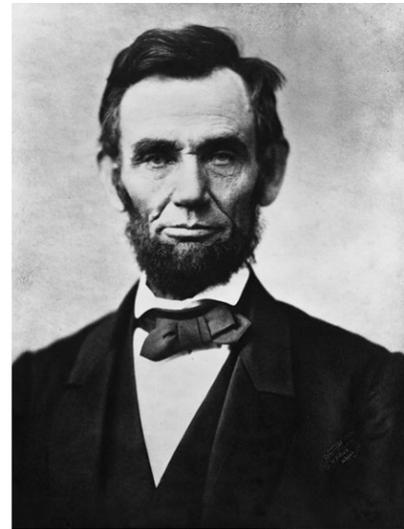


“To care for him who shall have borne the battle...”

Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address  
March 4, 1865



Fellow Countrymen,

At this second appearing to take the oath of the Presidential office there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then a statement somewhat in detail of a course to be pursued seemed fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declarations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention and engrosses the energies of the nation, little that is new could be presented. The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself, and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured.

On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war. All dreaded it, all sought to avert it. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to *saving* the Union without war, urgent agents were in the city seeking to *destroy* it without war—seeking to dissolve the Union and divide effects by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war, but one of them would *make* war rather than let the nation survive, and the other would *accept* war rather than let it perish, and the war came.

One-eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was somehow the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union even by war, while the Government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the *cause* of the conflict might cease with or even before the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces, but let us judge not, that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered. That of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes. "Woe unto the world because of offenses; for it must needs be that offenses come, but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh." If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

# Memorial Day 2009



**“With malice toward none, with charity for all...”**

**Abraham Lincoln**

**TOMAH VA MEDICAL CENTER**

**MAY 22, 2009 1:30PM**

**IN FRONT OF BLDG. 400**

# Memorial Day Program



Lady Liberty

*Guests, hospitalized veterans, volunteers and staff are invited to an ice cream social following the program.*

Jim Theres  
Public Affairs Officer  
Tomah VAMC  
608-372-7759

Produced through the  
Facilities of the Tomah  
VA Media Center.



MEMORIAL DAY

## **PRE-CEREMONY MUSIC**

Navy: "Anchors Aweigh"  
Army: "The Caissons Go Rolling Along"  
Marines: "The Marines Hymn"  
Air Force: "The U.S. Air Forces"  
Coast Guard: "Semper Paratus"  
Tomah High School Band

## **INTRODUCTION**

Master of Ceremonies  
James Theres  
Public Affairs Officer

## **INVOCATION**

Chaplain Rick Roberts

## **PRESENTATION OF COLORS**

American Legion Post #201  
Honor Guard

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Assembly

## **National Anthem**

Tomah High School Band

## **WELCOME**

Jerald D. Molnar  
Medical Center Director

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Col. Gary L. Ebben  
Commander, Volk Field

## **Dixie**

Tomah High School Band

## **LINCOLN SCHOLAR**

Michael K. Moran

## **HONORED VETERAN**

William Upham Jr.

## **DELIVERY OF COLORS**

LTC Catherine Kemmerling  
Riding "Lentho"

## **TRIBUTE TO THE FALLEN**

Scott Johnson, Kinesiology  
Julie Nutting, RN, MSN  
Tom Teeples, US Army (Ret)  
Jean Villhauer, Food  
Operations

## **Battle Hymn of the Republic**

Tomah High School Band

## **SECOND INAUGURAL READING**

Senator Dan Kapanke

## **God Bless the USA**

Tomah High School Band

## **BENEDICTION**

Chaplain Rick Roberts

## **RETIRING OF COLOR**

American Legion Post #201  
Honor Guard

## **21 GUN SALUTE**

VFW POST #1382

## **Echo Taps**

Tomah High School Band

## **POST-CEREMONY MUSIC**

Tomah High School Band

## Message from the Director

Welcome to today's Memorial Day ceremony at our Veteran's Hospital in Tomah, Wisconsin. Memorial Day is a special day. For Americans, Memorial Day remains a day of remembrance. It is a time to reflect on the more than one million men and women who, over the course of our nation's 233-year history, gave up their families and their futures to serve their country and pay the ultimate sacrifice. The graves of our armed forces members are marked by flags and flowers, in remembrance of their service. Under each marker lays a soldier, pilot, or sailor who left a family and future behind to serve a country and a purpose bigger than his or her own life. Each had his or her own story. I think about their sacrifice and I remember. And, I am grateful. It is Memorial Day. On behalf of the millions who have died in service to our country and the families they left behind, thank you for attending this program today. Thank you for making remembering a priority in your life.

Jerald D. Molnar, Medical Center Director

## Meeting President Lincoln: A Veterans' Remarkable Story

When you shake hands with William "Bill" Upham Jr., you can't help but feel the history. At 92 years old, this World War II veteran has lived through some remarkable experiences.

He traveled the world aboard an ocean liner in 1932, a trip that culminated in a personal audience with and blessing by Pope Pius XI in Rome. Two years later, as a recruit in Wisconsin's famed 32nd Red Arrow Division, his company quelled a riot in Kohler, Wis., that killed two and injured 40. Then, in 1944, as a junior officer, he met Gen. George S. Patton in England. That same year, he was wounded in France and awarded two Bronze Stars for valor. After the war, he returned to Wisconsin, worked for Northwestern Mutual Insurance Company for 49 years, and was married to his wife, Betty Ann, for 71 years. He had three children and ran for governor in 1974. It is difficult to imagine a personal history more rich and rewarding.

Then Upham talks about his father, who met President Abraham Lincoln nearly 150 years ago. "My father was born in 1841 ..." says Upham, pausing for dramatic effect. "My father



was wounded at the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) in 1861 and left for dead," Upham Jr. says. "A minie ball had pierced his chest above the heart and left an enormous exit wound." Minie balls were large

caliber, soft lead bullets that caused terrible wounds throughout the Civil War. Upham Sr. was one of 2,706 men wounded in the fight. Three days later, scavengers on the battlefield came upon a motionless Upham Sr. and took off his shoes. Suddenly, the wounded soldier spoke to them: "I hope to use those shoes some day."

After recovering at a Confederate hospital, Upham Sr. was shipped to the infamous Libby Prison in Richmond, Va. A few months later, he was paroled during a prisoner exchange and had a personal audience with President Lincoln, who asked to see the young man's wound. "When my father was old, I used to help him get dressed and would place both hands on his back trying to cover the wound. I couldn't cover the whole thing," Upham Jr. recalls. Lincoln was so impressed with Upham Sr. that he appointed him to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1862.

**Lieutenant Colonel Catherine J. Kemmerling** is a 23 year Veteran of the United States Army, and a member of the Blue Devil's Horse Platoon, a ceremonial unit sponsored by the 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command at Ft. McCoy, WI. The Blue Devil's Horse Platoon has a long and rich history, dating back to World War II.



In 1944 as the 88<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was fighting its way across Italy it was burdened by numerous captured German and Italian horses. At the suggestion of the Corps Commander, General Lucian K. Truscott, a Platoon of volunteers from the 88<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, as well as units from other divisions in the Theater, was formed to care for, and make use of these horses. The Platoon performed mounted scout as well as command projection and civil affairs functions for the division until the end of the war. It also was given the mission of performing mounted patrol duties along the Yugoslav-Italian border until the division was relieved from the Italian Theater. After the cessation of hostilities, the Platoon was organized under 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant John Russell to perform show and sport duties with other friendly European nations. Lt Russell imported one horse, "Blue Devil" to the United States, and eventually went on to compete in jumping the 1948 Olympic games. The members of the Blue Devil's Horse Platoon carry on this tradition today, competing in jumping, dressage and tent-pegging, as well as supporting ceremonial events. Lieutenant Colonel Kemmerling is riding Lentho, a 10 year old Hanoverian gelding that she imported from Germany. She has trained with members of the Queen's Household Cavalry in England and also the Calvarie Ere Escorte, in the Netherlands. She is one of only two United States Army Soldiers to have earned the Netherlands Military Riding Badge. She currently serves as the Education Coordinator at the Tomah VA Medical Center.

# State Senator Dan Kapanke



A former member of the National Guard and the Marine Reserves

Dan Kapanke's family roots in the Coulee Region run deep, spanning more than a century. He was raised on the family homestead near Coon Valley, on land still farmed by his brother.

From his early days learning the '3 Rs' in a one room school house in the Town of Greenfield, continuing through his 1997 election as Chairman of the Town of Campbell, Dan Kapanke has shown a commitment to this area and its people.

He and his wife, Ruth, raised four children and have been happily married for 35 years. Now the grandparents of 10, the Kapanke's live in the house Ruth grew up in.

After a brief stint running a Holiday service station in Prairie du Chien in the 70s, Kapanke moved his family back to the La Crosse area as he pursued his degree in Political Science and Economics at the University

of Wisconsin-La Crosse. A former substitute teacher in La Crosse Public Schools, Dan worked his way through college, making a living at various jobs; including home building and managing one of the first Kwik Trip stores.

For the last fifteen years Kapanke has worked as a regional sales manager for Kaltenberg Seed Farms, working with area farmers to improve their operations through sound seed selections, cropping plans and overall agronomic management.

A former member of the National Guard and the Marine Reserves, Kapanke is a graduate of Onalaska Luther High School. Dan and his family attend Immanuel Lutheran Church, where he has served on the Church Council for 18 years.

Kapanke is a member of the Board of Directors of

the LaCrosse Area Development Corporation and the La Crosse Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. He also serves on the La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC) and was a youth baseball coach for 15 years. He and His wife own the LaCrosse loggers Baseball team.



## Lincoln Scholar: Michael K. Moran

Michael K. Moran lives in Wausau, Wisconsin and is an attorney for the State Public Defenders Office. He is a lifelong Civil War and Abraham Lincoln historian, graduating from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in history. Michael has been a Civil War re-enactor with the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and has participated in battle re-enactments throughout the United States. He is also a member of the Marathon County Civil War Roundtable. Mr. Moran was appointed to the Wisconsin Lincoln Bi-centennial Commission in 2008 by Governor Doyle.

# Second Inaugural Address

Abraham Lincoln delivered his second inaugural address on March 4, 1865, during his inauguration at the start of his second term as President of the United States. At a time when victory over the secessionists in the American Civil War was within days and slavery was near an end, Lincoln did not speak of happiness, but of sadness. Some see this speech as



a defense of his pragmatic approach to Reconstruction, in which he sought to avoid harsh

treatment of the defeated South by reminding his listeners of how wrong both sides had been

in imagining what lay before them when the war began four years earlier. Lincoln balanced

that rejection of triumphalism, however, with a recognition of the unmistakable evil of slavery, which he described in the most concrete terms possible. Unbeknownst to him, John Wilkes Booth, David Herold, George Atzerodt, Lewis Paine, John Surratt and Edmund Spangler, a few of the conspirators involved with his assassination were present in the crowd at the inauguration. It is inscribed, along with the Gettysburg Address, in the Lincoln Memorial.

# Tomah VA Medical Center History

In 1891, the United States Government authorized the establishment of an Indian school in Wisconsin. Tomah was chosen as the most acceptable location. The citizens of Tomah donated a 200-acre farm as the site for the school. The U.S. Department of Interior began construction in 1892. Under the direction of Stephen Sanborn, the school was opened on January 19, 1893. It continued in operation until 1937.

During World War II, the War Department leased the property from the Department of Interior and converted it into a radio training school. The War Dept.

operated the school until 1944. On February 13, 1945 the property was transferred to the VA by Executive Order No. 9522. The first employee was Martin J. Travland from VA Central Office in Washington D.C. On January 3, 1945, he was appointed Acting Manager and later took the position of assistant Manager when the first Medical manager arrived.

Construction of new patient care buildings was started on April 8, 1945, by Gust K. Newberg Construction Company of Chicago, and was completed during the fall of 1946. The completion of the patient care

buildings paved the way for the opening of this hospital as a psychiatric facility on March 4, 1947. The first patients admitted were 63 WWI veterans who were transferred from the VA Hospital at Mendota, Wisconsin.

Each year has brought improvements to the Medical Center. We are confident that the future will show further enhancements to the care and treatment of veterans at the Tomah VA Medical Center.



# 50th Anniversary of the VA Motto

Only a month before he was assassinated, Abraham Lincoln delivered a surprisingly simple and brief second inaugural address on the steps of the recently completed Capitol building in Washington, D.C. On March 4, 1865, Lincoln took the executive oath of office for the second time. At that time, the nation was in the last throes of the Civil War. During the course of the war, more than

600,000 lives were lost. Lincoln knew the war had taken a toll on the country, fracturing it into two halves. In front of thousands of spectators, he stood at the podium and delivered his address to the nation. Speaking out on the tumultuous war and the end of slavery, Lincoln, ever watchful of the times, spoke strong words of brevity, reconciliation and healing. To close, he stated: "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan to

do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations." Lincoln was setting the tone for the nation's healing and reconstruction. Those powerful words became part of his legacy; they were eventually carved onto the walls of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. In May 1959, a portion of that address, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan," became the motto of the Department of Veterans Affairs, then called the Veterans Administration. Today, on the front of VA Central Office in Washington, D.C., the motto is engraved on metal plaques adorning both sides of the main entrance. The plaques were installed at the direction of Sumner G. Whittier, the fifth administrator of the Veterans Administration. As chronicled in the Nov. 10, 1959, issue of



*Vanguard*, one of Whittier's first tasks when he became administrator was to create a "Chart Room" to serve as the operations center of the Veterans Administration. The room contained several Lincoln quotes, for inspirational and reflective purposes, including Lincoln's "House Divided" speech. Whittier, a huge admirer of Lincoln, was inspired by Lincoln's philosophy, and wanted it to guide the Veterans Administration's dealings with veterans, especially those that are disabled. A graduate of Boston University, Whittier spent most of his life in public service. A World War II Navy veteran, he was discharged as a lieutenant and went into local politics in Boston. He served in the Massachusetts state legislature, in the Everett city government, and was twice selected as a delegate to GOP national conventions. Prior to joining the Veterans Administration, he served as lieutenant governor of Massachusetts from 1953 to 1957. Whittier joined the Veterans Administration as chief insurance director in January 1957, and from December of that year to January 1961, he served as administrator.

He is credited with many VA firsts, including installation of the first computers, and creation of the employee newsletter (now magazine) *Vanguard* and the VA Alumni Association. He also brought to the forefront VA's connection to Lincoln. In January 1961, Whittier accepted a position as executive director of the Michigan Medical Service (Blue Shield). He was later involved in three of President Nixon's initiatives: welfare reform, revenue sharing, and the Phase II economic program. In the 1970s, Whittier became the director of the Adult Assistance Planning Office at Social Security and signed the first Social Security Insurance Treasury voucher for \$285 million on Jan. 1, 1974. In 2004, he published a book of poetry entitled, *To Jessie, Sonnets to a Saint*, and today, at age 97, he lives in Maryland.

Written By Amanda Hester

# Keynote Speaker Col. Gary L. Ebben

## Wisconsin Air National Guard

Col. Gary L. Ebben commands the Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center, Camp Douglas, Wis.



He is responsible for all aspects of mission performance of the center, one of four such Air National Guard training facilities in the United States, used by National Guard, reserve, and active-duty U.S. and allied military units and increasingly also used by drug enforcement officials for interagency training.

Col. Ebben is a graduate of Thorp High School, Thorp, Wis., and earned a 1982 bachelor's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering with high honors from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His technical military education includes numerous U.S. Air Force pilot training programs as well as flight safety officer and aircraft maintenance officer in-residence programs. His professional military education includes Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College.

Col. Ebben began his military career by enlisting in the Wisconsin Air National Guard in 1981 as an air operations specialist assigned to the 176th Tactical Air Support Squadron. In 1982 he was commissioned a second lieutenant through the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science. During the following two years he completed a series of pilot training courses, returning in 1984 to the 176th at Truax Field, Madison, as an operational A-10 fighter pilot. Over the next 10 years, he moved through a variety of responsible operational assignments until moving to aircraft maintenance in 1994. He assumed command of the 115th Maintenance Squadron in 1996 and became vice commander of the 115th Fighter Wing in April 2000. In March 2008 he became director of staff for the Wisconsin Air National Guard, and in April 2009 he was assigned to his present position as commander of the Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center.

Col. Ebben is a command pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours, including 275 combat hours, in U.S. Air Force aircraft. His military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf

cluster, the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal,

*Col. Ebben is a command pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours, including 275 combat hours.*

the Combat Readiness Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with one bronze service star, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with silver hour-glass and "M" device, among others.

