



News Release

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Mississippi Valley Division/
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Cemvd-pa@mvd02.usace.army.mil

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Local Iraq Veteran Crear to Participate in Vicksburg Veterans Day Ceremonies

VICKSBURG, MISS., November 9, 2004 – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Mississippi Valley Division Commander, and Iraq Gulf War veteran Brig. Gen. Robert Crear will participate in Veterans Day activities this Thursday at the Vicksburg Rose Garden at 11 a.m. Crear, a native of Vicksburg, was commander of Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil during the initial phases of the Gulf War, and went on to lead the restoration efforts bringing oil production back to pre-war level prior to his return to the United States.

Brig. Gen. Crear will address celebrants and help re-dedicate the World War I monument in the Rose Garden with other dignitaries including Mayor Lawrence Leyens. The celebration also includes “Shots Fired throughout the Ages” in a salute to past and present veterans and a “missing man” flyover with vintage aircraft in a salute to fallen comrades.

“This is a tribute to the countless veterans who have worn our nation’s uniform in peace and war,” said Crear. “To be asked to participate and represent America’s Army in my hometown is humbling.”

“General Crear means a lot to this community and as a veteran, he is someone who this city is proud to honor,” said Howell Jones of the Vicksburg Rotary Club. “With General Crear and other veterans participating, our tribute to veterans will represent this community, state and nation well.”

Other participants include commanders and members of various local veterans’ organizations, the Vicksburg Brass Band and other community leaders. The celebration will take place in the Rose Garden at 11 a.m. between Crawford and South Streets. The significance of 11 a.m. is tied to the signing of the armistice for World War I taking place on the 11th day of the 11th month at 11 am, in 1918.