

A Century of Service

Happy Birthday, Camp Dodge! The Iowa National Guard post in Johnston turns 100 years old in April, with plans to celebrate a rich history of serving Iowa and the country.

- Named for Civil War General and railroad industrialist Grenville Dodge, the 76-acre Camp Dodge was established to prepare soldiers for World War I. The camp housed up to 36,000 military members at its peak.
- Struck by tragedy in 1918, Camp Dodge lost 702 soldiers, who died at the camp when the Spanish flu swept the nation and world.
- Built in the 1920s, the Camp Dodge swimming pool was a summer highlight for thousands of central Iowans until it closed in 2002.
- During 2008, over 426,000 training days by soldiers and civilians were performed on the grounds that now encompasses 4,000-plus acres.
- Containing over 45 exhibits, the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum depicts the life and service of Iowa's military veterans from pioneer days to the present War on Terror. Major events are Memorial Day, Military Retiree Day, and Veterans' Day. — C.B.

Anniversary events kick off April 5 and continue throughout the year. Admission to events and to the museum is free. Learn more by visiting www.iowanationalguard.com or phoning 515-252-4582.