

**AMERICAN WORLD WAR II HERITAGE CITY  
PROGRAM APPLICATION** US National Park Service

Submitted by the City of Waterloo, Iowa

September 1, 2023



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Phone: (319) 291-4301  
CITYOFWATERLOO.IOWA.COM



September 1, 2023

Mr. Charles Sams III  
National Park Service Director  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Sams:

On behalf of the City of Waterloo, Iowa, I am honored to submit our community's application for consideration under the America's World War II Heritage City Program.

We believe our community is a standout for selection to this program. From being noted as the home of the Navy's Five Sullivan Brothers to our community's participation and contribution to the war effort to our present-day remembrance and respect for our veterans.

As you will see in the application narrative that follows, Waterloo contributed at virtually every level of the war effort, specifically in volunteerism and manufacturing. Hundreds of resident volunteers enlisted in the military and dozens of existing manufacturers retooled their operations to supply equipment and material to the U.S. Military.

Today, our community supports the Iowa Veterans Museum, Sullivan Park and Sullivan Plaza, a lighted patriotic Veterans Way, service member banner program, celebrations and remembrances, and memorials, all of which showcase the veneration we have for veterans.

We are confident in our application for designation to America's World War II Heritage City Program and hope that you will be as well. In the meantime, should you have any questions about Waterloo or this application, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration of our application and for the opportunity to showcase our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Quentin Hart".

**Quentin Hart**  
Mayor



# WORLD WAR II: UNVEILING THE LEGACY AND HERITAGE OF THE CITY OF WATERLOO

In just 30 years after its establishment in 1845, Waterloo, Iowa transformed into a hub of commerce and trade, emerging as a growing industrial force within the northeastern region of the fledgling state. By the second decade of the 1900s, Waterloo had earned the title of “Factory City” with multiple foundries, engine manufacturing, mills, farm implement factories, a growing retail and health care existence, and wide transportation network, all predominately supporting the agricultural sector of the northern plains states’ economies. The 1920 census counted 36,000 individuals, a tripling of the 1900 count. By 1940, this “industrial capital of Iowa”, as it had come to be known, was a still-growing city of 52,000, recovering economically from the Great Depression. The two major industries which dominated its population growth, employment, housing, and layout of main



arterial streets were agricultural tractor manufacturing and meat packing. Many other businesses came into being as what we call today “supply chain” support to the two major employers: John Deere and Rath Packing Company.

Although the nation had already begun expanding its armed forces with the production of ordinances and support of the Lend-Lease program in the previous three or four years because of the growing possibility of America’s entry into the already devastating worldwide war, December 7, 1941, caused an almost instant and seminal change in the lives and future of the nation’s people. The City of Waterloo was no different. Men and women quickly began enlisting in the military, including Waterloo’s five Sullivan brothers, who all ultimately would perish together while serving on the Navy’s light destroyer USS *Juneau* during the Battle of Guadalcanal in late 1942. Tractor manufacturing and assembly at the John Deere Tractor Company quickly shifted to supplying the army with tank transmissions and airplane parts. The Rath Packing Company – by now the country’s largest single-unit meatpacking facility – turned to feeding the troops. Several other Waterloo factories began and ramped up their production of bombs, munitions, clothing, tents, and miscellaneous personal and tactical equipment.

All of this effort amounted to tons and tons of products sent to our Army, Navy, Marine, and Army Air Force units fighting in Europe and the Pacific or training in the U.S. The dollar value today would be in the billions. Incalculable were the lives spent, forever changed, and lost during the war.

Waterloo, Iowa has been, is, and will always celebrate and be aware of their heritage earned by its people and their contributions to the World War II home-front effort. It is through this lens that the City of Waterloo remains proud and continues to celebrate its past by honoring its legacy of World War II through multiple efforts after the



war and continued today. It is through this heritage that the City remains steadfast in honoring its contributions and sacrifices through its past and present efforts.



## CRITERION 1:

### CONTRIBUTIONS BY WATERLOO AND ENVIRONS TO WORLD WAR II HOMEFRONT EFFORTS

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Waterloo sent over 8,100 of its citizens into the service over four years. Of this number, 255 did not return. Most notable were the five Sullivan brothers who enlisted on the Navy promise they would serve together on the same ship. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, their ship, the USS *Juneau*, was destroyed near Guadalcanal in the South Pacific with the loss of 700 sailors including all five Sullivans. All of Waterloo mourned their loss, the largest single family combat loss in American military history.

The *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier* regularly published the personal news releases from the War Department: location of local troops, change in rank and duty, promotions and where they were going, and other news that kept the community involved. And there were, of course, the casualty notices. Waterloo readers particularly followed the trail of the 133rd Infantry Regiment, part of the 34th Infantry Division, the famous Red Bull Division. The National Guard unit from Waterloo was among the first American units to arrive in Europe. Known as the “Ironman Unit”, it held the distinction of spending 611 days under combat conditions, beginning during the North African campaign in 1943 and ending in northern Italy in 1945. Battles vigorously and successfully fought during this almost two-year non-stop campaign to throttle the Nazi forces include Tunisia; Naples-Foggia; Anzio; Rome-Arno; north Apennines; and the Po Valley. The Ironman Battalion remains headquartered in Waterloo today as part of the Iowa National Guard. It has carried on its heritage with deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The story of Waterloo in World War II is the story of service and sacrifice. The city maximized its military production capacity, sent soldiers and sailors off to war, and maintained enthusiasm on the Homefront, even in the darkest days of heavy human and material losses. The sacrifices the city made represented the essence of why Americans rose to fight and why they prevailed in a dangerous moment of history. Its heritage should be preserved.

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#### THE DEFINITION OF VOLUNTEERISM AND SACRIFICE: THE FIVE SULLIVAN BROTHERS

Maybe they were brash. Maybe they were foolhardy. Maybe they were just five more victims in a war with hundreds of millions of victims. But maybe, George, Francis, Joseph, Madison, and Albert Sullivan of Waterloo, Iowa were heroes as well.

Heroic enough for not one, but two U.S. Navy destroyers to bear their name. Heroic enough to inspire film director Steven Spielberg to create a 1998 Academy Award-winning movie, “Saving Private Ryan,” and acknowledge their sacrifice when accepting an Oscar for best director. Heroic enough for their hometown library, museum, and newspaper to receive inquiries from around the country and around the world.

In short, heroic enough to be remembered more than 80 years after a torpedo slammed into the magazine of the USS *Juneau* in the South Pacific, taking all five Sullivans and nearly all their 700 shipmates. The loss of the Sullivans is believed to be the greatest combat-related loss of life by one family at one time in American military history. The five sons of Thomas and Alleta Sullivan went into harm’s way with their eyes open.

The late Paul Hamilton, a buddy of Joseph “Red” Sullivan, recalled Sunday dinner at the Sullivan household during the Pearl Harbor attack on Dec. 7, 1941. The oldest boys, Navy veterans George and Francis, listened to the radio intently.

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“They had part of their friends on ships that were being blown up over there.” Hamilton said. One, Bill Ball of nearby Fredericksburg, died on the *USS Arizona*.

“So, they talked right away about going into the Navy,” Hamilton said. “We had dinner that day, but it wasn’t a very happy occasion.”

The brothers enlisted on the condition they be allowed to serve together on the same ship, a departure from Navy policy. “We’ll make a team that can’t be beat,” George Sullivan said.

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After some initial resistance, the military acquiesced and capitalized on the public relations opportunities. The brothers appeared in newsreels and publicity photos. They were feted at heavyweight boxing champion Jack Dempsey’s New York restaurant before the *USS Juneau* embarked from the Brooklyn Navy Yard to the Pacific in early summer of 1942.

The ship and crew fought well in the battles of Santa Cruz and Savo Island. Casualties in the area were high. Any family members on the same ship were asked to split up and board separate vessels. However, the five Sullivans decided to stick together.

A bigger battle came in November. A large Japanese task force, known as a “Tokyo Express,” was steaming toward the Marine garrison at Guadalcanal. The *USS Juneau* and a column of outnumbered, outgunned American ships passed between the Japanese ships in the middle of the night and opened fire. It was compared to “a barroom fight with the lights out.” A third of the Japanese task force was destroyed or damaged and withdrew. But nearly all the U.S. ships had been either sunk or damaged. The *USS Juneau* was damaged by a torpedo hit.

As they headed for home port at daylight, a lurking Japanese submarine fired three torpedoes toward the *USS San Francisco*. Two missed. A third surfaced on the other side and headed straight into the *USS Juneau*, which exploded and sank in 20 seconds according to eyewitnesses.

All but 14 of the *USS Juneau*’s crew perished, including all five Sullivans. Most died in the actual sinking; more than 100 others, including George Sullivan, succumbed over the following days to wounds, exposure, delirium, or shark attacks.



The five brothers' deaths were used to rally the nation's war effort. Their parents and sister, Genevieve, who enlisted in the Navy WAVES, participated in numerous war bond rallies and appearances at defense plants. A

Hollywood movie, "The Fighting Sullivans," played nationwide.

President Roosevelt ordered a new ship, the USS *The Sullivans* (DD-537), commissioned in the brothers' memory. It was christened and sponsored by their mother. It saw action in World War II and Korea and is now decommissioned and docked at a Buffalo, N.Y. military park.

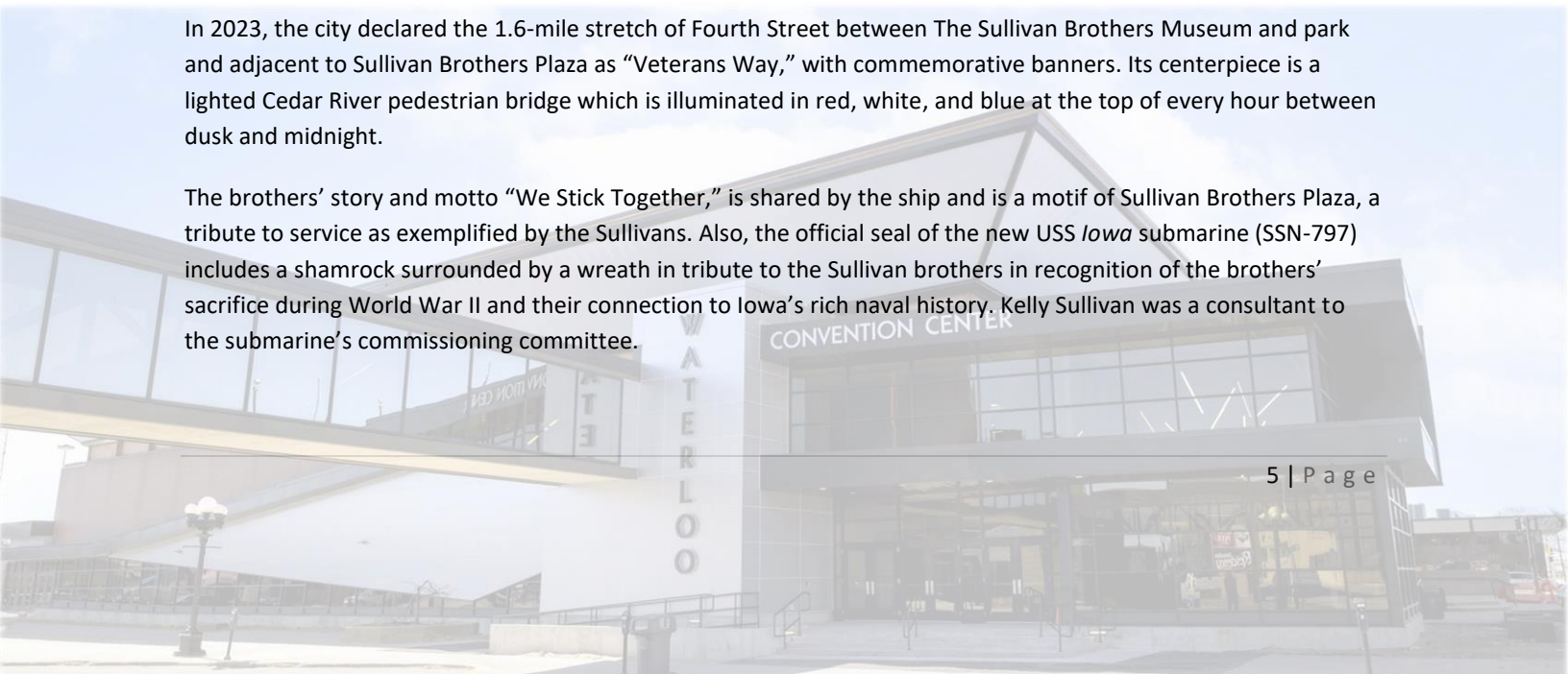
A park near the boys' Waterloo home was dedicated in the 1960s. Children at the Catholic school they attended raised

money for a religious statue in their names. Waterloo's convention center was named for them in 1988, and recently renovated. The Waterloo Convention Center at Sullivan Brothers Plaza has an updated memorial to the brothers. The Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum, commemorating the brothers and all Iowa veterans, opened in 2008. World War II veterans led the construction fund drive.

A second USS *The Sullivans* (DD-68), now in service, was commissioned in 1997. Kelly Sullivan, Albert Sullivan's granddaughter and a local teacher, christened the ship as its sponsor. She is one of the most active sponsors in the Navy and has maintained a strong connection among the ship, current and former sailors, and the Waterloo community. The USS *The Sullivans* Association had its 2022 reunion in Waterloo during the city's annual Iowa Irish Fest, also attended by several current crew members.

In 2023, the city declared the 1.6-mile stretch of Fourth Street between The Sullivan Brothers Museum and park and adjacent to Sullivan Brothers Plaza as "Veterans Way," with commemorative banners. Its centerpiece is a lighted Cedar River pedestrian bridge which is illuminated in red, white, and blue at the top of every hour between dusk and midnight.

The brothers' story and motto "We Stick Together," is shared by the ship and is a motif of Sullivan Brothers Plaza, a tribute to service as exemplified by the Sullivans. Also, the official seal of the new USS *Iowa* submarine (SSN-797) includes a shamrock surrounded by a wreath in tribute to the Sullivan brothers in recognition of the brothers' sacrifice during World War II and their connection to Iowa's rich naval history. Kelly Sullivan was a consultant to the submarine's commissioning committee.





The quintet of siblings stands as a poignant memory for each of us, underscoring the immense sacrifices our military personnel endure. Their narrative persists, not solely as a homage to their selflessness, but as a legacy that upholds their spirit of voluntary dedication.

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## THE COMMUNITY'S WWII CONTRIBUTIONS: WORKFORCE AT HOME AND IN THE FIELD

It took a coordinated and determined effort to build and distribute the “tools of war.” The national effort run by the War Production Board was responsible for the fabrication and construction of millions of items every week. This was not possible without the coordination and cooperation of the large and small factory units across the nation. The constant flow of quality war material was the critical factor in winning the war. The United States won the war on the factory production line; Waterloo fulfilled its role.

The transformation from consumer to military production began in December 1941. John Deere established the Iowa Transmission Company to build transmissions for Sherman tanks. In December, Hinson manufacturing received a contract from the Army for 100,000 cartridge belts that demanded more workers. At the same time, young men were enlisting in the military. The gaps on the assembly line were initially filled by retirees and high schoolers on early work release. When that supply was inadequate, women were recruited. By early 1943, the textile manufacturer Hinson employed 1,150 workers, 95 percent which were women. Many worked double shifts, sleeping in their car in the parking lot in the interim. At John Deere, women were hired to weld, run drill presses, and operate screw machines. Management boasted women handled nearly every job in the factory and received the same wage as men. Over 300 workers, known as the Coverall Corps, or as they were known nationally, *Rosie the Riveters*, were regulars on the assembly line. Chamberlain, the huge munitions manufacturer, depended on 1,500 women to do every job in the sprawling complex.

There were not always sufficient women to fill the empty slots on the assembly line and there some positions that were unsuitable, primarily in the foundries and on the hog kill line at Rath Packing. Here the traditional African American migration from Mississippi to Waterloo was revived to fill jobs. In 1912, men came from Holmes County and other Delta areas to break a railroad strike in Waterloo. Most remained in the area and became part of the workforce. As new contract jobs became available, the northward movement was renewed through family connections and company recruiters. At the height of war production, Waterloo had over 9,000 workers (including Rath) on the home front line of defense. Nearly everyone who filled a job knew someone who was in harm's way.

There was also a need for raw materials in the production process. Some came from within the community itself. Like most cities, there were civilian drives to collect items like newspapers, metal, cooking grease, tin from inside toothpaste tube and milkweed pods. There was rationing for gas, tires, sugar, and coffee among many consumer items that were collected. The purchase of war stamps by school children and war bonds were routine and there were parades promoting war bonds sales. Schools, churches, and other organizations raised funds for specific items like a jeep and the city underwrote the cost of an airplane, the Waterloo Belle that was shot down over





Germany in 1944. Victory gardens were on nearly every street. Social services and private individuals regularly gathered at the downtown railroad depot to support troop trains going from North Platte to Chicago on the Illinois Central Railroad.

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## WATERLOO'S MANUFACTURING CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAR EFFORT

As the winds of war blew across Europe in the late 1930s, President Franklin Roosevelt began to rebuild the American military machine for what many feared was an inevitable war. The President sought to make the United States the Arsenal of Democracy, the defender of democratic nations and institutions. Germany's invasion of Poland in September 1939 shattered the peace. The attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 brought the United States into World War II. The entire American economy was immediately drafted into the war economy.

The large industrial complexes - Ford, Alcoa, Kaiser Shipyards, Douglas Aircraft, U.S. Steel – made the conversion to military production under the guidance of the War Production Board. They produced ships, planes, and tanks. But they could not produce all the smaller items needed to make the war machine work. This job fell to smaller factories in mid-sized industrial cities where they made everything from ammunition to zippers. This production was essential to the war effort. The loss of a shipment or the failure to meet schedules threatened the war effort. Waterloo was one of the cities that rose to meet the challenge.

Waterloo was a traditional factory city. Its success was due to several factors. The city was located on three major railroad lines, giving it access to the major urban areas. It was surrounded by some of the most fertile and productive farmland in the nation, if not in the world. There was an ample workforce that included quality machinists, expert foundrymen, and experienced engineers. There were few production problems that could not be handled on site. As an example, a structural weakness in the Sherman tank transmission was resolved by engineers who were working on John Deere tractors. A final asset was that companies were owned or managed by experienced local owners and managers who were committed to progress in the city. This provided a nimbleness in decision making, and they were able to adjust work schedules, resolve labor challenges, change raw material order, inspire workers, and later reconvert smoothly to the civilian consumer economy in 1945. The success of the war economy depended on the seamless supply of parts and services from cities like Waterloo and by the companies located there.

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## DEFENSE MANUFACTURING

Waterloo's four-year home front battle of production furnished our fighting men and women with billions of supplies. To them, Waterloo sent millions of pounds of meat, thousands of tons of clothing and outdoor housing units, millions of dollars in munition parts, and billions of small and large vehicle parts.

## JOHN DEERE- TANK AND AIRCRAFT COMPONENT MANUFACTURING

In order to capitalize on the emerging transformation in farming from literal horsepower to engine power, the John Deere Company purchased the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company - maker of the historic "Waterloo Boy" tractor - in 1918. Deere continued producing an improved version of the Waterloo Boy for a few years, then began their production of their own designed and widely accepted Models A and B. That was followed by new Model D's and G's. The by-now sprawling Deere manufacturing site on Westfield Avenue in Waterloo was casting, machining,

and assembling these models until war broke out in December 1941. By that time the Waterloo Deere plant had earned a reputation known for sturdy and reliable heavy gear design and build of tractor transmissions.

With production of tractors limited by war-time regulations, Deere acquired more than 1,000 government contracts from 1941 to 1943. The Waterloo factory produced more than \$130,000,000 (\$2.2 billion in today's dollars) worth of tank transmissions, military tractors, ammunition casings, mobile laundry units, and aircraft parts for Grumman, Curtiss, and Douglas war planes. At its peak, the Waterloo facility was turning out 1,000 transmissions and final drive units per month for the M3 and M4 medium "Sherman" tanks. A total of 22,000 transmissions and drive trains were produced during the war. The Iowa Transmission Company – a Deere subsidiary in Waterloo - received the Army-Navy Production Award in July 1942 for "high achievement and exceptional performance" in making war equipment, the first of several Army-Navy awards.

From an employment standpoint, an estimated 4,500 John Deere Tractor Company employees enlisted in the armed services during the war, not unlike what happened across the country, these job vacancies were backfilled by women and minorities.

### THE RATH PACKING COMPANY - FOOD PROVISIONS FOR THE TROOPS

Having relocated from Dubuque, Iowa to Waterloo at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Rath Packing had steadily grown. By its fiftieth anniversary in 1941, Rath had built the nation's largest single-unit meatpacking facility, often cited as one of the most modern. On the eve of World War II, Rath was also Iowa's second largest employer with nearly 4,500 workers, exceeded only by its Waterloo neighbor, John Deere Tractor Company. As World War II brought more lucrative provisioning contracts, Rath continued to expand. Rath filled Army, Navy, and Lend-Lease contracts for pork, lamb, veal, and beef totaling approximately \$100,000,000 (\$1.7 billion in current value). During the height of war, 27 refrigerated railroad cars left the plant daily with foodstuffs for shipment to the troops.

World War II changed the profile of Rath's workforce. A 14-foot neon sign placed above the entrance to the Employees Building kept a running tally of employees who left to serve in the armed forces—2,689 men and women in all, including 76 "gold stars" who would not return. On the home front, government contracts stimulated production, requiring more workers. Women's departments, in particular, expanded in order to supply the processed meats that fed the troops. Women also moved into jobs traditionally held by men, including those on the kill floor, although they relinquished these positions at war's end.

### CHAMBERLAIN CORPORATION - MUNITIONS

Andrew Chamberlain, a prominent butter maker, started the company in the early 1900s to service the butter-separation industry. In 1913, the company changed to Chamberlain Machine Works. With the onset of World War I, the machinery used for creameries was re-adapted to manufacture artillery shells for the war effort. The machine works continued to manufacture numerous products until World War II. However, during the war period the company again began manufacturing ammunition.

Starting on its war production in 1941, before the start of the war, Chamberlain, Corp. since that time has manufactured the three-inch monoblock shot, three-inch armor piercing shot, 90-mm armor piercing shot, four-and-a-half-inch rockets, 100-pound general purpose bombs, 115-pound gas bombs, 220-pound fragmentation bombs, and the 260-pound fragmentation bombs. At peak production, the corporation was sending our soldiers 110 carloads of munitions per month. During the latter part of the war program, the company was using six million pounds of steel per month and held the largest ordnance contract in the Quad City Ordnance District, which

included part of Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, and all of Iowa. A total of 1,700 people were on the payroll receiving well over \$100,000 per week, and 100 percent of the company's products went to the war. N. L. Etten, Vice President and General Manager of the corporation estimated the total war contracts for that firm at more than \$35,000,000 (\$600 million in today's dollars).

Part of the untold story from Chamberlain's contributions, which couldn't be told until the enemy laid down his arms, concerns the achievements of their Engineering Department in bomb development, according to Etten. The plant's Engineering Department developed a new method of manufacturing large fragmentation bombs which not only reduced the cost to the government, but also produced bombs approximately 20 percent more effective for a given size and shape. Not coincidentally, Chamberlains became the largest producer of fragmentation bombs during the war. With advancement made by the company, it was estimated by Army authorities to have saved the government approximately \$15,000,000 (\$155 million today) just in the fragment bomb program alone. Processes used in developing and manufacturing this specific type of bomb were patented by the Chamberlain Corporation, but the company assigned them without charge to the government as part of its contribution to the war effort. So as to not be lost to history, it is important to note that Chamberlain Manufacturing also made rubber landing boats and 50-caliber gun mounts for the war effort.

#### LITCHFIELD COMPANY - TANK COMPONENTS AND PARTS

Originally a manufacturer of farm wagons, manure spreaders, and other farm implements, Litchfield produced about \$2,000,000 (valued at \$34 million today) worth of small tank parts during the war.

#### HINSON MANUFACTURING COMPANY - CLOTHING, STORAGE, AND SHELTER PROVISIONS

The soldier, whether in the far cold north or the humid sultry south, needed to have clothing, shelter, and containers for his personal belongings and the ammunition he used in his gun. Waterloo textile plants fulfilled their part in furnishing these required articles of equipment.

For nearly three years, Hinson Manufacturing Company cut, sewed, and sent to the Army and Navy an average of two freight cars of equipment every week according to James H. Hinson, Vice-President. A conservative estimate sets the shipment from that plant at 1,250 tons. This equipment included combat field bags, cartridge belts, ruck sacks, gun covers, jungle packs, parachute packs for the Army, and sea and luggage bags for the Navy.

#### RANKIN MANUFACTURING COMPANY AND POWERS MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Rankin Manufacturing sent 150,000 pairs of fleece-lined flying boots for the Army Air Forces, and Powers Manufacturing made 125,000 packets, 20,000 Army shirts, and 5,000 sets of basketball uniforms for the Quartermaster Corps of the Army.

Flying boots were not the only items making up the \$6,000,000 (\$102 million in today's dollars) worth of contracts at Rankin's. Workers there used over five million yards of cloth to make Army equipment. Their orders included 7,900 tents (16'x33' feet in size), 42,000 large tarpaulins, 16,000 tow targets, and 150,000 pairs of flying boots. In order to make this huge amount of heavy canvas equipment, 225 people were employed.



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## ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANT WATERLOO MANUFACTURERS CONTRIBUTING TO THE WAR EFFORT

### ASSOCIATED MANUFACTURERS

This manufacturer made fragmentation bombs, the contract value of which during the war was estimated to be \$6,500,000. In addition to this special type of munitions, this company produced bomb fins, which help guide air-dropped munitions to their target. Finally, additional subcontracts between the US Government and this manufacturer were signed for making diver helmet boxes and Navy cabinet parts.

### SCHOITZ ENGINEERING

Schoitz Engineering served as a supplier of custom tools, gauges, dyes, and jigs for factories. They employed over 50 tool makers and dye patternmakers that improved the quality of product and speed of production.

### HEADFORD BROTHERS AND HITCHINS FOUNDRY

Recognized at the time as operating the largest foundry in Iowa, Headford Brothers and the Hitchins Foundry specialized in grey iron castings for products made in Waterloo, including making casings for hand grenades.

### HERRICK REFRIGERATION

Herrick Refrigeration produced ice boxes and unit refrigerators that were used on railroad cars and ships.

### CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY COMPANY

The Construction Machinery Company manufactured cement mixers. Specifically, it is documented that during the war, 75 percent of the company's work was used to help other factories that were fulfilling war contracts.

### FLOUR CITY BOX COMPANY

The Flour City Box Company was a packing and shipping service that made wooden boxes for contractors to ship war contract products.

## CRITERION 2:

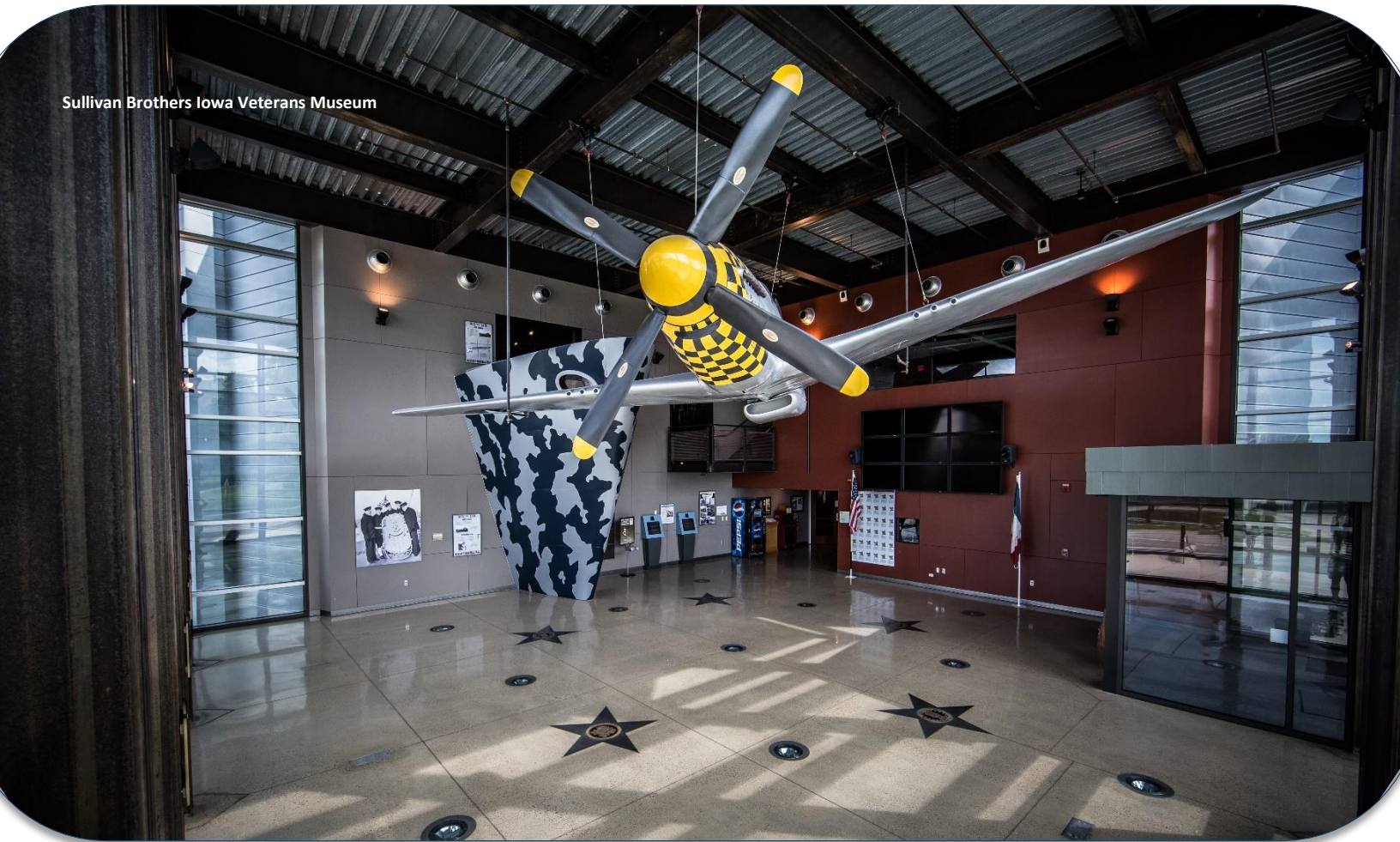
### ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE CITY AND ITS ENVIRONS TO PRESERVE THE HERITAGE AND LEGACY OF THE CITY'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WAR EFFORT AND TO PRESERVE WORLD WAR II HISTORY.

The City of Waterloo bears the enduring impact of World War II's legacy, and as a result, the community persists in commemorating this heritage through diverse methods, ensuring that the historical contributions made during the war are preserved. From its memorials to celebrations, the war's influence remains deeply embedded in the essence of the city, fostering a sense of community pride for the sacrifices made.

#### THE SULLIVAN BROTHERS IOWA VETERANS MUSEUM

The Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum opened in 2008. It is a \$14 million addition to the original Grout Museum of History and Science building within the Grout Museum District. The museum honors all Iowans of all branches and eras who served in our nation's military and devotes considerable space and attention to Iowans' role in World War II.

Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum



The museum includes the following special highlights from Iowa's WWII efforts:

- Life sized bronze statues of the five Sullivan brothers.
- A large replica of the bow of the USS *Juneau* overlooking the museum atrium.
- A re-creation of the Sullivan family home in Waterloo with various photos and memorabilia of the brothers.
- A 20-minute video of the brothers that run in the museum.
- Actual footage of the Research Vessel *Petrel's* discovery of the shipwreck of USS *Juneau* in Ironbottom Sound off Guadalcanal on March 17, 2018.
- Items and artifacts pertinent to Iowans' service in World War II, including, among others: A scale replica Sherman tank complete with various WWII-era Defense Department videos and recent interviews on the John Deere Waterloo Tractor Works' role in manufacturing Sherman tank transmissions.
- A display case on the Waterloo-headquartered "Ironman Battalion" the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 133<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment, 34<sup>th</sup> "Red Bull" Infantry Division, Iowa Army National Guard – which served more than 600 consecutive days in combat in World War II in Sicily and Italy. The "Ironman Battalion" and elements of entire 34<sup>th</sup> Division, made up of units from Iowa and Minnesota was involved in the bitter siege of Monte Cassino in early 1944.
- A display of artifacts donated by U.S. Navy Rear Admiral James D. "Jig Dog" Ramage of Waterloo. Admiral Ramage, a product of Waterloo East High School who attended Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, commanded the dive bomber squadron of the USS *Enterprise*, and was involved in 11 major combat operations in the Pacific war. He was a squadron mate of Medal of Honor recipient Edward "Butch"





O'Hare of Chicago for whom Chicago's O'Hare International Airport is named. Ramage directed air attacks in the 1944 invasion of Saipan and was personally credited with crippling a Japanese carrier "and leaving it in a sinking condition." He also served in the Korean and Vietnam wars and commanded aircraft carriers, attack wings and a carrier division in Vietnam. He received the Navy's highest honor, the Navy Cross, as well as the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal, all for valor in combat. He lectured on World War II Pacific campaigns in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution. In 2001, the annual "Jig Dog" Ramage Award recognizing excellence in Navy carrier operations was created and named for him. Admiral Ramage passed away in 2012 at age 96. His SBD Dauntless torpedo bomber, with his name emblazoned on the fuselage by the cockpit, is on display at Ford Island at Pearl Harbor as part of a historic display which includes the battleship USS Missouri. Admiral Ramage also was honorary chairman of the fund drive to build the Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum and was instrumental in getting the city's convention center site named for the Sullivans.

- A scale replica of a North American P-51D Mustang fighter plane dubbed the "Lady Gwen II," like the one flown by air ace Robert Abernathy of Mason City. Mr. Abernathy provided an oral history interview to the museum and donated film footage from the gun carriage of his plane, showing him hitting ground targets such as supply trains. The Mustang was chosen because it was considered a signature American aircraft of the war. Mr. Abernathy, who passed away in 2008 at age 85, served three years in the Army Air Force and shot down five enemy planes, enough to qualify for "ace" designation.
- The Grout Museum District's "Voices of Iowa" oral history project which has more than 2,200 video recorded oral histories of Iowa military veterans. More than two-thirds of those oral histories are World War II veterans, many of whom are no longer with us. This project began 20 years ago, in 2003, five years before the Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum opened. It is one of the largest veteran collections of interviews conducted by a single institution in the nation. The interviews capture the personal emotion and interpretation of an event, giving it meaning beyond the printed word or image. The interviews are used in museum exhibits, educational programming and promotional activities and are accessible in the museum library. We also provide interview subjects with a copy of the interviews, which become invaluable family keepsakes.
- An exhibit on the battleship USS *Iowa* (BB-61), emphasizing its service in World War II, as well as in Korea and its mobilization in the 1980s. The ship, the first of four "Iowa-class" battleships, ferried President Roosevelt on the first leg of his trip to the historic "Big Three" Conference in Teheran with Winston Churchill and Josef Stalin in 1943. It was also involved in several major combat operations in the Pacific and survived significant damage in Typhoon Cobra. The exhibit includes a pair of actual shells from the 16-inch big guns, a set of powder bags and interactive exhibits on details about the ship and its service history. The exhibit was established with assistance and support from the staff of the Battleship Iowa Museum at the Port of Los Angeles in San Pedro, Calif. Several Iowa businesspeople and elected officials are members of that board by virtue of the State of Iowa investing \$3 million in the battleship's preservation. We are blessed to have several World War II veterans who have and continue to play major roles in support of our museum. They include David Greene, a retired engineer, and U.S. Marine Corps veteran of the Battle of Iwo Jima; Hovey Brom, a local architect who helped design major portions of the museum and served as a scout in Gen. George S. Patton's U.S. Third Army in Europe; and retired U.S. Army Reserve Maj. Gen. Evan "Curly" Hultman, a Pacific theatre veteran whose unit supervised the confiscation of Japanese weaponry after the surrender. Maj. Gen. Hultman, a former Iowa attorney

general and U.S. district attorney, is former president of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States and president for life of the International Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR), over all the reserve officer among the armed forces of the NATO alliance.

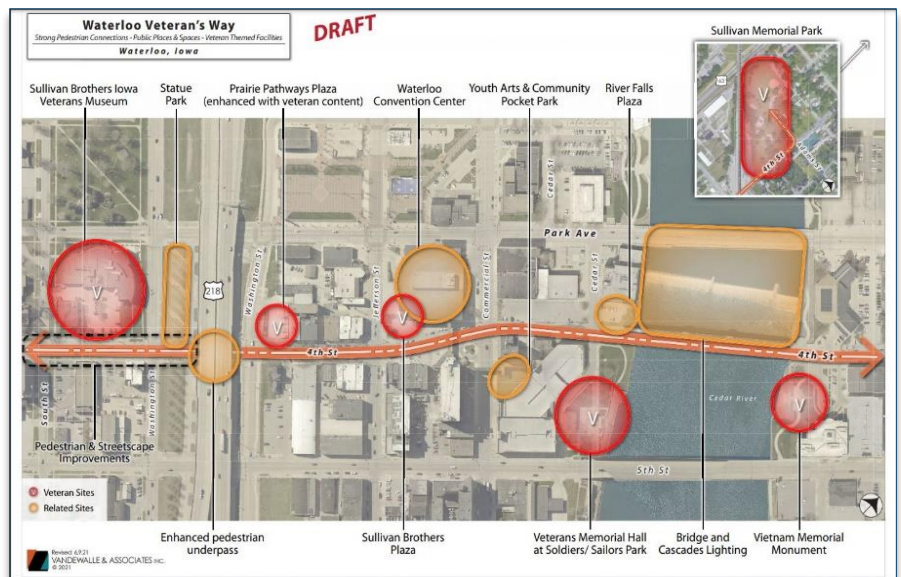
- All three of these World War II veterans – Mr. Green, Mr. Brom and Maj. Gen. Hultman -- were sponsors of the exhibit, "Over Land and Sea: Iowans in the Pacific in World War II" which was on display at the museum from Dec. 7, 2021, the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, through the end of 2022 and attended the exhibit opening event Dec. 7, 2021.
- Two members of the nonprofit trust governing the museum district were World War II veterans and the major driving forces behind the creation of the Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum. They were Roger Olesen, a longtime construction company executive who received the Legion of Merit for his World War II service, and attorney Edward J. Gallagher Jr., a U.S. Navy veteran of the Pacific theater who served as state commander of the AMVETS.
- The Grout Museum District recently launched a special exhibit, "War Work: Defense Manufacturing in the Cedar Valley," featuring the various local manufacturers and the items they produced to support the war effort in World War II, including Sherman tank transmissions at John Deere; munitions at Chamberlain and Associated Manufacturing companies; military clothing, packs, ponchos and various cavass items at Powers Manufacturing and Hinson Manufacturing and food from The Rath Packing Company.

## MEMORIALS AND PARKS

The City of Waterloo has a long tradition of honoring its Veterans with significant memorials and parks.

In recent years, the City has worked to develop a Master Plan for Veteran's Way to connect those places through place-based art and history walk along 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Downtown Waterloo. The design includes multiple civic destination projects and a connecting walk, with thematic elements honoring Waterloo's rich history of military service. Mayor Hart of Waterloo brought a vision to his city to honor Veterans in a significant and lasting way.

The Veterans Way he imagined would unite existing commemorative sites along Waterloo's East and West Fourth Street, and develop new, more prominent features along the way. By seeking stakeholder input, especially from the local Veteran community, a plan for Waterloo's Veterans Way Art & History Walk was born. The 4<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor connects sites including the Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum, Statue Park, Sullivan Brothers Plaza, Veterans Memorial Hall at Soldiers and Sailors Park, Bridge Lighting, and Vietnam Memorial Monument.



Veterans Way is anchored at the Southwest end of 4<sup>th</sup> Street by the Iowa Veterans Museum and at the Northeast by Sullivan Park the site of the home Waterloo’s famous Five Sullivan Brothers. Between the two anchors exists the Vietnam Memorial Plaza, the Veterans Memorial Hall at Soldiers/Sailors Park, and a freedom statue in Lincoln Park. New to Veterans Way in 2023 include a prominent and fitting Sullivan Brothers Memorial Plaza at the Waterloo Convention Center, a world class light show on the iconic 4<sup>th</sup> street pedestrian bridge which honor Veterans at the top of every hour with a red, white & blue program, and Veteran Walk of Honor featuring banners of local Veterans and active-duty military.

Future phases of Veterans Way will include additional streetscaping, signage and lighting to better connect each venue and improve pedestrian safety and accessibility. Also, improvements to Veterans Memorial Hall will prioritize an outdoor public art gallery installed in an underutilized existing lot focusing on the values upheld by the military: freedom, liberty, and justice for all.

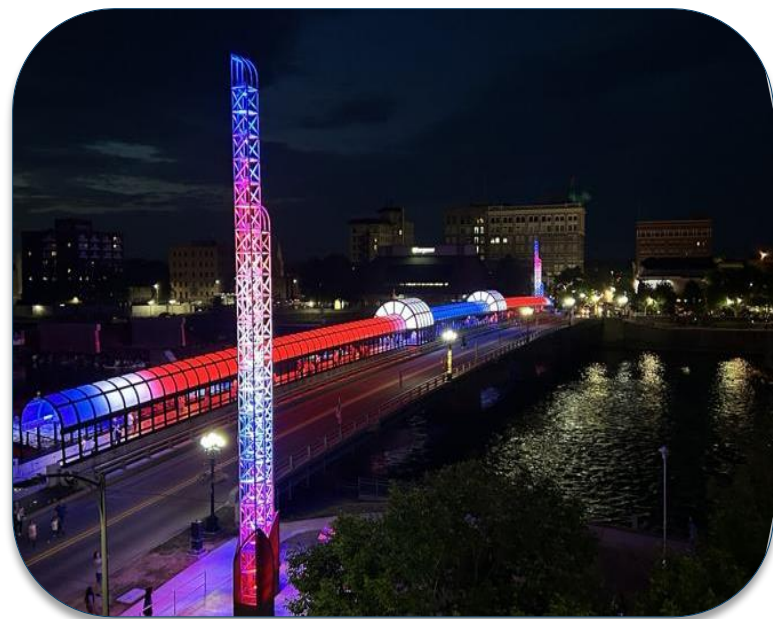
Veterans Way not only honors local Veterans and military, but it also created an even more appealing destination for Veteran reunions and special events coming to Waterloo’s downtown. It also serves as an educational tool for future generations. More details about specific sites along Veterans Way are included below.

### SULLIVAN BROTHERS FAMILY MEMORIAL

The Sullivan Brothers Memorial, located at the Waterloo Convention Center, highlights the story of the Sullivan family, the brothers, and the family’s service to the country. The purpose of the memorial is to inspire people to gather together and to serve their community. The memorial will feature activities and content that honor and respect veterans and their families.

### WATERLOO RIVER LIGHTS EXPERIENCE

This new, innovative public art installation transforms the Cedar River into a canvas of living art. Beams of light turn the 4th Street bridge canopy and adjacent light towers into glittering jewels that reflect off the cascading waters of the Cedar River. Lighting under the bridges symbolically unites the two sides of the river. This project served as an economic development engine, a source of community advancement, a tool for visitor attraction, and a destination for recreation, art, and entertainment. Lighting displays will be programmed for holidays, events, and community celebrations including the standard red, white, and blue in honor of our veterans.



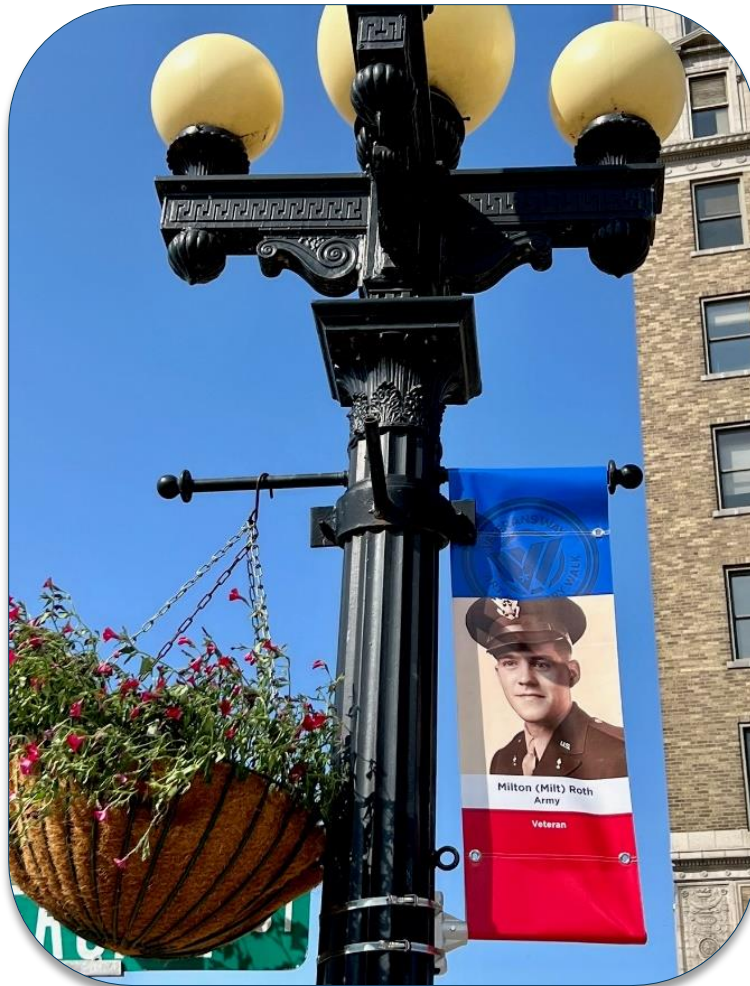


## VETERANS WALK OF HONOR

The Waterloo Veterans Walk of Honor is an annual recognition of individual Veterans and active-duty military from the Cedar Valley area. Banners featuring a photo of the honoree are on display from Memorial Day in the spring through Veterans Day in the late fall. When the banners are removed, they are presented to the honoree or their sponsor. This project is a collaboration of the City of Waterloo, Main Street Waterloo, Experience Waterloo, and the Waterloo Exchange Club. More information and bios of each honoree at <https://experiencewaterloo.com/veterans-way/>.

## PARKS

The city also has several distinct parks honoring the legacy of World War II including the Sullivan Brothers Park, Liberty Park, and Soldiers and Sailors Park. The Sullivan Brothers Park was named in honor of the five brothers who lost their life on the USS Juneau and continues to remain a valuable park for the community. The city recently provided updates in 2012 to the park, and it serves as the location for the City's annual Juneteenth celebration.



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## PRESENT DAY CELEBRATIONS, REMEMBRANCE, AND HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS TO WWII

### MEMORIAL AND VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE

Marcia Courbat served in the Army WAVES in World War II (and in manufacturing prior to that) and in many ways was the heart and soul of Waterloo's Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances for decades -- just as long as she was able, even from her walker in declining years. Now the street by Memorial Hall is named "Courbat Court" in her honor.

Marcia coordinated the setting up of flags in local cemeteries. Every year, Marcia put together a comprehensive press release on Memorial Day activities. Marcia also took on the task of keeping the record of Waterloo veterans who passed away from one Memorial Day to the next, to be read every Memorial Day. She led the drive for commemorative bricks at Soldiers and Sailors Park which financed the upkeep of Veterans Memorial Hall and the park. She lined up a group of Waterloo firefighters led by a Vietnam veteran and assistant fire chief to restore the Civil War fountain in the park.

Marcia and her late husband Dale also were active for years, along with other local World War II veterans in support of the Waterloo Chevaliers Junior Drum & Bugle Corps, sponsored by American Legion Post 138. She and four other women World War II veterans from the Cedar Valley were on the first Honor Flight out of Cedar Rapids to Washington D.C. in 2010. Half the World War II veterans on the plane were from the Cedar Valley and the north end of I-380 and it inspired the creation of Cedar Valley Honor Flight.

### IOWA'S NAVAL HERITAGE

Kelly Sullivan, granddaughter and grandniece of Waterloo's five Sullivan Brothers said upon the christening of the USS *Iowa* submarine (SSN-797) in 2023, "I think the boat represents Iowa, and the people of Iowa who have made an impact on our Navy. I think it's important for Iowans to learn about and honor all the people who serve our country – and especially in the Navy," Sullivan said. "We're a landlocked state. We don't have the ocean nearby. But if you go in the history books, it's Navy, Navy Navy."

That includes, in addition to her grandfather and great uncles, Admiral William Leahy, senior naval officer on active duty during World War II, who was a native of Hampton, and Rear Admiral James D. "Jig Dog" Ramage, a decorated World War II naval combat pilot from Waterloo who also commanded a carrier division during Vietnam.

Many Iowans served on the USS *Oklahoma* at Pearl Harbor, on which more than 400 sailors died. A family friend of the Sullivans, Bill Ball of Fredericksburg, was on the USS *Arizona* at Pearl Harbor, and his death prompted the brothers to enlist.

The ship sponsors also are steeped in Iowa tradition. Kelly Sullivan's great-grandmother, Alleta Sullivan, was the sponsor of the first ship named for her five sons, the destroyer USS *The Sullivans* (DD-537), christened during World War II, now decommissioned and on display at a Buffalo, N.Y. military park. Likewise, the sponsor of the USS *Iowa* submarine, former Iowa First Lady Christie Vilsack, was preceded as the sponsor of a USS *Iowa* vessel by Ilo Wallace of Indianola, wife of World War II-era U.S. Vice President Henry A. Wallace of Orient. Mrs. Wallace sponsored the battleship USS *Iowa* (BB-61), which is now docked at the Port San Pedro, California.

On Nov. 11, the Grout Museum district will host an event "Iowa's Naval Heritage" focusing on the state's service during World War II and in early and subsequent eras and conflicts, including the history of various vessels to bear the names of the state of Iowa, or people and places related to Iowa.

### USS SULLIVAN BROTHER'S CREW AT THE 2022 IRISH FEST

The USS *The Sullivans* Association a group of Navy veterans who served on both USS *The Sullivans* (DD-538 and DDG-68) held their reunion in Waterloo in 2022 during the annual Iowa Irish Fest celebration. They were joined by current sailors serving on the DDG-68 and the USS *Iowa* SSN-797s submarine. Association members presented the Grout Museum District with a ceremonial bell on permanent loan and displayed in the museum at the re-creation of the Sullivan home. Several USS *The Sullivans* sailors also attended Iowa Irish fest 2023 and were feted at the "Heroes Court" area of the festival, set aside to honor veterans of all eras and first responders. Kelly Sullivan is part of the Iowa Irish Fest committee. USS *The Sullivans* crew members are steeped in the history of the Sullivan brothers and their namesake ships, and the Grout Museum District has provided educational materials. Former sailor and commanders of the ships and the grandson of the commander of the USS *Juneau* have maintained a close and ongoing relationship with the Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum.

### IRONMAN BATTALION - DEPLOYMENTS TO IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

The Waterloo headquartered Iowa Army National Guard 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 133<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment – the "Ironman Battalion," - so named for its 600 plus consecutive days in combat in World War II is still active and is housed at the Iowa Army National Guard Armory in Waterloo. It has served multiple deployments since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on America including the Sinai Peninsula, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Qatar. The battalion served a 22-month deployment from 2005-2007 in Iraq, including 17 months in country. Its deployment was extended due to President George W. Bush's surge initiative. Two of its members were killed in action during a firefight and dozens more wounded over the course of the deployment. The battalion was the subject of an Emmy Award winning CBS News documentary, "Fathers Sons and Brothers," with CBS News correspondent Scott Pelley embedded with the battalion. The 1/133<sup>rd</sup> also served a year in deployment in combat in Afghanistan, sustaining more casualties, and battalion members also served a year in Qatar in 2020. In addition to their combat duties the 1/133 soldiers also participated in local tornado and flood relief efforts in May-June 2008 – less than a year after their return from Iraq.

### FIVE SULLIVAN BROTHERS RELIGIOUS HERITAGE

A Roman Catholic statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary dedicated to the Sullivan Brothers is now at an outdoor grotto at Columbus Catholic High School. The statue was financed in part with funds raised by students at St. Mary's School, the Sullivans' parish grade school, in the 1950s. When St. Mary's closed as a school and a worship site in 2003, the Waterloo Knights of Columbus Council 700 restored and moved the statue to the high school, now the location of a Catholic middle school. When former St. Mary's church and school site fell into disrepair and tax delinquency after a period of private ownership, the city of Waterloo took title to the property and granted right of entry for some items to be saved by former parishioners and students. A pair of painted glass windows were saved from the site and placed in a memorial area to fallen Iowa veterans at the Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum. The windows bear no religious symbols, but the windows from a place of worship are reminders of the Sullivans' faith-based heritage.

### SHERMAN TANK MEMORIAL

A genuine Sherman tank is located in the park at Meyers Lake in Evansdale, Iowa, a community of 5,000 adjoining Waterloo immediately to the east. It serves as a reminder of the role of the Waterloo-Cedar Falls metro area and

one of its principal employers, John Deere, in producing the workhorse armored vehicle of the U.S. Army in World War II.

### HULTQUIST-FRY RESERVE CENTER

The Hultquist-Fry Reserve Center on Burton Avenue is still the base for Army Reservists who were called to duty during Operation Enduring Freedom. It was the former home of Waterloo's Marine Reserve units which served during World War II, Korea, the 1991 Persian Gulf War, and the 2003-07 Iraq War. Veterans of the U.S. Marine Reserve Delta Battery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 14 Marines which served in the 1991 Gulf War still hold reunions and assisted the Grout Museum District in a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary Gulf War exhibit in 2021. Many prominent residents of Waterloo were Marine Reservists who saw combat both in the Pacific Island campaigns of World War II and in Korea.

### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 1623

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1623 is marking its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary since it moved to a new expanded location, opened to the general public and named the post in honor of the Sullivan brothers. The post held a celebration of life for Katherine McFarland, the widow Albert Sullivan, the youngest of the five brothers, upon her passing in 2016 at age 93.

### SULLIVAN-HARTOGH-DAVIS HONOR FLIGHTS

The Sullivan-Hartogh-Davis Honor Flight program flies military veterans to Washington, D.C. to see military memorials honoring them. When an earlier sister program in Cedar Rapids was launched in 2010, and a number of Waterloo-area World War II veterans participated, it was apparent a similar program was needed in the Waterloo area. Flights out of Waterloo began in 2011 exclusively for World War II veterans and were eventually expanded to include Korea, Vietnam, and Cold War era veterans. The program still attracts a trickle of World War II veterans despite their advanced age. The program had its 29<sup>th</sup> flight this past June 2023. The program is named for the Sullivan brothers and two local residents who died in Vietnam.

### STREET NAMING

Several Waterloo streets were named after World War II for significant individuals and events in that war, such as Patton Avenue and Normandy Drive. Also added to the city after World War II was Liberty Avenue. Liberty Park and the Liberty residential addition to the city, consisting of many postwar homes built to accommodate the influx of returning veterans and their families. Normandy Street was named in 1946 as part of the Brinker, Thomas, and McClellan Addition.

### BLACK HAWK COUNTY FREEDOM ROCK

An artist from Greenfield, Iowa, Ray "Bubba" Sorensen II, has created a large "Freedom Rock in each of Iowa's 99 counties that is painted and sealed with acrylic commemorating local military heroes in each county. Black Hawk County's Freedom Rock is in the adjoining community of Cedar Falls immediately west of Waterloo. It includes images of the Sullivan brothers, a local Medal of Honor recipient killed in Vietnam, and a quad-amputee veteran of Afghanistan.



### CLIFTON TRUMAN DANIEL VISIT

Clifton Truman Daniel, grandson of President Harry Truman, visited Waterloo and the Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum in May 2023. Mr. Daniel's visit was three years in the making with planning beginning before the COVID-19 pandemic and a major \$1 million museum renovation project. Mr. Daniel's visit was the inaugural event in the museum's renovated meeting space. He spoke of the end of World War II, implications of the dropping of the atomic bomb, and personal stories growing up as a presidential grandchild. He was greeted by Kelly Sullivan and honored guests included World War II veterans David Greene, Hovey Brom, and retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Even "Curly" Hultman, co-sponsors of Mr. Daniel's visit along with families of deceased WWII veterans and local veterans posts. It also was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of many important events in the Truman administration including the racial desegregation of the U.S. armed forces, the Marshall Plan, and the Berlin Airlift.

### RESEARCH VESSEL PETREL PRESENTATION

The crew of the Research Vessel Petrel, which discovered the shipwreck of the USS *Juneau* March 17, 2018, made a special presentation before a packed house at the Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum on Nov. 13, 2019, the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the ship and the loss of the five Sullivan brothers and nearly all their 700 shipmates. The crew also visited Kelly Sullivan's third-grade elementary class earlier in the day. The crew left the museum video footage of the *Juneau*'s discovery which runs in a continuous loop as part of a museum exhibit and contains an actual floor mat from the *Juneau* which was removed when the ship was in port before its final fatal battle. It was donated by the family of a sailor working in port at the time. Also included in the exhibit are uniform epaulets of the *Juneau*'s commanding officer, Capt. Lyman K. Swenson, donated by his grandson who lives in Huntington Beach, California and is a regular visitor to and supporter of the museum.

### IOWA'S MERCI BOXCAR

Iowa's "Merci Boxcar," a French WWI troop boxcar loaded with gifts and given to the people of Iowa by the people of France at the end of World War II, is located just northwest of Waterloo at Antique Acres, an exhibition site of working vintage farm equipment. The boxcar was secured and is maintained by the Black Hawk County "Voiture 82" "40 and 8" club. Built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the boxcar was referred to as a "40 and 8" because it could hold 40 soldiers or eight cavalry horses. The cars were commandeered by the Nazis in World War II to transport Allied prisoners of war to prison camps. In the years after the Allied victory in Europe in 1945, syndicated national Washington newspaper columnist Drew Pearson advocated a volunteer drive in which Americans privately raised \$40 million worth of postwar food and relief supplies for the people of war-torn France and Italy. It was roughly concurrent with the U.S. government's \$13.3 billion "Marshall Plan" economic recovery aid to Europe, first proposed in June 1947 by President Harry Truman's secretary of state, George C. Marshall. An "American Friendship Train" carried more than 700 carloads of food, clothing and fuel donated in the private relief effort across France and Italy in 1947. The French people reciprocated in 1949 with a "Merci Train," loaded with artwork, handcrafts, fine lace, toys, and other gifts from the French people. The cars were transported by transatlantic freighter to New York and by rail to each of the respective states. The local "40 and 8" club received permission to acquire Iowa's "Merci Train" boxcar in the 1950s. The club maintains the boxcar and the items it contains, including artwork, crafts, and other items, for the people of Iowa. It is at Antique Acres under a long-term lease.

SENATOR CHARLES GRASSLEY'S CONSIDERATION LETTER

135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501  
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www.grassley.senate.gov

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210 WALNUT STREET  
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2106  
(515) 289-1145

111 7TH AVENUE, SE, Box 13  
SUITE 6800  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401-2101  
(319) 363-8832

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE EMERITUS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

August 28, 2023

120 FEDERAL BUILDING  
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210 WATERLOO BUILDING  
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201 WEST 2ND STREET  
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DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1817  
(563) 322-4331

2146 27TH AVENUE  
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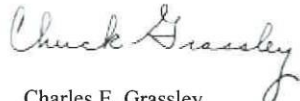
Charles F. Sams III  
Director  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Sams,

It has come to my attention that the City of Waterloo, Iowa, has applied for the America's WWII Heritage City Program, administered by the National Park Service. I ask that this application be given all due consideration. Any assistance you could provide me with respect to this issue would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and effort on this matter. If I may be of any assistance with this application, please contact my office at 202-224-3744.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator

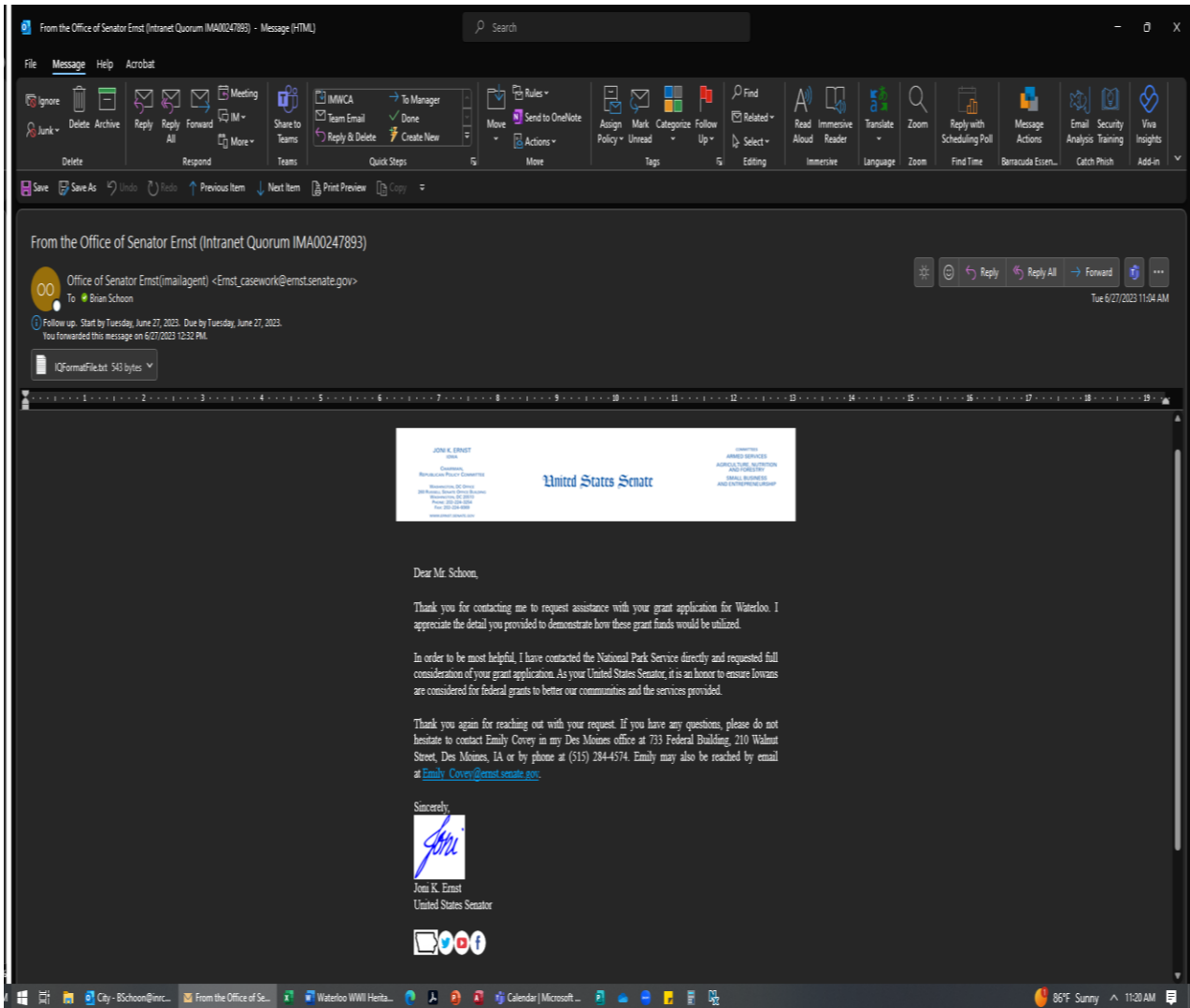
RANKING MEMBER  
BUDGET

Committee Assignments:

JUDICIARY  
FINANCE  
AGRICULTURE

CO-CHAIRMAN  
CAUCUS ON  
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL

SENATOR JONI ERNST'S CORRESPONDENCE CONFIRMATION:



19 August 2023

Selection Committee for WWII Heritage City

Dear Committee Members:

Waterloo, Iowa has been my hometown since I was 10 years old when my Swedish and Welsh immigrant parents and grandparents left Albia and moved to Waterloo. I am now 98 years young and remember WWII like it was yesterday.

On that fateful day when Pearl Harbor was attacked, the Japanese military leader was correct when he warned the nation of Japan that they had awakened the sleeping giant. That Sunday morning, our family had just returned from church, seated around the dinner table at my future wife's and her family's log cabin when the radio announcer interrupted the music program and announced, "Pearl Harbor has been bombed". None of us knew at the time where Pearl Harbor was, but we soon found out as our nation and our town, responded to our country's need to defend our land, our people, and freedom from the tyranny of cruel dictatorships both in Europe, northern Africa, and in the Pacific. I was a senior in high school on this fateful day.

Upon graduating from East Waterloo High School, I volunteered to join the US Army at age 17, and spent the next 3 ½ years all over the United States and the occupation of Japan. At the beginning of the occupation of Japan, I found myself at both Hiroshima and Nagasaki witnessing the horrific devastation to their country and the suffering of the Japanese people with the charred remains of both their country and the people. I oversaw the clean-up operations there for the 1 ½ years after the bombs dropped and then I returned home, physically in one piece but with memories that I continue to relive every night in my nightmares.

Back in Waterloo, Iowa, all the citizens- to include the old and young, served in one of the many military-related industries. Waterloo, being the original home of the John Deere Tractor factories that built farm machinery, reprogrammed their production and assembly to make army tank transmissions. Iowa is one of the breadbasket states in the United States, feeding a great deal of the Allied world in corn and soybeans and hogs and cattle. My wife at 19 years paused from attending college at the University of Northern Iowa to work the nightshift making tank transmissions, and by day, her mother and her made sandwiches which they fed to the GIs on the troop trains as they passed through Waterloo, Iowa, by day. Our entire town participated in this transition to war-time life, feeding the military by day, and working on supporting the military industrial complex by night.

Other Waterloo companies joined the fight to support the war effort. Rath Packing, the largest meat packing company in the world at that time, ratcheted-up production to feed the troops, both at home bases and overseas, with both fresh meat and the meat in canned rations. Waterloo's Chamberlain Manufacturing developed the process and then produced a new, sensitive artillery



shell never-before available and was the sole provider of these for the US Army. There were 34 smaller companies in Waterloo that went to war production overnight in switching what their previous goods were to wartime materiel to support the war effort. Although similar actions were occurring across America to support the war effort, Waterloo was unique in that our entire town and its manufacturing capabilities, large and small, changed overnight to support the war effort. With John Deere, Rath Packing, and Chamberlain Manufacturing, Waterloo made a herculean effort to support the troops with food, tank transmissions, and the modern artillery shells.

Waterloo, Iowa, is in our nation's heartland. The richest farmland in all the world is located next door in Grundy County, with equally rich black soil here in Waterloo. While our farmers worked on increasing food stores for the Allied world, the people of Waterloo stepped up to the call for what was called Victory gardens – to feed the people in their own communities to lessen the burden of taking the food needed for the troops. My mother, grandmother, wife, and mother-in-law all grew huge victory gardens to provide food for family and those less fortunate in the community. These gardens produced tomatoes, corn, beans, cabbage, and other vegetables that they then canned, as well as harvesting apples, cherries, pears, plums, and peaches which they also canned. Waterloo shared, and bartered, and gave to ensure the troops and its people were fed and knew they were cared for.

One of the many unique features of WWII was the fact that families went to war. In my hometown of Waterloo, Iowa, 5 brothers, sons from one family, my friends, not only went to war, but none of the 5 returned, the 5 Sullivan brothers. There was a rule at the time that all brothers could not serve together as it increased their chances of being killed and robbing their family of male heirs. The 5 Sullivan brothers challenged this rule and said they would either serve together or none would serve at all. They were granted an exception and as history played out, they were all killed together. The War Department at the time, regretting their exception and the dire consequence that followed for the Sullivan family, returned to its previous rule that all siblings could not serve together, which continues to this day. Although many sons and daughters still serve, even with fathers and mothers who serve at the same time, America does not want any family left without a male heir to carry on their family's name due to making the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our great nation.

Like the Sullivan brothers, all three of my uncles served in the US Navy in WWII; but different from the Sullivans, all returned home to their families, their wives, and their children. All were from Waterloo, and all returned and remained in Waterloo. My brother-in-law served with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne All American unit located in the Sea of Japan for over a year after the bombing ensuring the war did not continue in the Pacific.

I entered WWII as a Private in the US Army, later received my appointment as a Lieutenant after being selected and completing Officer Candidate School, was on the flight line with my men to be transported to Europe for the invasion history would call "D-Day", when I was removed to become an instructor at the Infantry School for a brief time before being selected to head the clean-up operation in Japan after the bombs dropped. I remain firmly convinced that Truman's

decision to drop the two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki saved millions of American lives, to include my own, and was the right decision. I admired President Truman for his personal courage in making such a tough, tough decision and he has remained my favorite US President as a result, even though I hail from the other political party. I served my country on active duty until I returned home after the occupation of Japan, at which time I became commissioned in the US Army Reserves where I served for over 41 years and achieved the rank of Major General. My service during the cold war was mostly working to keep Europe free, to help them rebuild their war-torn countries and to help NATO in their critically important mission to support democracy and provide for the common defense among its partnership nations. I continue to support them even today as I remain active in the Confederation of International Officers of the Reserve as only one of two Presidents for Life in that organization.

That was 80 years ago, and I have not regretted it for one single minute. I have traveled the world, but I always looked forward to my return on each and every occasion to return home to Waterloo. I am proud of our town that supported me, our family, our community, and our nation during WWII like few other towns had. I strongly encourage you to bestow the honor on Waterloo, Iowa, as a WWII Heritage City to recognize our pervasive war efforts and the continued recognition Waterloo provides its WWII veterans.

I would be happy to further discuss any aspect of this issue and can be contacted through my daughter at (808) 230-0743 or by email at [heidi.a.warrington@gmail.com](mailto:heidi.a.warrington@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,



Evan L. Hultman  
Major General (Ret)  
US Army

Selection Committee for WWII Heritage City

Dear Committee Members:

Waterloo, Iowa is my hometown. I grew up in a household where WWII and its veterans have been continually honored, respected, and proud of our city's heritage in supporting WWII and honoring its veterans.

My father, and all the men on my father's side of his family that were of age, served in WWII. I grew up hearing of the stories of D-Day, the Bataan Death March, and the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I knew intimately of my father's service and being deployed for the clean-up operation in Japan within a mere 30 days of the bombs being dropped. My father spoke often of how President Truman's decision to drop the bomb, even to this day, is controversial for some, but in his estimation, it was the correct decision that saved millions of American lives. My father has been a staunch Republican all his life but to this day Truman is his favorite president. He considers that Truman had the toughest decision of any of our presidents and he made the right call.

While my mother taught me to home can vegetables and fruit from our garden, she often spoke of how the victory gardens in Waterloo, Iowa, helped to feed our people while every spare item was prepared for the troops and our Allies who had little food. We continued to have victory gardens from that point on, offering our extra produce to our local food bank to help those in need. I learned of her quitting college to work the night shift at John Deere making tank transmissions. This was because all the able-bodied men who were not farmers had left for the war. My mother's name was Betty, so we affectionately dubbed her as our hometown "Drill-press Betty" with her dark hair and eyes and her sleeves rolled up, she looked like the drill-press Betty image on the WWII war posters.

Waterloo, Iowa, is the home of the 5 Sullivan Brothers. These boys were my father's classmates at East Waterloo High School. I believe their story is covered in a separate letter, but I grew up knowing how important their sacrifice was for our country, despite the pain and loss to the Sullivan family. Waterloo has honored the Sullivan family in many ways, but it will never be enough. Waterloo built an entire military museum in the honor of the 5 Sullivans, which also pays tribute to the other men and women who sacrificed their youth and many, their lives, on behalf of our nation during WWII. We currently have a fascinating museum exhibit specifically honoring WWII and our hometown heroes from it.

For the past many years, the museum has partnered with the University of Northern Iowa to host an annual veterans' celebration at the museum. Every year, WWII veterans from Waterloo hold the highest place of honor and are recognized for their contributions and their sacrifices. The

Sullivan family is always recognized, and their sacrifices paid tribute to. This is our way to educate our young college students and other community members about the important role Waterloo and its sons and daughters played during WWII and our ongoing gratitude.

Our family was recognized as the first family to be awarded the Sullivan Brothers Outstanding Military Family Award in 2009 for demonstrating exemplary community service and sacrifice to our nation. Unfortunately, when the award was presented to the Hultman Family, I was serving on active duty in the Pacific and my son Soren was serving with the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group overseas. We are proud of my father's service in WWII and all he has done since then on behalf of democracy and a free world.

My father and I both participated in a WWII recognition ceremony in Washington DC at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reserve Officers Association on September 30, 2022 where Truman's grandson and my father placed a wreath at the WWII memorial park across from the Willard Hotel. This momentous occasion was designed to honor the fact that then Major Harry Truman, was one of the founding fathers of the Reserve Officers Association which occurred there in the Willard Hotel and recognized his important role in WWII as making the decision to drop the atomic bombs on Japan. We both had time to meet Clifton Truman Daniel and for my father to share his respect and pride for President Truman with his grandson.

The Grout and the Five Sullivan Brothers Military Museum hosted Clifton Truman Daniel to come to Waterloo to be honored in a historic event on May 17, 2023, where he addressed our community leaders and veterans during a meet and greet, shared a dinner with Clifton and our WWII families (the Sullivans, Hultmans, Hovie Brown and Dave Greene's families). It was a time for sharing and intimate relationship building. Clifton then presented a dynamic program speaking of his grandfather Harry Truman and shared personal insights into the Truman family. Waterloo's WWII veterans had tears in their eyes recounting their time under Truman's leadership and their own wartime experiences. This was quite humbling for my father given his admiration for President Truman and his fierce loyalty to his decision to bomb Japan.

Waterloo, Iowa, has continued to honor their WWII veterans in so many heartfelt ways. MG Hultman continues to be in the lead car at our Memorial Day Parade for many years as the oldest ranking officer in our community. The American Legion Becker-Chapman Post 138 honored their beloved WWII Veteran MG Hultman by naming their community room "Hultman Hall" and proudly displays some of his wartime memorabilia, alongside other veterans' military contributions. Whenever my father is at this American Legion post, attention is called for a general officer on deck and accolades for respecting his service in WWII are mentioned.

Waterloo is home of the annual Irish Festival every August. We host sailors and submariners from the USS Sullivan and USS Iowa annually at this festival and have a military tribute to our veterans that begins typically with honoring our WWII veterans. We have a Hall of Heroes for the military accompanied by military hardware and military vehicles for kids to explore. We



make time to honor our fallen, our city's service during WWII, the 5 Sullivan Brothers, and the other families that paid the ultimate sacrifice during the armed conflicts on behalf of our nation.

Waterloo, Iowa, honors all its military and continues to proclaim the sacrifices of their WWII veterans as the greatest generation, honoring their sacrifices. On May 25, 2023, Waterloo began their "Veterans' Way" project with unfurling banners throughout our city of key members of our city that had served in the military, to include our WWII veterans. These banners displayed the picture of our service men and women with a short bio on their service. These were displayed from light posts throughout the city for several weeks. This project will continue and expand annually as we recognize our military.

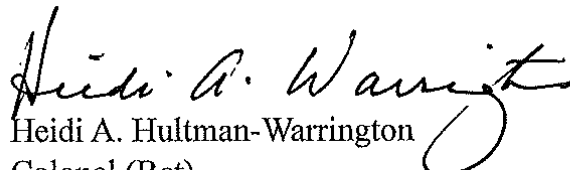
Waterloo, Iowa, is home of a performance art project that lights up our walking bridge from our Veterans' Memorial Hall to our Vietnam Memorial Park from sundown to midnight every night from Memorial Day to Veterans' Day. On the hour for several minutes, the colored lights showcase red/white/blue that span the bridge, light up the Cedar River and its rapids below the bridge, and pay tribute to our military. Our Veterans' Memorial Hall includes our WWII memorial and our memorial walkway that acknowledges and pays tribute to Waterloo's veterans, many from WWII.

Waterloo's Office of Veteran Affairs hosts a weekly event for veterans to share a meal and camaraderie from April through September. These meals are free of charge to the veterans, and the food is provided by local community partners. Our WWII veterans are among the attendees and are always recognized for their service and their sacrifices. Local car dealerships and community retirement centers provide transportation to our veterans to ensure no one is left behind that wants to attend. The honor and respect is felt by all who attend, each and every week.

Waterloo, Iowa is home to one of Iowa's two Honor Flight projects. For many years, Waterloo has hosted two honor flights/year where 300 local veterans from WWII to current service are provided with a free plane ride to Washington DC where they are met by our congressmen and women, and general officers to welcome them to the nation's capital. During this event, they are fed and each one escorted with a battle buddy to the war memorials starting with the WWII memorial. Since Waterloo is only one of two locations in Iowa that support Honor Flights, Waterloo allows veterans from outside Waterloo to participate to leave no one behind. Each Honor Flight costs over half a million dollars to fund with immense coordination and fundraising to ensure they continue. Waterloo hosts an annual fundraising event with dinner, a show, and a huge auction to generate the proceeds for the Honor Flights. The entire community contributes items for the auction and supports their veterans by participating. Historically, the program has been a series of WWII skits, songs, and stories to recognize our WWII veterans. This is a huge deal that requires the people, business, and services of Waterloo to come together to support these two events every year, with the burden of securing the funds for both flights solely on the backs of Waterloo residents.

I am proud to call Waterloo, Iowa my hometown and am equally proud of our WWII heritage. I chose to return to Waterloo after my 34 years of military service in 41 countries and 5 wars to continue to serve my town, my family, and my country as a retired veteran. I have been a commissioner for the Black Hawk County Veterans Affairs Commissioner for the past 6 years and served as the Chair for the past 2 years. My pride in saying I am a native of this great city goes beyond mere words and comes from the heart. I believe Waterloo, Iowa is most deserving of the designation of a WWII Heritage City and ask for your support in advance of making this happen.

I can be reached at (808) 230-0743 or on email at [heidi.a.warrington@gmail.com](mailto:heidi.a.warrington@gmail.com) to further discuss any details you might need. On behalf of my father and his service in WWII, and my family's contributions during the war, we consider it an honor for Waterloo to be considered for the WWII Heritage City.

  
Heidi A. Hultman-Warrington  
Colonel (Ret)  
US Army Nurse Corps



**Black Hawk County**

**Commission of Veteran Affairs**

1407 Independence Avenue, Pinecrest Building First Floor, Waterloo Iowa 50703

Phone: (319) 291-2512 Fax: (319) 291-2645

Director: Yolando Loveless

Commissioners: Joy Briscoe, Mike Butler, Henry Korf, Heidi Warrington, Chuck Wubbena

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**American World War II Heritage City Program**

**August 21, 2023**

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support for the National Park Service to designate Waterloo, Iowa as a World War II Heritage City.

As Director of Black Hawk County Veteran Affairs, with over 30 years of Active-Duty Service, I know the importance of honoring those who served and supported what our nation calls the "Greatness Generation". Never has our county fought two separate wars and was victorious in both. The local factory workers at John Deere and Chamberlains Manufacturing answered our nation's call for equipment and ammunition. I could only image the sacrifices many citizens in our great city played in support of the war effort.

It is truly an honor to submit my personal endorsement for this project.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Yolando Loveless, CWO4, USN, Retired*

*Director, Black Hawk County Veterans Affairs*

*yloveless@ blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov*

To the National Parks Service

My name is Kelly Sullivan. I am the granddaughter of Albert Sullivan, one of the five Sullivan brothers who were killed in World War II. I am the proud sponsor of an Aegis Guided Missile destroyer named for my grandfather and his brothers, USS *The Sullivans* DDG 68. I am writing to you about choosing the city of Waterloo as Iowa's official "World War II Heritage City."

As the ship's sponsor of the USS *The Sullivans* (DDG 68), one of my main jobs is to teach my sailors about the Sullivan brothers and how the community of Waterloo played an important part in World War II. Each year, I have a group of active-duty sailors who get to do what the Navy called a namesake trip. The sailors come to Waterloo to hear the history of the Sullivan brothers and also to hear about all of the other heroes from our community.

I just hosted a group during our Iowa Irish Fest weekend. One of my favorite events that weekend was having the sailors have a tour of the Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum. The museum hosted a meet-and-greet for the community. Major General Curly Hultman, a World War II veteran attended as well. He sat with the sailors and told the stories of his time in the military. The sailors were absolutely mesmerized sitting and listening to this hero talk about his experiences in World War II. The best thing about these namesake visits is that the sailors go back to the ship and tell the stories that they learned while visiting Waterloo.

The sailors are actually required to take tests to learn more about the city of Waterloo and how the city played a huge role in World War II, not just with the loss of the Sullivan boys, but also the industry of the city.

The loss of my grandfather and his brothers is known as the greatest loss to one family in a single battle in our country's history. The city of Waterloo does an amazing job of honoring the boys and all of our A veterans. For a land locked state, we had many men sign up for the Navy after the boys were killed. The Navy saw it as a wonderful public relations opportunity and made a poster that said they did their part. Waterloo can be credited for a good deal of recruitment during World War II. The movie "The Fighting Sullivans," which was released during World War II, also did a lot to help promote patriotism and support for our American troops. My great grandparents went on a war bond tour for a whole year after the boys were killed to help support the war effort. My favorite video of my great grandmother is where she says we will continue the fight, as my boys did not die in vain. I have always admired them for their perseverance during their unimaginable loss.

I hope that you will consider having Waterloo declared Iowa's official "World War II Heritage City."

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

All the best,

Kelly Sullivan

319-266-6172



SULLIVAN BROTHERS  
OIA VETERANS MUSEUM

