

Army conducts second disinterment of Native Americans at Carlisle Barracks

By Army National Military Cemeteries staff 11 June 2018



Carlisle Barracks Post Cemetery, file photo



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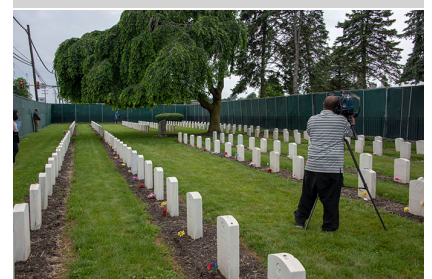


Carlisle Barracks Post Cemetery, file photo

The U.S. Army will continue its commitment to return Native American children to cemeteries of their families' choice, through its second disinterment project at Carlisle Barracks beginning June 14.

The Army anticipates bringing closure to four Native American families whose children died after being sent to the Carlisle Indian Industrial School and who were buried there more than 100 years ago. On behalf of the Army, Army National Military Cemeteries is scheduled to begin the multi-phase disinterment project mid-June with archeological and anthropological expertise from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“The Army’s commitment remains steadfast to the four Native American families whose sacrifice is known to only a few. Our objective is to reunite the families with their children in a manner of utmost dignity and respect,” said Karen Durham-Aguilera, Executive Director of Army National Military



Journalists captured images of the cemetery head stones as the Army balances transparency about disinterment actions with privacy for tribal members. The cemetery will be closed to all but tribal members and Army National Military Cemeteries experts

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The Army is acting in response to requests by families from Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. Little Plume, aka Hayes Vanderbilt Friday, was requested by a Northern Arapaho family; George Ell, aka George Eli, by a Blackfeet family; Herbert Little Hawk, aka Herbert J. Littlehawk, by an Oglala Sioux family; and Her Pipe Woman, aka Dora Brave Bull, by a Standing Rock Sioux family.

Little Plume was originally scheduled to be disinterred last summer, but the 100-year-old records used did not accurately lead archeologists to his remains. Last year's disinterment results combined with newly discovered information and research supports confidence in a different gravesite for Little Plume.

In 1879, Carlisle Barracks became the site of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, operated by the Department of the Interior until 1918. The school educated more than 10,000 Native American children, with representation from approximately 50 Native American Tribes across the Nation.

ANMC will disinter and transfer custody to families able to establish the closest family link between the decedent and requestor, following Army Regulation 210-190. The transfer will enable families to return the children to cemeteries of their choice. The Army will reimburse the families for transport and re-interment of the deceased.

The Carlisle Barracks Post Cemetery will be closed to visitors starting June 11 when set-up begins until completion of actions, tentatively July 3. In respect for the families and tribes, and consistent with Army cemetery protocol, the entire cemetery area will be enclosed with privacy fencing. Access to the cemetery will be restricted to the ANMC staff, tribal members, and their families.

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