



# Missing In America Project

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## After Action Report 06222024 Independence Iowa MHI Cemetery

On 6/22/24 Missing in America Project Iowa held a memorial service for 14 veterans buried within the Independence Mental Health Institute Cemetery. Veterans served our country during the Civil War, and WWI.

Mary Crouse and Colleen Homan visited the institution and cemetery twice before the service. Research into every person buried within the cemetery took nearly a year. We had great help from Cyndy Palcich, Chris Kirchoff, and Mike Rowley.

Due to impending severe weather the service was held indoors at the Independence Mental Health Institute auditorium.

The flag bearers were members of the Independence VFW Post 2440, and the Independence American Legion Post 0030. We also had two MIAP volunteers drive in from Ohio and they were also flag bearers for the ceremony.

Mike Cook of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was our speaker for the ceremony. Candace Brown read the veterans' names, with Stefan Crouse ringing the bell for the service. The Iowa Army Honor Guard provided the flag folding. David Lang of Independence performed Taps for the ceremony.

Family member Jay Denne was present to receive honors on behalf of his great-great-great uncle Veteran William H Eakins. Mike Cook of the MHI received the flag representing the remaining veterans without family.

I previously contacted the Buchanan County VSO Julie Davison regarding the veterans buried within the cemetery. Julie was aware of two veterans buried there. Julie was present at the service and inquired into what we did to figure out veterans were buried in the cemetery. I informed Julie that our wonderful genealogists searched the information for every person buried there.

Following the ceremony the Independence Mental Health Institute Museum was opened for anyone wishing to tour. About 30 attendees from the service also toured the museum.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Crouse, State Coordinator