



News Release

U.S. ARMY SUSTAINMENT COMMAND

August 29, 2007

MAJ. GEN. RADIN SPEAKS AT 'HEALING FIELDS' SERVICE

A memorial honoring servicemembers who died in Iraq and Afghanistan was held at Memorial Park in Davenport, Iowa, Aug. 15 – 19.

Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin, commanding general of U.S. Army Sustainment Command, spoke at the opening ceremony. During his remarks, Radin described the meaning and significance of each piece of the fallen Soldier memorial.

More than 100 American Flags, representing the fallen provided a fitting background for the four-day memorial. Highlights of the event included opening and closing ceremonies, a candlelight vigil, and non-denominational services. The memorial was open around the clock over the four-day span.

“The helmet represents the soldier,” Radin said. “The weapon, with bayonet, and put into the ground signifies that the soldier is no longer serving. The dog tags signify that the soldier is no longer part of the unit. And finally, the boots represent the soldier’s last journey to heaven.”

A special “Lest They Be Forgotten” flag was escorted to the field by a missing man formation on motorcycles ridden by the American Legion Riders, Patriot Guard Riders of the Greater Quad Cities region and members of local police and fire departments

Local media reported over 70 people attended the event which was hosted by Quad-City Families in Support of Troops. QC F.I.S.T. exists to support men and women in uniform. The group works to increase public awareness and enlist public support to reduce troop isolation through positive messages, letters, cards and packages.



Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin gestures to a fallen Soldier memorial during opening remarks at the Davenport, Iowa, Healing Fields event. *(Photo by Rhys Fullerlove)*

“I cannot understand how American citizens can go through their daily lives and not think each day about their freedom and how much it cost,” QC FIST member Bobbie Wheeler said. “Freedom is not free and we have our freedom because of our service men and women.”

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