

HONORING FOREVER

NEWSLETTER

Bill Blass Celebration Continues!

The Ghost Army Exhibit at the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum will continue through September 29th. The Inflatable Tank, which has been on display in our pavilion for the last couple of months, will end on Monday, September 5th. It will then be moved to the History Center downtown until the end of the month.

Here are some other upcoming events surrounding the Bill Blass Celebration and the Ghost Army story.

PBS-Public Broadcasting

- Sept 9, 7:30PM, Channel 39-1
Airing of interview with Rick Beyer, Ghost Army author, filmmaker
- Sept 10, 6:30PM, Channel 39-4
Airing of interview with Rick Beyer, Ghost Army author, filmmaker
- Sept 11, 2:00PM, Channel 39-1
Airing of Ghost Army documentary
- Sept 11, 8:00PM, Channel 39-4
Airing of interview with Rick Beyer, Ghost Army author, filmmaker

The History Center

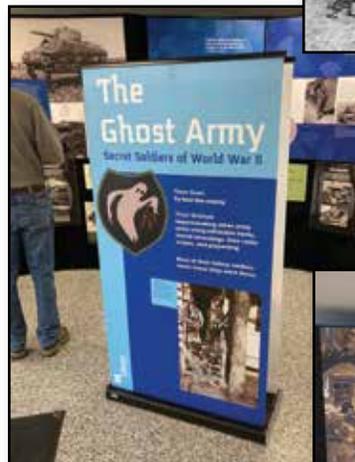
- Sept 9, 5:30PM
Screening of Ghost Army documentary and book signing, with Rick Beyer

Allen County Public Library

- Sept 10, 10-11:30AM
Dialog between Rick Beyer and Bruce Haines, PBS Gen. Mgr., followed by Q&A and book signing



Photo Credit Military.com



War History Museum Naming Rights to W. Paul Wolf

On Monday, July 4th the new War History Museum was unveiled in front of a full pavilion of family, friends, and veterans. Eric Johnson, 2nd Vice Commander, presented W. Paul Wolf with an engraved plaque dedicating the new museum named in his honor. The expansive 6,000 square foot structure is currently under construction and plans are to occupy the new facility by Veterans Day November 11th. Paul is a Korean Veteran and has made a generous donation to be able to have the naming rights of the museum. All of his family was in attendance at this celebration.



Eric Johnson, 2nd Vice Commander, presented W. Paul Wolf with an engraved plaque dedicating the new museum named in his honor. The expansive 6,000 square foot structure is currently under construction and plans are to occupy the new facility by Veterans Day November 11th. Paul is a Korean Veteran and has made a generous donation to be able to have the naming rights of the museum. All of his family was in attendance at this celebration.



McMahon Tire Donates \$10,000 to the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum

Thursday, August 11th, the McMahon Tire organization presented a check for \$10,000 to the Executive Board members at the Vietnam Wall. The monies raised were from the annual McMahon vendor/ client golf outing held at Coyote Creek Golf Club on July 14th. The Shrine was one of two benefactors of the fundraiser. McMahon operates 11 tire centers in northeast Indiana and is part of the Best-One Tire Organization, a group of tire centers across America.

*Patrick McMahon III, Eric Johnson, Pat Fraizer, Greg Bedford, and Randy Geyer
(photo by Nikki Phillips)*



HONORING FOREVER

Museum New and Old

by Robert Thomas

As the season changes from summer to fall, the construction of the new museum should be completed and into operation in November on Veteran's Day. The museum will have some new features to carry the honoring of all veterans. The new facility will be three times larger and allow a little over two times the artifacts to be displayed.



All the original exhibits will be moved into the new museum and expanded with new artifacts, maps, photos, paintings, uniformed mannequins, and the history of the wars/conflicts. A new group of exhibits will feature Weapons of War: Women in the Service when they were a sub-branch of the services, Organizations that have helped the military services, Items of Honor left at our Memorials on the grounds, and American Heroes that features military personnel and units that honor and served the United States, the center location will hold the special feature exhibit(s). First feature exhibit will bring forth the War on Terror starting with 9/11 attack on our nation and our forces bringing the conflict to the home of terrorist locations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The new museum will include a new Gift Shop, Paul's Coffee Cafe, and the R&R Picnic area. The Coffee Café will be an area for our Veterans to gather for casual conversation to fellow Veterans, as

well as guests in a relaxed setting. The R&R (Rest and Relaxation) Picnic area will be located under the expanded roof attached to the north side of the museum. It will hold picnic tables that are easily accessible for the disabled using wheelchairs, walkers or canes.

The old museum will be re-purposed to two new features. The entrance room will become the Medal of Honor Research Library to honor the recipients of our nation's highest award. It will feature a section on biographies and autobiographies. Other sections will be yearbooks from training to service time in war and peace, history of our nation's wars to include the colonial wars before the American Revolution, an equipment section that features everything from weapons, vehicles and uniforms with accessories, and a final section of military manuals from field manuals to technical bulletins and manuals. Original main museum area will become a banquet/lecture hall for special events, history guest lecturers, special documentary/history movie viewing and a new rental area. It will honor Major General Dailey, whom was the leader of our founders unit in World War I, the US Army Sixth Engineers which saw action with the Third Division and nearby British and French Army units. This room was originally used for the reunions of the Sixth Engineers from 1952 to 1971 and it was named for Major General Edmund Dailey.



Museum Open
Monday, Thursday,
Saturday and Sunday
11 am to 4pm

Memorial Grounds
Open 24/7



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Columbarium Niches are now being sold.

The Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum, a 40 acre park featuring multiple memorials honoring veterans of many eras, is now offering the veterans of Northeast Indiana another choice for a final resting place. The construction of our new Sterling Chapel, scheduled to begin this fall, will include a 48 Niche Granite Columbarium where veterans can have their ashes, and those of their spouse if desired, inurned on our memorial grounds. This is being coordinated in conjunction with D.O. McComb and Sons Funeral Homes. Niches are now being sold with the proceeds going towards the purchase of additional Columbariums and the legacy fund for the VNMS&M. For further information contact Tim Schild of the VNMS&M at 260-494-5865 or email vetsgt40@outlook.com.



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.

A Note from Greg Bedford, Commander...

It was a pleasure unveiling the naming rights to the new W. Paul Wolf War History Museum on July 4th. Today we just finished the concrete pouring of the 6,000 square foot floor.

We are excited to have this expansive museum complete with ADA bathrooms, a Gift Shop and Paul's Coffee Café. A place where Veterans can sit talk, share stories as they relax on comfortable chairs. All visitors can enjoy conversations around two tables that can accommodate seating for twelve. We hope to be able to dedicate the War History Museum on Veterans Day, November 11th.

The first week of October, we will be breaking ground on the new Sterling Chapel, named in honor of Jeanette Sterling a former member of the Mary Penrose Chapter of DAR here in Fort Wayne. The Legacy bricks will become a reality on the Chapel as it is constructed. Hopefully by early spring you will see this beautiful new structure on the memorial grounds. Also coming soon is the Memorial Columbarium, which will be available for all Veterans so that they have a final resting place at a national memorial. Niches in the Columbarium are being sold to all Veterans wanting to be near their brothers on the Vietnam wall. Each niche holds two vases or containers of their cremains and one other. Honor Guard Ceremonies will be available for Veterans wishing to have a special service. For more information contact Tim Schild at 260-494-5865

★ Donations Accepted ★

The VNMSM 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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Veterans Memorial Shrine and Museum Hosts Fundraiser Finale!



WBYS 98.9 The Bear sponsored a fundraiser for "Our Turn to Serve" from May through July. On Saturday, July 9th, they presented a check for \$9,449 to Tamara Goodman, as part of the "Our Turn to Serve" service dog-training organization which is part of the Veterans Service Division of the Indiana Canine Assistance Network.

The day started off with a motorcycle ride from Auburn and activities at the Shrine ran from 1pm to 3pm, with a final check presentation on behalf of WBYS and clients who helped with the donations. The fundraiser continued at the American Legion Post 97 in Auburn, Indiana following the ceremony. Thanks to all volunteers from "Our Turn to Serve", WBYS, all veterans with service dogs who attended, and the staff at the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum for all your help! A great day and a great cause!



Upcoming Events

September 2 - V-J Day

The American Date of the Victory over Japan in World War II.

September 11 - Patriot Day

This is the National Day of Service and Remembrance for people who died because of 9/11.

September 11 - Be A Tourist In Your Own Hometown! Visit the Museum and Memorial Grounds between 11:00am - 4pm.

September 16 - National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Americans remember the sacrifices of military members who have gone missing while in action and of POWs.

September 25 - Gold Star Mother's Day

Recognizes and honors mothers who have lost a child in service.

October 13 - Welcome Home Vietnam Vets

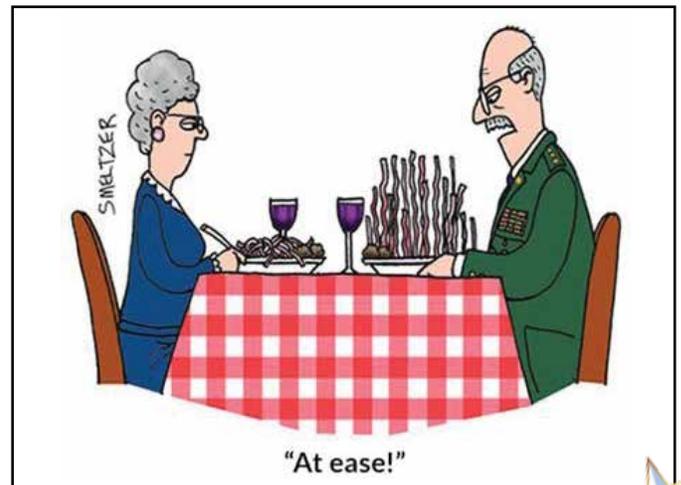
11am to 3pm Book Give-A-Way Pavilion at the Shrine Free Gift for Vietnam veterans era

October 25 - Day of the Deployed

Honors deployed troops and their families.

November 1-5 - National Veterans Small Business Week

Celebrates Veterans and their contributions to American small businesses.



Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans!

Jill Fewell is coming back to the Veterans Memorial Shrine and Museum on Thursday, October 13th for a Free Book Giveaway to all Indiana Vietnam Era Veterans. Jill who has been distributing the book "Time to Honor" is a full color coffee table book that is presented to veterans that served in Vietnam and never got properly thanked for their service. Jill and the DAR organize the local book giveaway.

Jill was here on July 9th for a special two hour book give-a-way to veterans who came down from Angola in conjunction with American Legion Post 31. Alex Dobson, the new commander arranged to have a bus bring those Vietnam era veterans to the Shrine for the book giveaways. Thank you Jill and Alex for making it a great day!



Veterans Memorial Shrine and Museum Receives Donation from Warrior Appreciation Day Event!

On June 25th at the Churubusco Community Park, a Warrior Appreciation Day Car and Bike Show was held honoring Veterans from all branches of the service. Jeff Schenher organizer of this 1st Annual Event was very pleased with the results and is excited to bring it back again next year. "All I have heard is positive comments from everyone in the community" he said. Proceeds from the event went to Shephards House in Fort Wayne and the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum. Robert Thomas and Tom Schmitt (Board Members pictured to right of the check) accepted a \$5000 donation at



the Churubusco American Legion Post. We wish to thank Jeff, his staff, all entrants, veterans, vendors, and attendees to the show! Look forward to next year!

Tattered American Flag from Signal Hill given to Museum

The Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum is grateful for the many donations for our displays. One such recent gift is a tattered American flag from Jim Redmond, a Marine Veteran.

Jim Redmond was a PFC in the Marines when he arrived in Vietnam in January of 1969. While stationed as a field radio communication specialist, the Marine unit stationed at northwest I Corp on Signal Hill was ordered to leave.

Redmond took on the important task of ensuring the American flag was saved.

The flag flew over Signal Hill in late November 1969. The hilltop base was an overlook tripwire position. It was established to alert the main base of any pending attack on Vendergrift Combat Base. Grunts called the base LZ Stud.

In October 1969 the third Marine division was ordered to dismantle the base and pull out as part of President Nixon's Vietnamization policy. The base was to be handed over to the ARVN Army. The Marines were to leave, but the ARVN army did not occupy the base immediately.

This left the Marines of Signal Hill on their own with only fire support from the Rockpile (Also known as Elliot Combat Base) several miles east. The Marines on the Hill had about 30+ men with two 81 mortar teams and an understrength platoon. They remained there for two nights and on the third morning were picked up.

Redmond said, "The flag flew over the hill as the last US flag during that period. I removed the flag from atop the Mortar Command Bunker and kept it for over 50-years."

***Jim Redmond. L/CPL
Vietnam,
1st Battalion
4th Marine Regiment***



Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum Pays Tribute to Korean Veterans

On Wednesday July 27th the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum paid tribute to Korean Armistice Day.



This marks the 69th year since the end of the Korean War in July 1953. Bud Mendenhall, a Korean Veteran spoke at the ceremony along with Pastor Youngsoo An from the First Presbyterian Church in Fort Wayne as he performed the opening and closing prayers. Korean families and veterans attended the ceremony. Pat Fraizer 1st Vice Commander read the names of recently deceased Korean Veterans. Eric Johnson 2nd Vice Commander rang a bell after each name was announced. We'd like to thank all the people who attended this annual event.

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4th Annual Golf Tournament Our Largest Ever!

On July 14th Cobblestone Golf Course hosted our 4th annual Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament. 124 golfers teed off on a beautiful 80 degree day. Very competitive field. Two skins were awarded. We had our first auction item a "Super Cooler" on rollers donated by Brad Gay from Gay's in Angola. We raised \$500 for the new museum and sold a bunch of A-10 Souvenir Shells to help raise money. Lots of door prizes to the top teams and skill prizes. Thank You to our Gold Sponsors The James Foundation and American Legion Post 31 in Angola. Big thanks to Bobick's Golf and all the firms that donated prizes. Special thanks to Alan Moyer and his great team for making it another wonderful day on the links. We thank you! Hope to see you all again next July!



Big Surprise at the Golf Tournament

The American Legion Post 31 in Angola, Indiana presented a check to 2nd Vice Commander Eric Johnson for \$10,000 during the dinner and prize giveaways! Thank You Alex Dobson Commander of Post 31 for your generous donation.

Volunteers Needed

If you have a heart for Veterans,
We need you!

- Special Events
 - Museum Tour Guide
 - Gardening
 - Computer work
- OR

Join us every Wednesday
from 10:00am - 1:00pm
for museum cleaning and
sprucing up the grounds.

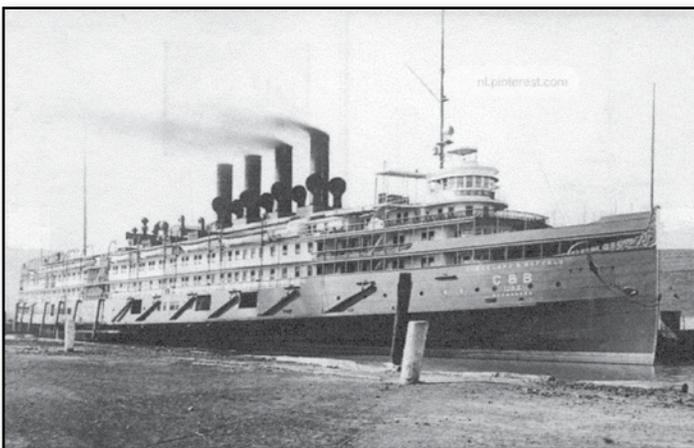
vnmsfw@gmail.com

Aircraft Carriers on the Great Lakes? *by Tom Schmitt*

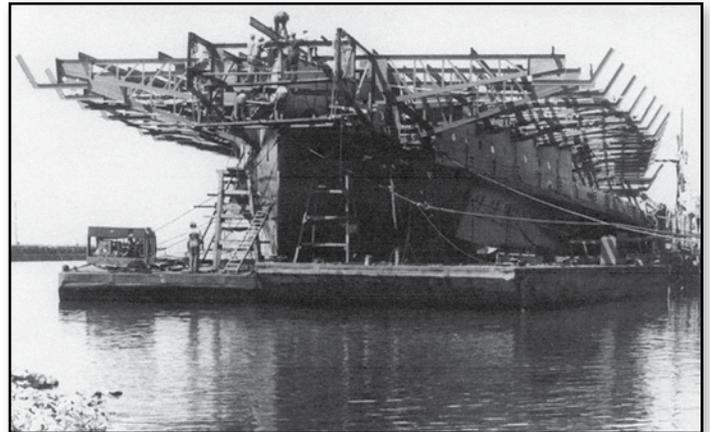
There were two aircraft carriers assigned to the Great Lakes, the USS Wolverine and the USS Sable.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Navy was looking for a safe place to train carrier pilots. Both oceans and the Gulf of Mexico were not suitable, due to enemy submarines. Another problem was that there was not a carrier to spare for training. A plan was developed to convert great lakes cruise ships into training carriers. These ships were then to be used on Lake Michigan. The navy purchased two old great lakes cruise ships in 1942. They were the Seeandbee, built in 1913, and the Greater Buffalo built in 1924. The Seeandbee was converted into the carrier Wolverine. The Greater Buffalo was converted into the carrier Sable. Both ships were side paddle wheel steamers with coal-fired boilers.

The USS Wolverine was commissioned in August 1942 as IX-64. It had a 500-foot wooden flight deck and 4 arresting cables. The USS Sable was commissioned in May 1943 as IX-81. It had a 535 foot steel flight deck and 8 arresting cables. Outriggers were constructed forward of the bridge island to park damaged aircraft. Each ship had a crew of approximately 270 sailors aboard.



Both ships had some design problems that affected their ability to carry out proper training. With a maximum speed of 18 knots-20 mph, neither ship could travel at a high enough speed to create sufficient airflow across the flight deck for takeoffs. They had to depend on the prevailing wind and the ships speed for takeoffs. If the prevailing wind speed was too low, flight ops would be cancelled. At times the smoke from the coal-fired boilers would block the pilots view of the ships stern when landing. Neither ship had a hanger deck or elevators. With limited parking space on the flight deck for parking damaged aircraft, flight operations would need to be suspended when all available spaces were filled. Damaged aircraft that could not take off had to be hoisted onto barges for return to shore before flight operations could resume.



Both ships were considered a success. By the end of WWII they had qualified 18,000 pilots, including future president George W Bush. 116,000 landings and take off were completed, while losing fewer than 300 aircraft

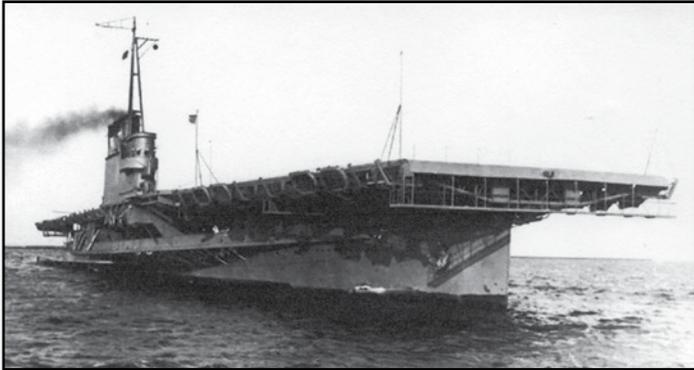
Flight operations continued in all weather 7 days a week 14 hours a day, being delayed only by low wind or a blocked flight deck. In one day the USS Sable qualified 59 new carrier pilots, each one completing 8 landings and take-offs.

It was thought that if pilots could master take off and landings on these ships with their lower and shorter flight decks, they would have little trouble operating their aircraft from the deck of a larger standard size carrier. *Continued on the next page*

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Aircraft Carriers on the Great Lakes?

Continued



These two ships also trained the landing signal officers and flight deck personnel for the fleet. Every two weeks 15 new crew members joined each ship for a four-week training course on flight deck operations. The steel deck of the USS Sable was used to test non-skid coatings applied to the surface of the flight deck. Both ships had a sick bay and operating rooms with all the required personnel.

Pilots first received their wings at Pensacola, Florida or Corpus Christi, Texas. They then reported to NAS Glenview, Illinois, where they practiced take-offs and landings on carriers painted on normal runways, before attempting landings on the Sable or the Wolverine.

After the war ended both ships were scrapped. There was an attempt to make a museum from the USS Sable, however funds could not be raised. At least 35 aircraft from these ships have been recovered and restored for museum displays. This process still continues.



Did You Know...?

- The permanent Vietnam Memorial Wall at the Veterans Memorial Shrine & Museum located in Fort Wayne was built to withstand winds of 125 mph. This summer we had winds of 98 mph at the wall. It sustained NO damage at all. That is a tribute to all who worked on this magnificent memorial to the 58,320 men and women who gave all in Vietnam. (According to the National Archives.)
- The password used by the Allies on D-Day, June 6, 1944, was Mickey Mouse.
- During the D-Day invasion, Americans used the principle of a toy clicker widespread at the time which consisted of a spring steel blade squeezing once pressed. It was called a Cricket. Only the 101st Airborne Division was equipped with crickets.
- The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when approximately 75,000 soldiers of the North Korean People's Army crossed over the 38th parallel, and ended on July 27, 1953. There are still more than 7,000 U.S. soldiers missing in action from the war.
- Although actual hostilities during the Korean War ended on July 27, 1953, Congress lengthened the war period to January 31, 1955, to extend benefit eligibility for soldiers because peace was so uncertain after the 1953 peace negotiations.
- 19 million living veterans served during at least one war as of 2021.
- 11 percent of veterans are women.
- Of the 16 million Americans who served during World War II, about 240,000 were still alive as of 2021.
- 933,000 veterans served during the Korean War
- 5.9 million veterans served during the Vietnam War.
- 7.8 million veterans served in the Gulf War era.

Honoring Veterans on Veterans Day

by Greg Banicki

This year, this nation's annual Veteran Day celebration will occur on Friday, November 11.

Veterans Day takes place every November 11 in the United States, originally in honor of the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918 that signaled the end of World War I. It was known as Armistice Day until 1954, when President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day.

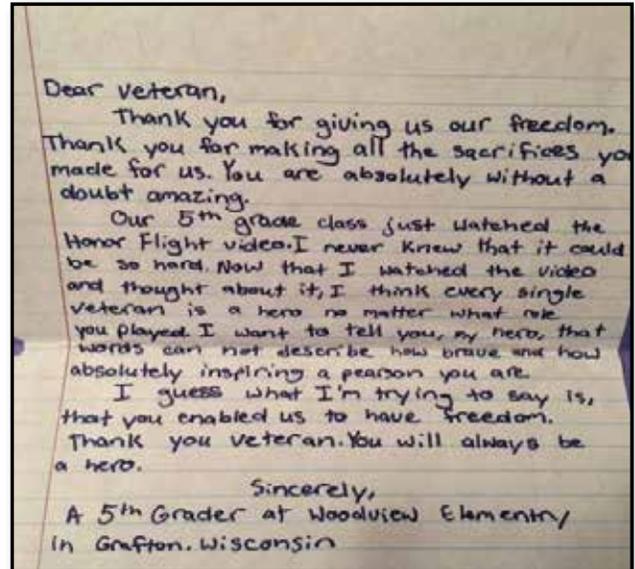
Veterans Day would come to acknowledge veterans of all wars, and then all who once served in the U.S. military. Veterans Day is an opportunity to publicly commemorate the contributions of living veterans and to show appreciation toward them.

Today, only 7% of the population has served in the military and are veterans. And only 1 percent of our population today will ever wear the uniform of this nation in any of its branches – soldier, sailor, airman, Marine, active, Guard or Reserve, and Air Force and Space Force, according to the Department of Defense.

So, what makes a Veteran a Veteran?

First, all new service members pledge an oath "to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that they will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that they will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me", according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Second, an essay written in 2018 by a 5th grade student in Wisconsin succinctly recognizes and celebrates the important role veterans have in a democratic society.



Finally, that oath the veteran pledges at the induction ceremony means he or she commits to laying their life on the line for our country in good times and bad, if necessary. It doesn't matter which service branch they belonged to, or whether they served in a war zone or not, no matter the rank or the military occupational specialty, Veterans stand, as author and veteran Lt. Colonel Dave Grossman writes, "as Sheepdogs guarding the flock".

Veterans Day, along with Memorial Day, are the two most important days to honor this nation's veterans who have served and sacrificed because...

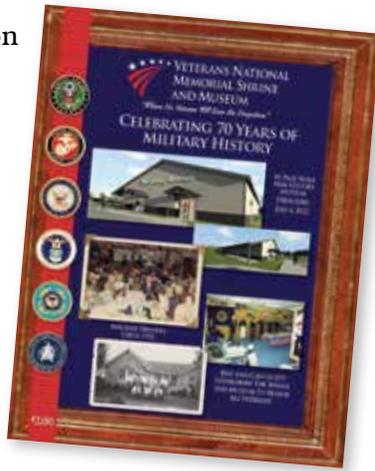
We must never forget that Freedom isn't free!

***We accept donations either
Military Collectibles or monetary
donations for operations!***

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Dedication Magazine a Successful Fund Raiser for the Veterans War History Museum

Our 48 page Dedication Magazine was published on July 4th and is being distributed to all visitors at the museum. This informative issue has feature stories about Founders Eric & Cleo Scott and the past years they operated the museum and memorial grounds. There is an article on the Merci 40/8 box car and the current



restoration of this historic WWI macro-artifact. You'll read about W. Paul Wolf, his background as a veteran and businessman in Fort Wayne. He talks about how he decided to make a generous donation to the War History Museum now under construction. Curator Robert Thomas has a story about plans for the old museum once we have moved. Thanks to all of our loyal advertisers for supporting this publication, as all funds raised go directly to the new museum.

AmazonSmile Helps the Veterans Memorial Shrine and Museum



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NOTE: Purchases made at the regular amazon.com site do not qualify. Thank you for your support!



Souvenir Feature Black Snakes Shell

A-10 30mm Shell fired from onboard Gatling gun from the 122nd Fighter Wing in Fort Wayne. Each shell is painted with our logo and the Fighter Wing plane. A great collectors item! Available at the Shrine and Museum.

\$20 each



THE SHRINE NEEDS YOU!



To submit stories or feature articles please email to info@honoringforever.org