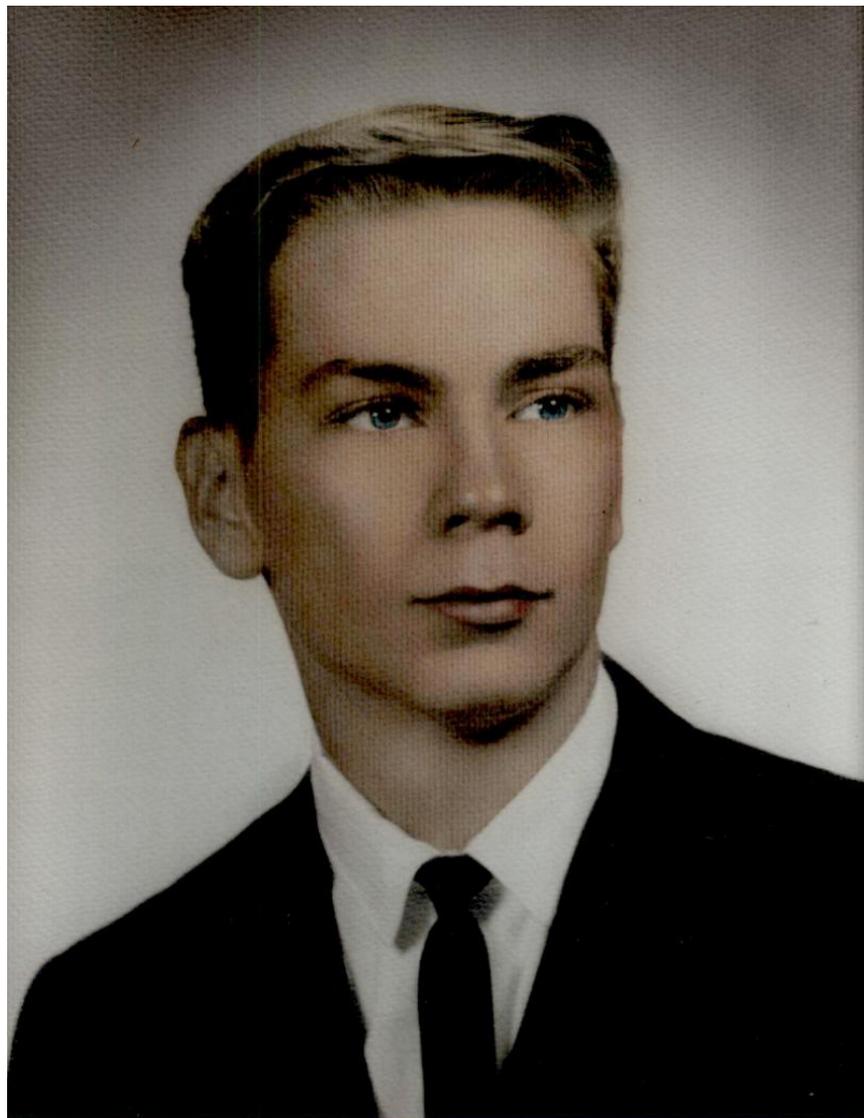


The Miami Valley
Military History Museum



SCUTTLEBUTT

Second Quarter 2013



Specialist 4th Class Joseph Guy LaPointe, Jr.



CURATOR'S CORNER

This month's newsletter cover is dedicated to a local hero, Joseph G. LaPointe, Jr., recipient of the Medal of Honor as well as several other decorations for valor. His Medal of Honor citation reads:

LA POINTE, JOSEPH G., JR.

Rank and organization: Specialist Fourth Class, U.S. Army, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division

Place and date: Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam, 2 June 1969

Entered service at: Cincinnati, Ohio

Born: 2 July 1948, Dayton, Ohio

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Sp4c. LaPointe, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, distinguished himself while serving as a medical aidman during a combat helicopter assault mission. Sp4c. LaPointe's patrol was advancing from the landing zone through an adjoining valley when it suddenly encountered heavy automatic weapons fire from a large enemy force entrenched in well fortified bunker positions. In the initial hail of fire, 2 soldiers in the formation vanguard were seriously wounded. Hearing a call for aid from 1 of the wounded, Sp4c. LaPointe ran forward through heavy fire to assist his fallen comrades. To reach the wounded men, he was forced to crawl directly in view of an enemy bunker. As members of his unit attempted to provide covering fire, he administered first aid to 1 man, shielding the other with his body. He was hit by a burst of fire from the bunker while attending the wounded soldier. In spite of his painful wounds, Sp4c. LaPointe continued his lifesaving duties until he was again wounded and knocked to the ground. Making strenuous efforts, he moved back again into a shielding position to continue administering first aid. An exploding enemy grenade mortally wounded all 3 men. Sp4c. LaPointe's courageous actions at the cost of his life were an inspiration to his comrades. His gallantry and selflessness are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

The newsletter now has a name - "Scuttlebutt". In the days of sailing ships, a scuttlebutt stored water aboard the ship, and sailors exchanged gossip when gathering around the scuttlebutt for a drink of water - what we would consider the water cooler of the office now. Today the term is still in use in the military – the "scuttlebutt" is the latest news or gossip.

This has been another successful quarter for for us! In addition to several artifact donations, we've been able to extend our community outreach, and enjoyed another great Patriot Freedom Festival over Memorial Day weekend – next year will be our 10th !

As this quarter draws to a close, we look forward to celebrating the 237th birthday of our great Nation. Sure, we've got our problems, but the United States is still "the best thing going"! We encourage everyone to pause on July 4th and remember President Reagan's words:

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

In all the conflicts since 1776, our freedom has been paid for with the lives of 2,717,991 men and women - 38,159 of them remain unaccounted for.

They deserve to be remembered.

Respectfully,

Mark Conrad, MSgt, USAF, RET
Curator



DONATIONS QUARTERLY WRAP UP:

- We've been working with one of the last members of American Legion Post 5 to transfer their Post artifacts to the museum as they finish the process of closing. It's sad to see such a historic Post coming to an end (they were chartered in 1922 and were one of the leading Posts in supporting veterans in and around Dayton), but they've proven to be a treasure trove of history – not just in military artifacts, but also as a repository of news articles (and photographs) about the Soldiers Home and later the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.



- We received a grouping of items from the family of Sergeant Iwan John Kostynick. Iwan John Kostynick was inducted into the Army on July 8th, 1942, and after training at Fort McClellan and Camp Sibert, was assigned to the 80th Chemical Smoke Generating Company. His unit embarked for Greenock, Scotland on December 6th 1943, arriving on the 15th. During the Normandy invasion his unit smoke-obscured the English Channel off Utah Beach to prevent German air attacks. In December 1944, he took part in the Battle of the Bulge. In March 1945, he took part in the Rhine river crossings. In April 1945, he helped set up RAMP (Repatriated Allied Military Personnel) camps in Wetzlar and Erfurt, Germany.

- Frank Ruby is a local Pearl Harbor Survivor; during the Patriot Freedom Festival as we looked at some of the artifacts in the Pearl Harbor case, I mentioned I'd always wanted one of the Hawaiian shirts the PHS wear. Frank stopped by the next day with one of his shirts to donate.

- We've been in contact with the family of Private First Class Stephen Popolis, a veteran of Company M, 318th Infantry Regiment, 80th Infantry (Blue Ridge) Division in World War II, since last November to transfer a sizable collection of war trophies. Two of his sons drove from Pennsylvania (a 6 hour drive one way for them) in April to bring the items. This grouping included several German daggers, two German rifles, a Japanese rifle, and an Italian Beretta pistol. We appreciate their generosity in donating such an extensive grouping to us!

- The family of Sergeant Iwan John Kostynick donated a portion of his war souvenirs this month, which included a nice selection of WWII German Army insignia, and a scarce pennant from a factory that was heavily involved in the use of concentration camp slave labor – a valuable addition to our Holocaust display.

- Lynda Dickerson and her daughter Darian donated a Tour Jacket worn by a member of the 1/228th Aviation Regiment who served in Operation JUST CAUSE and a few months later, in Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM.

- Mrs. Elaine Newman donated her father's WWII Army Air Force uniform, along with several newspapers and his steel covered pocket bible. She also donated a Pay Master's desk thought to date from the Civil War or Indian Wars – a scarce artifact to be sure!



- Corporal Kelly Hopkins and his wife drove up from Wilmington to donate his Battle Dress Uniform, rucksack, and stretcher he had to use as a cot during Operation DESERT STORM when no sleeping bags were available. He also donated a number of manuals and a still-working battery operated minefield marker. Corporal Hopkins served in the 7th Infantry Division "Light" at Fort Ord, California. There he assisted in the deployment of the 7th Infantry Division in Operation JUST CAUSE (Panama) in 1989. In 1990 he deployed to the first Gulf War, attached to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). In 1992 while attached to the 7th Infantry Division he was deployed to southern California in Operation GARDEN PLOT (Los Angeles riot).



DONATIONS QUARTERLY WRAP UP (Continued):

- One of our festival volunteers (Staff Sergeant) Thomas "Fish" Fisher donated one of his uniforms from when he was a Sergeant in the Air Force.

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 our great nation. *(an asterisk indicates multiple donations):*



Gayle Reed (Ohio)	* Anonymous Donor (Ohio)
* Tom Royse (Ohio)	* American Legion Post 5 (Ohio)
Robert Smith (Ohio)	Frank Ruby (Ohio)
Charlie Farr (Virginia)	Thomas Fisher (Ohio)
Refugia Bowen (Ohio)	Value City Furniture (Ohio)
John Kostynick (New York)	Alix Kettlewell (Ohio)

Michelle Olden, Colonel, USANC (Ret) (Utah)
Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site (New York)
Jaclynn Shook, in memory of PFC Manson G. "Jack" Shook (Ohio)
The Popolis family, in memory of PFC Stephen E. Popolis (Pennsylvania)

FEATURED ARTIFACT(S): Captured Iraqi flag

This double-sided Iraqi flag was captured in the opening phases of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM in April 2003 by Staff Sergeant Chris Hopkins. SSg Hopkins served as a weapons squad leader in A Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). He sent the flag to his brother and related that his unit provided covering fire for him and another soldier to flank a T-72 until they could climb on the back and drop grenades into the hatches. Approximately 3 X4 feet in size, it was likely flown from the tank's radio antenna. *(Donated by Kelly Hopkins)*



SERVICES WE PROVIDE:

We now offer an on-line Veterans Roll of Honor, which can be found at: <http://www.mvmhm.com/vroh.htm>

To submit a veteran for the Roll of Honor, 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.

During the past quarter, we've helped more than a dozen veterans or their families request their records and/or replacement medal sets – all at no cost!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Saturday, July 20, 2013: Group tour for the Southern Chapter of the Antique Automobile Club of America.
- Tuesday, September 3, 2013, 10:00AM: Presentation for the Ohio State University Master Gardeners.
- Tuesday, October 22, 2013, 7:00PM: Presentation for the Beavercreek Historical Society at Peace Lutheran Church on Dayton-Xenia Road.
- Monday, November 11, 2013, 9:00AM to 4:00PM: Open house in conjunction with the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center Veterans Day observance.
- Wednesday, December 4, 2013, 7:30PM: Presentation for the Richard Montgomery Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution at the Dayton Masonic Temple.

2014 Events:

- Spring: Presentation at the Lincoln Society of Dayton.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Purple Heart Ceremony:

On May 25th and 26th we held the 9th annual Patriot Freedom Festival in the Historic District of the Dayton Veterans affairs Medical Center. Visitors were able to enjoy military reenactors and other historical figures, family and children's activities, and plenty of free entertainment. One of the highlights of the weekend was a special presentation we arranged for the Mrs. Mary Thurman, sister of Steward Third Class Clarence "Bud" Flannagan. St3 Flannagan was killed in action while serving aboard the USS Celeno (AK-76), a Crater-class cargo ship in WWII; on 16 June 1943, USS Celeno was attacked by a swarm of Japanese bombers. As the freighter's anti-aircraft guns began to fire, the dive bombers scored three near misses, then hit Celeno's stern, putting her 5 inch gun out of operation. Her men stood to the remaining guns, and aided in downing at least three enemy planes and damaging several others. A second direct hit set two of Celeno's holds on fire, and another near miss sent her deck cargo of diesel oil and gasoline flaming. With her rudder jammed from the first hit, Celeno circled, as her crew fought to save her. Skillful damage control and seamanship beached her safely on Lunga Point, and when the air attack had been fought off, Celeno was towed for repairs at Port Purvis. Fifteen of her crew were killed and 19 wounded in the attack – including St3 Flannagan. I'd originally met Mrs. Thurman through her son and daughter, and discovered that they had never received his medals, an interment flag, or a memorial grave marker. I worked with her children to request the medals, ordered a memorial grave marker, and obtained Presidential Memorial Certificates for the whole family. The Navy advised it might take up to a year to get his medals shipped due to the high volume of requests they receive. Mary is 96 years old, and waiting a year was unacceptable. We had extras of all the medals we needed, as well as an original 48 star burial flag.



Purple Heart Ceremony: (continued)

Mary's children brought her to the VA without telling her why - she was moved to tears when she learned that she was going to receive the medals and flag on behalf of her brother, and that now he will have a marker in the same cemetery as her husband.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War William T. Sherman Camp 93, the reenactors of the 101st Airborne Division, and members of the 4 Freedom Equestrian Team provided Honor Guards for the ceremony, and we had a good crowd on hand to recognize Petty Officer Flannagan's service and sacrifice.



Mrs. Thurman when she learned she was finally going to get her brother's awards.



The Thurman family after receiving P.O. Flannagan's medals and flag.

On June 6th, we gave a presentation at the 47th annual conference of the Council on America's Military Past (CAMP) at the Holiday Inn in Fairborn, after which they came out to the museum for a tour of the campus.

The Council on America's Military Past, USA, Inc. (CAMP) is one of the leading national military history organizations dedicated to preserving, interpreting and sharing our military heritage - their purpose is to identify, memorialize, preserve and publicize America's military history including the structures and facilities used by our soldiers, the living conditions, customs and traditions of our men and women in uniform, and the progress and purpose of United States military organizations.

They search out and study all phases of our country's military past, from the stockade forts of early New England to the adobe presidios of the southwest, and from the temporary camps and battlefields of our colonial militia to the sophisticated coastal fortifications of the twentieth century. Their interest and projects included study and preservation of military posts, ships, aircraft and missile systems as well as the role of the military in the founding and protection of the nation, from the first European explorers to the Cold War conflicts and our modern military establishment. In addition, they also publish records of military personnel, sites and events that are, or have been significant to the defense of the United States as well as disseminate information pertaining to military history preservation activities.



How YOU can 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, and our World War II veterans are dying at the rate of approximately 1,000 a day. Unfortunately, many times when a veteran dies all of his or her history dies with them, and the mementos they kept end up in yard sales, or worse, the garbage. We've witnessed this first hand: We were able to acquire a WWII Army Captains' footlocker with some of his souvenirs and other paperwork from his service time, along with literally hundreds of V-mails sent between him and his family. The entire lot was going to be thrown away after his widow moved into a nursing home. On another occasion, a neighbor gave us several hundred photographs and some insignia that had belonged to her neighbor's father. Again, they were going to be thrown out because no one wanted "that junk". Another time, a group of documents from a man killed in action during the Battle of the Bulge were being sold off piece by piece. Fortunately, we were able to convince the seller not to break up the group so that we could keep it together. Our veterans' history deserves a better fate than the trash heap or the auction block!

Your donation will ensure the museum's continued growth, preservation of our veteran's memories, and support exhibiting traveling displays. For many younger people, even conflicts as recent as Vietnam seem just to be "old war movies". We want to bring to life the stories of those people who served in America's wars and provide a tangible link to our veterans. All donors will be credited on the museum's web site.

What types of things can you donate? We're always seeking new and unique items to add to the museum or for use in traveling displays and educational trunks. We're also trying to expand the amount of coverage for each of the conflicts represented, to include the addition of the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. We always need items such as uniforms, insignias, medals, photographs, newspapers, captured trophies, etc. - anything that will help tell our veteran's stories, especially those from Ohio. Nothing is too small or insignificant. We can also use items that you may feel are too damaged or worn out, to restore other pieces.

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.



THIS QUARTER IN MILITARY HISTORY: (continued)

June 23, 1915: First Battle of Isonzo.

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

TRIVIA

Last quarter's trivia question was:

What is the codename for the General Dynamics F-111? The codename for the F-111 is the "Aardvark".

This quarter's question is:

"General of the Armies of the United States" is a rank commonly considered to be the equivalent of a 6-star General. Only two individuals have ever been awarded this title; His Excellency General Washington is one – who is the other recipient??

The Miami Valley Military History Museum is co-located with the American Veterans Heritage Center (a 501c3 organization), 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.

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