

Miami Valley
Military History Museum



THE BIG PICTURE

First Quarter 2018

A graphic for National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The background is a dark green textured surface. In the upper left, a portion of the American flag is visible, showing the stars and stripes. In the center-left, there is a circular gold medallion with a blue border. The medallion features an eagle's head in profile, facing left, with the words "VIETNAM WAR" at the top and "VETERAN" at the bottom. To the right of the medallion, the text "NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY" is written in large, bold, yellow, serif capital letters, and "29 MARCH" is written below it in white, serif capital letters. At the bottom of the graphic, the text "Join the Nation... Thank a Vietnam Veteran for Service to our Nation" is written in a white, italicized, serif font.

*Join the Nation...
Thank a Vietnam Veteran
for Service to our Nation*



CURATOR'S CORNER

Our first quarter got us off to a great start for the year – we're on track to hit all our annual objectives. We've expanded our outreach both on the Veterans Affairs Medical Center campus and in local communities and donations continue to arrive each week. We've also added three new volunteers to our team. Great things are happening!

Planning is well underway for the 14th annual Patriot Freedom Festival (PFF) on May 26th and 27th – this year's theme will commemorate the centennial of the end of World War One. Our core group of volunteers work hard to make the PFF a success, but we can always use more helping hands. Contact us to find out how you can help!

We're now raising funds for a new plaque for the VA Grotto Gardens to memorialize our World War I veterans. See the flyer in this newsletter on page for more details.

You may have noticed the newsletter has a new name - "The Big Picture." "The Big Picture" aired from 1951 to 1964 and was produced by the United States Army Signal Corps Army Pictorial Service to tell the Army story to the American public. As a child, I would wake up at 06:30 to watch it (in re-runs, of course). I recently re-discovered the series and thought it's name would be more indicative of the purpose of our newsletter.

Memorial Day will be here soon; sadly, this holiday has become better known as the beginning of summer and for the opening of swimming pools and store sales. Please take some time to honor the true spirit of Memorial Day - to honor the men and women who have died in the service of the United States.

With that in mind, we remember Sergeant First Class Jack Blaine Beers, who was killed in action on April 7th, 1969 in Vietnam. SFC Beers, a veteran of the 101st Airborne Division, 173rd Airborne Brigade and 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment, was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Distinguished Service Cross. His DSC citation reads:

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Sergeant First Class Jack Blaine Beers (ASN: RA-23877112), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company B, 3d Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade. Platoon Sergeant Beers distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on the evening of 7 April 1969 during an attack by an estimated reinforced Viet Cong company on his platoon's night location near the town of Bao Loc, Lam Dong Province. Sergeant Beers moved through the initial barrage of rocket, automatic weapons and small arms fire to reach a section of the perimeter under heavy ground attack, and was painfully wounded by shrapnel from an incoming rocket when he arrived at a machine gun bunker. Despite his injury, he directed that position's fire against the aggressors and momentarily halted their assault. After hearing a rocket hit in the platoon's command post and a cry for help from his radio telephone operator, he started toward the stricken post, but was seriously wounded in the legs and stomach by shrapnel from enemy grenades and rockets as the communists began attacking from all sides. Disregarding his safety, he encouraged his men to hold their positions and crawled to a radio to call for artillery support. Although he was in an exposed location, he continued to adjust artillery strikes until he was mortally wounded by hostile small arms fire. Platoon Sergeant Beers' extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



Respectfully,

Mark Conrad, MSgt, USAF, RET
Curator

From Public Affairs:

Another new project is already underway. In our foyer you'll notice we've started a Veterans Wall – we encourage you to email a photo (in or out of uniform) of your family's Veterans along with some basic information (full name, rank or rate, and when they served) to curator@mvmhm.com for inclusion on the wall! Visit our Facebook page for more details.

We are an Official Commemorative Partner with the DoD's United States Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. Since the first of this year we've presented 254 Lapel Pins, see pic on cover page, to Vets who served anywhere in the world from 1955 to 1975. On March 29, Vietnam Veterans Day & March 30, Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, we presented 124 lapel pins in the Dialysis Unit, in the Community Living Center (CLC) which includes the Hospice, 2 nursing homes, and Memory Care, on the fifth floor Rehab, and Building Bridges. We presented 62 Veteran lapel pins and one Surviving Spouse pin to Vietnam Veterans and families who visited the Museum in the first quarter. I'm honored and thankful to be part of the DOD's commemoration of the Vietnam War.

A huge “Thank You” again to OPERATION: Card Angels who came through with “Thank You for Your Service” cards, along with, Valentine's Day and Easter and Birthday Cards for Vets. In February we began celebrating the birthdays of our Vets in the Dialysis Unit each month; in April we'll begin celebrating birthdays of our Vets in the Memory Care Unit.

We're always looking for volunteers. We need folks to man the phones in the office and at the Librarian's Desk and to interact with visitors; also, we're always needing volunteers for projects and events. Email me at cbeers2510@gmail.com for more informtion.

Effective May 1, 2018 we're extending our hours of operation Monday to Friday to 9am to 4pm. Our hours on the first and third Saturdays will remain 9am to 3pm.

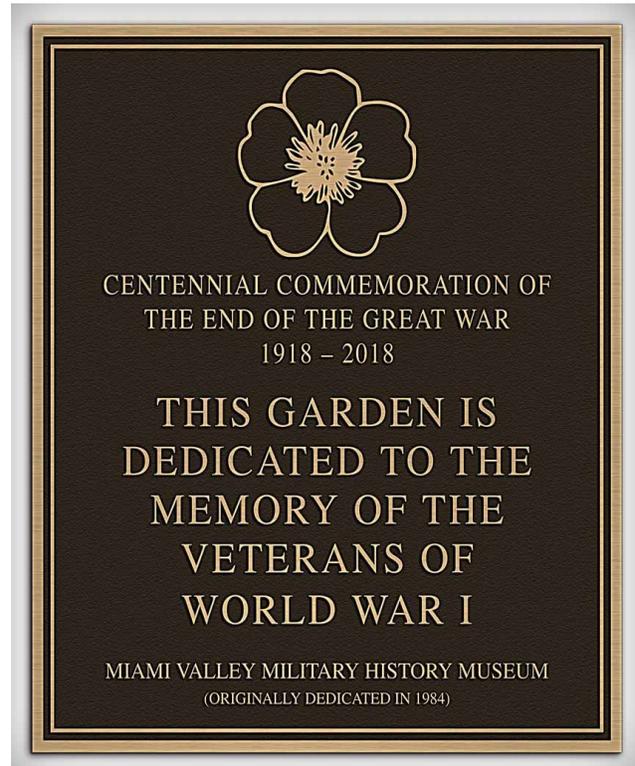
Please, continue to help us **spread the word** - we've got a lot of great history here! You can help by forwarding this newsletter to people who have an interest in military history, or **“Like” us on Facebook and invite your friends to do the same** – the more people that know about us the better!

Respectfully,

***Catherine I. Beers-Conrad, USAF Veteran
PROUD VIETNAM GOLD STAR DAUGHTER
Public Affairs Officer***

November 11th, 2018 will mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice ending World War I, and plans are well under way to mark the occasion with the restoration of a local memorial and a plaque dedication in the Grotto Gardens of the VA.

The plaque for the Grotto has been designed, and we just launched a GoFundMe Campaign to pay for the plaque – we're about a third of the way to our goal of \$1,000. Your contribution will ensure we create a lasting memorial to the men and women who served in the Great War.



<https://www.gofundme.com/remember-our-world-war-i-veterans>

DONATIONS QUARTERLY WRAP UP:

This poster dates from the Korean War - note the early P1-B flight helmet. Also note the "Dayton 2" address - during World War II, thousands of experienced postal employees left to serve with the military. To offset the loss, in May 1943 the Post Office Department began a zoning address system in 124 of the largest cities. Under this system, delivery units or zones were identified by one or two numbers between the city and state - for example, Birmingham 7, Alabama - so that mail could be separated by employees who did not have detailed scheme knowledge.

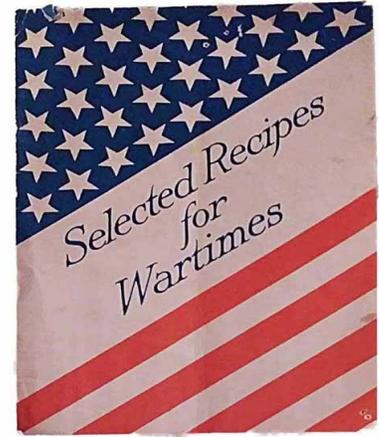
Twenty years later in 1963, the Department implemented the Zoning Improvement Plan (ZIP) Code.

(Donated by Terry Redmon, TSgt, USAF, Ret.)



We have several World War II rationing cookbooks in our collections, but this is the first one we've seen from World War I. It was produced by the Calumet Company in 1918 and naturally prominently features their baking soda products.

(Donated by Beverly "Ma Bev" Peyton)



Don received these WWII ship recognition models as gift from his father 60 years ago...his Dad found them at an Army Surplus store (back in the days when there were real treasures in those stores). There's a complete set of American, British and German vessels. The ships are 1/1200 scale, made from cast metal and mounted to a wooden base that slides out of the case. *(Donated by Don and Linda Niece)*

Without the generosity of people interested in preserving our military heritage, museums like ours couldn't exist – space doesn't permit an individual listing of all the donations we've received, but we want to thank the following groups and/or individuals for helping us tell the stories of the defenders of our great nation. *(an asterisk indicates multiple donations):*

Chris Arnold, MSgt, USAF, Ret. (Ohio) Don and Linda Niece (Ohio) *Terry Redmon, TSgt, USAF, Ret. (Ohio)
*Aaron Anderson (Ohio) Wayne's World of Wood (Ohio) *Ursula Carry (Ohio) *Dick Krewson (Ohio)
Chris Ecker, HMCM (SS/SW/FMF), USN, Ret. (Virginia) Bunn-Minnick Organ Company (Ohio)
*Michael "Mac" McBride (Ohio) *Beverly Peyton (Ohio) *Brent Davidson (Ohio) *Vince Dec (Ohio)
Donald Sleeth (Ohio) Wayne Riddle (Ohio) *Lisa and Tony DeLaura (Ohio) The Zimmerman Family (Ohio)
Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society (Ohio) Holly Root (Ohio) Charles Stapleton (Ohio)
Rob Coombs (Indiana) Dennis Pierce (Ohio) The Smith Family (Michigan) David Slouffman (Nevada)
Ted Slouffman (Ohio) Hamilton County Sheriffs Department (Ohio)

...and many anonymous donors.

FEATURED ARTIFACT(S): *Machinengewehr 42 (MG42)*

We recently received an important piece of WWII history - a German Machinengewehr 42 (MG42)! A nearby Sheriff's Department seized the MG42 from someone attempting to "re-militarize" this properly demilled gun a little more than 10 years ago. It recently came up on the "to be destroyed" list, but the Property Room personnel recognized it might have some historical value. They contacted us, and we submitted a letter to the courts explaining the significance of the gun and asking that it be transferred to us rather than be destroyed.

The MG42 weighs in at 25.51 pounds, and fires a 7.92mm round, with a rate of fire of 1,200 rounds per minute. Several construction features of the MG42 were later used in the development of our own M-60 machine gun. The MG42 proved to be so reliable that it's still in use today in various forms



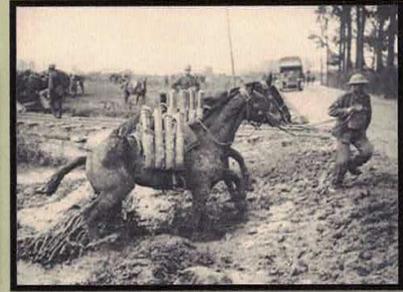
UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **April 2018:** Presentation at the Ohio Genealogical Society convention.
- **April 2018:** Birthday visits to VA Dialysis Ward and Hospice.
- **Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 1:00PM:** Tour for Department of Ohio AMVETS officers.
- **Thursday, April 5, 2018, 11:30AM:** Tour for All About You group.
- **Friday, April 27, 2018, 9:00AM:** Museum "Get To Know Us" Campaign table at the VA Medical Center lobby.
- **May 2018:** Birthday visits to VA Dialysis Ward and Hospice.
- **Saturday, May 5, 2018, 1:00PM:** Sons of Union Veterans William T. Sherman Camp #93 meeting.
- **Sunday, May 6, 2018, 4:00PM:** Visit by Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant First Class Melvin Morris.
- **Saturday, May 19, 2018, 8:30AM:** Armed Forces Day 5K Run/Walk/Roll.
- **Wednesday May 23, 2018:** Senior Communities of Northwest Dayton presentation.
- **Saturday and Sunday, May 26-27, 2018, 11:00AM – 5:00PM:** 14th Annual Patriot Freedom Festival – Theme: *100th Anniversary of the end of World War I*
- **Monday, May 28, 2018:** Memorial Day (observed) Open House.
- **Wednesday, May 30, 2018:** Memorial Day (actual).
- **June 2018:** Birthday visits to VA Dialysis Ward and Hospice.
- **Saturday, June 2, 2018, 2:00PM:** Gold Star Families service in the historic Protestant Chapel.
- **Thursday, June 14, 2018, 2:00PM:** Flag Day.

**THE AMERICAN VETERANS HERITAGE CENTER
PATRIOT FREEDOM FESTIVAL 2018
REMEMBERING THE GREAT WAR - WWI**



**MAY 26-27, 2018
11 AM - 6 PM**



Dayton VA Medical Center at 4100 W. 3rd St., Dayton, OH

*Free Entry - Free Parking
Food and Craft Vendors
Historic displays
Grotto Garden Tours
Speaking of History Program*

*Live Entertainment
Living historians
Military History Museum
Free History Bus Tours
Memorial Services*

Call (937) 267-7628

FREE SERVICES WE PROVIDE:

- Speakers Bureau
- Veterans Wall
- Veterans Roll of Honor
- Veterans History Project
- Operation FOOTLOCKER
- Genealogy and research archives
- Awards and Decorations Replacement

The Veterans Roll of Honor can be found at: <http://www.mvmhm.com/vroh.htm>. To submit a veteran for the Roll of Honor, or for our Veterans Wall, email their full name, rank, branch of service, service history and awards and decorations (these are optional), to our Curator at curator@mvmhm.com. You may submit only a name, or you can also include a picture; if no picture is available, the appropriate service emblem will be used. *(Note that we reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, grammar and spelling.*

MISCELLANEOUS:

Our “Wish List”: We're looking for some specific items to fill gaps in our displays/collection – one item that has eluded us is a set of Vietnam War tiger stripes:



Miami Valley Military History Museum

VETERANS WALL

Those wishing to honor their Hero who has served in the United States Armed Forces are invited to submit a photo for the Veterans Wall located in the Museum foyer.



Photos can be emailed to curator@mvmhm.com, or dropped off at the museum during normal business hours. **Please include the Veterans full name, rank or rate, branch of service, and when known, the years they served.**



For more information, contact:

Catherine I. Beers-Conrad,
USAF Veteran and Gold Star Daughter
937-267-7629



Please note that although we are located on federal property, we receive NO funding from the Veterans Administration - we operate entirely "out of our own pockets" and with the help of unpaid volunteers.

How can YOU help preserve our veterans history?

Each day more and more of our veterans are passing away. The last veteran from World War I passed away in February 2011; our World War II veterans are dying at the rate of approximately 1,000 a day. For many younger people, conflicts as recent as Vietnam seem to be "old war movies". Unfortunately, many times when a veteran dies all of his or her history dies with them -we want to bring to life the stories of our veterans and provide a tangible link to them. Donations ensure our continued growth, and preservation of our veteran's stories. (All donors are credited on the museum's web site).

What types of things can you donate?

Uniforms

Insignias

Medals

Photographs

Captured enemy trophies

Anything that will help tell our veteran's stories, especially those from Ohio.

We can also use items that you feel may be too damaged or worn to restore. Artifacts may be used to support our educational programs such as Operation FOOTLOCKER (a virtual field trip) and the Speakers Bureau.

Nothing is too small or insignificant!

THIS QUARTER IN MILITARY HISTORY:

April 6, 1991: Iraq officially accepts cease-fire terms.

April 11, 1951: General MacArthur recalled - General Matthew Ridgway given command in Korea.

April 12, 1861: In accordance with instructions from the Confederate government, Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard fires on Fort Sumter.

April 15, 1972: Renewed US bombing of North Vietnam above the 20th parallel.

April 19, 1775: Battles at Lexington and Concord.

April 22, 1915: Poison gas first used on the Western Front in German attack on Canadian troops at Ypres.

April 24, 1898: Spain declares war on the United States.

April 30, 1945: Adolf Hitler commits suicide as Soviet forces overrun Berlin.

May 1, 1898: Commodore George Dewey wins seven-hour battle of Manila Bay.

May 2, 1863: Confederate General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson is accidentally shot by his own men during the Battle of Chancellorsville, and dies on May 10th.

May 8, 1945: Victory in Europe Day.

May 10, 1775: Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys capture Fort Ticonderoga.

May 17, 1951: Communist Chinese Forces launch their 2nd Spring Offensive.

May 20, 1965: Hanoi restates its peace proposal which has already been rejected.

May 28, 1918: US forces open their first offensive at Catigny.

June 2, 1969: Dayton native Specialist 4th Class Joseph G. LaPointe, Jr. is killed in action trying to save two wounded comrades.

June 6, 1944: Allied forces land on the beaches of Normandy, France.

June 9, 1863: Battle of Brandy Station, largest cavalry battle of the Civil War.

June 15, 1775: His Excellency General George Washington is elected as Commander In Chief of the Continental Army.

June 23, 1915: First Battle of Isonzo.

June 25, 1951: North Korean People's Army invades South Korea.

TRIVIA

The last quarter trivia question was: *Who said "The object of war is not to die for your country but to make the other bastard die for his"?* The answer: General George Smith Patton, Jr.

This quarter's question is: ***The "Belching Buzzard" is the nickname for what unit's insignia?***

The Miami Valley Military History Museum is located in Building 120, the historic Putnam Library, in the Historic District of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio.

Please note that although we are located on federal property, we receive NO funding from the Veterans Administration - we operate entirely "out of our own pockets" and with the help of unpaid volunteers.

**Miami Valley Military History Museum
120 Ohio Avenue
Dayton, OH 45428**

Hours of Operation: 9AM to 3PM

**Monday through Friday
1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month
All Patriotic holidays
By Appointment**

(Please note that opening hours are contingent on volunteer availability.)

**Curator: Mark Conrad, MSgt, USAF, Ret.
937-267-7629
937-902-8001**

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Official Partner in the United States Vietnam War Commemoration, the United States World War One Centennial Commission, the Imperial War Museum World War I Centenary and a member of the Small Museums Association.