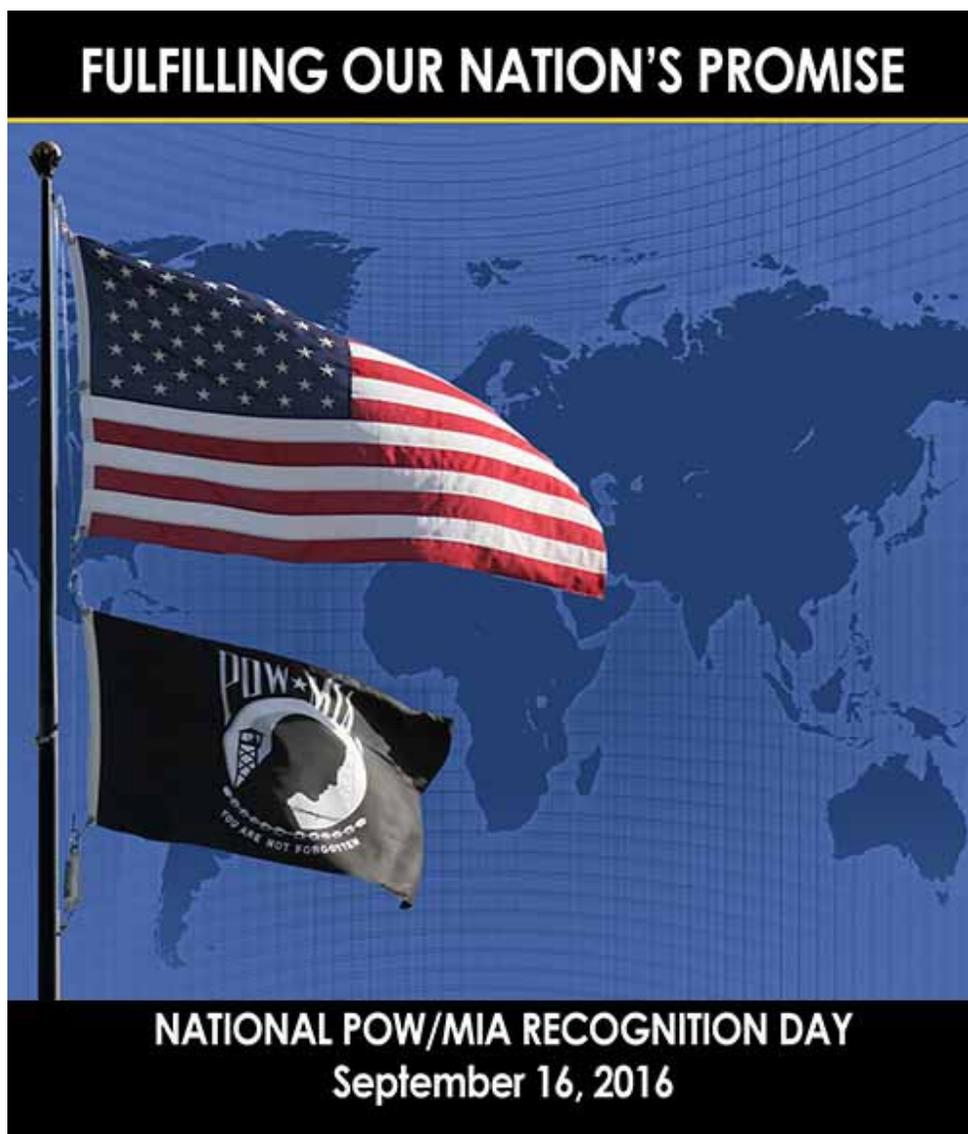


Miami Valley  
Military History Museum



# SCUTTLEBUTT

Second Quarter 2016



## **CURATOR'S CORNER**

The second quarter of 2016 has been a flurry of activity for the Museum! We enjoyed another successful Patriot Freedom Festival over Memorial Day weekend, and our outreach activities keep growing – we have nearly 60 events on this year's schedule with more coming.

In early May, we did some major rearranging which we dubbed "Operation BIG SWITCH." When the display cases were first moved in we had the artifacts displayed from conflict to conflict in a Figure-8, which seemed like a good idea at the time. Based on input from some of our visitors, we decided to reconfigure the displays to form a large loop. This allowed us to swap out some uniforms and eliminate some bottleneck spots near the back doors. Thanks go to Brent Davidson for pitching in to make this happen. Thanks, Brent!

We're pleased to welcome two new staff members – Kim and Alex Villalva! Kim is now our Education Specialist, while Alex is our Vietnam Historian.



### ***The Villalvas' "Firebase TEXAS" display at Military Appreciation Day at Grimes Field in Urbana, Ohio***

Kim is a wife, mom and an active volunteer in the community. She has a Master's Degree in Organizational Communication with an emphasis in Training & Development from Southwest Texas State University and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Organizational Communication from Kent State University. She has worked as a corporate trainer for a variety of organizations including nonprofit, the US Army, Fortune 200 companies, universities and schools. Kim is an avid writer who often finds inspiration in Veterans' stories and experiences. She has a passion for helping people and enjoys helping to preserve our Veterans' memories, stories and sacrifices. She loves that she, her husband, Alex, and their two sons, have so many opportunities to support Veterans through a variety of activities and events.

Alex is a proud native of Austin, Texas. He is a longtime and highly experienced Military Historian specializing in the study of the Vietnam War. Focused study of this conflict began as a teen in the early 1980s, which eventually led to his current work as a forensic Military Equipment Analyst and Historian. His specialized skills are great assets to the Department of Defense Laboratory tasked with the noble mission to find, recover, and identify U.S. Military personnel who remain unaccounted for from past conflicts. Alex has authored articles on U.S. Military equipment used in Vietnam and is currently writing a major book project on the U.S. Air Force in Vietnam. Alex is a Veteran of 25 years service in the Army and as a Senior Non-commissioned Officer, he has served the majority of his

distinguished career as a military trainer and instructor, serving as a Drill Sergeant, Drill Sergeant Leader, and currently as a University Adjunct Faculty instructor in the University of Dayton's Army Reserve Officer Training Corps Department.

We're expanding our Vietnam displays and outreach programs that will put Kim and Alex's unique talents to good use! Welcome aboard guys!

While the Museum continues to receive artifacts from around the country nearly every week, we still have people locally who haven't heard about us yet. YOU can help us rectify that by forwarding this newsletter to people who have an interest in military history, and "Like" us on Facebook and invite your family and friends to do the same!

We appreciate your continued support and we look forward to seeing you in the months ahead!

Respectfully,

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

***From Public Affairs:***

The second quarter proved to be busier than the first! We continue to present our flag star "Thank You"s...more than 2,000 to date. We've been equally successful ensuring that our Vietnam Veterans get their Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration lapel pins. We've presented well over 1,000 pins to Veterans and their family members and we're getting more requests for formal pinning ceremonies. It's a great privilege and honor to welcome home the men and women who served in the Vietnam era, 1955 - 1975.

After the March 30<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Welcome Home and Pinning Ceremony I was contacted by Dennis Kearns from the Veterans Social Command (VSC) in Middletown, Ohio. He'd been unable to attend the ceremony and asked if he could get one of the lapel pins; that one meeting has blossomed into a wonderful friendship between us and the VSC Veterans. They started with six Veterans who banded together to help each other obtain their benefits and to enjoy each others comradeship. Today they have nearly 140 members and continue to grow. We encourage you to attend one of their meetings and see the good work they're doing to support their fellow Vets. They meet each Thursday at Mercy Point Church at 3011 Rufus Street in Middletown from 2PM to 4PM. ALL Veterans are welcome!



***Visiting with the Veterans Social Command***

In April we were contacted by Congressman Mike Turner's staff asking if we could support a "Make A Wish" request from a family in South Carolina who asked to visit the Air Force Museum and US. We eagerly responded "YES!"

We closed the museum to spend the day with the Cannon family. We started the morning with a presentation on the history of the Soldier's Home followed by a visit with our WWII WASP friend Jean. After having lunch, they toured the museum and took a LOT of pictures, and then Ryan, his Mom, and brother Thomas got a ride in a WWII 1942 Studebaker truck courtesy of the "Wright Stuff Squadron" while Dad took lots of pictures. Ryan had a lot of questions for Ken and then we toured the historic Protestant Chapel.



With our new friend Ryan

Ryan and Thomas are both history buffs, so we presented them with some artifacts (including an original space shuttle Enterprise patch) and vials of sand from UTAH Beach, RED Beach (where MacArthur came ashore in the Philippines), and one from Iwo Jima. Mom and Dad also received some gifts and we wrapped up the day by giving Ryan and Thomas some books they can use for building military aircraft models. Both boys were such a pleasure to meet and "talk history" with! Mark and I were blessed for this opportunity, and many thanks to the family for picking us to visit! Special thanks also to Ken Hoelscher and the Nunn family for bringing "Phantom", Brent Davidson for coming as Chaplain Earnshaw and Jean for sharing her WWII experiences - thanks everyone!

Just before Memorial Day, we were interviewed by a reporter from the *Dayton Daily News*. His story on the artifacts and history we have here included interviews with several Veterans who've donated items for display. He was particularly impressed that nearly every artifact displayed has a photo of the person who used it and their personal history. As many of our visitors have told us, our Museum is one of the most "personal" museums they've ever been too. We were thrilled to discover we were the front page story for the Memorial Day edition!



In April, Medal of Honor recipient Melvin Morris was on campus; unfortunately, Mark and I were unable to be here at the same time, so Volunteer Jake Daley presented him with a certificate, Vietnam War Veteran lapel pin and other commemoratives on our behalf. SFC Morris was awarded the Medal of Honor 40 years after the action. He was originally denied the award because of his race. Thankfully that injustice was corrected in 2014. Here's his Medal of Honor citation:

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 Medal of Honor to:

MELVIN MORRIS  
United States Army

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Staff Sergeant Melvin Morris distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as Commander of a Strike Force drawn from Company D, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, during combat operations against an armed enemy in the vicinity of Chi Lang, Republic of Vietnam on September 17, 1969.

On that afternoon, Staff Sergeant Morris' affiliated companies encountered an extensive enemy mine field and were subsequently engaged by a hostile force. Staff Sergeant Morris learned by radio that a fellow team commander had been killed near an enemy bunker and he immediately reorganized his men into an effective assault posture before advancing forward and splitting off with two men to recover the team commander's body. Observing the maneuver, the hostile force concentrated its fire on Staff Sergeant Morris' three-man element and successfully wounded both men accompanying him. After assisting the two wounded men back to his forces' lines, Staff Sergeant Morris charged forward into withering enemy fire with only his men's suppressive fire as cover. While enemy machine gun emplacements continuously directed strafing fusillades against him, Staff Sergeant Morris destroyed the positions with hand grenades and continued his assault, ultimately eliminating four bunkers. Upon reaching the bunker nearest the fallen team commander, Staff Sergeant Morris repulsed the enemy, retrieved his comrade and began the arduous trek back to friendly lines. He was wounded three times as he struggled forward, but ultimately succeeded in returning his fallen comrade to a friendly position.

Staff Sergeant Morris' extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



## The Miami Valley Military History Museum

### Certificate of Appreciation

To all who shall see these presents, greeting:

This certificate is awarded to

Sergeant First Class  
**Melvin Morris**  
United States Army

in honor of his service to our great Nation in Vietnam  
and for his continued dedication, commitment, and support to the ideals  
of patriotism this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year 2016

  
Catherine I. Beers, USAF Veteran  
Public Affairs



  
Mark Conrad, MSgt, USAF (Ret)  
Curator

Word is getting around about our Vietnam 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration activities and we're planning formal pinning ceremonies for later in the year. Our main method of getting the lapel pins to our Vietnam Veterans and their families is through our "Get To Know Us" Campaign tables in the lobby of the VA Medical Center. We've gone from handing out less than 50 pins to a one day high over 200! Check our schedule of events later in this newsletter or on our website for upcoming dates and feel free to stop by the table and introduce yourself!

We were happy to have two summer student volunteers assigned to us. Brianna and Mackenzie are high school students who performed very valuable service for the Museum by inventorying the books in our reading room,

assembling flag star "Thank You" cards, and helping prepare our Vietnam 50th Commemoration folders. We're grateful for their hard work in helping us fulfilling our mission of supporting our Veterans!

Some time ago we obtained two large planters that had previously sat unused at the former Veterans of Foreign Wars Hospitality House. In the latter half of May it was finally warm enough to plant. My sister Tracie gave a big "Yes!" when I asked her to do the planting – she's happiest when she's planting flowers. Our pots, on either side of the front of the building are growing fuller and prettier every day. Thanks Trac!

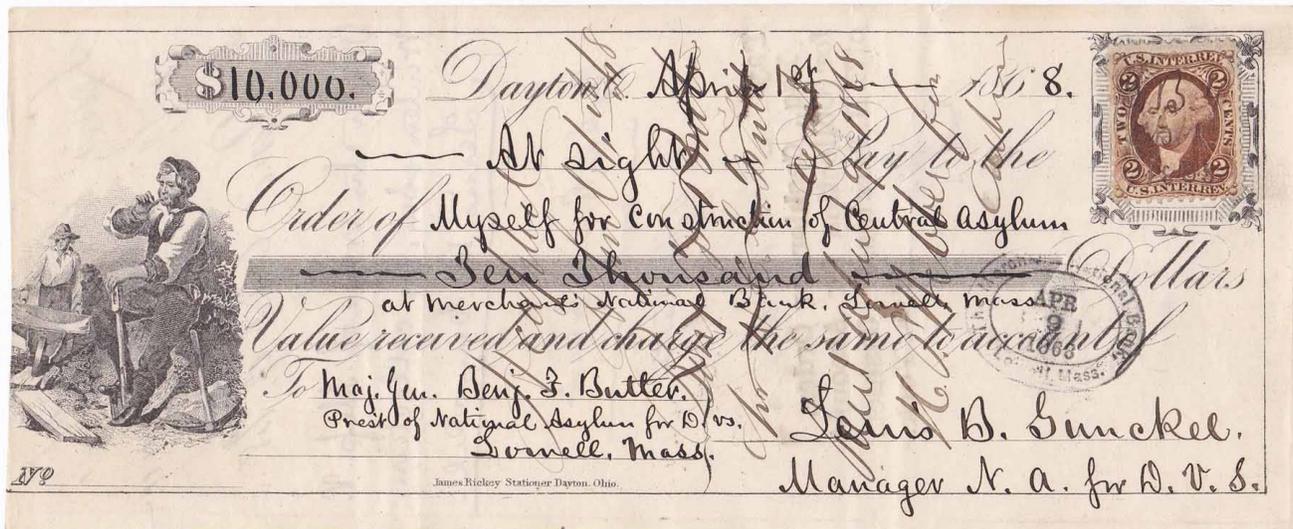


I'm happy to report that as of June 29<sup>th</sup>, we've had 1,800 visitors sign our guest book! Our total for *all* of 2015 was 1,756 signatures (and that was more than double the 2014 total of 774). We're excited about the prospects for the last six months of the year and look forward to seeing you!

Respectfully,

**Catherine I. Beers, USAF Veteran**  
**Public Affairs Officer**

**DONATIONS QUARTERLY WRAP UP:**



This quarter an exciting piece of Soldiers Home memorabilia was donated - a check for \$10,000 written by Lewis Gunkel to Major General Benjamin Butler for the construction of the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers – today's Dayton VA Medical Center. Thanks for adding to our Soldiers Home collection, Ronald!

One of the neat things about military history is that you never know what kind of surprise awaits you when researching artifacts. We received the Mexican Border Expedition medals of Ernest Hase, but one of the photos shows him in a Navy uniform. He WAS in the Navy – the GERMAN Navy! He served in the Reichsmarine before immigrating to the United States.

After arriving here, he enlisted in the 8th New York Artillery Regiment in 1913 and served on the Texas border at El Paso. He was discharged in 1917 due to a disability, and was naturalized in 1920. What a neat story that really brings his medals to life – thanks Susan!





Jean, a WWII WASP, donated several items to the museum including this three foot by three foot stained glass picture of WWI planes dog fighting. We hope to mount it in one of our windows - it's really eye catching! Thanks Jean!

We added another weapon (of sorts) to our rapidly growing collection - a full scale replica of the M1918A2 Browning Automatic Rifle. It's full scale and weighs 20 pounds - the same as the original.



Although the weapon did see some action in World War I, the BAR did not become standard issue in the U.S. Army until 1938, when it was issued to squads as a portable light machine gun. The BAR saw extensive service in both World War II and the Korean War and saw limited service in the Vietnam War.

Thanks, Martin!

Larry Trusty brought in a photo of what he and the men in his unit believe was the first Vietnam War Memorial, which they built and erected on a mountain top in Vietnam on 28 October 1968 as a tribute to the casualties in their unit. He also brought in a military magazine that tells the whole story behind it. Thanks for sharing this with us Larry!



**FEATURED ARTIFACT(S): 332<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment uniform**



**Rare 332<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment uniform and greatcoat; note the Italian made insignia unique to the 332<sup>nd</sup>.**

Last January Catherine stopped a Vietnam Veteran in the cafeteria to give him a Vietnam War Veteran lapel pin. The same Vet donated not only his uniform, but also his father's (WWII) and his Grandfather's (WWI). His Grandfather, Private First Class Roy Clay Toothman, served in the Second Platoon of Company D in the 332<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment. The unit was comprised mostly of men from Ohio and attached to the 83rd Infantry Division. It was the only American unit to see combat in Italy and artifacts from the 332<sup>nd</sup> are very rare - thanks Roger!

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of people interested in preserving our military heritage, we've begun building displays on the second floor. We've received so many fantastic artifacts this quarter that listing all of them would turn this 14 page newsletter into a 24 page newsletter (*an asterisk indicates multiple donations*):

Janice Jacobs (Ohio)	Marc Snow (Ohio)	*Vince Dec (Ohio)	Jim Ludy (Ohio)
Robert Shawen (Ohio)	*Lynn McKinley (Ohio)	Mark Rindler (Ohio)	Erik Genalo (New York)
Robert Harley (Oregon)	*Larry Trusty (Ohio)	*Rich Snyder (Ohio)	*Jean McCreery (Ohio)
Larry Lewis (Ohio)	Greg Narker (Ohio)	Roger Tackett (Ohio)	Dennis Kearns (Ohio)
The Nunn Family (Ohio)	*Paul Healey (Ohio)	Susan Ghearing (Ohio)	Joyce Evans (Ohio)
Roger Toothman (Ohio)	*Gary Amann (Ohio)	Charles Bauer (Ohio)	Mary Ann Foote (California)
Tracie Hoker (Ohio)	C. Richard Miller (Ohio)	William E. Arthur (Ohio)	

Cathy and Donald Gheen (Ohio) The Cannon Family (South Carolina) \*Veterans Social Command (Ohio)  
Riverside Historical Society (Ohio)

...and many anonymous donors.

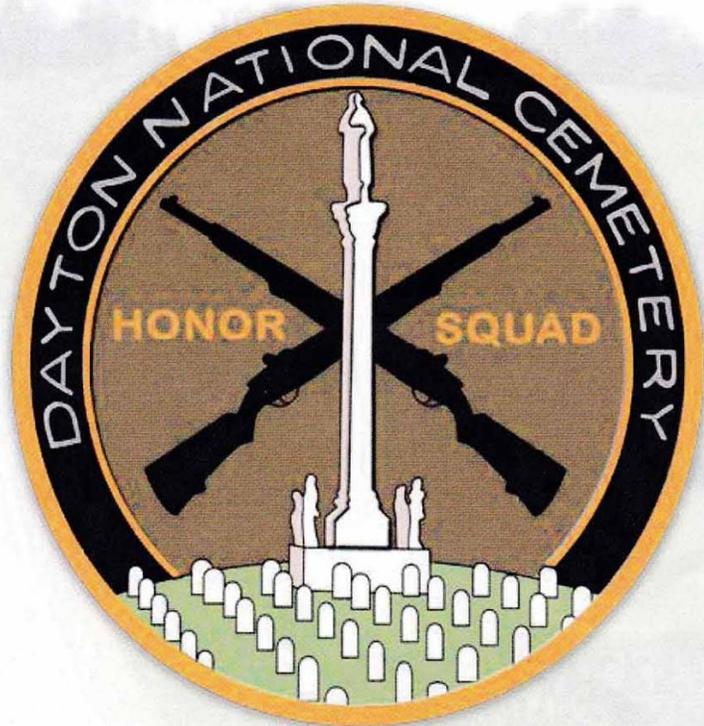


# Motorcycle Ride For The Veterans

To Benefit:

## August 20th, 2016

Rain Date August 27th



**\$20** for Rider  
**\$5** Passenger

\* **RAFFLE**

\* **LAW ENFORCEMENT  
ESCORT**

**Start to End!**

**Kickstands Up: 11:30 AM**

**Registration Opens: 9:30 AM**

**Starts At:**

**Buckminn's D&D  
Xenia, Ohio**

**Rest Stop:**

**Miami Valley Military  
History Museum**

**Ends:**

**Kettering V.F.W.  
Post# 9927**

*V.F.W. Will be serving food*



## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- **Monday, July 4, 2016, 9:00AM - 5:00PM:** Independence Day open house.
- **Saturday, July 9, 2016, 1:00PM:** Sons of Union Veterans William T. Sherman Camp #93 quarterly meeting.
- **Saturday, July 16, 2016, 10:30AM:** Gold Star Families service and memorial dedication, VFW Post 3438 West Carrollton.
- **Wednesday, July 13, 2016, 9:00AM:** Museum "Get To Know Us" Campaign table at the VA Medical Center lobby.
- **Thursday, July 14, 2016, 2:00PM:** Vietnam Veteran Pinning ceremony at Veterans social Command in Middletown.
- **Saturday, July 16, 2016, 10:30AM:** Gold Star Families memorial and dedication at VFW Post 3438 in West Carrollton.
- **Tuesday, July 19, 2016, 10:00AM:** STAR Touring & Riding Association annual "Vet Ride".
- **Wednesday, July 27, 2016, 1:00PM:** Tour for the VA Summer Volunteers.
- **Friday, July 29, 2016, 11:00AM:** MVTTC Nursing Students Visit.
- **Tuesday, August 2, 2016, 6:30PM:** National Night Out at the Dayton VA.
- **Wednesday, August 3, 2016, 9:00AM:** Museum "Get To Know Us" Campaign table at the VA Medical Center lobby.
- **Monday, August 8, 2016, 1:00PM:** Operation FOOTLOCKER presentation for the Vandalia Senior Center.
- **Monday, August 15, 2016, 11:30AM:** Tour for the students and staff of EchoingU.
- **Tuesday August 16, 2016, 9:00AM:** Museum "Get To Know Us" Campaign table at the VA Medical Center Diversity Day.
- **Wednesday, August 17, 2016, 10:00AM:** Tour for the Green County Board of DD.
- **Saturday, August 20, 2016, 11:00AM:** "Motorcycle Ride for the Veterans" to benefit the Dayton National Cemetery Honor Squad.
- **Wednesday, September 7, 2016, 9:00AM:** Museum "Get To Know Us" Campaign table at the VA Medical Center lobby.
- **Saturday, September 10, 2016, 1:00PM:** Sons of Union Veterans William T. Sherman Camp #93 quarterly meeting.
- **Sunday, September 11, 2016:** Patriot Day.
- **Tuesday, September 13, 2016, 6:00PM:** Presentation and tour for the Delta Kappa teacher's sorority.
- **Saturday, September 17, 2016, 11:00AM:** Presentation and Pinning Ceremony for Disabled American Veterans District Two.
- **Sunday, September 18, 2016:** National POW/MIA Day.
- **Monday, September 26, 2016, 7:00PM:** Presentation for the Kenton County Genealogical Society in Kenton, KY.

## **FREE SERVICES WE PROVIDE:**

- Speakers Bureau
- 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, email their full name, rank, branch of service, service history and awards and decorations (these are optional), to Mark Conrad at [curator@mvmhm.com](mailto:curator@mvmhm.com). You can 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 – if you have any of these items, please consider donating them!

**Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican-American War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, Mexican Border Expedition:** *Anything!*

**World War I:** U.S. Air Service uniforms; U.S. Navy uniforms, any style; Model 1911 .45 pistol; Model 1903 Springfield rifle and parts; Model 1917 Enfield rifle and parts; Model 1914 Hotchkiss Machine Gun ammunition box; U.S. trench boots; German or Austrian uniform tunic; German "Kratchen" soft hat with insignia; German enlisted or officer's picklehaube ("Spike helmet", Infantry or Artillery); German, Austrian, or Hungarian medals and insignia; German Model 98n/a ("Butcher") saw back bayonet with teeth intact; German Mauser Model 98 rifle; German P08 "Luger" pistol; German steel helmets; Imperial German or Prussian flags

**World War II:** German uniforms and headgear; German medals and insignia; German M24 stick grenade (inert only); German P08 (Luger) pistol; German P38 pistol; Italian uniforms and headgear of any type; Italian medals and insignia; Italian Carcano rifle; Italian Berretta pistol; Japanese uniforms and headgear; Japanese Imperial Navy helmet; Japanese "last ditch" bayonet and scabbard; Japanese medals and insignia; Japanese "Rising Sun" (rayed) flag; Japanese Nambu or Type 94 pistols; Japanese swords; US Marine herringbone twill uniform; US Marine M1 helmet with cover; Army Air Forces A14 oxygen mask; Army Air Forces leather flight gear; Any Pearl Harbor Purple Heart; US field gear; US medals and insignia; M-1 carbine; M-1 Garand; Model 1911 .45 pistol; 100 pound practice bombs.

## **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).

***Nothing is too small or insignificant!***

## **THIS QUARTER IN MILITARY HISTORY:**

July 1, 1863: Battle of Gettysburg begins.

July 1, 1971: Viet Cong proposed the return of all American and Allied prisoners held in North and South Vietnam by the end of 1971 if all US troops were withdrawn within that same period.

July 3, 1898: The Spanish fleet is destroyed off Santiago, Cuba.

July 9, 1943: Allied forces land in Sicily.

July 15, 1918: Second Battle of the Marne.

July 16, 1779: Battle of Stoney Point.

July 18, 1950: US Cavalry lands at Pohangdong

July 22, 2003: Uday and Qusay Hussein are killed by American forces.

August 1, 1914: Germany, an ally of Austria-Hungary, declares war on Russia and demands the neutrality of Russia's ally France, beginning World War I.

August 2, 1990: Iraq invades Kuwait.

August 2, 1964: US Navy destroyers "Maddox" and "C. Turner Joy" are reported attacked by North Vietnamese torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin

August 4, 1950: Pusan perimeter established in southeastern Korea.

August 7, 1942: US forces begin landing on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.

August 16, 1780: Battle of Camden, South Carolina.

August 17, 1961: East Germany begins construction of the Berlin Wall.

August 29, 1862: Second Battle of Bull Run.

September 1, 1939: Germany invades Poland, starting WWII.

September 3, 1969: Ho Chi Minh dies.

September 5, 1917: Riga captured by the Germans, using new tactics based on lightning assault.

September 8, 1781: Battle of Eutaw Springs, South Carolina.

September 11, 2001: Terrorists launch attacks against the United States.

## **TRIVIA**

Last quarter's 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*”?** This is one of the many pieces of wisdom from General George S. Patton, Jr.

This quarter's question is: ***A month after Woodrow Wilson took office for his second term, the United States declared war on Germany on April 6th 1917. What was Wilson's campaign slogan for his second term?***

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

Hours of Operation: 9AM to 3PM

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.  
937-267-7628  
937-902-8001

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*Official Partner in the Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration, the Imperial War Museum World War I Centenary and a member of the Small Museums Association.*

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