



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Olivia Van Den Heuvel, Office of Army Cemeteries Public Affairs Office, [olivia.r.vandenheuvel.civ@army.mil](mailto:olivia.r.vandenheuvel.civ@army.mil), 703-614-0024

**Army Conducts Sixth Disinterment of Native American Children at Carlisle Barracks**

CARLISLE, Pa. – The U.S. Army will continue its commitment to reunite Native American families with their loved ones through its sixth disinterment project at Carlisle Barracks, beginning Sept. 11, 2023.

The Army is actively working to bring healing and closure to five Native American families and tribes whose children died after being sent to the Carlisle Indian Industrial School and who were buried there more than 100 years ago. On behalf of the Army, the Office of Army Cemeteries (OAC) is scheduled to begin the multi-phase disinterment project in September, with forensic archaeological and anthropological expertise from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The decedents who will be disinterred are Beau Neal from the Northern Arapaho Tribe; Edward Spott from the Puyallup Tribe; Launy Shorty from the Blackfeet Tribe; Amos Lafromboise from the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribe; and Edward Upright from the Spirit Lake Tribe.

“The Army is committed to returning these five children to their Native American families. We are truly honored to help provide the peace, comfort, and closure they deserve,” said Karen Durham-Aguilera, executive director of Army National Military Cemeteries and the Office of Army Cemeteries.

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

OAC will disinter and transfer custody to families and tribes able to establish the closest family link between the decedent and requestor, following Army Regulation 290-5.

The transfer of custody will enable families and tribes to return these children to cemeteries of their choice. The Army will reimburse families for their travel to participate

--more--

in the disinterment process and a subsequent transfer ceremony, as well as the cost for transport and reinterment of the children.

“The Army team of dedicated professionals maintains an environment of dignity and respect throughout each disinterment. We treat every gravesite, family, tribe and child the same way: with the utmost care and appreciation,” said Renea Yates, project director and director of the Office of Army Cemeteries.

The Carlisle Barracks Post Cemetery will be closed to visitors starting today, Aug. 28, when site set-up begins, until the completion of disinterments, tentatively scheduled for Sept. 21. Out of respect for the families and tribes, and consistent with Army cemetery protocol, the entire cemetery area will be enclosed with privacy fencing. Access to the cemetery will be restricted to the OAC staff along with tribal members and their families.

**Media Photo Opportunity:**

A cemetery photo/video opportunity is scheduled for credentialed media organizations on **Friday, Sept. 8 from 10 to 11 a.m.** This is the only time that photo and video will be permitted in the cemetery area. There will be limited opportunities for interviews by request.

Media interested in attending should submit their coverage request to the OAC Public Affairs Office no later than **4 p.m. on Sept. 6.** Please submit journalist/photographer name(s), news organization, mobile number, and email address to: [olivia.r.vandenheuvel.civ@army.mil](mailto:olivia.r.vandenheuvel.civ@army.mil).

Media should plan for a 10-20-minute stop at the Carlisle Barracks Visitors Center for a background check. All visitors must present valid identification; a driver’s license or state identification is sufficient. Alternately, you may request background check prior to arrival as outlined at: <https://www.armywarcollege.edu/visitorcenter>.

Entry to the post is at 870 Jim Thorpe Rd., Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The cemetery is across from the visitor gate on Claremont Road. Media will be escorted by a member of the public affairs team upon their arrival to the Visitors Center.

**Requests for Interviews with Families:**

Family interviews are not permitted at the cemetery or on Carlisle Barracks grounds. OAC is not permitted to release family names or contact information to media personnel without a signed media consent form from the family. Reporters must coordinate directly with the family if given permission to conduct an interview.

**Press Conference (to be scheduled):**

To protect the privacy of the families, OAC will conduct a press conference at the completion of the disinterment project. At that time, OAC representatives will be available to discuss forensic archaeological and physical anthropological findings.