

The Big Picture

Fourth Quarter 2018



CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION OF
THE END OF THE GREAT WAR
1918 – 2018

THIS GARDEN IS
DEDICATED TO THE
MEMORY OF THE
VETERANS OF
WORLD WAR I

MIAMI VALLEY MILITARY HISTORY MUSEUM
(ORIGINALLY DEDICATED IN 1984)



Curator's Corner

The last newsletter for the year is always an end of year wrap-up, and what a great year we had! We started 2018 off with a huge change in our status - we formed a governing board and were granted a 501c3 non-profit determination by the Internal Revenue Service. As we continue to expand our operations, we're always looking for opportunities for process improvement. To that end Catherine, Kim and Kendra have been attending workshops presented by Dayton SCORE - extensive, instructor-led training opportunities for small businesses and non-profit organizations.

We held two major community events commemorating the centennial of the end of World War I. On November 3rd, Alex Villalva spearheaded the ONLY public commemoration of the centennial in Southwestern Ohio, held at Victory Oak Knoll Memorial in Kettering. In addition to city officials from Dayton and Kettering we had representatives from the American Legion, AMVETS, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans. It was great to see a crowd of 80 people in attendance, and coverage by two local television stations.



WWI Centennial service

On November 11th, Mark led the ceremony in the Grotto Gardens at the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center to rededicate a plaque honoring Veterans of the Great War. Thanks to generous donors through our GoFundMe page and with personal donations, we raised over \$1,000 to purchase a new plaque – which graces the cover of this newsletter. It was no small matter that the plaque was installed on time as we were dealing with fund raising, the foundry was in hurricane-ravaged Florida, shipping time was short and ground maintenance had a very busy schedule. But somehow, everything fell into place just in time for Veterans Day. Again, we had good visitor turn out and good media coverage.

Returning to Victory Oak Knoll Memorial for a moment – we also reached a formal agreement with the City of Dayton to care for the memorial site by performing general grounds keeping, ensuring there's always a U.S. flag flying, etc. We're partnering with Boy Scout Troop 193 for some of this. The major provision of the agreement was to remove, restore, and safeguard the last remaining Model 1914 Hotchkiss machine gun. In the 1930s four of these guns were installed as part of the memorial. Roughly ten years ago, three of the machine guns and two of the tripods had been stolen or otherwise went missing and we didn't want that to happen to the last one. After four hours of digging and chipping at buried concrete (most of which Alex had the enjoyment of doing), we were able to free the gun and move it to the Museum. Kendra arranged for some free restoration work – it's now being brought back to life (although it will remain demilitarized) by 3G Tactical and Wicked Weapons.



Alex working to make the Hotchkiss a little prettier

Kendra is also working to establish an Internship program with Wright State University, and we hope to have that completed in the very near future.

In seven short years, the United States will celebrate it's 250th birthday. In anticipation of that great event, we're now an Official Partner in the United States Semiquincentennial Commission. Our hope is to partner with our local Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution Chapters to present displays and programs honoring our Patriot forefathers.

A major event that's not so far down the road is the 15th annual Patriot Freedom Festival (PFF), which will be held on May 25th and 26th – and we can always use volunteers! If you'd like to help, or are a reenactor looking for an opportunity, please contact us for more details!

As we close another successful year, here's 2018 "by the numbers:"

Number of individuals represented in our displays: ~1,000
Individual uniforms on display: 100+
Individual medals on display: 100+

Number of tours, presentations etc. provided in 2012: 19
Number of tours, presentations etc. provided in 2013: 22
Number of tours, presentations etc. provided in 2014: 46
Number of tours, presentations etc. provided in 2015: 47
Number of tours, presentations etc. provided in 2016: 70
Number of tours, presentations etc. provided in 2017: 70
Number of tours, presentations etc. provided in 2018: 110
Number of tours, presentations etc. scheduled for 2019: 126

Number of visitors registered in 2014: 774
Number of visitors registered in 2015: 1,758
Number of visitors registered in 2016: 2,750
Number of visitors registered in 2017: 3,629
Number of visitors registered in 2018: 3,599

While our visitor count "appears" to be down, it reflects the impact of inclement weather and the fact that we increased the weeks we're closed for cleaning and maintenance from 1 to 3.

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

Respectfully,

Mark Conrad, MSgt, USAF, RET
Curator

From Public Affairs:

We start each year by planning and preparing for the coming year in January; thanks to our increased staff and new partnerships with other like minded groups, we did 110 events on and off the VA Campus. Throughout the year the Museum continued to support the Comfort Cart program in the Hospice.

In February 2018 we began supporting our fellow Vets in the Dialysis Unit with monthly visits to deliver birthday goody bags, birthday cards, "Thank You for Your Service" cards, and holiday cards. We have approximately 54 Vets in Dialysis; to visit with each Vet we went two days in a row, twice each day.

In March we began supporting our fellow Vets in Kennedy Way (Memory Care located in the CLC) with a monthly birthday celebration and BINGO !!! We have so much FUN !!!

Both of these events are made possible in large part by the support we receive from Operation: CARD ANGELS as well as the Cards That Care For Vets program. Thanks to the dedicated efforts and crafting skills of these groups we always have a good supply of every kind of card imaginable.

We're still going strong with our partnership in the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration. The 29th and 30th

of March are designated Vietnam Veterans Day...in 2018 we held or participated in 10 events honoring our Vietnam Veterans in Dialysis, Rehab, Kennedy Way, Building Bridges, the CLC, in the Patient Tower, and at the USAF Museum in conjunction with Ford's Annual Oval of Honor Event. During 2018 we presented more than 600 Vietnam War Veteran Lapel Pins and 120 Surviving Spouse Pins. In April we had the pleasure of supporting a special 100th birthday celebration of a WWII vet who fought in Italy and earned the Purple Heart.

As Mark mentioned, the 15th annual Patriot Freedom Festival will be here before you know it! One of our fondest memories of last year's PFF was, having asked for volunteers, our WWI, WWII, Vietnam and what seemed like the entirety of the Civil War reenactors, accompanied by Stonewall Jackson, a Union Private and President and Mrs. Lincoln walked the halls of the Community Living Center (CLC), visiting with every Veteran patient. We'll be doing that again this year.

October has it's share of activities too; once again we invited our friends at Veterans Paranormal Services to hold a program on their Ghost Busting equipment and techniques, followed by an investigation of our 139 year-old building. This year's program had a room packed with people asking themselves "Are there really...?" A few days later was our fourth annual Halloween costume party for the Building Bridges program here on the VA. The Vets and program staff had a great time and our own staff got into the "spirit" as well.

Thanks to some very generous donors, we held three great events for the Hospice and CLC. Our staff, in conjunction with Day Air Credit Union and the Daniel Cooper Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, celebrated Thanksgiving with a full turkey and ham dinner as well as a Christmas IHOP brunch in the CLC. The Vets and staff of the CLC were treated to a Christmas party that was full of cheer and a lot of delicious food. As always, we supported the VA Chaplains Service Christmas Eve service with cards and candy canes.



Visiting the CLC



Setting up for the CLC Christmas Party



The Christmas Eve crew

Kendra and I have created additional Social Media accounts to help you stay in touch with Museum goings-on:

Twitter: @miami_museum
and Instagram: mvmhm

We're also participating in the Amazon Smile Program at <http://smile.amazon.com>.

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 mvmhm2007@gmail.com for more information.

Finally, 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**

From the Education Department:

Last year brought several opportunities for the Museum to expand its educational programming. We were excited to establish a new partnership with the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio and had a great time supporting their "Celebrating Community Day" this past fall. Museum staff led various sessions, including Flag Etiquette, Ohio State Facts & Symbols, and the opening and closing flag ceremonies for the day. Just last month, Girl Scouts supported our "Cards that Care Program" by creating beautiful Christmas cards which were then given to Veterans at the VA.

As the Museum continues to create new educational programs both for specialized groups, like the Girl Scouts, and for a general audience who visits the Museum, we look forward to adding more educational components to our existing events, just as we did in 2018 at National POW/MIA Recognition Day and WWI Remembrance at Victory Oak Knoll. We also will be launching a Speaker Series in 2019 as we work to continually honor the service and history of our Veterans.



Scouts and Leaders making cards for our Vets

We're also please to announce our new partnership with the 4 Freedom Equestrian Team! The team was established to increase public awareness of the needs and sacrifices of the US Armed Forces. they ride to honor the men and women who have served, past and present, for their accomplishments, courage, and dedication to our country. We'll be supporting their "War Horse" multimedia program at the Museum and in surrounding communities.

Respectfully,

**Kim Villalva
Education Director**

DONATIONS QUARTERLY WRAP UP:

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 Robinson (Ohio) *Henry R. Harlow (Ohio) *Grant Bates (Ohio) *Tom Petkowitz (Ohio) Nancy Aubel (Ohio) *Noel Lemmons (Ohio) John Ruschau (Ohio) Henry R. Harlow (Ohio) John Hoskins (Ohio) Earl Mumma (Ohio) Richard Bennett (Ohio) Vanessa Kelly (Canada) Phillip Brandt (Ohio) Thomas Sauter (Ohio) Disabled American Veterans (Ohio) Sons of the American Legion District 3(Ohio) Sky Graphics & Engraving (Ohio) DayAir Credit Union VA Branch (Ohio) Veterans of Foreign Wars (Ohio) Randall Whitman (Ohio) Robert C. Goings (Ohio) American Legion District 3 (Ohio) Sons of the American Legion Post 586 (Ohio) Sons of the American Legion Post 598 (Ohio) Sons of the American Legion Post 764 (Ohio) Stephen M. Spraley (Ohio) Sue Riegelsperger (Ohio) American Legion Post 776 (Ohio) Tina Marker (Ohio) Douglas Boggs (Ohio) Laura Conrad (Ohio)

...and many anonymous donors.

FEATURED ARTIFACT(S): Vice Admiral Lyle Bien's uniform

Admiral Bien (then a Captain) wore this "Chocolate Chips" uniform while the senior Navy strike planner on General Schwartzkopf's staff during Operations DESERT SHIELD and STORM; he was quoted as saying "Saddam Hussein won the toss and elected to receive".

Admiral Bien served an F-4 fighter pilot over Vietnam (where he got the nickname "Ho Chi" Bien because of the similarity of his name to North Vietnam's leader Ho Chi Minh), as a "Top Gun" instructor, and as Commander of Carrier Group SEVEN aboard USS Nimitz during the 1996 Taiwan missile crisis. A veteran of more than 200 combat missions over Vietnam and 1,300 carrier landings, he retired in 1998 as Deputy Commander-in-Chief, United States Space Command.



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 – Insignia – Medals – Photographs – Equipment – Headgear – Weapons - 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!** Please contact our Curator at 937-267-7629 to discuss your potential donation and to schedule an appointment.

Our "Wish List": We're looking for some specific items to fill gaps in our displays/collection. 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. A complete list can be found at: <http://www.mvmhm.com/wishlist.htm>

Specific items on our "wish list" are:

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

World War I:

U.S. Air Service, Navy, and Marine Corps uniforms	Model 1911 .45 pistol
Model 1914 Hotchkiss Machine Gun ammunition box	U.S. trench boots
German and Austrian uniforms	German "Kratchen" soft hat with insignia
German officer's pickelhaube ("Spike helmet", Infantry or Artillery)	German Mauser Model 98 rifle
German, Austrian, and Hungarian medals and insignia	German P08 "Luger" pistol
German Model 98n/a ("Butcher") sawback bayonet with teeth intact	German steel helmets
Imperial German and Prussian flags	American and German "hate belts"

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January:

- **TBD January 2019, 9:00AM:** Museum "Get To Know Us" Campaign table at the VA Medical Center lobby.
- ✓ **Friday, January 4, 2019, 2:00PM:** WWII trivia and Operation FOOTLOCKER at Kennedy Way.
- ✓ **Saturday, January 5, 2019, 11:00AM:** Museum board meeting.
- ✓ **Saturday, January 5, 2019, 1:00PM:** Sons of Union Veterans William T. Sherman Camp #93 meeting.
- ✓ **Saturday, January 5, 2019, 2:00PM:** Patriot Freedom Festival planning meeting.
- ✓ **Tuesday, January 8, 2019, 9:00AM:** Presentation for new employees of the Dayton National Cemetery.
 - **Monday, January 21, 2019, 9:00AM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.
 - **Monday, January 21, 2019, 1:00PM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.
 - **Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 9:00AM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.
 - **Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 1:00PM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.
 - **Wednesday, January 23, 2019, 10:30AM:** Birthday visit to Kennedy Way.
 - **Saturday, January 26, 2019, 6:00PM:** Display for Air Force Sergeant's Association annual awards banquet.

February:

- **TBD February 2019, 9:00AM:** Museum "Get To Know Us" Campaign table at the VA Medical Center lobby.
- **Saturday, February 2, 2019, 11:00AM:** Museum board meeting.
- **Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 11:30AM:** Tour by A Loving Heart Community & Training Center.
- **Tuesday, February 12, 2019, 7:00PM:** Sons of Union Veterans William T. Sherman Camp #93 meeting.
- **Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 12:30PM:** Fairborn Senior Center tours.
- **Monday, February 18, 2019, 9:00AM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.
- **Monday, February 18, 2019, 1:00PM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.

- **Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 9:00AM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.
- **Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 1:00PM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.
- **Wednesday, February 27, 2019, 10:30AM:** Birthday visit to Kennedy Way.

March:

- **TBD March 2019, 9:00AM:** Museum "Get To Know Us" Campaign table at the VA Medical Center lobby.
- **TBD March 2019, 1:00PM:** Museum visit to Veterans Social Command.
- **Saturday, March 2, 2019, 11:00AM:** Museum board meeting.
- **Saturday, March 2, 2019, 1:00PM:** Sons of Union Veterans William T. Sherman Camp #93 meeting.
- **Monday, March 18, 2019, 9:00AM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.
- **Monday, March 18, 2019, 1:00PM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.
- **Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 9:00AM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.
- **Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 1:00PM:** Birthday visit to VA Dialysis Ward.
- **Monday March 25 to Friday March 29, 2019:** Museum is CLOSED.
- **Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 10:30AM:** Birthday visit to Kennedy Way.
- **Monday March 25 to Friday March 29, 2019:** TBD: National Vietnam Veterans Day pinning ceremonies.

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.*

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.

(Do not send pictures by any other method e.g. Facebook Messenger)

THIS QUARTER IN MILITARY HISTORY:

January 1, 1863: President Lincoln issues his Emancipation Proclamation during the Civil War.

January 16, 1991: Coalition air strikes open the campaign to liberate Kuwait.

January 17, 1781: Colonial Army and Militia forces defeat the British at Cowpens, S.C.

January 25, 1951: U.N. launches counteroffensive to drive North Koreans and Chinese from South Korea.

January 30, 1968: The Tet Offensive begins.

February 9, 1861: Jefferson Davis elected President of Confederate States of America.

February 11, 1951: Chinese counteroffensive begins north of Hoengsong.

February 12, 1955: President Eisenhower sends the first U.S. advisers to South Vietnam to train their Army.

February 15, 1898: Submarine mine sinks U.S. battleship *Maine* in Havana Harbor, 260 killed.

February 19, 1944: US Marines land on Iwo Jima.

February 24, 1991: Allied ground assault against Iraq begins.

February 27, 1776: North Carolina militia defeat Loyalist Scots inflicting heavy casualties at Moore's Creek bridge.

March 3, 1991: Iraq accepts conditions for a permanent cease fire.

March 7, 1945: U.S. 9th Armored Division captures the Remagen bridge intact.

March 8, 1862: Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas.

March 15, 1781: Battle at Guilford Courthouse, Guilford, NC.

March 18, 1951: United Nations forces retake Seoul.

March 19, 2003: Operation Iraqi Freedom begins.

March 30, 1972: North Vietnamese launch a major offensive across the DMZ.

TRIVIA

The last quarter trivia question was: "After World War I, Germany was required to pay reparations for the cost of the war; in what year did Germany make it's final World War I reparation payment?" Germany made it's last payment on 03 October 2010 – which was also the 20th anniversary of German Reunification.

This quarter's question is: **What is the only state in the lower 48 that has never had a battleship named after it?**

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. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit Charitable Organization ID 46 - 0835261

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

Hours of Operation: 9AM to 4PM

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.
Email: curator@mvmhm.com

Public Affairs: Catherine I. Beers-Conrad, USAF Veteran
Email: mvmhm2007@gmail.com

Office: 937-267-7629

Internet: www.mvmhm.com



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, Official Partner in the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, and a member of the Small Museums Association.