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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September 14, 2021

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **KOREAN WAR HERO CPL. WALTER SMEAD REMAINS TO BE ESCORTED THROUGH SARATOGA COUNTY TO CORINTH**

*Fire Departments And EMS Agencies From Saratoga County To Pay Tribute At Over-Passes And Roadsides Along The Route.*

SARATOGA COUNTY -- At approximately 7:15PM tonight, Tuesday, September 14, 2021, NYS Police, Columbia County Sheriff's Department, Saratoga County Sheriff's Department, and NY Patriot Guard Riders will escort the remains of Cpl. Walter Smead from Love's Travel Plaza in Canaan, NY to the Densmore Funeral Home in Corinth NY along the following route:

- Leaving Love's Travel Plaza along I-90 @ approximately 7:45 heading to I-87 North,
- Enter County I-87 Twin Bridges @ approximately 8:50 +/-
- I-87 North to Exit 13N Route 9 North;
- Proceed approximately ½ mile to 13 North Restaurant stop to unfurl Flags;
- Proceed north on Route 9 approximately 3 miles to W Fenlon Street;
- West Fenlon straight across Ballston on New Street/ Congress Ave to West Ave;
- Right on West Ave travel approximately 1 mile to Church Street;
- Left onto Church Street/ 9N travel approx. 13 miles,
- Left on to Main Street then,
- a quick Right onto Sherman Ave; Ending at Densmore Funeral Home, 7 Sherman Ave, Corinth, NY 12822.

Saratoga County Emergency Services has coordinated various Fire Departments and EMS agencies to pay tribute at over-passes and roadsides along the route.

Prior to this procession, the remains of Cpl. Walter Smead are being flown into Bradley International Airport, New Windsor, CT. Connecticut Patriot Guard Riders (PGR) will be at the airport for the dignified transfer. Massachusetts Troopers and Massachusetts PGR will escort Cpl. Smead from the airport to Love's Travel Plaza in Canaan, NY.

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Note to editor:

Cpl. Walter Smead's Obituary attached.

**Obituary of Cpl. Walter Smead**

HADLEY – Walter A. Smead, 24, of Hadley, New York, killed in action during the Korean War, was accounted for March 16, 2021.

Born on January 28, 1926, in Lake Luzerne, he was the son of the late Carl Smead and Jennie (Hitchcock) Smead.

Walter attended Hadley-Luzerne schools and enlisted in the United States Army on May 13, 1944. He served during World War II with the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division which was deployed to Italy. He then was assigned to A Battery, 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division when he was deployed to Korea in 1950.

Private First Class Smead was listed as missing in action on December 6, 1950, after his unit was attacked while attempting to withdraw near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. He was added to the list of presumed dead in December of 1953 and was promoted to Corporal posthumously.

Corporal Smead's remains were included in the 55 boxes returned to the United States following the summit between President Trump and Chairman Kim in June of 2018. His remains were identified using DNA technology and anthropological analysis in the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) laboratory at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii on March 16, 2021.

Walter is survived by his brother, Douglas Smead (Joan), of Corinth, and sister, Harriet Eggleston (Stephen), of Saratoga Springs; as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Walter was predeceased by his father, Carl Smead in 1944, and his brother, Donald in 1935. Walter's mother, Jennie, passed in 1951. His siblings who have passed in the years since, include Gordon Smead (1989), Joyce Smead Dunn (2010), Florence Smead Hayes (1973), Patricia Smead Bosford (1988), Anita Smead Tanner (2018), half-siblings Mildred Smead (1912), Grace Smead Quinto (2002), Samuel Richard Smead (1978), Kenneth Eddy (1989), and Ethel Eddy (1923).

Friends may call from 11 a.m. until noon, Monday, September 20, 2021, at the Densmore Funeral Home, Inc., 7 Sherman Avenue, Corinth. Members of the Horace D. Washburn American Legion Post 533 of Corinth will conduct a service at 11:45 a.m., Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at the funeral home. All veterans' organizations are welcome to attend. A Celebration of Walter's life will then be held at Noon at the funeral home, with Lane Schermerhorn officiating.

At 12:45 p.m., Walter will be escorted to the Gerald B. H. Solomon National Cemetery by members of the Patriot Guard Riders of New York.

A committal service with full military honors provided by the United States Army will then be held at 2 p.m., at the Saratoga National Cemetery, 200 Duell Road Schuylerville.

The family wishes to thank the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) staff for their tireless work for and with families of missing soldiers. Walter is finally home because of their efforts.