Nebraska State Historical Society, 29 Oct. 2022, history.nebraska.gov/marker-monday-alliance-army-air-field/.
"Cornhusker Ordnance Plant (Grand Island, Neb.) [RBo825.AM]." Nebraska State Historical Society, https://history.nebraska.gov/collection_section/cornhusker-ordnance-plant-grand-island-neb-rgo825-am/.
"Brief History of Fort Robinson." Nebraska State Historical Society, history.nebraska.gov/fort-robinson-history-center/brief-history-of-fort-robinson/.
"Glenn L. Martin Company (Ft. Crook, Neb.) [RG3817.AM]" - Nebraska State Historical Society." Nebraska State Historical Society, 30 Oct. 2023, history.nebraska.gov/collection_section/glenn-l-martin-company-ft-crook-neb-rg3817-am/.
Kinley, Kylie. "Shelton Farm Girl Remembers the WWII North Platte Canteen." Nebraska State Historical Society, <https://history.nebraska.gov/shelton-farm-girl-remembers-the-wwii-north-platte-canteen/>.

veterans.nebraska.gov

NEBRASKA'S WORLD WAR II VETERAN RECOGNITION CEREMONY



*Celebrating 80 Years
of Victory*

May 8, 2025, 1:00 P.M.

Nebraska State Capitol Rotunda



Jim Pillen, Governor

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Sacrifice.
VETERANS' AFFAIRS



ABOUT NEBRASKA'S WORLD WAR II RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Nearly **140,000** Nebraskans served in World War II.
3,626 Nebraskans lost their lives in service to our country.
703 Nebraskans remain unaccounted for.

According to statistics from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, approximately **250** World War II veterans are living in Nebraska as of 2025. Governor Jim Pillen and the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs created this recognition initiative to honor our state's living World War II veterans on the 80th anniversary of the end of the war for the role they played in curbing the spread of fascism.



Nebraska's World War II recognition medal is reserved for living veterans meeting the conditions below:

- ★ Must have served in the U.S. Armed Forces between December 1, 1941 to December 31, 1946
- ★ Must be a current legal resident of Nebraska or demonstrate Nebraska residency at time of entering service, and
- ★ Must have discharged under conditions other than dishonorable

NEBRASKA'S ROLE IN WORLD WAR II *Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant - Grand Island*

The Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant began operations in November 1942 and loading operations continued until August 16, 1945, the day after Japan surrendered. Approximately 15,000 individuals were employed at the plant during the November

1942-August 1945 period, with over 4,200 workers employed at its peak.



Glenn L. Martin Bomber Plant - Ft. Crook



Above shows a photo of President Franklin D. Roosevelt visiting the plant in 1943.

The Glenn L. Martin Bomber Plant became operational on January 1, 1942 and focused on production of B-26 Marauders and, later, B-29 Superfortresses. In total, 531 B-29s were manufactured by the plant, representing nearly 13.5% of all B-29s produced in the country. Two of the B-29s produced at the plant were the "Enola Gay" and "Bockscar," which would be used to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

North Platte Canteen

The North Platte Canteen operated from December 1941 to June 1946 and served over six million World War II service men and women traveling on the Union Pacific Railroad. The Canteen was operated by 55,00 volunteers from 125 different towns in and around the state who donated both food and time to those who were serving our country.



NEBRASKA'S ROLE IN WORLD WAR II

Alliance Army Air Field Alliance



The Alliance Army Air Field was used to train aircrews of C-47 and C-53 transports and CG-4 gliders, along with the troops they would carry into battle.



Fort Robinson Near Crawford



Fort Robinson served as a site for K-9 Corps training during World War II. Until the end of the war, dogs for all branches of the military and civilian agencies were trained at the fort.

NEBRASKA'S WORLD WAR II VETERAN RECOGNITION CEREMONY PROGRAM AGENDA

Prelude

Ravnan String Quartet
*Jack Carlson, violin; Laura Watson, violin;
Gabriel Marks, viola; Connor Peterson, cello*

Welcome

John Hilgert
Director, NDVA

Presentation of Colors

UNL ROTC Color Guard

National Anthem

Ravnan String Quartet

Pledge of Allegiance

John Hilgert
Director, NDVA

Laying of Wreath

Great-grandchildren of
World War II medal recipients

Remarks

Major General Craig Strong
Adjutant General, Nebraska National Guard

Remarks & Proclamation Signing

Jim Pillen
Governor, State of Nebraska

Presentation of Medals

Jim Pillen
Governor, State of Nebraska

Retirement of Colors

UNL ROTC Color Guard

Dismissal

John Hilgert
Director, NDVA

Reception to Follow in Capitol Dining Room, 1st Floor.

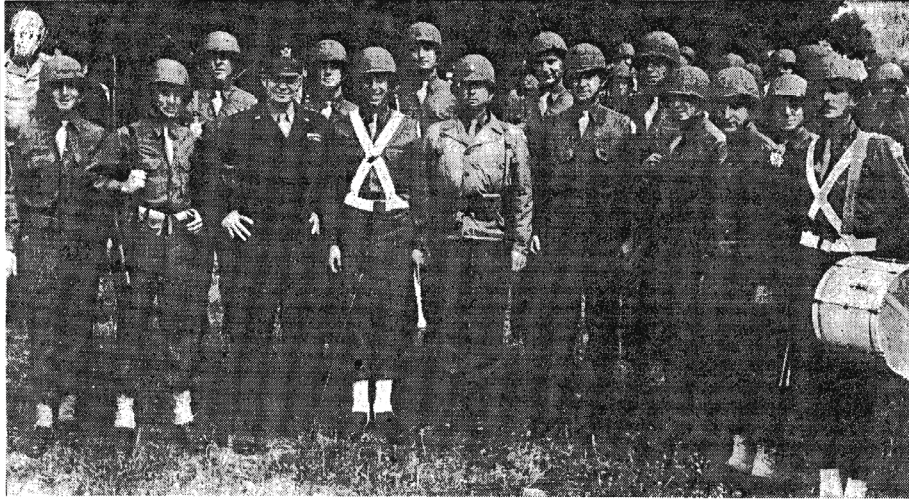
NEBRASKA'S ROLE IN WORLD WAR II

Lawrence Youngman, War Correspondent for the Omaha World-Herald

From June to December 1944, *Omaha World-Herald* reporter Lawrence Youngman served as a war correspondent in the European Theater, spending much of his time documenting the Nebraska National Guard's 134th Infantry Regiment. Youngman covered major war events such as the Liberation of Paris but also wrote features about the experiences of average soldiers from Nebraska and Western Iowa. His articles were so popular, the

World-Herald would publish articles after he returned to Omaha that had been held by censors for several months. Youngman was one of only 314 war correspondents to receive the Army's European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon.

Is Your Boy Pictured Here with Gen. Eisenhower?



Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, supreme commander of allied forces in Europe, took time out during a review of Nebraska's service men in England to pose with this group of men from the Cornhusker state. Is your boy in the photo? To the right of the general is Cpl. Clifford Geiken, leader of the drum and bugle corps which had just led a parade before the commander. Geiken is the son of Mrs. George Geiken of Gothenburg. When they were introduced, Gen. Eisenhower complimented his work with the re-

mark, "I'm honored." To the right of Geiken is Maj. Dan E. Craig of North Platte, where his wife and young son are residing. As the picture was being taken, the general inquired whether there were any more boys from Nebraska who would like to be included; then the others gathered around. Lawrence Youngman, World-Herald staff member in England, who took this photo, did not have an opportunity to get their names. Note how censor has obliterated the face of the man in the extreme upper left corner.

World-Herald Staff Reporter F-L-I-E-S TO EUROPE TO MEET YOUR BOY!

The World-Herald has sent its ace reporter and feature writer, Lawrence Youngman, to Europe for the express purpose of reporting home about all the Nebraska-western Iowa boys he can find.

He's there to meet your boy and the Johnnie Jones and the Bill Smiths; he's there to get their opinions and views on everything from shoes to sealing wax . . . the things you and all of us are curious about.

It's a big assignment, but just leave it to Lawrence . . . he'll get the kind of stories we're all thirsting for. Fifteen years as a World-Herald feature writer have given him the background; his smiling personality and quick ways of making friends are assets invaluable.

So watch The World-Herald for Lawrence Youngman's stories direct from Europe . . . he may meet your boy. And if you aren't now a World-Herald subscriber, mail your subscription order today . . . we'll do our best to fill your order.

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EIGHT—C.

SUNDAY WORLD-HERALD MAGAZINE

Omahans in Tough Fight Over Caen :- Other Nebraskans Also Are with Col. Nye's 'Annihilators'



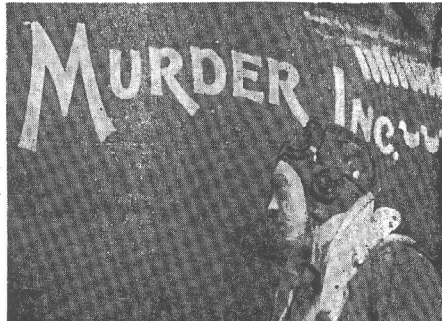
1st Lt. Darrald B. Harsh of Omaha, a bombardier with 65 combat missions over Europe.



1st Lt. Clyde E. Loomis, jr., also an Omaha bombardier, member of Nye's Annihilators.



Lt. Carl Eckhardt of Scottsbluff, a bombardier-navigator, has 42 missions to his credit.



Maj. D. E. Harnly of Lincoln is squadron operations officer now, but had 48 missions before taking the new job. On D-day he took a "box" of planes over the French coast.