

Re-naming Muscatine's Hwy. 61 Bypass



Douglas King Memorial Expressway

King was awarded some of the nation's highest awards:

- * Air Force Cross
- * Silver Star
- * Distinguished Flying Cross
- * Air Medal
- * Air Medal with one oak leaf cluster
- * Purple Heart
- * Air Force Honorable Service Award

The United States Air Force has recognized King by the following:

- * Freedom Tree – Offutt Air Force Base, NE
- * King Manor – Andrews Air Force Base, DC
- * King Street – Scott Air Force Base, IL
- * King Manor – March Air Force Base, CA
- * King Hall – Hickam Air Force Base, HI

On Christmas Day 1968, twenty-two year old Charles D. King from Muscatine, Iowa volunteered for a mission to rescue a downed pilot in the enemy held territory of Laos. Upon arrival at the crash site, the Aircraft Commander of the HH3E Jolly Green Giant that was flying the rescue mission suspected an enemy ambush. Still, A1C King insisted that he be allowed to rescue the downed pilot who could be seen hanging in his parachute harness from a tree near the jungle floor. The Aircraft Commander reluctantly agreed and King was lowered approximately 100 feet into the jungle by a rescue hoist.

After freeing the pilot from his harness and moving him to an open area, both men were suddenly attacked by a large force of the enemy. King just had time to strap the pilot to the rescue harness when he radioed the Aircraft Commander that "he had been hit by enemy fire and to pull up immediately." As the helicopter pulled away, the rescue hoist became tangled in a tree and broke. Both men fell back to the ground. By then, the rescue helicopter had sustained heavy damage from ground fire. A1C King radioed to evacuate the area. The helicopter returned to the crash site later, but neither airman could be found and were reported as Missing in Action, "MIA."

For his heroism in this rescue attempt, he was posthumously awarded the Air Force Cross which is the nation's second highest award next to the Medal of Honor.

For many years following this incident, The King family in Muscatine anxiously awaited word that their son and brother was still alive and was a Prisoner of War. This word never came. On December 5, 1978 King was officially declared "Killed-in-Action." However, since his remains had never been located, the family still seeks a full accounting.

THAT
OTHERS
MAY
LIVE



During the period King was listed as "Missing in Action" he was promoted to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant.



www.scally.com/mia/king.html



Dedication Ceremonies



"Douglas King Memorial Expressway"

10 a.m. Saturday, October 20, 2012

Opening of Ceremonies by Master of Ceremonies
Representative Mark Lofgren

Invocation by Pastor Gary MacManus, Grace Lutheran Church, Muscatine

Singing of our National Anthem by Paula Lofgren

Welcome by Sherry King and Jeff King, Doug's sister and brother

Reading by L. Cpl. Rick Peters USMC Ret.

Introduction of Special Guests:

- ◆ Rep. Dave Loebsack
- ◆ Senator Jim Hahn
- ◆ Rep. Guy Vander Linden
- ◆ Rep. Jeff Kaufmann
- ◆ Rep. Tom Sands
- ◆ DeWayne Hopkins, Muscatine Mayor
- ◆ Dick O'Brien, Former Muscatine Mayor
- ◆ Evelyn Schauland, Former Muscatine Mayor
- ◆ Jeanette Phillips, City Council Member & Former Muscatine Mayor
- ◆ Kas Kelly, Muscatine County Board of Supervisors Chair
- ◆ Phil Fitzgerald, Muscatine City Council Member
- ◆ J. D. Larue, Commander, VFW Post 1565, Muscatine
- ◆ Victor Goodrich, Vice Commander, VFW Post 1565, Muscatine
- ◆ Joe Rieke, Commander, American Legion Post 27, Muscatine
- ◆ Dennis Snyder, Vice Commander, American Legion Post 27, Muscatine
- ◆ Craig Moss, Vice Commander, American Legion Post 27, Muscatine
- ◆ Terry Franklin, Adjutant, American Legion Post 27, Muscatine
- ◆ Ray Dietrich, Chaplain, American Legion Post 27, Muscatine
- ◆ Dave and Elaine Palen, Iowa Coordinators of POW/MIA Inc.



Introduction of Guest Speakers:

- ◆ Rep. Dave Loebsack
- ◆ Rep. Jeff Kaufmann
- ◆ Mayor DeWayne Hopkins

This dedication is being
honored by the presence of the
Muscatine VFW Post 1565 Honor Guard.

Closing Remarks

Unveiling of the Douglas King Memorial Expressway Sign

Motorcade along Expressway to VFW Post 1565, Grandview Avenue, Muscatine
Lunch served at VFW Post 1565 by VFW/American Legion Women's Auxiliary