



October 7, 2021

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Nebraska's First Freedom Rock

Nebraska's FIRST Freedom Rock at Siouxland Freedom Park in South Sioux City, NE was unveiled today and is now available for public viewing.

Freedom Rocks are painted boulders showcasing murals which honor fallen service members, veterans, and active military members. There are currently 99 Freedom Rocks in all of Iowa's 99 counties.

The artist, Ray "Bubba" Sorensen II started painting the first Freedom Rock® in 1999 and has now completed 111 Freedom Rocks in 12 states.

Officials with Siouxland Freedom Park are extremely proud to be the home of Nebraska's FIRST Freedom Rock!

"With the Medal of Honor Highway dedication early this year and the Interpretive Center nearing completion, this rock continues to reach out to past generations of trailblazers to honor them and more importantly for old guys like me to say thank you for inspiring me to do something larger than myself. To the civilian population, it's about teaching the next generation sacrifice and freedom is not free. It is about letting them know others cared about their future and took action," said Siouxland Freedom Park Board Member, Marty Hogan

Profits made from the Remembrance Runs, held from 2010 – 2019 made the rock possible. Plans are in the works for a gazebo or another type of structure to house the rock. There will also be a brick garden dedicated to Siouxland military members.

Pictured on the northeast side of the Freedom Rock are:

1<sup>st</sup> Lt Jarvis Offutt:

Offutt AFB is named in honor of First Lieutenant Jarvis Jennes Offutt (26 October 1894 – 13 August 1918). The first native of Omaha to become a casualty in World War I, Lieutenant Offutt died of injuries sustained when his SE-5 fighter crashed during a training flight near Valheureux, France.



1st Lt Warren Brown- (Air Force 185<sup>th</sup> Vietnam War) 14 Jun 1939 to 14 Jul 1968 KIA in the Ashau Valley, Vietnam when his aircraft was hit by ground fire. He was the only pilot of the Sioux City based 185th Air National Guard to be killed in Vietnam. (The 185th Tactical Fighter Group was mobilized on January 26, 1968 and returned to Sioux City on the 14th of May 1969.)



Brigadier General Bud Day- WWII, Korean War, Vietnam veteran- held for 67 months as a Vietnam prisoner of war. Awarded the Medal of Honor and Air Force Cross; as of 2016, he is the only person to be awarded both.



Brigadier General (Ret) Bobbi Doorenbos of Carroll, Iowa. Her father Rodney Doorenbos flew with the 185<sup>th</sup>; following in his footsteps she flew with the 185<sup>th</sup> FW and was the first female combat pilot in Iowa flying combat missions during Operation Southern Watch in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.



Pictured on the southwest side of the Freedom Rock are:

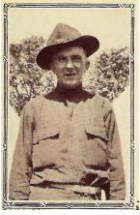
Frank and Carl Anderson (Army WWI) Both were born in Sioux City, won Distinguished Service Crosses, and each were KIA in France during WWI.

Sgt. Frank E. Anderson June 30, 1885 - July 25, 1918(AKA Frank E. Andrea) joined the Army in 1905. He served in the Philippines until his discharge in 1910. He then rejoined the Pennsylvania National Guard in 1916 and participated in the Mexico border action before going to France in 1918. After the 6th Pennsylvania Infantry was federalized he was attached to, Co G, 2nd Battalion, 111th Infantry, 28th Division. He received the Distinguished Service Cross.



Cpl. Carl R Anderson April 17, 1893 - September 12, 1918 joined the Iowa National Guard Council Bluffs in 1917 the day after war was declared. He was attached to company L, 168th infantry, 84th Brigade, 42nd Division (Rainbow Division). He was deployed to France in October 1917. He died the first day of battle at St.

Mihiel, September 12, 1918. He was given three citations for exceptional bravery. He also was posthumously recommended for the Distinguished Service Medal.



Sergeant First Class John Raymond Rice (Marine Corps Korean War) April 25, 1914 – September 6, 1950. Native American name: Walking in Blue Sky; he was a Ho Chunk (Winnebago) Indian with the United States Army soldier was killed in action during the Korean War- Battle of Tabu-dong Sadly he was denied burial in a Sioux City, Iowa cemetery because he was Native American. Drawing national attention, President Harry Truman ordered his body to be interred in Arlington National Cemetery. He was awarded the Bronze Star for heroism during the New Guinea campaign.



Fred Lennon Green Beret (U.S. Army Specialist 4 [E-4]) 21 Sep 1944 to 17 Oct 1966, Sioux City Bishop Heelan High School grad, Joined the Army and served as a combat engineer with DET A -312, 5th Special Forces Group. He arrived in Vietnam on January 20, 1966, and was based in Binh Duoug Province. He was KIA on October 17th and is buried in Calvary Cemetery in Sioux City.



Army Sergeant (SP4) Richard Joseph Boeshart, born 30 Jul 1947, Sioux City, IA., served with Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. He was a 1965 Bishop Heelan graduate and was killed in action on 15 Dec 1967. Richard is buried at Saint Annes Cemetery, Dixon, Dixon County, NE.



Army Spc David Lee Rice 24 Jan 1983 -26 Apr 2005 Iraq 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan.; died April 26 in Balad, Iraq, of injuries sustained in Muqdadiah, Iraq. The 2001 East

High graduate served two tours in Iraq.



John Duoangara- USN 29 Dec 1984- 6 Aug 2011 Operation Enduring Freedom

John graduated from South Sioux City High School, South Sioux City, Nebraska. He was assigned to the Naval Special Warfare unit where he served as a dog handler in support of Navy SEAL Team Six. John and his Military Working Dog, Bart, were both on a Chinook helicopter that was shot down on August 6, 2011.



About Siouxland Freedom Park:

*Siouxland Freedom Park is a 100% volunteer, non-profit organization. The park is located at 1801 Veterans Drive in South Sioux City, NE and is home to a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. The 250-foot granite wall is engraved with the names of more than 58,000 fallen service members from the Vietnam War. Park officials are currently working on the fundraising for exhibits inside the Interpretive Center. There will be a ribbon cutting and dedication for the completion of the inside construction of the Interpretive Center on Veterans Day 2021.*

***Our debt to veterans can never truly be repaid to veterans, but on these hallowed grounds, we will strive to honor their memory, extend our hearts to aid their healing and educate young and old on the historic significance of their service.***

Please follow Siouxland Freedom Park on social media for updates and more information:

Facebook: <http://bit.ly/SFPFacebook>

Twitter: <http://bit.ly/SiouxlandP>

Instagram: <http://bit.ly/FreedomParkIG>