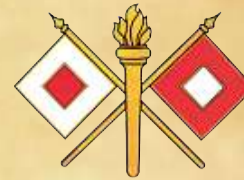




# THANK YOU, U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS!



To our distinguished guests who came all the way from Fort Gordon, Georgia to honor the founder of their regiment who grew up in Buffalo, thank you for making our Memorial Day unforgettable. Your generosity is admirable.

Brigadier General Jeffrey W. Foley, the Commanding General of the Signal Corps, delivered a speech on Saturday, May 29th, 2010 that was much more than a history lesson about how Memorial Day began. After describing how a simple ceremony in Waterloo, NY after the Civil War developed into a National Holiday, he spoke of the need to never forget the sacrifices which were made so that others can be free. The crowd heard about deployed service members in Iraq loving America so much that they finished the National Anthem by singing "a cappella" after their movie theater sound system failed instead of joking about the technical problem. The Regiment's Command Sergeant Major, Thomas Clark, recited Johnny Cash's "Ragged Old Flag" from memory as a poem in a way that touched many hearts.

On Sunday, General Foley, CSM Clark, and Command Historian Steve Rauch expressed their gratitude to re-enactors by posing in group photographs and thanking them for preserving Civil War history at great personal cost and often with minimal recognition. Our visitors wanted to know the re-enactors' real names, not just who was being portrayed.

General Foley acknowledged the Gold Star Mother seated in the front row before starting to speak about the many noteworthy Civil War veterans from Buffalo. He devoted equal time to all, not just the one who interested him the most, the founder of his regiment, Brigadier General Albert James Myer. His four-minute speech during the Opening Ceremony included tributes to the U.S. Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, not just the U.S. Army he represents. The black powder charge fired from the artillery piece atop the hill behind him, which concluded the opening ceremony, was a thrill, not a surprise.

The real purpose of the visit to Buffalo was evident during General Foley's 8 minute speech in front of the Walden-Myer Mausoleum. General Myer's life was explained from his Buffalo Medical College days to his marriage to Mayor Ebenezer Walden's daughter Catherine, the six Myer children, the start of the Signal Corps with its immediate, beneficial impact on Civil War communications, battles, and campaigns, the foundation of the U.S. Weather Bureau, today's World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and foreign scientific honors bestowed upon "Old Probabilities." It was really nice to hear the gratitude shown by General Foley, who publicly thanked the person who donated the markers as a way to turn something negative like his mother's passing away into something positive.

To all those Western New York veterans who would have liked to have seen these scenes during the evening news TV broadcasts, I'm sorry. Please know that I tried everything in my power to bring this rarely told story to you on Memorial Day, especially WWII Signal Corps veterans who, as vocalist Joe Williams used to say, "Don't get around much anymore." As June 21, 2010 approaches, please know that all members of the regiment, past and present, will be honored during the regiment's 150th birthday. I hope you were cheered up by this first visit of a Regular Army General on active duty to Buffalo probably since 1945.



Sincerely,  
The Recipient of the Commanding General's Coin  
and the 1st Section, U.S. Signal Corps,  
Department of New York



General Myer's life is told as completely as possible at [www.civilwarsignals.org](http://www.civilwarsignals.org)



The first attempt to track storms globally, conceived by General Albert J. Myer.



Catherine Walden Myer, the daughter of the mayor of Buffalo, General Myer's wife, mother of 6.



Wood carving statue of General Myer.



Happy 150th Birthday, Signal Corps!