



**RELEASED BY Col. Greg Hapgood
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IOWA WWII AVIATOR RETURNS HOME 66 YEARS LATER FOLLOWING DISCOVERY OF REMAINS IN HUNGARY

Sixty-six years after leaving Amendola, Italy with a B-17 "Flying Fortress" on a bombing mission bound for Berlin, Germany, Staff Sgt. Marvin J. "Steiney" Steinfeld is coming home to Iowa. Steinfeld, a 22-year old toggelier from Keystone, Iowa, disappeared between Soviet and German lines in Hungary on March 24, 1945 after bailing out of a B-17 aircraft damaged by German anti-aircraft fire.

On Nov. 16, 2004, Hungarian authorities notified the United State Defense Attaché (USDAO) in Budapest, the potential remains of an American serviceman had been discovered in the city of Zirc, Hungary during the excavation of a WWII Soviet war memorial and gravesite which was being relocated to the outskirts of town. During the excavation, workers unearthed a dissimilar wooden coffin among the Soviet-style coffins. Upon further examination, they discovered remains and a set of identification tags that bore Steinfeld's name.

Trilateral negotiations involving American, Hungarian, and Russian officials to recover Steinfeld's remains began in early 2005. Due to the sensitive nature of the commingling of remains from the Soviet war memorial in Hungary, repeated diplomatic negotiations were required to attain approval from Russian Federation leaders to allow the exhumation of Steinfeld's remains.

In February 2008, after failed negotiation attempts in 2005 and 2007, Lt. Gen. Jozef Hollo, Director General of the Hungarian Institute and Museum of History, was informed by the Interdepartmental Committee of the Missing and Deported POWs of the Russian Federation that approval had been given to exhume the gravesite. On Sept. 9, 2008 representatives from the three nations signed a Coordination Memorandum for the exhumation of the site, thus beginning the coordination of the unearthing and identification of remains.

The actual work began July 21, 2009, some 64 years after Steinfeld's disappearance. Within several days, the Department of Defense's Joint POW/MIA Accounting

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Command (JPAC) team transported eight bags of remains to the Museum of Natural Sciences in Zirc for examination. Over the course of several days, the JPAC team determined the bag marked with the word “cedulas” (Hungarian for “one with tags”) contained the remains of Steinfeld, as well as one other Soviet soldier.

After segregating the remains, JPAC officials met with Russian and Hungarian authorities on Aug. 3, 2009 to present their final determination. Following unanimous agreement, the segregated remains were sent to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii for final identification. Representatives from JPAC initially contacted the Steinfeld family in May 2005 and confirmed the positive identification of Steinfeld’s remains in October 2010.

Marvin J. Steinfeld was born Aug. 29, 1922, the youngest son of Herman and Henrietta (Pohlman) Steinfeld. He grew up in Keystone, Iowa and enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps (now known as the U.S. Air Force) on Oct. 31, 1942. In December 1944 he deployed overseas and was assigned to the 429th Bombardment Squadron, 2nd Bombardment Group, 15th U.S. Air Force.

Steinfeld married Rosella M. Behrends on Oct 21, 1943, and had one daughter. He is survived by his daughter, Carol Ann (Steinfeld) Sansenbach, four grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and one step-great-grandchild, as well as several cousins.

- Media Information for Memorial and Graveside services –

The family of Staff Sgt. Steinfeld asks that the dignity of Marvin’s memorial and graveside services be respected. Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m., Tuesday, June 21, at Christ Episcopal Church, 220 40th St. NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, followed by interment and graveside services at Cedar Memorial Cemetery, 4200 1st Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids.

Media are invited to attend the memorial and graveside services. Point of contact is Col. Greg Hapgood (see contact information below). Media may shoot photos and video at the memorial and graveside services, without flash or lights. Media availability with the Steinfeld family will follow the graveside service at Cedar Memorial.

For questions concerning this release as well as additional information about the Steinfeld services, please contact Col. Greg Hapgood, Iowa National Guard Public Affairs Officer by email at gregory.hapgood@us.army.mil or 515-252-4582 (office) or 515-971-6385 (cell), or Master Sgt. Duff E. McFadden at duff.e.mcfadden@us.army.mil, or 515-252-4666 (office) or 515-480-7647 (cell).

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