

Memorial Day in the town of Plzen Czech Republic

Extra Items include: A Story of how P-47 Pilot Lt. Virgil Kirkham's Ultimate Sacrifice is Honored & on how The Brian LaViolette Foundation established The Scholarship Of Honor in tribute to General George S. Patton and the American Soldier, past and present.

Have you ever wondered if anyone in Europe remembers Americas' Sacrifice in World War II? Here is the answer in a small town of Plzen (pilsen) in the Czech Republic.



Every 5 years, the City of Plzenen in the Czech Republic conducts the "Liberation Celebration of the City of Plzen."

May 6th, 2010, marked the 65th Anniversary of the Liberation of Plzen by General George Patton's 3rd Army.

Plzen is a town that every American should visit. Why? Because the Citizens love America and American Soldiers.



Even 65 years later, by the thousands,



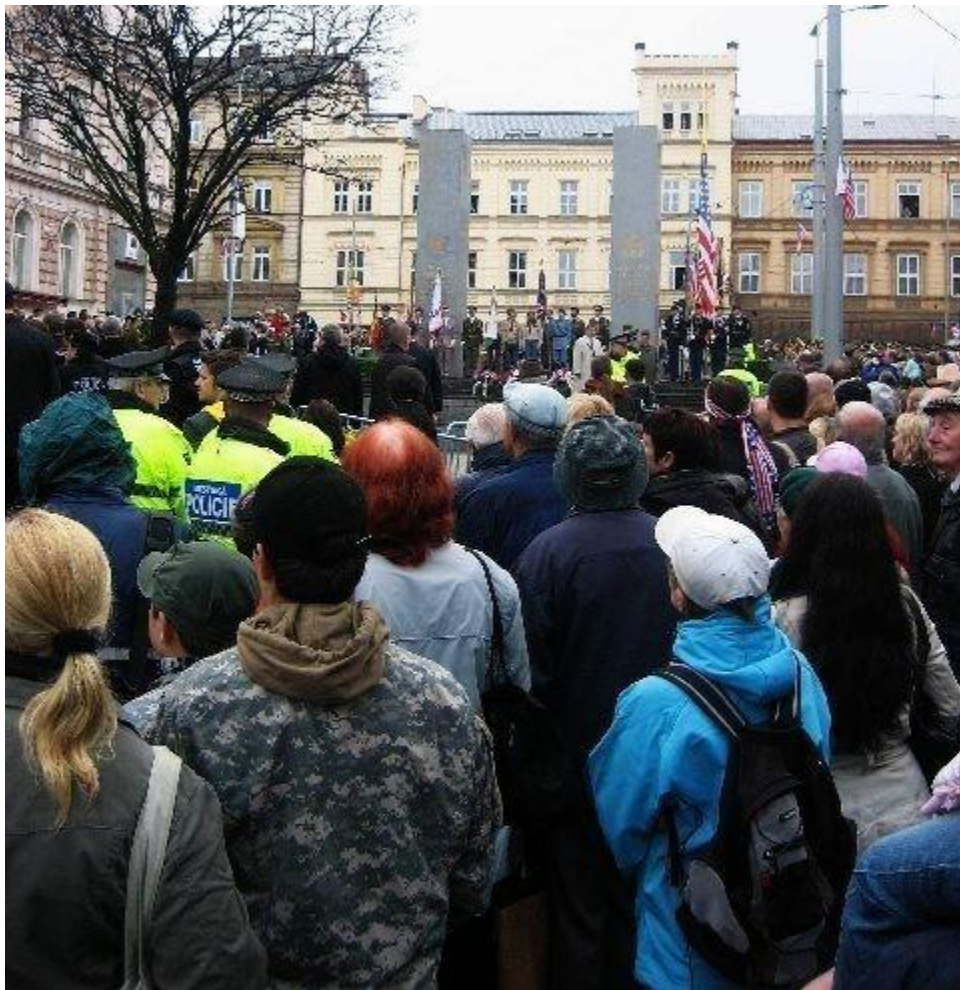
the Citizens of Plzen came to say thank you.



Lining the streets of Plzen for miles,



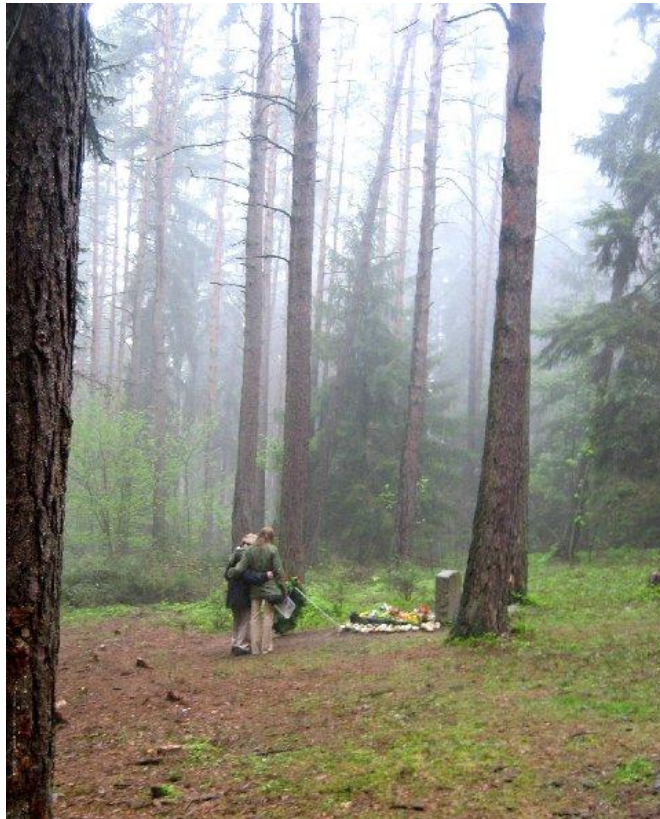
From the large crowds,



to quiet, reflective moments,



Including this American family's private time to honor and remember their American hero.



This is the crash site of Lt. Virgil P. Kirkham, the Last Recorded American USAAF Pilot killed in Europe during WWII. It was Lt. Kirkham's 82nd mission and one that he volunteered to go on.

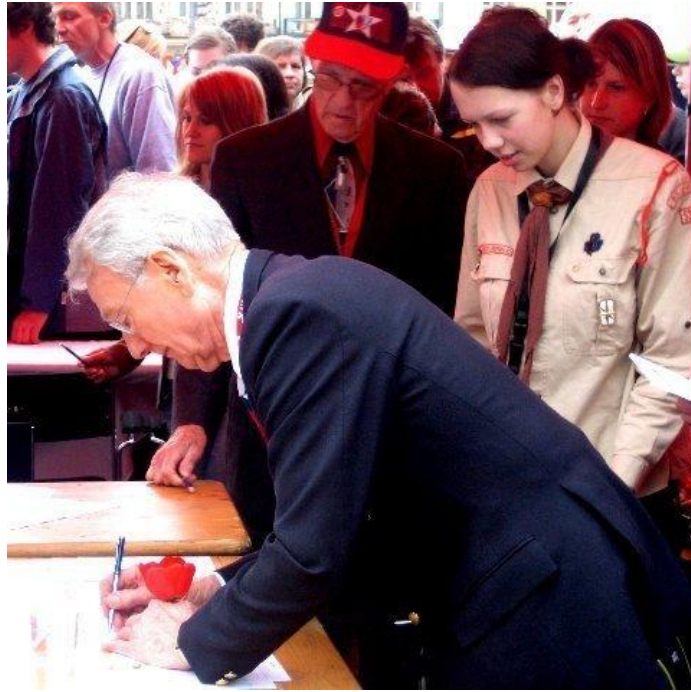
At the time, this 20-year-old Pilot's P-47 Thunderbolt Plane was shot down, a young 14-year-old Czech girl, Zdenka Sladkova, was so moved by his sacrifice, she made a vow to care for him and his memory. For 65 Straight Years, Zdenka, now 79-years-old took on the responsibility to care for Virgil's Crash Site and Memorial near her home.



On May 4th, she was recognized by the Mayor of Trhanova, Zdenka's hometown in the Czech Republic, for her Sacrifice and Extraordinary Effort in honoring this American hero.



Another chapter in this important story, the Czech People are “Teaching their Children” about “America's Sacrifice” for “Their Freedom.”



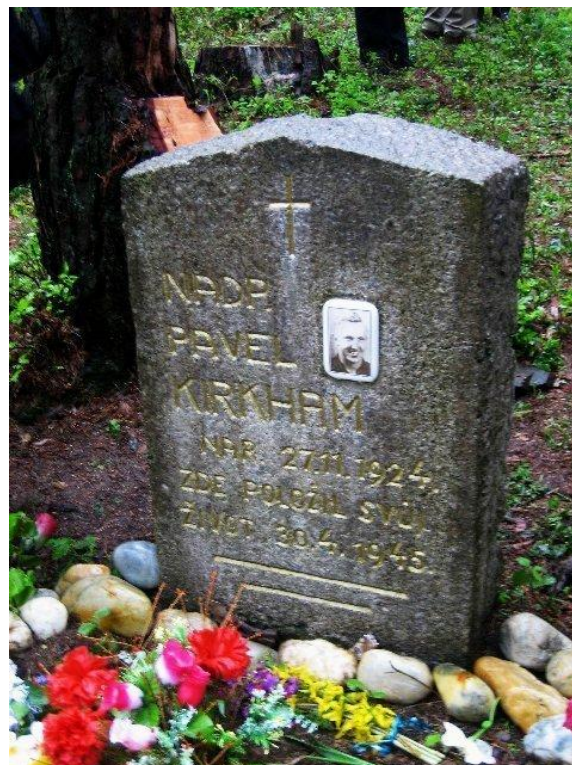
“American Soldiers,” young and old are the "Rock Stars" these children and their parents want autographs from.



Yes, Rock Stars! As they patiently waited for his autograph, the respect this little Czech boy and his father have for Our Troops serving today was heartwarming and inspirational.



The Brian LaViolette Foundation established, "The Scholarship of Honor" in tribute to General George S. Patton and the American Soldier, Past and Present.



Each year, a different military hero will be honored in tribute to General Patton's memory and their mission to liberate Europe.

This award will be presented to a Graduating Senior who will be entering the military or a form of community service such as Fireman, Policeman, Teaching or Nursing...a "*Cause Greater Than Self.*" The student will be from 1 of the 5 high schools in Pilsen, Czech Republic.



The first award will be presented in May 2011 in honor of Lt. Virgil Kirkham, that young 20-year-old P-47 Pilot who was killed 65 years ago in the final days of WWII.



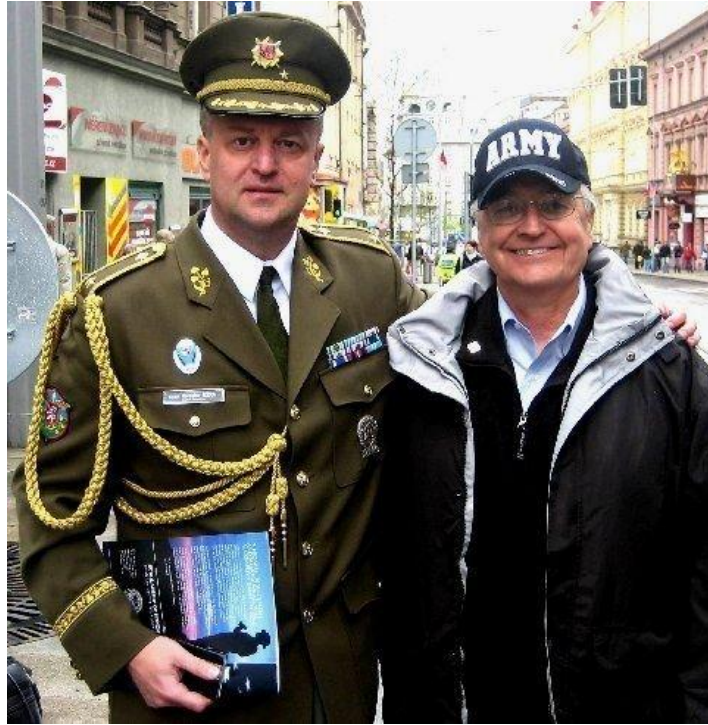
Presenting Virgil's Award will be someone who knows the true “Meaning of Service and Sacrifice.” Someone who looks a lot like Virgil, Marion Kirkham, Virgil's brother, who himself served during WWII in the United States Army Air Corps.



In closing...Here is what the City of Plzen thinks of General Patton's Grandson. George Patton Waters (another Rock Star!) we're proud to say, serve's on Brian's Foundation Board.



And it's “Front Page News Over There”... Not buried in the middle of the Social Section.



Brigadier General Miroslav Zizka - 1st Deputy Chief of Staff, Ministry of Defense, Czech Armed Forces.



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