

The Miami Valley Military History Museum



December 2012 Newsletter



CURATOR'S CORNER

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter! Each month, we'll publish the latest museum activities, upcoming events, and spotlight some the artifacts we have on display. It will also give us the opportunity to better acknowledge the people who've entrusted their family heirlooms to our care.

Each issue will also include articles on general military history, along with a trivia question, and provide information about the services we provide.

The coming year promises to be full of activities, with the Patriot Freedom Festival in May, new summer programs on the Veterans Affairs Medical Center campus, Veterans Day activities in November, and the monthly "Share and Care Program" with the 4 Freedom Equestrian Team. We were also notified this month that we have been accepted as an official Comemorativive Partner in the Department of Defense *50th Annivesary of the Vietnam War Commemoration*, and will be planning events to honor our Vietnam vets.



We're looking forward to another succesful year honoring our veterans and their families, and hope you can stop in and see the many unique artifacts we have on display!

Respectfully,

Mark Conrad, MSgt, USAF, RET
Curator

DONATIONS YEAR-END WRAP UP:

We've been lucky to receive a number of artifact, monetary and support donations this year - to list just a few:

Thanks to the generous donation of Mrs. Margaret Kruckemeyer, we were able to purchase 33 lightweight clothing forms with bases, which allowed us to change out all the "Frankenstein" mannequins we'd pieced together over the years. These new forms really give a professional look not only to the uniforms displayed on them, but to the whole exhibit area.

Mr. Ed Reed of Dallas, Texas was referred to us by the National WWII Museum, resulting in the donation of his father's uniforms, pictures and service paperwork. Gunnery Sergeant Eddie Albert Reed enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1940, and was a member of the Marine Detachment serving aboard the battleship USS California (BB-44) during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941. The ship was sunk during the attack, and later raised and put back in action. By late 1944, Gunny Reed had been transferred to the 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division and took part in the invasion and battle for Iwo Jima.

Another referral from the National WWII Museum was the Cosentino family from new York and Florida, who donated a uniform and medals belonging to Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class (BM2c) Anthony "Tony" Cosentino. BM2c Cosentino had been born in Sicily and immigrated to the United States at age 5. During WWII, he was initially assigned to the destroyer *USS Nelson* (DE-623) and took part in the Normandy invasion. A few days later, a German E-Boat (torpedo boat) torpedoed the *Nelson*, blowing off her stern. The ship was saved from sinking and when it returned to the U.S. For final repairs, Mr. Cosentino was transferred to the *USS Graffias* (AF-29), serving in the Pacific. The *Graffias* landed troops and supplies in Nagasaki a month after the atomic bomb destroyed nearly a third of the city, at which time BM2c Cosentino obtained a Japanese *Haori* (a protective jacket worn over a Kimono) – this also now on display. Mr. Cosentino was also awarded the order of *Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur* – Knight of the Legion of Honor - by the French Government on November 11th, 2010.



DONATIONS YEAR-END WRAP UP (Continued):

Thanks to the sister of SP4 Larry J. Pepper, we've been entrusted with his Purple Heart Medal and dog tags. The Purple Heart Medal is one of two awarded to Specialist Fourth Class Larry James Pepper, of Jeffersonville, OH. SP4 Pepper was a member of C Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 196th Infantry Brigade (Light) of the 23rd Infantry "Americal" Division. He arrived in Vietnam on 08 June, 1970, and on 19 September, a member of his patrol stepped on a mine; the resulting explosion killed several members of his squad, and seriously wounded Sp4 Pepper. He was returned to the U.S., but died on 31 January 1971 as a result of his wounds. SP4 Pepper's name appears on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Panel 05W, Line 70. Also shown is a grenade ring with his dog tags and P-38 can openers. As General Patton said, *"It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived."*

Jim and Judy Shelton donated several artifacts left to Jim by an elderly neighbor when Jim was a teenager. We were pleased to receive a very nice WWII Cavalry campaign hat, a complete WWII web belt and pouches, as well as a meat can (mess kit) and haversack from the Spanish-American War.

One of the larger grouping of artifacts we received came from Mr. Gary Hudson, a Vietnam veteran. Among those items was a very rare Greenleaf and Buell contract cavalry saber from 1799, and numerous German and American items from both World Wars.

Donations of non-military items are also critical to our operation. We're thankful to Margaret Kruckemeyer, Ron Patrick, and Dan Faulkner, LTC, USAF Ret, for their donations of a computer, monitor, and several printers, which also allowed us to support our genealogist.

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 (*an asterisk indicated multiple donations*):

Charles Dessecker (Ohio)	Reck Carpenter (Ohio)
Grant Bates (Ohio)	Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Bath, New York
Republic of Korea Air Force	Michael Foran (New York)
James Cookson (Vermont)	Thomas N. Moe, Colonel, USAF (RET) (Ohio)
Air Force Master Sergeant Lamar Bacon (Ohio)	Loraine Simard, Colonel, USAFR (RET) (Ohio)
Martin Tall Horse and Mary Chambers (Ohio)	Bonnie Craft (Ohio)
Mrs. Ryland R. Via (Ohio)	Jim and Judy Sheldon (Ohio)
Kim Fields (Ohio)	Donald Fenton (Ohio)
The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (New York)	Mississippi Department of Archives and History (Mississippi)
Sonya Burke (Ohio)	*Talmadge J. Smith (Ohio)
David Burns (Ohio)	Gary W. Hudson (Ohio)
Cadet Joseph Fleshman, Virginia Military Institute (Virginia)	Diane G. Leskow (New York)
Donald M. Deavers, Staff Sergeant, USAF (Ret) (Ohio)	Carolyn Burns (Ohio)
Robert Kasprzak (Ohio)	National WWII Museum (Louisiana)
Megan Conrad (Virginia)	Texas Tech University (Texas)
*Robert Liput, Lieutenant Colonel, USAR (Ohio)	Lynda Dickerson (Ohio)
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5018 (Ohio)	Sondra Clements (Ohio)
*US Air Force Technical Sergeant Becky Besch (Ohio)	Mark Clipper (Ohio)
US Army Specialist Timothy Steck (Germany)	Linda Anderson (Florida)
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9927 (Ohio)	*Tessie Cosentino (New York)
Nancy Zantell (Ohio)	Rose Shilt (Ohio)
The Howard family, in Memory of Specialist 4th Class Larry J. Pepper (Ohio)	Virginia Stangel (Ohio)
Elwin Spray, In Memory of LTC Wayne Spray (Ohio)	The Thomas Family (Ohio)
Patrick Sakos, Captain, USAF (Ret) (Ohio)	Dan McGill (Ohio)
	Jim and Joan Borocz (New Jersey)
	Edgar Gerdeman (Ohio)

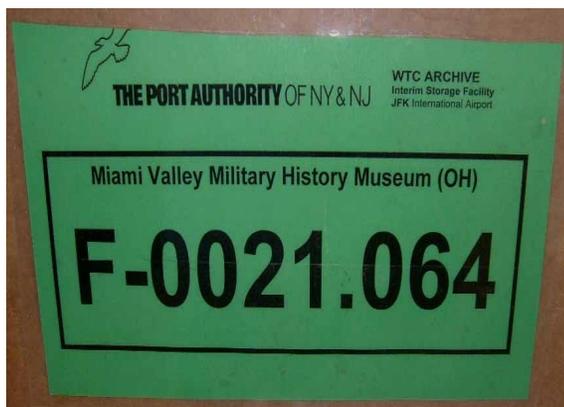


The Consulate General, Republic of Korea (South Korea)
James H. Pell (Ohio)
Grant Bates (Ohio)
Kenneth E. Chitwood Jr., In Memory of Airman
2nd Class Kenneth E. Chitwood Sr. (Ohio)

Ed Reed (Texas)
Linda Goodpaster (Florida)
John and Robin Fowler (Ohio)
Numerous anonymous donors

FEATURED ARTIFACT(S): Piece of World Trade Center steel

This piece of crushed and twisted steel (approximately 12 X 15 inches, weighing 10 pounds) was recovered from the wreckage of the Twin Towers after the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001. With some small pieces of insulation still embedded within, it clearly shows the destructive power generated when the towers fell. It's easy to see how everything was pulverized as the towers collapsed...when you see videos of the collapse, you're not seeing just a giant cloud of dust..within those clouds were the pulverized remains of steel, concrete, equipment,.....and the remains of more than 2,700 people. *(Donated by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey)*



(Also note that we have a piece of the Pentagon, and soil from the United Flight 93 crash site, making us one of the few facilities to contain artifacts from all three September 11th sites)

SERVICES WE PROVIDE:

School and Community groups are invited to request the World War II Traveling Footlocker now available through the Museum. The footlocker program focuses on different aspects of World War II and is available throughout the calendar year. The footlocker contains authentic artifacts (***NO weapons, ammunition, ordinance, etc.!***), exhibit materials and activities that can be used to supplement WWII history learned in the classroom. The footlocker can be picked up, or the Museum Curator will bring it to your location; optionally, he can explore its contents with the participants, and guide the group in discussion. Currently, we have trunks available focusing on the WWII theme, but are planning footlockers/trunks covering the Civil War, World War I, and Vietnam. Contact the Museum for more information on this service that is offered at no cost to local schools and community groups *(Note the footlocker can be reserved for up to two weeks at a time).*

To better accommodate your request, a minimum of two weeks advance notice is requested. Unfortunately, due to time and staffing constraints, we will not be able to honor all requests, but we will do our best to meet the needs of your group. The footlocker is provided at no cost; however, please be within 100 miles/2 hours of Dayton, Ohio if requesting delivery of a footlocker.

To facilitate your request, please include the following information with your request and we will contact you as soon as possible:



Location
Schedule, date, and time
Audience profile (age, topics of interest, any preparation or relevant activities taking place prior to the event, etc.)
Name, phone number, and e-mail address of program coordinator or other point of contact

To request a footlocker:
E-mail: mvmhm@yahoo.com, or curator@mvmhm.com
Phone: (937) 902-8001, or (937) 267-7628

The footlocker contents consist of (*note this is only a **partial** list of items*):

Uniforms
Insignias
Period magazines
Ration books
Recorded materials
Compact discs with period music
Teacher's Guide/lesson plan - turn your students into history detectives as they explore the origins and uses of these real pieces of WWII history!

We are also pleased to offer presentations about the Museum and its subject areas to schools, educators, government organizations, associations, professional societies and other groups.

To better accommodate your request, a minimum of two weeks advance notice is requested. Unfortunately, due to time and staffing constraints, we will not be able to honor all requests, but we will do our best to meet the needs of your group. Presentations are provided at no cost (although donations are accepted); however, if the presentation is part of a luncheon or dinner program, we request a meal be provided for the speaker(s).

To facilitate your request, please include the following information with your request for a speaker; we will contact you as soon as possible:

Schedule, date, and time
Location
Subject or area of interest
Audio/visual support to be provided or requested
Audience capacity
Audience profile (age, topics of interest, any preparation or relevant activities taking place prior to the event, etc.)
Name, phone number, and e-mail address of program coordinator or other point of contact

To request a speaker:
E-mail: mvmhm@yahoo.com, or curator@mvmhm.com
Phone: (937) 902-8001, or (937) 267-7628

Museum speakers offer presentations on the following subject areas (note this is a partial list of topics; some presentations will also include small artifact exhibits):

General Museum Presentation-An overview of the Museum, its history, current exhibits, events and future plans.
The Revolutionary War
The Civil War
The Spanish-American War
World War II
Pearl Harbor
The Holocaust
The Vietnam War
The National Home For Disabled Volunteer Soldiers
Operation DESERT STORM



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. [Click here to see the list of contributors.](#)

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.

OUR WISH LIST:

- Captured enemy equipment, insignia, uniforms, etc., especially German, Italian and Japanese
- Womens uniforms from any branch
- Artifacts from WWI and earlier
- Horse Cavalry items from WWII and earlier
- Mannequins!

Did you or one of your relatives serve in World War II? Have you (or they) had your name registered in the Book of Remembrances at the National WWII Memorial? If not, contact us and we'll do it for you. We'll need to know:

- The person's full name
- Rank
- Branch of Service (this includes civilians who worked on the Home Front!)
- Hometown
- Anything special you want people to know, such as where they served, awards and decorations etc.

Speaking of awards and decorations, if you never received yours, or they've been lost over the years, I can help you get them replaced **FREE OF CHARGE!** The process can take up to six months, but it's absolutely free and gives you a chance to leave a tangible reminder of your service to our great Nation to your children and grandchildren.



THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY:

December 2, 1990: Six weeks before the United States and its allies initiate Operation DESERT STORM, Iraq test launches three Scud missiles from sites in eastern Iraq, which impact in western Iraq.

December 11, 1950: The 1st Marine Division fights through encircling Chinese Communist Forces to reach the 3rd Infantry Division in the Chosin Reservoir.

December 16, 1944: German Armies launch a surprise attack in Belgium which becomes known as the Battle of the Bulge.

December 18, 1972: The first Operation LINEBACKER II bombing raids against North Vietnam begin.

December 25, 1914: German and British soldiers in the Ypres sector hold an informal truce and celebrate Christmas together.

December 30, 1862: The U.S.S. Monitor sinks during a storm off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

TRIVIA

December's question is:

At the Battle of the Little Big Horn in June 1876, three brothers were killed; what were their names?

ABOUT US:

"In all of the far-flung operations of our Armed Forces, the toughest job has been performed by the average, easy-going, hard-fighting young American who carries the weight of battle on his own young shoulders. It is to him that we and all future generations must pay grateful tribute"

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

The Miami Valley Military History Museum (MVMHM) was established to preserve the history of the men and women who served and continue to serve our nation and perpetuate their memory by making their history available to the public.

Our goals are:

- Perpetuate and preserve the memory of the veterans of our Armed Forces past, present, and future
- Establish a permanent military history museum as a repository for artifacts and research materials
- Collect, organize, and preserve collections of United States and foreign military artifacts
- Highlight the military history of local communities and the state of Ohio
- Provide traveling museum displays for civic, fraternal, and veteran's organizations.
- Establish traveling educational programs for schools to educate and inspire succeeding generations in military history
- Stage educational programs to give the public a better understanding of the Armed Forces in the history of our country
- Establish special exhibits to encourage interest from a wider audience
- Create and distribute publications and documents
- Establish a volunteer lecturer program
- Foster patriotism and respect for veterans



Our displays begin with the Revolutionary War, and include the history of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (commonly called the "Soldiers Home" which is now the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center), and continue through the Spanish-American War, both World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, Operations DESERT STORM, ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM and Military Operations Other Than War (MOOTW) such as Grenada and Panama. All ranks and branches of the service are represented - you'll have the opportunity to see artifacts belonging to privates and generals alike, as well as relics from the opposing side in each conflict. For those interested in World War II, one of our prized artifacts on display is an actual piece of the battleship USS Arizona, generously donated by the United States Navy. Listen to authentic WWII news broadcasts in our Home Front display, or you can enjoy the Armed Forces Vietnam radio shows playing in the Vietnam display. Do you know how heavy a flak jacket and Kevlar helmet is? We've got them waiting for you to try on! The next time you're in Dayton, stop by and join us in remembering those who have served in defense of liberty - a place where our veterans are welcomed and honored!

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Dayton, OH 45428

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Office fax: (937) 267-7629
Curator phone: (937) 902-8001

E-mail: curator@mvmhm.com

Website: <http://www.mvmhm.com>



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