



MEDIA ADVISORY

OFFICE OF ARMY CEMETERIES

July 15, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Ashley Topolosky, Office of Army Cemeteries Public Affairs Office, ashley.n.topolosky.civ@mail.mil, 703-785-5761

Carlisle Barracks Disinterment Project Findings

CARLISLE, Pa. – The U.S. Army finalized their fourth disinterment project in returning one Alaskan Native family and nine Native American children to their families. These children died after being sent to the Carlisle Indian Industrial School and who were buried there more than 100 years ago.

The Office of Army Cemeteries (OAC) presented their findings today of the multi-phase disinterment project with archaeological and anthropological expertise from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The OAC's team's findings of the disinterments were determined to be consistent with: Dennis Strikes First (Blue Tomahawk); Rose Long Face (Little Hawk); Lucy Take The Tail (Pretty Eagle); Warren Painter (Bear Paints Dirt); Ernest Knocks Off (White Thunder); Maude Little Girl (Swift Bear); Alvan, (Kills Seven Horses); Friend Hollow Horn Bear; and Dora Her Pipe (Brave Bull), all from the Rosebud Sioux Tribe; and Sophia Tetoff, an Alaskan Aleut.

An additional second vertebra was recovered from one of the graves and a second unknown set of remains, which were inconsistent with a teenager of her age, were recovered from the grave with Maude Little Girl. The Unknown was re-interred in a private ceremony on July 11, 2021 and the additional second vertebra will be buried at Carlisle Barracks Post Cemetery later this week.

Karen Durham-Aguilera, Executive Director, Office of Army Cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery stated, "The Army is privileged to reunite the families with their children in a manner of utmost dignity and respect. There was complete collaboration and transparency between the Army and all families during every step of the disinterment process and analysis, and we hope all the families find some level of solace."

In 1879, Carlisle Barracks became the site of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, operated by the Department of the Interior until 1918. The school educated more than 10,000 Native American children, with representation from approximately 50 Native American tribes from across the nation.

OAC stands ready to disinter and transfer custody to families who are able to establish the closest family link between the decedent and requestor, following Army Regulation 290-5. The transfer will enable families to return the children to cemeteries of their choice. The Army will reimburse families for their travel to participate in a transfer ceremony and is also funding the cost for transport and reinterment of the deceased children.

In a private ceremony, Durham-Aguilera formally transferred the remains to the respective families. The families will subsequently travel to the cemeteries of their choice for reinterment of their loved ones.

The Carlisle Barracks Post Cemetery will be re-open to visitors starting June 17, 2021.

-END-