

# LOCAL

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nized that 23 Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) members and 11 Legion members of the Yankton posts have died since last Memorial Day.

During his Memorial Day address, Burgeson honored all veterans, particularly those who made the ultimate sacrifice. He then focused on the new war on terror that will likely last for generations.

Operation Enduring Freedom has already lasted nearly a decade, Burgeson said. Troops are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan to protect homeland security, he said.

"You can do your fighting over there or on your own doorstep," he said.

Burgeson plays a major role in the war. He serves as command sergeant major of the 153rd Engineer Battalion, South Dakota National Guard, headquartered in Huron. He plans to hold that position until July 2013, when he will retire with 26 years of military service, including active duty.

The 153rd was activated to serve with Operation Iraqi Freedom from November 2003 to March 2005. The unit provided route clearance in Iraq, working with detonation of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED).

The war on terror has carried a high price, Burgeson said. In Iraq and Afghanistan, the United States has suffered about 37,000 casualties and 5,438 deaths.

The terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, began a war that must not be lost, Burgeson said.

"It's a war we didn't want, and it's a war we didn't declare," he said. "We did not create this war, but we will finish this war."

Today's children born after 9/11 don't know a world without war, and future generations may know only war, Burgeson said. For that reason, today's younger generation must not be allowed to take freedom for granted, he said.

Enemy forces are already training their children to kill, Burgeson told the Press & Dakotan in separate comments.

While serving in Iraq, he entered an area that apparently served as a school or other area for children. He discovered comic books with Mickey Mouse on the back cover.

"I thought, that's cool," he said. "But then I saw the comic books were teaching kids how to put explosive devices in couches, chairs and door frames. How do you fight that for 50 years, when you have a new generation (carrying on the war)?"

The casualties in the war on terror have hit home, including the Yankton area, Burgeson said. The most recent South Dakota fatality came last week, when Staff Sgt. Shane Bernard of DeSmet was killed by an IED while serving in Afghanistan.

Americans must remain vigilant about the high stakes of the war on terror, Burgeson said.

"A lot of people have forgotten why we are at war. Some don't even know we are at war," he said. "They see things on TV, but they really don't know the reason we are at war. ... The terrorists are coming after us, and they won't stop."

Casualties are part of the high price of freedom, Burgeson said.

"It's part of doing business. It's something that everybody who puts on a uniform knows," he said. "People say, 'Isn't it sad that (military members) have to do it?' But they don't 'HAVE' to do it. It's all volunteer. It's the simple reason that we have (these freedoms)."

He returned home from war safely, but Burgeson still gave 1 1/2 years of his life for his deployment. In his civilian life, Burgeson has worked for the Yankton Police Department since 1995. He lives in Yankton with his wife, Stephanie, and their two children: Brody, 7, and Hudson, 3.

Despite the personal sacrifices, "I wouldn't turn back the clock and do anything different," he said.

Deployments bring issues such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Burgeson said. The U.S. will need to deal with those issues as military members return home from missions, he said.

However, those sacrifices are necessary to combat terrorism at home as well as abroad, Burgeson said.

Recent attacks include an unsuccessful car bombing in New York City, a failed airline bombing while approaching Detroit on Christmas Day, and a gunman charged with killing fellow soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas.

"Terrorism in the United States? It's already here," Burgeson said.

During his Memorial Day address, the veterans in the audience were asked to stand and be recognized. Burgeson characterized the World War II veterans as "the greatest generation of the greatest country in the world."

"The veterans have bonds that words can't explain," he said. "We need to tell our younger generation — we are in debt to the veterans and the veterans' families."

After the Memorial Day ceremony, Burgeson told the Press & Dakotan of the incredible stories he heard from veterans, particularly the older ones. "Who is taking down their stories?" he asked.

Burgeson looked around at the Avenue of Flags, lining the central walkways of Fantele Park. The U.S. flags were gently flying in the breeze.

"There are 350 flags (in this park). Every one of them represents a flag (draped) over a veteran's coffin," he said. "You talk about hallowed, honored ground — this is hallowed, honored ground."

# OBAMA

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"As a nation, we pause to remember them," Biden said. "They gave their lives fulfilling their oath to this nation and to us."

Obama had readied a similar message of gratitude for his appearance at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Ill., and actually had taken the podium to give the address when the skies opened up with a downpour and thunder, lightning and high winds.

Under the cover of a large umbrella, Obama told thousands gathered that "a little bit of rain doesn't hurt anybody, but we don't want anybody being struck by lightning." He asked people to return to their cars for their safety, and he retreated briefly to an administration building on the cemetery's grounds. A few minutes later Obama boarded a pair of buses to greet military families that came for the event.

Before the storm hit, and in advance of his appearance at the podium, Obama had visited a sec-



DAVID BANKS/ABACA PRESS/MCT  
President Barack Obama places a wreath at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois, on Memorial Day.

tion of headstones where two Marines awaited him. After laying a wreath, he bowed his head in a moment of silence, his hands tightly clasped. Then a lone bugler played taps.

After leaving the cemetery, Obama met privately with families of veterans and service members currently living at the Fisher House in Hines, Ill. It serves as a home away from home for family members whose loved ones are

getting treatment at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Hines, which is about 12 miles west of downtown Chicago.

At Arlington, Biden carried out the traditional wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns under a brilliant sunshine.

The vice president, accompanied by Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the military's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the country's service members are "the heart and soul

and, I would say, spine of this nation." He said taking part in the annual ceremony was "the greatest honor of my public life."

Obama's decision to appear in Illinois, rather than at the national burial grounds at Arlington, had been controversial, and some veterans groups criticized him for it, although he was not the first president to bypass the annual outing.

Paul Rieckhoff, founder and executive director of the group Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, said Arlington is the focal point of the nation's and military's attention on Memorial Day. "When he's not here, it doesn't look like he's on the same page," Rieckhoff said.

Rieckhoff said U.S. service men and women need Obama to use the bully pulpit to remind people that the holiday is not about going to the beach or barbecuing.

"We appreciate that the vice president is going to be here, but it's not the same," Rieckhoff said.

Jay Agg, a spokesman for the veterans group AMVETS, said the annual ceremony at Arlington is "the ideal place for the president to observe Memorial Day. However, his choice to honor our fallen at another national cemetery as other presidents have done is entirely appropriate."

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Coupon expires 6/13/10. Limit 1 coupon per person per visit. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

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**Coupon Crime, Unintended and Otherwise**  
By Jill Cataldo  
CTW Features

Q: "I read your article about coupon fraud. I never knew you were prohibited from making photocopies of a coupon printed out from the Internet. I'd never done this before a week or so ago. Should I go back to the store and offer to pay for these coupons or should I try to get in touch with the company that makes these two items and explain what happened? I in no way want to be dishonest. And I will never do this again. I did not know this was illegal."

A: It's true, and it's worth repeating: never, never make photocopies of coupons you print out from the Internet. This is coupon fraud. Each printable contains identifiers (typically a serial number) that make that individual coupon unique. When you photocopy a printable coupon, you're making an identical copy - and when your store redeems two or more coupons with that same serial number on them, guess what happens? The store is only reimbursed for one of the coupons. It's essentially a small form of stealing from the store.

Photocopying printable coupons is also not without consequences. When multiples of the same printable coupon are submitted for redemption and several show up with the same serial number, that information can be sent back to the site that originally hosted the coupon. It's very easy for the site to track down both the IP and hardware addresses of the computer that originally printed it. With that information, the site typically permanently revokes the coupon-printing privileges for that computer. If flagrant abuse has occurred, legal prosecution can follow.

For this reason, it's also not a good idea to trade printable coupons with people you do not know well. If they decide to make photocopies of coupons you give them, guess who stands to pay the price? You. If this was the first time you made a copy, it's not likely that you will be prosecuted. I applaud you for wanting to make it right. I'm not aware of any way to make this right with the manufacturer, but you could try explaining to your store what happened and ask if they'd like you to pay for those coupons. It's likely that they may let it go and appreciate your honesty and commitment not to do it again.

Q: "I have read that several stores do not accept Internet coupons that contain the word 'Free,' even if the coupon states 'Buy One. Get One Free.' Is this true?"

A: Yes. Printable coupons for free products are among the most frequently counterfeited types of coupons. Sadly, anyone armed with a scanner, graphics software and a decent amount of skill can create a valid-looking, fake coupon. And if someone goes to the trouble of creating a counterfeit coupon, what dollar amount are they going to put on it? Certainly not 50 cents or even \$1. They're going to go all the way, creating a coupon for a free product.

Some stores place limits on the dollar value of printable coupons that they will accept - typically \$5. It's highly unlikely that a manufacturer would issue, say, a \$10 coupon for baby diapers. In choosing not to accept high (and unlikely) dollar amounts on printable coupons, a store is protecting itself from fraud.

One of my local stores will not accept printable coupons for free products or printable coupons with dollar values greater than \$5, but they will accept BOGO printables. Check your store's policy to determine if your area supermarket has specific restrictions on printable coupons. Sadly, many have had to put them in place.

**Swimsuit COUPON Sale! \$8.00 Off**  
with coupon ~ expires 6/12/10  
Infants, Boys, Girls, Sizes 3mo-6X  
Linda's Angel Crossing  
1101 Broadway 605-0080  
Open Monday-Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-5

**Bring This Coupon In For \$20.00 OFF**  
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Expires 6/5/10  
Lu Lu's Gifts & Cigars  
217 W. 3rd, Downtown Yankton, 665-6767

**Country Cupboard Floral & Gifts**  
2800 N. Broadway, Yankton • 260-2333  
**FREE Custom Planting Of Your Pots**  
Brought into the Greenhouse with this coupon  
Coupon expires 6/5/10. Limit 1 coupon per person per visit. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

**Buy Any Bag of Hill's Science Diet Small & Toy Breed Dog Food (Already Lowest Price) and Get a FREE L'il Pals Collar & Leash Valued Up To \$12**  
\*After mail-in offer. See store associate for details.  
Limit 1 per customer. While supplies last. Expires 6/14/10.  
Tropical Creations  
Yankton Mall • 665-1464

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