

## Army Conducts Sixth Disinterment of Native American Children at Carlisle Barracks

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The Army is actively working to bring healing and closure to five Native American families and tribes 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, the Office of Army Cemeteries (OAC) is scheduled to begin the multi-phase disinterment project in September, with forensic archaeological and anthropological expertise from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The decedents who will be disinterred are Beau Neal from the Northern Arapaho Tribe; Edward Spott from the Puyallup Tribe; Launy Shorty from the Blackfeet Tribe; Amos Lafromboise from the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate

Tribe; and Edward Upright from the Spirit Lake Tribe.

“The Army is committed to returning these five children to their Native American families. We are truly honored to help provide the peace, comfort, and closure they deserve,” said Karen Durham-Aguilera, executive director of Army National Military Cemeteries and the Office of Army Cemeteries.

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

OAC will disinter and transfer custody to families and tribes able to establish the closest family link between the decedent and requestor, following Army Regulation 290-5.

The transfer of custody will enable families and tribes to return these children to cemeteries of their choice. The Army will reimburse families for their travel to participate in the disinterment process and a subsequent transfer ceremony, as well as the cost for transport and reinterment of the children.

“The Army team of dedicated professionals maintains an environment of dignity and respect throughout each disinterment. We treat every gravesite, family, tribe and child the same way: with the utmost care and appreciation,” said Renea Yates, project director and director of the Office of Army Cemeteries.

The Carlisle Barracks Post Cemetery will be closed to visitors starting today, Aug. 28, when site set-up begins, until the completion of disinterments, tentatively scheduled for Sept. 21. Out of 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 OAC staff along with tribal members and their families.