

A close-up, slightly faded image of a bald eagle's head, facing forward. The eagle has white feathers, a yellow beak, and a yellow eye. It is positioned over a background of the American flag, with the blue field of stars visible on the left and the red and white stripes on the right.

Service Histories of Veterans Listed on the Spring Grove Area Veterans Memorial

Criteria for Placing Names on the Memorial

- Honor Roll, Legion Post 249 membership, and veteran and/or family request.
- DD214 required from non-Legion members.
- If the family cannot locate the DD214 or other discharge papers, burial in a national or state veterans cemetery or proof of a VA gravestone will suffice as proof of honorable service.
- Ties to Spring Grove that can be verified including:
 - Lived in or near Spring Grove to include Blackhammer, western Wilmington (within 55974 zip code and/or Spring Grove School District) and Spring Grove Townships;
 - Or attended Spring Grove school system.
- Veterans who have moved away from Spring Grove or those who have moved to Spring Grove will be included upon their request.
- Living veteran's names will be included with their permission.
- Spring Grove Legion Post 249 members from northern Iowa are eligible for inclusion.
- Veterans from Iowa who are not members of Spring Grove Legion Post 249 need to establish ties to Spring Grove to be eligible.

Military Histories of Listed Veterans

- The SGAVMG has begun a program to enable the public to view veterans' pictures, military history and biographies by using existing internet communications in the city park.
- How does this work?
 - The veteran must already have or be eligible to have his or her name on the memorial.
 - Log onto our website at <https://www.springgroveveteransmemorial.org> and navigate to the Veterans Biographies tab at the top of the page.
 - Download the Biographical Information form. Complete the form and return it per the instructions on the form.
 - The veteran or a family member provides needed information including name, photographs, service information, post service, etc.
- The veteran or his/her family must agree that any information submitted for inclusion will be placed in the public domain and displayed on our website.
- The SGAVMG will add the information to our PowerPoint and publish the information on our website www.springgroveveteransmemorial.org
- Visitors can log onto this website with cell or wifi, navigate to Veteran's Biographies, and click a link to open the document.

[Share your military history with your family for generations to come.](#)



1971

Robert Karlsbrotten

Staff Sergeant, E5, US Air Force
Jan. 21, 1971 – Jan. 20, 1977
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
National Defense
Air Force Small Arms Expert



2022

- Grew up on a farm south of Spring Grove before enlisting, lived in Spring Grove after discharge.
- Basic Training, 3709 Squadron, Flight 0106, Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX, Jan – Mar 1971.
- 3787 Technical Training Squadron, Air Training Command, Port Hueneme, CA, Mar – May 1971.
- 321st Civil Engineering Squadron, Grand Forks AFB, Grand Forks, ND, Jun 1971 – Jan 1975. Air Force Reserves, Jan 1975 – Jan 1977.
- Active member of American Legion Post 249, Spring Grove, MN since 1974.
- Schools attended: Bekken, Kjome, Highlandville and North Winneshiek.
- Drove truck for Caledonia Haulers and Lake Center Industries.
- Married Paula Price Nov 25, 2005. Step children – Robert Kreier and Heather Kreier.
- Lives now in Valley High Golf, Houston, MN.



c. 1945

Morris Tweeten

Technician 5 Army
1944 – 1946 WWII

Infantry, B 99th Field Artillery Division

Military decorations: Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon
Bronze Battle Star; Philippine Liberation Ribbon Bronze
Battle Star; Victory Medal; Good Conduct Medal;
Army of Occupation Japan Medal



2010

- Born in 1926 in North Dakota. Attended Arling & Darling Springs School, Bucyrus, ND.
- Moved to Spring Grove at the age of 15. Worked for Grant Ingvalson hauling cream & livestock.
- Drafted into the Army on Oct. 10, 1944. Served in Asiatic Pacific Theater on Luzon Island & Cabanatuan, PI. Hauled supplies to liberated prisoners of war at Cabanatuan PoW Camp. One of the first to go ashore after the bombing of Hiroshima & Nagasaki. Detached Service of Military Government for General MacArthur's Headquarters. Jeep driver for HQ Officers.
- After service, returned to Spring Grove. Owner Tweeten Trucking. Hauled livestock throughout Midwest. Purchased a farm near SG and farmed throughout his life.
- Married Geneva Berquam on July 30, 1949. Five children: Marsha, Jennifer, Jaclyn, Michael & Taresa. Ten grandchildren.
- Died August 7, 2021. Buried Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery, Spring Grove MN.

Charles O. Sylling

Colonel, US Air Force
1971 – 1995

18 years & almost 3000 flight hours in F-4 and F-15 fighters

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal

Combat Readiness Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal



1995



2018

- Graduated from Spring Grove High School 1968. Graduated from USAF Academy, 1971.
- Top Graduate, Pilot Training, Laughlin AFB, TX, 1972. Awarded Commander's Trophy.
- Graduated F-4E Training, Homestead AFB, FL, 1973.
- F-4E Operations: Hahn, AB, GE; Osan AB, ROK; Fighter Weapons School; Nellis AFB, NV.
- Upgraded to F-15 Instructor, Mission Commander, Flight Examiner, 1979.
- Instructor Pilot, Flight Commander, Wing Chief of Stan Eval, Nellis AFB, NV.
- HQ Tactical Air Command; Weapons and Tactics; Chief, William Tell, 1986 – 1988.
- Operations Officer, 44 TFS; Commander, 67 TFS, 1989 – 1991. Won Hughes Trophy, 1989.
- Top USAF Graduate, Naval War College, 1992; Joint Staff, J-7, 1992 – 1996.
- Retired from Joint Staff. Joined Science Applications and supported DoD organizations in Virginia and Colorado Springs, CO. Retired and moved to Camano Island, WA, 2010.
- Married Candyce Sylling, 1973. Married 50 years and counting.
- Two children, Emily and Andrew; three grandchildren, Sasha, Caroline and Samantha.

A close-up photograph of a bald eagle's head, facing slightly to the right. The eagle has white feathers, a yellow beak, and a yellow eye. The background is a blurred American flag with stars and stripes.

Submit questions or comments to
charliesyelling@gmail.com

or

Call 360.387.7512 after 10 AM Pacific Time