

# HONORING FOREVER

## NEWSLETTER

### The New W. Paul Wolf War History Museum Dedication

The W. Paul Wolf War Museum was dedicated on May 27, 2023 as local dignitaries and community supporters joined the Veterans National Memorial Shire and Museum Board Members in celebration.

Those in attendance were impressed with the new exhibit designs and the large number of artifacts on display. A looped video plays for two exhibits, the Ghost Army and Korean War. More video interaction is planned for other exhibits

The new maps, reader boards and mannequins give a new dimension to the exhibit areas. One new area is the Korean War diorama, with a medic tending to a wounded airman next to the ambulance. In another display, a soldier is getting ready to head out with his mine detection equipment for the dangerous job of mine sweeping. The new weapons display area will be improved throughout the summer and cases will be updated regularly.

A major highlight in the new museum is Paul’s Coffee Cafe. Comfortable seating is found there as well as conversations and a good cup of Joe.

The weekend activities included a visit Sunday by the Indiana chapter of Rolling Thunder to the Vietnam Wall. Members placed wreaths honoring all POW/MIAs. Their ceremony was followed by a lunch for the riders and visitors to the museum.

*Continued on page 2*

*Top: W. Paul Wolf speaking at the dedication.*

*Middle: Greg Bedford, Commander, W. Paul Wolf, Mayor Tom Henry and Eric Johnson, 2nd Vice Commander.*

*Bottom: W. Paul Wolf and wife Carolyn*



[honoringforever.org](http://honoringforever.org)

2122 O’Day Road • Fort Wayne, IN 46818

260-267-5022



“Where No Veteran Will Ever Be Forgotten.”

## Museum Dedication

*Continued from page 1*



On Memorial Day, Monday 29, the museum opened for visitors. A steady flow of visitors arrived to see the new museum and visit the monuments. Visitors were still stopping by after the Memorial Day parade concluded in Fort Wayne.

The Board and I would like to thank all who visited our site on Memorial Day weekend. We enjoyed talking with new and old friends. Enjoy the summer and I look forward to talking with many of you when you visit.

*by Robert Thomas, Curator and Board Member*

## A Message from the Commander *by Greg Bedford, Commander*

It is with great pride and a lot of hard work by our entire staff that we dedicated the new War History Museum on Memorial weekend. Paul and Carolyn Wolf were amazed when we opened the doors to the general public. With the success of the new building came issues with minor things that had to be changed or altered to meet all the various building codes and regulations. It took a couple of weeks to work through those issues but we are back open and welcome all visitors and Veterans to the new museum.

As we speak, the new Sterling Chapel is under construction. We hope to have the Chapel com-



pleted very soon now that crews have started the framing. Thanks to Elks #155 from Fort Wayne we have a \$10,000 donation to the Chapel to help with construction costs. We are truly blessed with great volunteers and passionate people who want to help make this memorial park a top-notch park for all visitors and Veterans.

We have several new monuments on the drawing board and are excited about all the new developments at the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum. Please come out and visit us soon!



# HONORING FOREVER

## Calendar of Events

### June Events

- June 23 Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
- June 27 PTSD Awareness Day

### July Events

- July 4 Independence Day
- July 12 Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament  
Cobblestone Golf Club, Kendallville,  
IN 9 am Shot Gun Start

*Join us for our 5th Annual Golf Event.*

- July 15 Vietnam Veterans Book "A Time to Honor" Give-a-way to Vietnam Veterans at the Veterans Memorial Shrine and Museum 11am to 3 pm
- July 25 National Hire A Veteran Day
- July 27 Korean Armistice Day  
Veterans Memorial 11 am

### August Events

- Aug 4 U.S. Coast Guard Birthday
- Aug 29 Marine Corps Reserve Birthday

### September Events

*September National Preparedness Month  
Suicide Prevention Month*

- Sept 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance
- Sept 16 Trails to Zero BraveHearts Ride  
Across Fort Wayne
- Sept 18 Air Force Birthday
- Sept 30 Gold Star Mother's and Family Day



## Fort Wayne Elks 155 Donates \$10,000 for the Sterling Chapel Construction.



In a ceremony that took place Sunday June 11th the Fort Wayne Elks 155 awarded a \$10,000 check to the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum. Betty Stewart wanted the monies to be used to complete construction of the Sterling Chapel which is being built at the Memorial Park. Officers from the Elks had a ceremony honoring Flag Day, presented a history of the American Flags and the different flags flown in the United States from 1776 to the present. Boy Scouts were also at the ceremony and presented the different versions of the flags. Thanks to all those who attended this great ceremony.



## Blademan's Knife Shop Makes Donation to the Veterans Memorial

Mark Grimme, Owner/President of Blademan's Knife Shop LLC. Contacted the Veterans Shrine about making a donation to the memorial park on his behalf. Mark always likes to pick a veteran based charity every year and donate proceeds from a special fundraising event to a worthy cause. Mark had a promotion the weekend of May 6th but later extended the promotion through the entire month of May. On Saturday, June 10th he presented Vice Commander Eric Johnson with a check for \$2,175. Thank You Mark for your generous donation it is much appreciated. If you haven't been to Mark's store please stop by and see his outstanding selection of custom knives and quality accessories. He is located at 10361 Illinois Road Fort Wayne, 46814.



## New Artifact Highlight

One of the newest artifacts in our museum has ties to the War on Terror. In fact, it is the main reason for the start of the war. This new item was part of the World Trade Center Towers.

On September 11, 2001, our country would be attacked by those whom think that death and destruction is the best way to make changes in the world. This piece of glass is just a melted glob that



was fused together by the burning of jet fuel from the planes hijacked to purposely crash into several buildings in the United States. The heat from the blazing impact melted the glass and trapped many impurities inside it.

The piece of glass was cleaned up from the site of the fallen towers in the many days that followed 9/11. The glass was loaded upon a train car to be sent to an unknown location to prevent salvage seekers from taking pieces of this tragedy like many other well-known disasters in American. This item was taken from the rail car by a worker and eventually given to a couple after they suffered from cancer which would take their life. They brought this glass to us to be displayed to allow the younger generation to examine a piece of history that happened close to their lifetime and briefly reunited the country as one to bring justice to those enemies of society and peace.



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## 1st Annual Armed Forces Day Endurance Run a Big Success!

May 20th was the first annual Endurance Run at the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum. Kim Harding coordinated the event, which had over 40 runners participate. The runners ran either a 4 hour, 8 hour or 12 hour race on a .85 mile trail set-up on the memorial grounds. The Ultra Marathon races were well organized and offered live music, free food, refreshments and a first aid station. Kim, who heads up Race Beyond Limits was pleased with the first year turnout and is already planning next year's race. Each participant received a souvenir T-Shirt and Dog Tag shaped medal in honor of the Endurance Run. All profits were donated to the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum.



**Museum Open**  
**Monday, Thursday,**  
**Saturday and Sunday**  
**11am to 4pm**  
**Memorial Grounds**  
**Open 24/7**



## Did You Know...?

- The Medal of Honor's creation was authorized by President Abraham Lincoln in 1861. At present, there are three versions of the Medal of Honor. The Army and Air Force Medals are awarded to recipients from their respective branches. The Navy Medal of Honor is awarded to recipients from the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Each of the Armed Services maintains its own regulations governing the award.
- The Army suffered the most casualties in World War II. Army infantry suffered hundreds of thousands of casualties during the biggest war in history. It may be surprising that the Army Air Force had over 70,000 fatalities, the second-highest number in the conflict.
- Currently, according to the Pentagon's Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, there are currently 83,204 unaccounted for U.S. personnel, including 73,547 from World War II, 7,883 from the Korean War, 126 from the Cold War, 1,581 from the Vietnam War and six from Iraq and other recent conflicts. (As of January 2023, there are 1,241 still missing in Vietnam, 285 in Laos, 48 in Cambodia, and 7 in China's territorial waters.)
- The secret 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), also called Merrill's Marauders, was a legendary WWII all-volunteer jungle force, named after their commander, Brig. Gen. Frank Merrill. In 1944, the Marauders made their way through hundreds of miles of dangerous, almost impenetrable Japanese-controlled territory in Burma. Their secret mission (Code named Galahad), was to clear the way to construct a key road linking their Chinese allies with a strategic path for hauling supplies. Today, the Marauders are considered a precursor to the Army's elite 75th Ranger Regiment, whose soldiers honor their legacy by wearing the Marauder patch as their unit's crest. In 2020, the Marauders were awarded a Congressional Gold Medal.

- Nineteen servicemen have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor twice. Fourteen have been awarded the medal for two separate events. The U.S. Navy is the most awarded branch with eight sailors, some receiving the award not for combat heroism but life-saving actions.

## Garrett High School Visits the Vietnam Memorial Wall



April 28th was a special day at the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum as students from Garrett High School visited the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Eddie Placencia set up the visit with his son Ray who is a teacher at Garrett High School. The students had plenty of questions about the memorial and Vietnam veterans were on hand to give a unique insight to students about their Vietnam experiences and background on the memorial wall. If your class would like to visit the new War History Museum or any of the monuments at our memorial park just call us at 260-267-5022.



## Civil War Ceremonies Coming Soon

There are three Civil War events planned for the near future in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The ceremonies will all be held on the same day.

The first will be held at Lindenwood cemetery, the other two will be held on the grounds of the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum a few miles away.

The ceremony at Lindenwood cemetery is to dedicate the headstone of Pvt Daniel H Amsden, Company B 12th Indiana CAV. This veteran has been in an unmarked grave since 1881. He now has a new head stone which will be revealed at the ceremony.

The group will then travel to the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum to dedicate a monument of the Sultana disaster. This occurred at the close of the Civil War, when a steam ship explosion that took the lives of over 1700 recently released union prisoners of war. The Sultana explosion is the largest maritime disaster in the history of the United States.

The third and final ceremony will be the dedication of the new Civil War Monument by the Bickel Family from Fort Wayne. This will be placed with the other Civil War monuments on the grounds of the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum at 2122 O'Day Road.

The ceremonies are being held on the same day to reduce the number of trips out of town groups need



to make to attend. Organizers are hopeful there will be a large turnout for the events. The public is invited to attend any and all ceremonies. All veterans groups are invited to participate in honoring these Civil War veterans.

The date of these ceremonies has not been set at this time but will be announced soon to the general public.

## Want to volunteer at the Veterans Memorial? We can use your help!

The new War History Museum is now open Monday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Robert Thomas, our curator is always looking for volunteers to help around the museum. With construction now on the new Sterling Chapel, we can always use help around the grounds and flower beds.

Whether it's a certain day or a couple hours a week, we would like to start compiling a list of volunteers to help the Veterans Memorial Shrine and Museum on an on-going basis.

Bonnie Davis is a Board Member and our volunteer coordinator. She can give you a better idea of what our needs are and how you might be able help! We are very flexible and willing to train anyone who volunteers. Call our office for more information at 260-267-5022.

We are also offering our event center for rent now in the old museum. This large room will be great for meetings, events or receptions. Call our office for information about rates and availability. Call 260-267-5022 for more information.



## Flag Etiquette

In 1923, the U.S. National Flag Code was created and distributed nationwide. The code became Public Law in 1942 and became the U.S. Flag Code we know today. The U.S. Flag Code lays out the ways to display and respect the flag of the United States.

The flag's 13 alternating red and white stripes represent the 13 original colonies. Its 50 white stars on a blue field represent the 50 states. The colors on the flag each have a meaning:

- Red: valor and bravery
- White: purity and innocence
- Blue: vigilance, perseverance, and justice

### Guidelines for Flag display and care

- Do not let the flag touch the ground.
- Do not fly flag upside down unless there is an emergency.
- Do not carry the flag flat, or carry things in it.

The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding or drapery. It should never be displayed upside down unless trying to convey a sign of distress or great danger. The flag should never touch anything beneath it; this includes water, merchandise and even the floor.

When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union (the stars) should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window, the flag should be displayed in the same way, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.

When displaying the U.S. flag with other flags, the U.S. flag comes first and is centered in the middle of a flag display. In addition, the U.S. flag must be placed higher than the other flags, unless other national flags are present. In that case the U.S. flag would be the same height.



## Important Things to Remember

Traditional guidelines call for displaying the flag in public only from sunrise to sunset. However, the flag may be displayed at all times if it is illuminated during darkness. The flag should not be subject to weather damage, so it should not be displayed during rain, snow and wind storms unless it is an all-weather flag. It should be displayed often, but especially on national and state holidays and special occasions.

The flag should be displayed on or near the main building of public institutions, schools during school days, and polling places on election days. It should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

## ★ The Mission of the Shrine ★

- To provide a forever memorial for all military Veterans of the United States.
- To preserve artifacts of their service; to give future generations a better understanding and appreciation of the historical past of the United States.
- To educate today's youth on the history of war and conflicts that the United States has been involved in defending the freedoms we enjoy every day.



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## Why do we have Flag Day?

*According to Britanica.com*

Flag Day, also called National Flag Day, in the United States is a day honoring the national flag and is observed on June 14. The is to commemorate the date in 1777 when the United States approved the design for its first national flag.

The idea to set aside a day to honor the national flag came from several sources. One person credited with honoring the flag was Bernard J. Cigrand, a Wisconsin schoolteacher, when in 1885 he urged his students to observe June 14 as "Flag Birthday." He later wrote an essay published in a Chicago newspaper that urged Americans to proclaim this date as the day to celebrate the flag

The Veterans Administration says the most recognized claim, however, comes from New York. On June 14, 1889, Professor George Bolch, principal of a free kindergarten for the poor of New York City, had his school hold patriotic ceremonies to observe the anniversary of the Flag Day resolution. This initiative attracted attention from the State Department of Education, which arranged to have the day observed in all public schools thereafter.

In 1888 William T. Kerr of Pennsylvania founded the American Flag Day Association of Western Pennsylvania, an organization to which he dedicated his life. A lesser-known claim is that of George Morris of Connecticut, who is said to have organized the first formal celebration of the day in Hartford, CT in 1861.

Another claim comes from Philadelphia. In 1893, the Society of Colonial Dames succeeded in getting a resolution passed to have the flag displayed on all of the city's public buildings. Elizabeth Duane Gillespie, a direct descendant of Benjamin Franklin and the president of the Colonial Dames of Pennsylvania, that same year tried to get the city to call June 14 Flag Day. Resolutions by women were not granted much notice, however, and it was not until May 7, 1937, that Pennsylvania became the first state to establish the June 14 Flag Day as a legal holiday. Flag Day is a nationwide observance today, but

Pennsylvania is the only state that recognizes it as a legal holiday.

In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed June 14 as the official date for Flag Day, and in 1949 the U.S. Congress permanently established the date as National Flag Day. Although Flag Day is not an official federal holiday, Pennsylvania celebrates the day as a state holiday. Each year the U.S. president delivers an address that proclaims the week of June 14 as National Flag Week, and all Americans are encouraged to fly U.S. flags during that week.

## Kroger Cares and You Can Too!



Do you want to help the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum without doing anything besides your normal grocery shopping? You are able to do this by using Kroger Community Rewards! It doesn't cost you a thing, and Kroger will donate a percentage from your grocery bill to us.

To Use the Kroger Community Rewards Program: Visit <http://www.kroger.com>. Once logged into their Kroger account, search for "War Veterans Memorial Shrine of American History Inc" either by name or MK539 and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a rewards card.

\*Customers must have a registered Kroger rewards card account to link to your organization.

\*If a member does not yet have a Kroger rewards card, please let them know they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.

REMEMBER, purchases will not count for your organization until after your participants register their rewards card.

Participants must swipe their registered Kroger rewards card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger rewards card when shopping for each purchase to count.

## U. S. Army Birthday Commemorated

June 14 is the birthday of the U. S. Army, and this year the Army celebrated its 248th Birthday. On that date in 1775, the Second Continental Congress authorized the enlistment of expert riflemen to serve the United Colonies for one year. This action approved the formation of ten companies from Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia to march to Boston. A few days later, on June 19, the army was placed under the command of General George Washington.

The Continental army had soldiers of multiple ethnicities within the ranks, including African Americans and Native Americans. At one time,

nearly 10% of Washington's army consisted of Black soldiers. This would be the last time, until the Korean War, that the United States Army had integrated units. In addition, men of multiple European nations served in the ranks throughout the entire war. Under Washington, the army never numbered more than 17,000 men at one time.

Known as the Army of the United Colonies after the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, that Army was mostly disbanded after the Treaty of Paris ended the revolutionary war in 1783, and the United States was recognized as an independent nation. Only a small token of 80 soldiers remained on active military duty at that time. In 1784, this force was re-constituted as the 1st American Regiment for national service.

By end of that year, the whole U.S. Army consisted of only one regiment, with eight infantry and two artillery companies. In 1792, the 1st and 2nd



Regiments were renamed as the Legion of the United States, which later became the foundation of the United States Army in 1796.

The U.S. Army has participated in every conflict both on America's shores and abroad and continues to serve to protect American citizens and defend vital American interests at home and overseas. Today, thousands of soldiers are participating in a variety of missions around the world at any given time ranging from security and defense to outreach and humanitarian operations.





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## ★ Donations Accepted ★

*The Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum operates solely on donations from our visitors, private individuals, and patriotic organizations. We welcome in-kind donations of services or materials that enhance our mission. We are a 501(C)(3) not for profit organization as recognized by the IRS regulations. All donations are tax deductible.*



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