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/ OPERATION BENJAMIN GRAVE MARKER REPLACEMENT CEREMONY HELD AT LUXEMBOURG-AMERICAN CEMETERY

## Operation Benjamin Grave Marker Replacement Ceremony Held at Luxembourg-American Cemetery

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On 27 April 2022, a grave marker replacement ceremony was held at the Luxembourg-American Cemetery in Luxembourg-Hamm, led by Operation Benjamin, an organisation devoted to preserving the memories of American-Jewish soldiers who died defending Europe in World War II.

Operation Benjamin locates Jewish soldiers interred at American military cemeteries all over the world who, for various reasons, were buried under gravestones that incorrectly represent their religion. Their mission is to correct these mistakes and replace the grave markers to correctly represent their Jewish heritage.

Everett M. Seixas; Credit: Operation Benjamin

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Barrett said: *"The work Operation Benjamin does is important not only to the Jewish*

*community, but to all of us, regardless of religion, beliefs, or background. I am thankful to see Everett Seixas publicly recognised as a man of proud Jewish heritage who fought for the United States and his faith",* adding *"As we stand witness to the brutal Russian invasion of a democratic European country, it becomes even more important that we recognise the cost for freedom and peace that was paid for by young lives over 75 years ago."*

The ceremony was held in honour of TC5 Everett M. Seixas, Jr, Technician Fifth Grade, U.S. Army, New York who fought and died in World War II. Although he was Jewish, he was mistakenly buried under a Latin Cross instead of the Star of David. With Operation Benjamin's assistance, this error was rectified, and the Latin Cross headstone was replaced with a Star of David.

The family of Everett Seixas also brought along the original flag that was presented to the family when Everett Seixas was buried in 1949. The flag was flown during the ceremony in honour of TC5 Everett and ceremonially folded by his descendent at the end of the event.

### Background

In addition to Ambassador Barrett, participants at the ceremony included Ambassador of Israel to Luxembourg and Belgium, Emmanuel Nahshon; Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter and Shalom Lamm of Operation Benjamin; leadership from the American Battle Monuments Commission; members of the Seixas family; and a representative of the U.S. Army for a farewell salute; and members of the Luxembourg Jewish community.

More information on Operation Benjamin is available online at <https://www.operationbenjamin.org/>