



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), 703-785-8675

### **Carlisle Barracks Disinterment Program Findings**

CARLISLE, Pa. – The U.S. Army finalized its seventh disinterment program, returning nine Native American children to their families. These children died after being sent to the Carlisle Indian Industrial School and were buried there more than 100 years ago.

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

The OAC team's findings of the human remains found in the gravesites assigned to the following children were biologically consistent with the information contained in their student and burial location records: Fanny Chargingshield, James Cornman, and Samuel Flying Horse from the Oglala Sioux Tribe; Almeda Heavy Hair, Bishop L. Shield, and John Bull from the Gros Ventre Tribe of the Fort Belknap Indian Community; Kati Rosskidwits from the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes; Albert Mekko from the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma; and William Norkok from the Eastern Shoshone Tribe.

Each child was returned to their family in a dignified transfer ceremony, and most have already been reinterred on their native lands.

One tribe wishes to remain anonymous and the Army will not release findings out of respect for their privacy.

On Sept. 16 the Army conducted a dignified disinterment of grave D-3 at the Carlisle Barracks Post Cemetery, which records indicated was for Wichita child, Alfred Charko. The remains recovered however were inconsistent with those of a boy of the approximate age of 15, and instead found to be that of an older young man. His remains were reinterred in the same grave on Sept. 18 with the courageous support of the Wichita Tribe and the grave is now marked as unknown.

The OAC team is saddened by this outcome and committed to seeking more information to determine where the remains of Alfred Charko are buried so that he may be returned to his family and the Wichita nation.

"The Army team extends our deepest condolences to the Wichita and Affiliated Tribe," said Executive Director of the Office of Army Cemeteries and Army National Military Cemeteries Karen Durham-Aguilera.

“The Army is committed to seeking all resources that could lead us to more information on where Alfred may be located and to help us identify and return the unknown children in the Carlisle Barracks Post Cemetery. We express our utmost gratitude to all tribes and families who have the courage and strength to entrust us with this important mission. The Army respects their commitment to bringing their loved ones home,” said Durham-Aguilera.

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.

The Carlisle Barracks Post Cemetery will tentatively re-open to visitors on Thursday, Oct. 10.

-END-