

HONORING FOREVER

Newsletter

Celebrating Our Veterans & America's 250th Anniversary

World War I Memorial Dedicated on Veterans Day

The long awaited World War I Memorial was dedicated on Tuesday November 11th at the Veterans Memorial. The memorial was designed by David Charles Rulka and funded by Richard D. Waterfield in honor of his grandfather Reverend Stevenson Waters McGill. Reverend McGill joined the Graves Registration Service immediately after the war to facilitate the process of reburying soldiers in permanent cemeteries. Due to extremely cold temperatures the Veterans Day ceremony was held inside the Event Center.

Speakers included 1st Vice Commander Eric Johnson, 2nd Vice Commander Pat Fraizer, Richard Waterfield, Allen County Commissioner Ron Turpin and Concordia Lutheran student ROTC 2nd Lieutenant Matthew Kenworthy.

The 8 ft x 6 ft solid black granite monument was constructed and installed by John Ley Monument in Avilla, IN. The highlight of the tribute was a live

bagpiper from the Fort Wayne Bagpipers Band, Joe Eichman, who pre-

Richard Waterfield



formed "Amazing Grace". Taps was played by Tom Schmitt to conclude the ceremony.

Many thanks to Richard D. Waterfield for his generous donation on behalf of the Waterfield family. Thanks also to Renaissance Landscaping for their work planting trees and shrubs around the WWI Memorial.



"Where No Veteran Will Ever Be Forgotten."

2122 O'Day Road • Fort Wayne, IN 46818
260-267-5022
honoringforever.org

Putting Veterans First in 2026



By Eric Johnson 1st Vice Commander

2025 was a huge year for the Veterans Memorial Shrine and Museum. We received a matching grant from the Indiana Destination Development Corporation for \$75,000 last March for a Women's Memorial to be erected and dedicated by September of 2026. We have raised the matching \$75,000 thanks to many key individuals and businesses who pledged their support. We are currently working with a granite vendor and a limestone firm who will construct the memorial which will contain names of women in the military who have made significant contributions in serving their country. David Charles Rulka designed the memorial and John Ley Monument will be coordinating the installation. Two red granite benches have also been purchased for the memorial.

We have new signage ordered for the Desert Shield/Desert Storm Memorial as well as the Global War on Terrorism which includes Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The signage summarizes the details of the wars in the middle east with pictures for visitors to see and learn more about the sacrifices made by our troops. Two new benches will be placed at the Global War on Terrorism in honor of two Concordia High School students and friends Neale Shank and Kevin Pape who were killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Concordia Lutheran grade school and High School where they both attended, have raised the monies for the two benches in their honor.

The Peace Pole is coming. This is a monument inscribed with the universal message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in different languages, serving as a symbol for global harmony and a silent prayer for peace. Sometime this spring you will see a Peace Pole, an 8 ft tall pole representing 8 different languages; English, German, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese Japanese, Arabic and French. Created



by Japanese activist Masahisa Goi after World War II, these poles act as reminders to foster peace in thought, word and deed. In a time when our hopes are high for peace throughout the world. The Peace Pole is a welcome addition to the Veterans Memorial Park and a sign of true hope!

Honor Flights Northeast Indiana will make five flights to Washington D.C. again this year. Spring flights now scheduled are Flight #55 April 22nd and Flight #56 May 20th, For more information contact Honor Flight Northeast Indiana at 260-633-0049 or at HFNEI.org

Black History Program Set for February 28th



Due to the closing of the War History Museum and Event Center at the Veterans Memorial, January and February, the Black History Month program will be held

at 1 pm on Saturday, February 28 at American Legion Post 148, 705 East Lewis Street in Fort Wayne. All Veterans and their families are invited to attend this tribute program.

A Message from the Commander



By Greg Bedford

Hope everyone had a Happy New Year and a safe Holiday. As you're aware, the War History Museum is closed through April 3rd! We are very busy reorganizing all of our

historic artifacts and sorting articles and items that no longer are relevant to be displayed at the museum. We are also constructing a new storage bin system. Over the last few years, we have been accepting many items that just will not be exhibited due to their condition or quality. We respect all veterans and their contribution to this country and accept many items that we already have duplicates of.

We will do our best to notify people who have items on loan that can be returned rather than discarded. We just physically do not have the room

Calendar of Events

January

- Jan. 1 New Years Day
- Jan. 19 Martin Luther King Day

February

- Feb. 1 National Freedom Day
- Feb. 1 First Day of Black History Month
- Feb. 6 National Wear Red Day
- Feb. 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb. 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb. 16 President's Day
- Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 28 Black History Month Program at American Legion Post 148

March

- March 1 First Day of Women's History Month
- March 8 Daylight Savings Time Starts
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- March 29 Palm Sunday
- March 29 National Vietnam Veterans Day

to store every artifact we receive. We will try to trade duplicate items with other museums, when we can. At the present time **we are no longer accepting any artifacts** until a time when we have adequate space to safely store them. Thank You for your understanding! I want to personally thank all the volunteers who helped us achieve our goals during the Museum shutdown! It would not have been possible without your many hours of volunteer work!

New hours and days of operation! Starting in April 2026 our new days and hours of operation will be as follows: **Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday 11 am to 4 pm.** Based on our visitor counts and traffic every week, these hours will be more convenient for our staff and visitors to the War History Museum! We look forward to seeing you in the month of April.

Win A Custom Made Guitar to honor our Military Veterans!



Now you could win one of two custom made guitars designed and built by Fred Rudder in North Carolina. Choose from a Korean War design or a Desert Storm guitar. Tickets are just \$20 each with all proceeds going to the Veterans Memorial "Where no veteran will ever be forgotten!" Drawing to be held when all tickets are sold. Both guitars are on display in the War History Museum. Get your ticket at the Veterans Museum and be a winner!

Freedom Is Not Free



By Tom Schmitt Board Member

During the first six international wars and the civil war, up to the end of WW1, 271,486 veterans died from combat incidents. While at the same time 496,295 died from disease. A major reason for this was that most people lived on farms and rarely traveled more than a few miles from their homes and they had no immunity to diseases from other areas. These numbers do not include the Indian wars, as records of how soldiers died were poorly recorded.

Some examples of death numbers for individual wars.

<u>War</u>	<u>Combat</u>	<u>Disease</u>
WW1	53,402	63,114
1812	3,750	11,250
Civil War	204,100	388,580
Spanish American	385	2,565

During WWII 70% of the deaths were caused by combat and 30% from disease and accidents. This considerable improvement was due to the use of vaccines and antibiotics. From the end of WWII through Korea and Vietnam the number of deaths from disease has always been less than from combat. In the Gulf War's there has been such a large improvement in deaths from disease that there were more deaths from accidents and suicides than from disease.

These numbers reflect only deaths that occurred during the various wars, they do not include those who died and are still dying from Agent Orange and Burn Pits. While there have been great advances in the treatment of diseases. There needs to be improvement in the care for those contacted by chemicals and the number of suicides, which now stands at 22 per day.



Civil War nurse Anna Bell Stubbs helps care for ailing Union soldiers at a Nashville hospital during the conflict.

Matthew Kenworthy Follows History

If you see a young man in the museum shooting videos dressed in a World War I uniform, he is a high school volunteer by the name of Matthew Kenworthy. Not only is Matt a junior at Concordia Lutheran High School, he is a Second Lieutenant and member of the ROTC program at Concordia.



Matt is a World War I history buff. He was a featured speaker at the WWI Memorial dedication on November 11, 2025 at the Shrine. Matt is working on long and short videos that he posts on YouTube for all to see and learn from. His efforts to help educate more people about the history of War using artifacts and information from the War History Museum is terrific and we commend him for his efforts!

Today it's even easier to support the mission of the Shrine and Museum



By Greg Banicki, MS, LMFT Board Member

The Veterans National Memorial Shrine & Museum has always relied on the generous donations, large and small, by our supporters and visitors.

As we continue to move towards a cashless society, the Shrine is harnessing new technology that is making it easier to donate while visiting the Museum. We are now utilizing the Goodbox one tap electronic donation system, which allows the donor to use their credit card or debit card to make their donation. For visitors' convenience, the Goodbox is located in our W. Paul Wolf War History Museum.



Touchless payments using credit or debit cards offer speed, convenience, and security in today's fast-moving economy. They reduce checkout time, limit physical contact, and help curb fraud through encryption and tokenization. For consumers and

businesses alike, touchless transactions streamline purchases, improve efficiency, and support safer, more seamless everyday spending

Of course, we continue to accept cash donations and checks, and we are very grateful to all of our donors who continue to support our work to make sure that the Shrine is the place where, "No veteran is ever forgotten".

Did You Know...?

- The U.S. military seriously tested "bat bombs" during World War II, planning to release bats carrying miniature incendiary devices over Japan-until a test accidentally burned part of a U.S. base to the ground
- The U.S. Army imported camels in the 1850s to solve desert logistics problems in the American Southwest, proving they out performed horses-until the Civil War and cultural resistance caused the bizarre but effective program to collapse?
- The NSA (National Security Agency) was secretly formed in 1952, consolidating U.S. Army and Navy code breaking operations. The NSA's existence itself was classified for over 20 years, with its employees forbidden from telling even close family members where they worked - earning it the nickname "No Such Agency" inside Washington?
- The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) maintained a classified "Morale Operations" branch during World War II that specialized in forged documents, fake enemy newspapers, and counterfeit letters from soldiers' families designed to quietly undermine Axis troop confidence?
- Operation Matterhorn was a challenging U.S. Army Air Forces WWII campaign that based B-29 bombers across India and China to strike Japanese industrial targets long before island hopping made such raids simpler.

★ Memorials ★

Donations received in memory of:

**Matthew Tomkiewicz
John and Flora Snyder
Don Koop**

**Gary Kallansa
Lena McMahan
William Stanley
Harold Meyer**

Volunteer Efforts Abound at the Veterans Memorial Shrine

We want to recognize our many volunteer organizations who have helped the Veterans Memorial continue to look wonderful for all our guests and veterans who visit! Thank you for your dedication to serving all Veterans.



BAE Systems



ARC team members, pictured with Bonnie Davis & Karen Goodwin

Every week ARC of Noble County* helps the staff at the Shrine with cleaning duties in the Event Center and the War History Museum. ARC sends a team of four people who are diligent, hardworking individuals who take pride in their work and commitment. Our partnership has certainly created a strong bond with all these volunteers who are also dear friends.

*ARC of Noble County is a non-for-profit organization that allows individuals with disabilities to maximize their abilities and succeed in the community.

On September 13th BAE systems volunteered at the Shrine once again. October we had several volunteer organizations including the Geocache Group on October 5th, the Parkview Veterans group on October 18th and the Bishop Luers Football Team on October 25th. Thanks to these great partners the Shrine continues to shine! We really appreciate your efforts.

Parkview Veterans Group



Geocache Group



Bishop Luers Football



Veteran Suicide Prevention: Local Resources and Support

By Greg Banicki, MS, LMFT Board Member

Veteran suicide remains a serious public health concern in the United States. Data from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs show that veterans die by suicide at higher rates than the civilian population. Contributing factors include post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), depression, chronic pain, difficulties transitioning to civilian life, and social isolation. Although complex, suicide is preventable, and early intervention, strong community support, and access to care can save lives.

In Fort Wayne and Northeast Indiana, several organizations are dedicated to supporting veterans and preventing suicide. One of the most active is **FW22 Inc.**, a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2014 by Marines Jarred White and Tyler Egbert. Created in response to the estimated 22 veterans lost to suicide each day, FW22 focuses on veterans living with PTSD and TBI while educating the community about mental health and suicide prevention. Veterans in crisis can text **494949** for free, anonymous, 988-affiliated support; entering "FW22" in the comments helps route the message appropriately. Over the past decade, FW22 has become a leader in Northeast Indiana and has expanded its training and outreach statewide.



FW22 Podcast with Jarred White, Nate Moellering and guests Mark Scheidt and Jared Steffen of Fairhaven Funeral Home

FW22 partners with **Allendale Treatment**, a provider of mental health and addiction care, and **Remedy Live**, which produces educational and

awareness content for today's service members and veterans. "You are loved and you are seen," says founder Jarred White. "It is okay to not be okay, and it is okay to ask for help."

Additional local resources include the **Fort Wayne Vet Center**, offering confidential individual and group counseling for veterans, service members, and families. Appointments are available at **260-460-1456**, with extended access at **877-927-8387**. Other community partners include **Stop Suicide Northeast Indiana**, the **Fort Wayne VA Medical Center**, and **ONE K9 Corp/The McKenna Foundation**, which provides food, shelter, and health and mental health services at no cost.

Veterans and families can also access free, immediate, and confidential help through the **Veterans Crisis Line** by calling **988** and pressing **1**, or texting **838255**. Free programs such as **Heart-Math Education and Resilience Training (H.E.A.R.T.)** further support stress management and resilience. Together, these resources offer hope, connection, and lifesaving support for veterans and their families.

Golf Outing Set for Wednesday August 26th at Cobblestone

The 8th Annual Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament will take place on Wednesday August 26th at 9 am at beautiful Cobblestone Golf Club in Kendallville, Indiana. The tournament will begin at 9 am with a shotgun start. Teams may register by contacting the Shrine office at 260-267-5022 or by emailing Eric Johnson at 521johnson@comcast.net to reserve your teams. Cost is \$360 per foursome. We will be sending out additional information over the next few months. We are looking for sponsors and donations for the tournament if your are interested contact Eric!

Volunteer Luncheon Held November 15th

Bonnie Davis hosted our special volunteer luncheon on Saturday November 15th in the Event Center. We had a nice turnout and had lunch catered in by Mission Barbecue. We even heard Murray Cox (aka: Abe Lincoln) speak to our group. A big "Thank You" to all volunteers who donate their valuable time to the Veterans Memorial. We were glad you attended our luncheon and look forward to seeing you this year at the Shrine.



Spotlight on our staff, Tim Schild Board Member



By Pat Fraizer, 2nd Vice-Commander

Tim Schild was from a small farming town in Kansas. The family farm was being sold, and factory jobs were his only options. That is when he decided to see the world.

Tim achieved the rank of Sergeant First Class (E-7) 95Bravo Military Police. He was assigned to duty in Germany and later to Panama, where he worked with the DEA to monitor drug factories. Once he gathered the intelligence for the Special Forces.

Tim was then assigned to Somalia as security for Major General Montgomery, who served three tours in Vietnam, earned 2 Bronze Stars/V, and received a Purple Heart.



Major General Montgomery with Tim

Tim stated that he understood the soldiers, cared for them, and was personally invested in their well-being.

While in Somalia, the mission was to help and restore hope for the people. Ensuring that they were protected from the War Lords.

The UN, with its bureaucracy, and only to shoot when being fired at, is very similar to Vietnam.

Tim was sent to Iraq and served in Baghdad. Was under fire several times.

Tim's thoughts concerning Somalia were very important, but Iraq with weapons of mass destruction was not the reason. Tim stated that the Iraqi people were glad they dethroned Saddam Hussein. Only 7-10% of the radicals were the group that created the havoc against the average Muslim, who were a very peaceful people.

Tim heads up our Veterans Support Group every Monday at 5:00 pm at the Shrine. The first Saturday of every month the Shrine holds a spouses support group that meets at 11:00 am. It's all about "veterans helping veterans!"



Tim Schild in Somalia (far right)

Ghost Army Legacy Project Launches Grant Program

The Ghost Army Legacy Project (GALP) is launching a Research and Creative Grant program to support and expand public understanding of the unique contributions and legacy of two World War II tactical units the U.S. Army's 23rd Headquarters Special Troops and 3133rd Signal Service Company - better known as the Ghost Army.

GALP is inviting applications for three grants up to \$4,000 each for a wide variety of possible projects. "We invite applications from graduate students, emerging scholars, museum professionals, early career researchers, artists, writers, independent researchers and educators working in any medium or discipline" says Ghost Army Legacy Project President Rick Beyer.

Proposals are due May 15, 2026 and notifications of awards will be on August 15, 2026. Grantees will have one year to complete their projects. More information about the grant program can be found here:

ghostarmy.org/about/call-for-proposals-fall-2026

Contact: Rick Beyer, President
Ghost Army Legacy Project
781-801-3261
rick@ghostarmy.org



New Looks Coming to the Museum



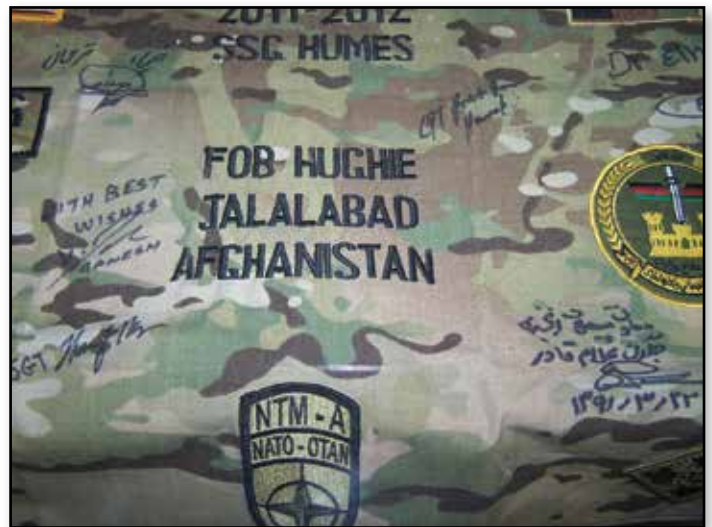
by Curator Robert Thomas

The year has started out with the museum closed for reorganization. The artifact storage room was in need of better organization and increased storage capability. The system has given us a chance to revamp many exhibits and thin down our inventory. Last year we created a new exhibit for the weapons and it has been enjoyed by our guests. Here is a group of new items featured in new exhibits plus new artifacts in some of the existing display areas.



One of the new artifacts featured is a model of the Escort Carrier, USS St. Lo CVE-63 (aka) "Baby Flattops". The USS St. Lo was original named the USS Midway for the great battle that changed the course of the war. When the US Navy decided to name one of the new Essex Class Fleet Carriers after Midway, the ship was renamed for the famous hedgerows breakout battle from the Normandy beaches in late July 1944. On Oct. 25, 1944, USS St. Lo would fight in the Battle of Samar which "Taffy 3" would take on the surprise attack by the Japanese Central Force in the early morning. The USS St. Lo would survive the Japanese attack due to the sacrifices of US Destroyers, Escort Destroyers and Carrier planes from the Escort Carriers that took on the Japanese Fleet of Battleships, Heavy Cruisers

and Destroyers. By late morning the Japanese Fleet retreated, but land based Japanese Aircraft from the newly formed "Special Attack Air Corps" or Kamikaze would attack "Taffy 3" just before 1100 hours. One of the other escort carriers, USS White Plains, damaged one of the attackers. Most unlucky for the USS St. Lo, it crashed into her and penetrated the flight deck to explode in the hanger deck loaded with bombs. This explosion would seriously damage the USS St. Lo and the fires could not be contained. The ship would sink and become the first ship sunk by a Kamikaze. This ship will be in the new warship exhibit of the museum.



Another new artifact is in the Afghanistan exhibit of the War on Terror. It is a souvenir for a soldier who served at FOB (Forward Operating Base) Hughie located near Jalalabad. This honors the soldiers stationed there as one of their own leaves for home. We are adding more new artifacts to the War on Terror exhibit to honor those military personnel stationed and fought to keep the peace in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Finally, the last new artifact featured is an A-10 "Warthog" spent 30mm shells on the clips that are stored in the aircraft. This is just a small section of

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Where there's help, there's hope Veteran Service Officers are your partners



by Bruce Lehman, U.S. Army Veteran

A Veterans Service Officer (VSO) assists veterans, their dependents, and survivors in filing for federal, state, and county benefits, including VA compensation, pension, education, and burial benefits. These

accredited specialists provide free, expert help in navigating the complex VA claims process. They are typically located at the county level or within veterans service organizations.

Joe Wasson is a US Army veteran and now serves as VSO here in Allen County. He said "In 2015 I was attempting to record my DD214 and before I knew it, I was filing a disability claim with George Jarboe my mentor and predecessor. Three years later I found myself in the seat as the Allen County Veteran Service Officer. So far, it's been an honor and a privilege to service our fellow veterans and their families. As for me, I served on active duty in the Army from 2003-2006 and 2009-2010 for a deployment to Iraq. My MOS was a 19D, Cavalry Scout."



Joe Wasson

Key Milestones in Indiana VSO History

- 1945: Establishment of the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA).
- 1990: The National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO) was created, with Indiana among the founding states.
- 2013: A significant overhaul began to require CVSOs to become federally accredited one year after hire.
- 2025–2026: New state legislation (Senate Enrolled Act 433) requires all Indiana CVSOs to meet strict new state accreditation standards by July 1, 2026.

Wasson explained, "There isn't a big enough mountain to stand on to talk about veteran benefits. So we lean on each other to find veterans in our lives and ask if they know about their benefits and if they don't, they should call a local CVSO. I feel as a veteran, the onus falls us to ask about our own benefits. All 92 County Veteran Service Offices are ready for veterans to call."

Any case is difficult when the veteran doesn't feel he or she is deserving of an earned benefit. In fact, the more service members that use our local VA hospital, the more resource can be made available for those that need it more than you and I.

Key Responsibilities and Services:

Claims Preparation: Helping veterans submit initial claims for disability compensation, VA pensions, and vocational rehabilitation.

Appeals Assistance: Assisting with decisions reviews and appeals after an adverse VA decision.

Outreach: Conducting outreach to Veterans in nursing homes, senior centers, and local communities.

One veteran said:

My VSO looked at my claim paperwork, then fixed it because I didn't realize you could claim things for each side of my body. I was just a recently retiring service member going off what I had heard from my battle buddies. Then he went through my records, asked if certain things were still there that I missed, and we added them. Then he went over a few common ailments most service members have that he has seen, and a handful were definitely missed by me. So we added those. *If I hadn't used him, I wouldn't have gotten near as good of a rating as I did because everything he added came through and greatly improved by rating.*

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Veteran Service Officers are your partners

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How to Find a VSO:

County Offices: Most counties have a dedicated Veterans Service Office.

State Departments: State Veteran Affairs Offices provide lists of local VSOs.

VA.gov: The VA provides a search tool for accredited representatives. Veterans Service Organizations like the American Legion, VFW, or DAV have accredited staff.

VSOs never charge for their services.

Prepare Documentation: Bring all necessary paperwork, including your DD214, marriage license, and medical records, to your appointment.

Accreditation Matters: Ensure your representative is accredited by the VA to ensure they have the proper training.

Information Needed for Appointments:

When meeting with a VSO, be prepared with documents such as military records (DD214), medical evidence of disabilities, and financial information (bank statements, income records) for pension claims.

Get Help From: <https://www.va.gov/get-help-from-accredited-representative>

Museum Open
Friday, Saturday,
Sunday and Monday
11 am to 4 pm
(Starting April 3rd)

Memorial Grounds
Open 24/7

New Looks Coming to the Museum

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the belt feed ammunition and it was given to us by the Fort Wayne Air Guard, 122nd Tactical Fighter Wing as they were changing from A-10s to F-16s unit.

These are just some of the new artifacts along with other artifacts from the museum displays for our Veterans, Service Members, families and guests to honor the US Military Personnel of all branches. We believe this will ensure a new look for the museum. When you visit, ask our staff about the artifacts on display you wish to know more about and we look forward to seeing all visitors in April.

New Items in the Gift Shop!

Two new items just arrived in the Veterans Memorial Gift Shop inside the War History Museum, you'll want to check out! Our new Royal Blue cloth hat with logo, American Flag on the side and "Never Forget" embroidered on the back. \$20 is a great price on this attractive new lid.



Also new is our Blue Fleece 1/4 zip with logo on the front and pull ties around the waist. This fleece is super warm and perfect for the cold weather here in Indiana! Stay warm in this comfortable pull over for just \$40. All sales benefit the Veterans Memorial.

Kroger Cares & 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 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.

Thrivent Choice Deadline

The Thrivent Choice deadline is rapidly approaching for members to give to the organization of their choice! Thrivent Members, don't forget you can direct your Thrivent choice dollars to us at our official incorporated name of War Veterans Memorial Shrine of American History Inc. Get your designation submitted by March 31, 2026. <https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice> #thriventchoicedollars #thankyou



Dave and Lori Abbott stand behind their son's tribute bench at the Global War on Terrorism Memorial. SPC Nickolas S Hartge was killed in Iraq while serving with the 1st Infantry Division. Thank you both for dedicating this beautiful bench in his honor.

★ The Mission of the Shrine ★

- To provide a forever memorial for all military Veterans 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.
- To preserve artifacts of their service; to give future generations a better understanding and appreciation of the historical past of the United States.