

Miami Valley  
Military History Museum



# *The Big Picture*

*First Quarter 2019*



## **CURATOR'S CORNER**

Our first quarter was a great start for 2019 and once again we're on track to hit all our annual objectives. We're also continuing to expand our outreach and seek new opportunities to share the military history of our great Nation.

Now that warm weather is returning the restoration of our second M1914 Hotchkiss can get underway. In addition to starting the sandblasting and repairs, 3G Tactical also obtained a donation of a number of additional parts (such as the muzzle cone) to further restore the gun – we're really looking forward to seeing it!

Unfortunately our achievements in the first three months of the year were overshadowed by the loss of two of our Museum family. Robert Allen passed away on February 21<sup>st</sup> after suffering a heart attack. A Cold War Army Veteran, Robert was a real joy to work with and was largely responsible for completing an inventory of nearly 10,000 books and manuals in our holdings. We all miss his infectious smile and easygoing manner.



Allison "Allie" Clark passed away suddenly on April 3<sup>rd</sup> due to complications from a recent surgery. Allie was the director of the Patriot Pin Ups in Dayton, and had a real love for our Veterans. She supported the Museum at many of our Open House events and with the Patriot Pin Ups at the Patriot Freedom Festival.

Our condolences go out to Robert and Allie's families and to our Vice President Ken Hoelscher and his family.



Memorial Day is fast approaching; sadly, many Americans will see the holiday as nothing more than the beginning of summer, 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.

Respectfully,

**Mark Conrad, MSgt, USAF, RET**  
**Curator**

***From Public Affairs:***

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 a total of more than 500 lapel pins to Vets who served anywhere in the world from November 1955 to May 1975. On March 29, Vietnam Veterans Day, we presented 250 Veteran lapel pins & 51 Spouse pins in the VA Patient Tower Lobby. I'm honored and thankful to be part of the DOD's commemoration of the Vietnam War.

Thanks go out to our wonderful partner, OPERATION Card Angels, those who make and provide us with cards for every holiday, including St. Valentine's Day, Easter, Halloween, along with "Thank You for Your Service" cards for our fellow Vets who live and get their care here at the Dayton VA. We continue with our monthly birthday celebrations and BINGO in Kennedy Way, the Memory Care Unit.

Volunteer recruiting has taken a front seat. Thanks to Kendra Beckman, Museum Intern, we have a Volunteer Pamphlet that tells about the opportunities and positions available. You can find information on our Facebook page, website, and by contacting me at [mvmhm2007@gmail.com](mailto:mvmhm2007@gmail.com).

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. Follow us on Twitter @miami\_museum and on Instagram mvmhm.**

Respectfully,

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

## DONATIONS QUARTERLY WRAP UP:

Small artifacts can pack a LOT of history! These ribbons were worn by Rear Admiral Charles B. McVay III and his father Charles B. McVay, Jr.

A collector had written many famous Veterans or their Next of Kin asking for items from their service, even if a small token. Some were mailed back with just items (such as this one), some had a letter included with the items, etc. He was sent everything from ribbons, to medals, patches, and signed photos. These were obtained from Rear Admiral McVay's son, Kim.



(Then) Captain Charles B. McVay III was the skipper of the ill-fated Cruiser USS Indianapolis; after delivering the atomic bombs to Tinian, the Indy was torpedoed and sunk by a Japanese submarine. Of the nearly 900 crewmen, only 316 survived the sinking. Captain McVay was court martialed for failing to give the order to abandon ship in a timely manner and hazarding his ship by failing to zig-zag. He was acquitted of the first charge but found guilty of hazarding his vessel – the only skipper in WWII to be punished for the loss of his ship. The trial was controversial because McVay had not been warned about Japanese subs in the area and he had been refused a destroyer escort equipped with sonar. The commander of the Japanese submarine testified that he was so close to the Indy when he fired his torpedoes that he couldn't miss and zig-zagging would not have made a difference.

Captain McVay's father, Charles B. McVay, Jr felt his son was court martialed by Admiral Ernest King because "King never forgot a grudge." King had been a junior officer under the old man's command when King and other officers sneaked some women aboard ship. Admiral McVay had a letter of reprimand placed in King's record. "Now," he raged, "King's used you to get back at me."

Captain McVay's conviction was eventually set aside and he was restored to duty, retiring in 1949 at the rank of Rear Admiral. He never got over the way he was treated, and over the years he continued to receive hate mail from the relatives of some of the crew who'd been lost. After his wife died, he took his own life on 06 November 1968.

USS Indianapolis survivors spent years attempting to clear their skipper's name. Over fifty years after the incident, a 12-year-old student in Pensacola, Florida, Hunter Scott, was instrumental in raising awareness of the miscarriage of justice carried out at the captain's court-martial. As part of a school project for the National History Day program, the young man interviewed nearly 150 survivors of the Indianapolis sinking and reviewed 800 documents. His testimony before the U.S. Congress brought national attention to the situation.

In October 2000, the United States Congress passed a resolution that McVay's record should reflect that "he is exonerated for the loss of the USS Indianapolis." President Clinton signed the resolution and in July 2001, Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England ordered McVay's official Navy record purged of all wrongdoing.

Captain McVay was awarded the Silver Star for his valor prior to the sinking of the Indianapolis

We always like it when a war trophy (or two) walks in the door! These were a (sort of) "drive-by" donation; the gentleman was in a hurry and couldn't give a lot of details, but said these were sent to him from Berlin in late 1945 by his uncle, Technician Fourth Class Leslie O. Thalman. The helmet is a Luftschutz (Air Defense) "Gladiator" pattern helmet worn by Air Raid Wardens. It shows a lot of wear (and there were plenty of them just laying around in Berlin after May 1945).

The armband is unissued, and would have been worn by a Nazi Party Political Leader Candidate at the Ortsgruppe (local) level as indicated by the blue piping along the upper and lower edges.



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*):

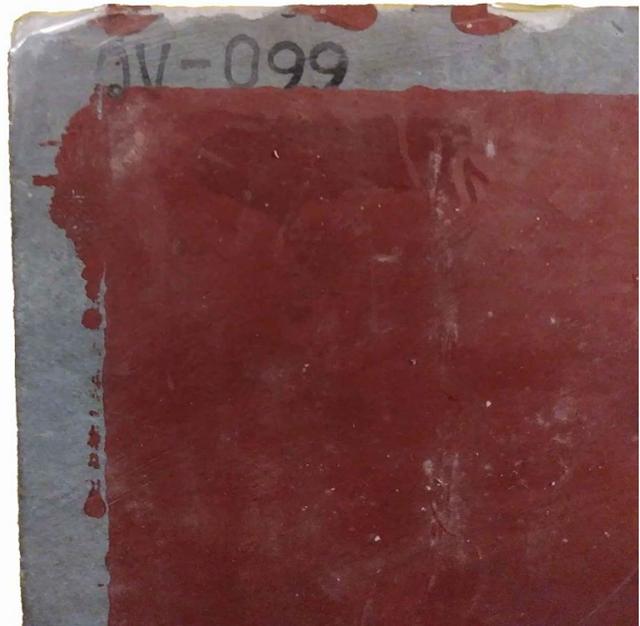
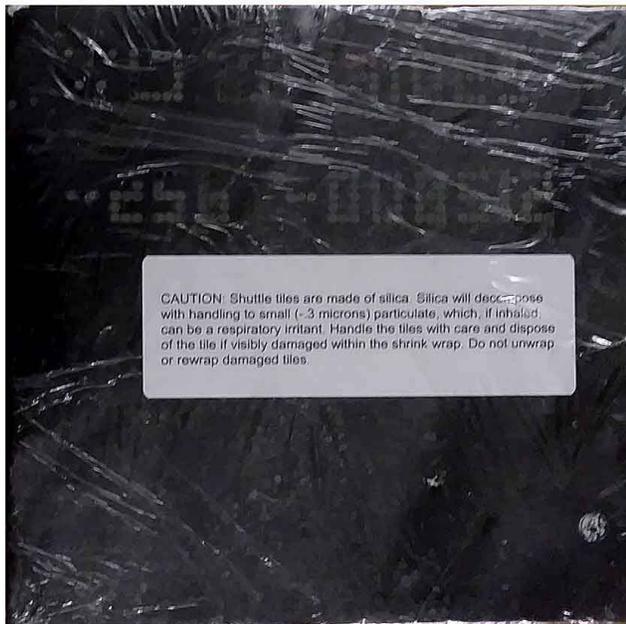
\*Aaron Anderson (Ohio) Network For Good \*Phillip Brandt (Ohio) John Laub (Ohio) Eric Rose (Ohio)  
Beth Salisbury, Brigadier General, USA (Ohio) Simon Flake, Lieutenant Colonel, USA (Georgia)  
Ron Ponder (Ohio) \*Brent Davidson (Ohio) \*John Hoelscher (Ohio) Dean Marini (Ohio)  
Mary Willenborg (Ohio) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (VA) \*Jake Dailey (Ohio)  
Abbey Road Chimney Sweeps (Ohio) American Legion Post 215 (Ohio) Steve and Denise Hamiel (Ohio)  
Fauquier History Museum at the Old Jail (Virginia) \*Bruce Neff (Ohio) Henry Harlo (Ohio) Mike Bennett (Ohio)  
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 97 (Ohio) Jeremy Bowles (Ohio)

...and many anonymous donors.

## **FEATURED ARTIFACT(S): Space Shuttle tile**

We received two Space Shuttle High-temperature Reusable Surface Insulation (HRSI) tiles from NASA and were thrilled to see that at least one of the tiles had not only made it into space, but was flown on the Space Shuttle Challenger! The front of the tile is stenciled with the serial number; VO70-191025-256 008512 indicates Vehicle Orbiter (VO70, produced by Rockwell) Lower wings (191). The second part of "025" gives the exact spot it was located in. The tiles are remarkably light as they are composed of 90% air and 10% silica. (Each tile is shrink wrapped by NASA to protect anyone who handles them.)

Unflown tiles are smooth on both sides. Those that have flown show the residue of the adhesive (the red color) used to affix the tile to the shuttle. They also have the felt buffer that was affixed to reduce vibrations from the ship's hull that would otherwise cause the tiles to fall off. Finally, they were stamped with the Orbiter's number - in this case, OV-099, the number assigned to Challenger. The tiles were meant to last up to 100 flights, but were checked after each mission and replaced as needed



## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **May:**

- **Saturday, May 4, 2019, 11:00AM:** Museum board meeting.
- **Saturday, May 4, 2019, 1:00PM:** Sons of Union Veterans William T. Sherman Camp #93 meeting.
- **Monday, May 13, 2019, 9:00AM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.
- **Monday, May 13, 2019, 1:00PM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.
- **Monday, May 13, 2019, 7:00PM:** 4 Freedom Equestrian Team meeting.
- **Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 9:00AM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.
- **Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 1:00PM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.
- **Wednesday May 22, 2019, 9:00AM:** Memorial Day Roll Call ceremony at Wright-Patterson AFB.
- **Wednesday, May 22, 2019, 10:30AM:** Birthday visit to Kennedy Way.

- **Saturday and Sunday, May 25-26, 2019, 9:00AM – 5:00PM:** 15th Annual Patriot Freedom Festival.
- **Monday, May 27, 2019, 9:00AM - 5:00PM:** Memorial Day (observed) Open House.
- **Monday, May 27, 2019, 3:00PM:** Memorial Day service at Victory Oak Knoll.
- **Thursday, May 30, 2019:** Memorial Day (actual).

**June:**

- **Saturday, June 1, 2019, 11:00AM:** Museum board meeting.
- **Friday, June 7, 2019, 1:00PM:** Greenfield Exempted Schools tour.
- **Tuesday, June 11, 2019, 7:00PM:** Sons of Union Veterans William T. Sherman Camp #93 meeting.
- **Friday, June 14, 2019:** Flag Day.
- **Monday, June 17, 2019, 9:00AM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.
- **Monday, June 17, 2019, 1:00PM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.
- **Tuesday, June 18, 2019, 9:00AM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.
- **Tuesday, June 18, 2019, 1:00PM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.
- **Saturday and Sunday, June 22-23, 2019, 9:00AM – 6:00PM:** Museum booth at the Vectren Dayton Air Show.
- **Wednesday, June 26, 2019, 10:30AM:** Birthday visit to Kennedy Way.

**Free  
Admission**



**15th Annual**



**Free  
Parking**



**HONORING OUR MILITARY HERITAGE**

**May 25-26, 2019, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm**

**Dayton VA Medical Center Campus, US Route 35, West of I-75**

**Hosted by: The American Veterans Heritage Center**

## **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](mailto: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 World War I displays/collection – including these artifacts:

German artilleryman's Picklehaube

German Mauser 98/05 bayonet *with saw teeth intact* (with or without scabbard and frog)

German Model 1916 or 1918 steel helmet with “tortoise shell” camouflage (with or without liner and chinstrap)



# 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](mailto: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: *The "Belching Buzzard" is the nickname for what unit's insignia?* The answer: The 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne (Air Assault) Division.

This quarter's question is: ***Who is the only U.S. President to be awarded the Medal of Honor?***

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.

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

**Hours of Operation: 9AM to 4PM**

**Monday through Friday  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

**Email: [curator@mvmhm.com](mailto:curator@mvmhm.com)**

**Public Affairs: Catherine I. Beers-Conrad, USAF Veteran  
937-267-7629**

**Email: [mvmhm2007@gmail.com](mailto:mvmhm2007@gmail.com)**

**Internet: [www.mvmhm.com](http://www.mvmhm.com)**



*Official Partner in the United States Vietnam War Commemoration, the United States World War One Centennial Commission, the United States Sesquicentennial Commission and a member of the Small Museums Association.*