



Schedule

Des Moines • IOWA Gold Star Museum • Holiday Inn • Oct 10-12, '25

Friday ~

Friday, October 10, 2025:

- 3-7:00 PM Conference Registration.
- 3-7:00 PM Hospitality Room/Welcome Packets.
- 7:00 PM Informal Welcome and Prize Drawings.

Saturday ~

Saturday, October 11, 2025:

- 8:00 AM Breakfast on your own.
- 9:00 AM Meet in front of the Hotel.
- 9:15 AM Photos of prize winners in the WWII Willys Jeeps.
Photography for the event by Reserve Colonel Michael D. Treinen (Ret.) U.S. Army.
Willys jeeps provided by Chief Warrant Officer Peter "Chief" Lentz, U.S. Army.
- 9:30 AM Rides to the Museum.

Museum Inside:

- 10:00 AM Welcome & History of Camp Dodge by Colonel (Ret.) Michael Harris, Installation Officer-in-Charge/State Quartermaster, Iowa; Nat. Guard/Iowa Dept. of Public Defense. Living History Detachment Group Presentation.
Speaker: Brigadier General Mark G. Kappelmann, Dir. of the Joint Staff, Iowa Nat. Guard.
- 10:55 AM VIP Tour of the Museum by Bob Holliday, Iowa's Gold Star Military Museum Chairman of the Board for 27 years; American WWII Orphans Network Board Member.
- 11:55 AM D-Day Debriefing Performance by Tom Clegg (Something you won't soon forget).
- 12:30 PM Buffet Lunch.

Museum Outside:

- 1:45 PM Firing of Cannon/Drawing with (4) Winners.
Words of Welcome by Johnston City Mayor, Paula Dierenfeld.
Flyover ~ WWII T-34 "Mentor" by Douglas Summerfield.
Tribute to AWON's Founder, Ann Bennett Mix, by AWON's President, Walter Linne.
The Speaking of our Fathers' Names.
- 3:40 PM Taps Recording.

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Saturday ~

Museum Inside:

- 4:00 PM** Speaker: Kevin Callahan, renowned author of "Brothers in Arms."
(an emotional presentation you won't want to miss).
Free Time to wander back through the museum ~ or to try the F-16 Simulator.
Self-Guided Tour of Tank Park.
- 5:30 PM** Shuttle Rides back to the Hotel.
Dinner on your own.
- 7 - 11:00 PM** The Hospitality Room is available for an Evening of Visiting.

Sunday ~

Sunday, October 12, 2025:

- 9:00 AM** Breakfast on your own.
- 10:30 AM** Sharing Circles in the Hospitality Room.
- 11:30 AM** AWON Board Members Meeting.
- 12:00 PM** Free Afternoon.

Sunday Evening Dinner Banquet:

- 6:00 PM** Dinner Buffet.
Fun with the Audience ~ Prizes!
- 7:30 PM** Speaker: Keith Luchtel ~ AF Academy Graduate, Vietnam Combat pilot
(shot down 3 times).
Fun with the Audience ~ Prizes!
- 8:00 PM** Tribute to Ann by AWON's President, Walter Linne and First Founder Lorin McCleary.
- 8:30 PM** Honor and Remember Presentation by Director of Operations to our AWON
Founder's family by Lieutenant Colonel Erin Whitney (Ret.), U.S. Army.
Forgy Award ~ by AWON's President, Walter Linne.
Thank Yous by Planning Committee Chairman, Marilyn Lieurance.
Closing words by AWON's President, Walter Linne.
- 9:30 - 11:00 PM** Hospitality Room. We'll Be Seeing You!

