

# War College student flies 48-star flag over Carlisle Barracks to honor grandfather, all veterans

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*Lt. Col.*

*Christopher Moretti, a member of the Class of 2014, is joined by his Family and members of his Army War College Seminar after lowering his grandfathers 48-star flag Feb. 27. Marine Corps Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class Joseph A'Hearn, his grandfather, died during the Battle of Iwo Jima on Feb. 27, 1945.*

*"When I ask to fly my grandfather's flag today, I do it to honor all veterans," he said.*

If you looked to the sky Feb. 27 you may have noticed something different about the United States Flag flying in front of Root Hall. No, your eyes weren't deceiving you; it is indeed a 48-star flag that was being flown in honor of Marine Corps Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class Joseph A'Hearn, who died during the Battle of Iwo Jima on Feb. 27, 1945.

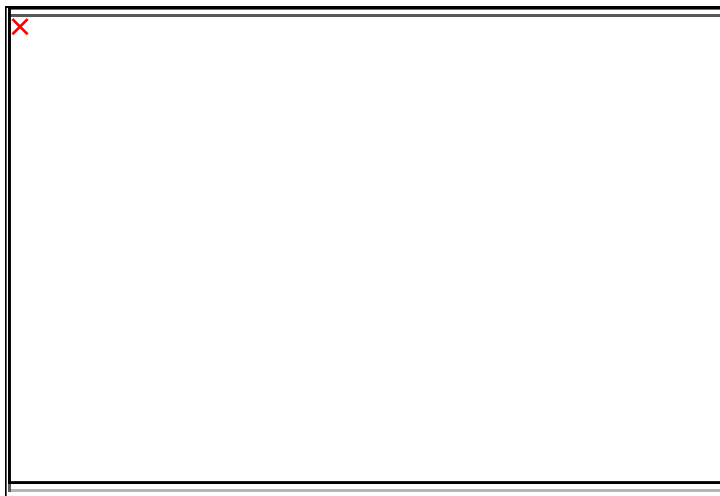
The flag was flown at the Army War College today thanks to his grandson, Army Lt. Col. Christopher Moretti, a member of the Class of 2014.

A member of F Company 25th Regiment, 4th Marine Division, A'Hearn was wounded by Japanese mortars during an attack on Feb. 25, 1945 and died of his wounds two days later. His remains were returned to the United States in Dec. 1948, along with the very same 48-star flag flown today.

His grandmother saved the flag and other historical documents, many of which were found by him in 2003.

“In December 2003 during leave from CGSC, I finally located my grandfather's 48-star flag,” he said. “My mother, Aunt Pat, and Uncle Richard, agreed that I would be the keeper of the family heirloom. I promised them I would honor my grandfather for his service and would never forget his ultimate sacrifice by flying his flag every year on the anniversary of his death, no matter where I would be geographically located.”

Since Feb. 27, 2004, Moretti has flown the flag every year on the anniversary. During that time is has flown over places like Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, 82nd Airborne Division Headquarters, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; 25th Infantry Division Headquarters, COB Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq; ISAF Headquarters, Camp ISAF, Kabul, Afghanistan; Forze Armate Esercito, Caserma C. Battisti, Aosta, Italy, and 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) Headquarters, Fort Drum, New York.



***The 48-star flag flew from reveille to retreat  
Feb. 27***

“After I flew his flag for the first time at Fort Leavenworth, I planned to return it to my mother, but then I realized the impact the ceremony had on so many people,” he said.

“And that’s I have flown it everywhere I have been stationed since then.”

Moretti requested permission to fly the flag and some of his classmates volunteered to serve as the color guard detail for the raising and lowering of the flag.

“All of us who served as the color guard all know someone who has made the ultimate sacrifice,” he said. “When I ask to fly my grandfather’s flag today, I do it to honor all veterans.”

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