

WOODBURY COUNTY VETERAN AFFAIRS

Happy Holidays Woodbury County Veterans! We hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As you can imagine, the holidays can be a really tough time for our Veterans and their families. If possible, please take the time to reach out to a Veteran or those who still wear the uniform and thank them for their service. Let them know their sacrifice has not been forgotten, donate to a charity in their honor, or volunteer at a local Veterans nursing home.

Since October the office has had just about over 100 appointments/walk-ins, and just over 75 claims filed. Woodbury County currently has 1,665 Veterans or surviving spouses receiving benefits with a total amount of \$2,355,641.

Remember if you would like to talk to a CVSO about your benefits, please call the office and make an appointment!

Sioux City VA Clinic

The VA outpatient clinic located in Dakota Dunes, SD provides primary care to help you stay healthy and well throughout your life. Below you will find their contact information with other services provided.

Address:

380 W Anchor Dr.
Dakota Dunes, SD 57049

Main Phone: 605-232-2800

Services:

- Audiology and speech
- Mental health care
- Optometry
- Primary care
- Physical Therapy
- Whole health
- Women Veteran Care

STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
LONI KUHLMANN

CVSO:
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LISA ROBINSON

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1211 TRI VIEW AVE, STE A
SIOUX CITY, IA 51106
712-279-6606
FAX 712-224-4093

HOURS: 8AM - 4PM

**Please make an
appointment.**

WEBSITE:
[HTTPS://WWW.WOODBURYCOUNTYIOWA.GOV/VETERAN_AFFAIRS/](https://www.woodburycountyiowa.gov/veteran_affairs/)

FACEBOOK:
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WOODBURYCOUNTYYVA](https://www.facebook.com/woodburycountyyva)

Fees for Military Records

The Woodbury County Commission of Veteran Affairs wants to make all Veterans aware that recording or requesting Military Records is **FREE** of charge for a Veteran. Please review the Iowa Code Chapter and information regarding submitting copies of DD214 documents below. Please remember you may **ALWAYS** contact your local County Veterans Affairs Office for assistance recording or requesting military records.

The County Recorder's office has on permanent record, military discharges that have been presented for recording. Pursuant to Iowa Code Section 331.608(6), notwithstanding Section 22.2, subsection 1, such record shall be confidential and shall not be made available for examination or copying except as follows:

- To the person who is the subject of the record, to a member of that person's immediate family, or to that person's agent or representative duly authorized in writing.
- To a person requesting to examine or copy a record when the event that resulted in the record being made occurred more than sixty-two (62) years prior to the request. However, the recorder shall redact any social security number included in a record made available pursuant to this paragraph.
- To a person who is a funeral director licensed pursuant to chapter 156 and who has custody of the body of a deceased Veteran.
- When otherwise ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- When otherwise required by a department or agency of the federal or state government or a political subdivision. The recorder shall make these records available to the Department of Veteran's Affairs. The Department of Veteran's Affairs and its employees shall be subject to the same state and federal confidentiality restrictions and requirements that are imposed on the recorder.

Veterans are also eligible to submit legal copies of their DD214 to the County Recorder's office in the county in which they reside. There is no fee to record the DD214. Copies of military discharge records are also free of charge. Veterans and entitled immediate family members may request in-person or complete a military discharge application. All records not recorded in your local county can be requested from the National Personnel Records Center.

For more information, please contact the Woodbury County Commission of Veteran Affairs Office at (712) 279-6606.

Iowa Legal Aid

Iowa Legal Aid is dedicated to assisting Iowans Veterans. The US Department of Veteran Affairs recently awarded Iowa Legal Aid funding through the legal services for homeless Veterans and Veterans at risk for homelessness grant. This grant allows them to provide legal services for a variety of civil legal issues to Veterans with discharge statuses that are more favorable than a dishonorable discharge. Legal issues include but are not limited to family law, landlord tenant disputes, debt collection, and public benefit appeals (VA, HHS, SSA, etc.) This grant funding is temporary through July 2024. You can contact Iowa Legal Aid at 1-800-532-1503, by email at veterans@iowalaw.org, or their online intake process at lowalegalaid.org.

Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast

Our office had a pancake breakfast for Veterans Day on November 8th at the Sergeant Bluff American Legion Post and it was quite the hit! We served pancakes, sausage, eggs, and donuts to over 100 Siouxland Veterans and their spouses. We had a few resource tables there including the Sioux Falls VA Hospital, the Freedom Park, and the Rosecrance Jackson Centers to give information to any Veteran in need.

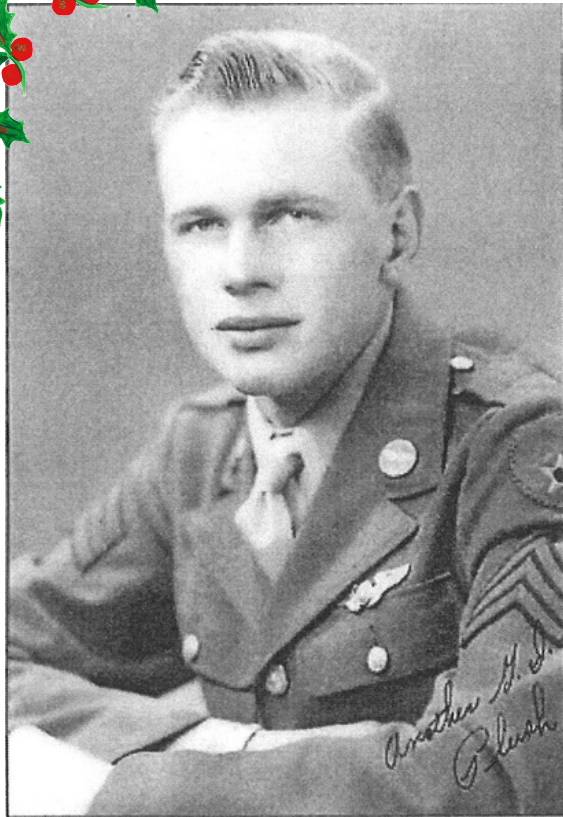
We were able to connect with our local Veterans and inform them about what our office does, set up a few appointments, and most importantly just spend some quality time with everyone while indulging in some pancakes!

We want to thank everyone at the Sergeant Bluff American Legion Post for letting us host what we hope will now be a yearly event. And also a big thank you to all of our Veterans and their families for coming out and enjoying our breakfast!



Honoring a Local Hero

Harold "Plush" Robinson
 Air Force
 1/19/1924 - 8/23/2002



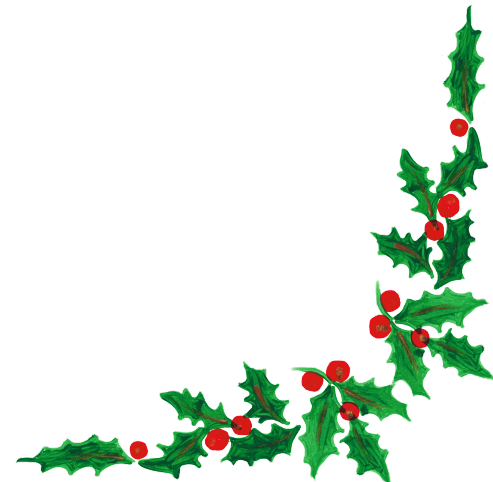
Harold "Plush" was the 3rd of 9 children and graduated from Lawton, IA in 1941. Plush was drafted in April of 1943 and went to gunnery school before being assigned to the 98th Bomber Group, 344th Squadron, 15th Air Force where they flew a B-24. Plush's crew had flown 34 missions and was based in Lecce, Italy.

On their 35th mission over Florence, Italy they were shot down. The whole crew was rescued 3 days later and after 3 days of R&R, there was another mission on 8/22/1944. On this mission the Germans were ready for them. The plane was hit with a shell exploding in the bomb bay, and another exploded under the left wing.

The pilot gave the order to abandon ship. Plush and his crew were captured by local villagers and were officially prisoners of war. They were taken to the Stalag Luft IV POW camp from 9/6/1944 - 2/6/1945. The day of his release, Plush weighed an approximate 98 lbs.

Plush was honorably discharged on 9/6/1945 and his date of separation was 9/2/1945. He returned to Lawton and completed diesel mechanic school using his GI bill. He was married in December of 1947 and opened his own service station, known as Plush's Service in October of 1948.

Plush was a member of the American Ex-POWs, American Legion Post 718, and the VFW in Sioux City. He was the Commander several times for the Tri-State Chapter of the American Ex-POWs, Department of Iowa, and for the State of Iowa Organization. He attended many 98th Bomb Group reunions and the EX-POW National and State conventions. It would take almost 40 years before he would talk about his war experiences and would go to schools and organizations to tell his story.





Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Veterans in Suicidal Crisis

The VA will provide, pay for, or reimburse emergency care for certain veterans and individuals, for ambulance transportation costs, follow-on inpatient, or residential care related to the event for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days, including social work. Inform the emergency care provider to report your emergency treatment to the VA Centralized Emergency Care Reporting Center as soon as possible after your treatment starts by using the VA Emergency Care Reporting portal or calling the VA 72-Hour Notification Hotline at 844-72-HRVHA (844-724-7842).

Military dates to remember:

February

- 3- Four Chaplains Day
- 4- USO Birthday
- Week of Feb 12- National Salute to Veteran Patients
- 19- Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

March

- 3- Navy Reserve Birthday
- 4- Hug a GI Day
- 5- Seabee Birthday
- 13- National K9 Veterans Birthday
- 15- American Legion Birthday
- 25- National Medal of Honor Day
- 29- National Vietnam War Veterans Day



SEE YOU IN APRIL 2024 WITH OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER!

