



State of Iowa

Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER THIRTY-TWO

- WHEREAS,** thousands of brave Iowans have served our country in the armed forces, with honor and distinction, to preserve our heritage and freedom; and
- WHEREAS,** the people of Iowa are immensely proud of these men and women, and will be indebted to them forever for their heroic sacrifices in the service and defense of this great nation; and
- WHEREAS,** we are especially mindful today of the sacrifices made by our Iowa veterans, as we receive reports regarding Iowans in uniform who have lost their lives, have been injured, or remain in harm's way in the war in Iraq; and
- WHEREAS,** the fighting spirit of this state's men and women, who have made unimaginable sacrifices to protect our freedoms, are reflected by the five Sullivan brothers from Waterloo, Iowa (Joseph, Frank, Albert, Madison, and George), and the entire Sullivan family; and
- WHEREAS,** on November 13, 1942, a Japanese torpedo struck the Sullivan brothers' ship, the U.S.S. Juneau, off the island of Guadalcanal, killing all five brothers, and etching their memory forever into the conscience and soul of this nation; and
- WHEREAS,** it is our unyielding duty to honor the brave men and women in our armed forces, and pay tribute to the sacrifices of all Iowa veterans; and
- WHEREAS,** the state of Iowa is one of only 13 states in the nation without a state veteran's cemetery to provide veterans with a final resting place and a lasting monument to their memory of service and sacrifice; and
- WHEREAS,** the Iowa Commission of Veteran's Affairs has long recognized the need for a state veterans cemetery; and
- WHEREAS,** a 2001 study commissioned by the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs National Cemetery Administration identified central Iowa as a region in need of additional veteran burial grounds:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, by the power vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Iowa, do hereby establish through the Iowa Veteran's Affairs Commission, in a manner consistent with existing law, a Commemorative Iowa Medallion, featuring the profile of the five Sullivan brothers on one side, and an image of the Iowa State Capitol on the other, for purchase by the general public. All proceeds generated from the sale of each medallion shall be used to fund the establishment and maintenance of an Iowa Veteran's Cemetery in central Iowa. The Iowa Veteran's Affairs Commission shall oversee the implementation of this initiative, and partner with all necessary agencies to effectuate its purposes. If the funds collected are not utilized for the establishment of an Iowa Veteran's Cemetery by December 31, 2008, all funds shall revert to the Iowa Veteran's Affairs Commission to be used by the commission to support and promote veterans services.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of Iowa to be affixed. Done at Des Moines this 11th day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand three.


THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


CHESTER J. CULVER
SECRETARY OF STATE