

HONORING FOREVER

Newsletter

Celebrating Our Veterans & America's 250th Anniversary

Memorial Weekend Brings Large Crowds to the Veterans Memorial



By Eric Johnson 1st Vice Commander

Hundreds of Veterans and visitors alike came out to the shrine on Memorial Weekend. The **Annual Watchfire** started at 6pm Friday night May 22nd and ran through Saturday night at 6pm. This event is popular with many veterans and pays tribute to those who were lost during past wars. Thank you Matthew Kenworthy for braving the rain at this year's event.



Rolling Thunder Inc. Indiana Chapter One, from Indianapolis, conducted their yearly Memorial Day program paying tribute to all POW/MIA's from all wars on Monday May 25th. Fort Wayne Mayor, the Honorable Sharon Tucker, was in attendance and spoke to the crowd as well as State Representative Justin Busch. The Rolling Thunder Motorcycles Chapter One traditionally has honored all POW's and MIA's in ceremonies every Memorial Day for the last several years. I want to thank Darryle Swartzlander and his advance crew for all their help and for their generous donation to the Veterans Memorial.



Peace Pole Dedication on next page

2122 O'Day Road • Fort Wayne, IN 46818

260-267-5022

honoringforever.org

 **VETERANS NATIONAL
MEMORIAL SHRINE
AND MUSEUM**

"Where No Veteran Will Ever Be Forgotten."

Memorial Weekend Activities



The Peace Pole was also dedicated on Saturday, May 23rd. Thank you Greg Banicki for all your hard work and coordination on this special event. Our Peace Pole is inscribed with eight different languages: English, German, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Japanese, Arabic and French.



Summertime at the Shrine



By Greg Bedford, Commander

Summertime is a great time to bring the whole family out to the Shrine on O'Day Road. With Free admission and Free parking what a great value and a fun way to educate the kids on the history of wars the United State has fought in. We have a new weapons display and a new naval ships display inside the War History Museum. You'll find interesting artifacts throughout the museum.

Outside there is a picnic area on the porch next to the museum. Pack a box lunch and enjoy this great weather we're having in northeast Indiana. Make it an adventure taking the walk path through history and visit memorials throughout the Memorial Park. Don't forget to visit the historic Merci 40 & 8 Boxcar, given to the State of Indiana in 1949 and completely restored in its current location in our pavilion.

Planning a special event, call the Shrine and book your party at the Event Center. Our Sterling Chapel is also available for small weddings and now you can attend family services every Sunday at 10 A.M. Come on out to Fort Wayne's hidden gem...the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum. Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday's 11 am to 4 pm. Memorial grounds are open 24/7 Call our office for special tours for larger groups. 260-267-5022

Enjoy the rest of your summer!
 Commander Greg Bedford



Agent Orange Memorial becoming Reality!

We are pleased to announce positive news about the upcoming memorial. Fund raising has begun and response has been wonderful! We are now offering Agent Orange patches for a donation of \$10.00 that have been selling very well to motorcycle clubs and individual veterans. Thank you Katie McIntosh for spearheading this drive. We have also developed a Burn Pit Patch for all those veterans who served in the Gulf Wars. We should have those for sale in our gift shop soon. Keep in mind this Agent Orange Memorial is being funded totally by veterans and their families. Anyone wishing to make a donation please stop by the War History Museum 2122 O'Day Road or mail your donation to Veterans Memorial c/o Agent Orange Memorial to P.O. Box 26 Arcola, IN 46704 Donations can also be made on our website honoringforever.org



Calendar of Events

July

July 26: **Church Service 10:00AM** @ Sterling Chapel
 July 27: **Korean War Veterans Armistice Day**
 (Observed July 26th at the Sterling Chapel 2:00PM)

August

Aug 2: **Church Service 10:00AM** @ Sterling Chapel
 Aug 7: Purple Heart Day - A time for Americans to pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battle field or paid the ultimate sacrifice
 Aug 9: **Church Service 10:00AM** @ Sterling Chapel
 Aug 16: **Church Service 10:00AM** @ Sterling Chapel
 Aug 21: **United Way Day of Caring** at the Shrine
 Aug 22: **Concordia Graduates SSG Kevin Pape & 1LT Neale Shank Bench Dedication @ 11:00AM**
 Aug 23: **Church Service 10:00AM** @ Sterling Chapel
 Aug 26: 8th Annual VNMS Golf Outing 9AM @ Cobblestone Golf Club

Aug 29: Marine Forces Reserve Birthday
 Aug 30: **Church Service 10:00AM** @ Sterling Chapel

September

Sept 6: **Church Service 10:00AM** @ Sterling Chapel
 Sept 11: Patriot Day - An annual observance to remember and honor those who were injured or killed during the 9/11/01 terrorist attacks
 Sept 13: **Church Service 10:00AM** @ Sterling Chapel
 Sept 13: **Be A Tourist In Your Hometown 12PM-5PM**
 Sept 18: Air Force Birthday
 Sept 18: POW/MIA Recognition Day
 Sept 20: **Church Service 10:00AM** @ Sterling Chapel
 Sept 27: Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day - A day to honor the families of fallen service members
 Sept 27: **Church Service 10:00AM** @ Sterling Chapel

October

Oct. 13: Navy Birthday
 Oct. 26: National Day of the Deployed
 * **BOLD are events AT Veterans National Shrine and Museum**

Veterans Memorial Parades Down Calhoun Street on the 4th of July!

Many Veterans from the Memorial Shrine and Museum appeared in the first 4th of July Parade paying tribute to America's 250th Birthday. Team members rode in a 1946 Willy's Jeep and a 5-Ton Military Truck, as they all waved to adoring crowds and passed out American Flags. Bob Hatfield, from Custom Fabrication and Engineering, drove the Willy's Jeep and Bob also provided the 5 Ton Truck! Thank You Bob for being involved and supporting our incredible veterans during the Parade. As most of our veterans said "what a great response by our community in Fort Wayne. Literally thousands attended the Parade and really made you feel special for serving our great country." The Parade was well organized and moved along quickly before the hot weather moved in later in the day. Thanks to everyone involved in the event, it truly was a fun experience for everyone!



Did You Know...?

- During WWI over 500 U.S. soldiers were trapped behind German lines for six days during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in 1918. The Lost Battalion was cut off from supplies and reinforcements. They endured artillery bombardment, gas attacks, and harsh weather before finally being rescued.
- Near the end of WWII, the overall code name for the proposed invasion of the Japanese home islands was Operation Downfall. Due to Japan's surrender after the nuclear bombs were dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the invasion never took place.
- During the 1950s, the NSA built ECHELON, a global signals intelligence network, to intercept communications from the Soviet Union and its allies. Its existence remained secret for decades, only being publicly confirmed in the 1990s.
- German secret agents landed in the U.S. in 1942 to commit industrial sabotage. Operation Pastorius was designed to sabotage key American economic and industrial targets, including factories, railroads, bridges, power plants, and oil refineries, to hinder the U.S. war effort and instill fear among the civilian population. The plot was quickly foiled by the FBI, making it a little-known but dramatic espionage episode on American soil.

Civil War Ceremony Pays Tribute to Those That Serve the Shrine!



By Tom Schmitt Board Member

Saturday, June 27th The National Veterans Shrine and Museum held a ceremony to dedicate a new bench in the Civil War area and a plaque dedicated to the Old Guard (The soldiers who guard the tomb of the unknown soldiers). At this ceremony a certificate was presented to Amber Gonzalez and Lindenwood cemetery by the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War for the donation of the Civil War bench, the time capsule vault and the stone plaques for the Mother George and Sultana Memorials. Amber does a lot of special services, too numerous to mention, in support of Veterans.



Amber Gonzalez of Lindenwood Cemetery receives her award from Tom Schmitt of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War.



Bruce Kolb received a Spirit of Excellence Award from the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum for the donation of the Monument for the Old Guard. Bruce also donated the brass plaques for the Mother George and Sultana memorials along with the idea of placing the time capsule and donating many of the items in that capsule. Our thanks to Bruce and Amber for everything they do. The Veterans Memorial could not exist without people like you.



Bruce Kolb receives his award from Eric Johnson, VNMSM 1st Vice Commander



★ 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.

40 & 8 Merci Boxcar Special Ceremony Held on June 20th



By Eric Johnson 1st Vice Commander

The Veterans Memorial hosted a special ceremony on Saturday June 20th paying tribute to the historic boxcar presented to the State of Indiana in 1949. The boxcars were presented to United States for helping defend against the Nazi's during World War II. As a post war gesture the Merci Train or "Gratitude Train" consisted of 49 French Boxcars filled with thousands of gifts from French Citizens. Each state in the union received their own boxcar. 48 cars were delivered to all 48 states with the 49th car presented to the District of Columbia and the territory of Hawaii.

Today almost 43 cars still remain in the U.S. Grand Chef de Gare, and State Commander Jeff Carroll from New Albany, was here in Fort Wayne to unveil a special black granite bench in honor of the 40 & 8 and a display of legacy bricks purchased by members of the 40 & 8. It is our privilege to keep this historic macro artifact at the Veterans Memorial in Fort Wayne. Thanks to Mitch Newell and Sam Queen for all your help in organizing this event.



Members of the 40&8 Locale Voiture 37 and Grande du Indiana as they dedicate the new Tribute Bench and Legacy Bricks at June 20th ceremony at the Merci Boxcar pavilion at the Veterans Memorial.



The restored Indiana Box Car located at the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum.

Dove Released on the 4th of July

Christian Motorcycle Association Chapter 963 from Albion, IN. were in town for their annual Dove release on Saturday July 4th at Noon. A group of 20 riders made the trip down to Fort Wayne. A short service was held in the Sterling Chapel. Eric Johnson, 1st Vice Commander welcomed all the riders in attendance known as the "Kingdom Cruisers." The Dove's name is Freedom Flight and is a universally recognized symbol of peace.

Justin Stump, the Chapter's Chaplain delivered an address who stated "the dove is a symbol of peace and a release into the sky blesses all of us. As the Dove takes flight it can signal the hope for a new

beginning, healing or a peaceful journey." We all miss Tom Wilkinson who was the former Chaplain, who passed last year. The group has been releasing Dove's on the 4th of July since 2015. Thanks to all of you who were involved in the ceremony.

Museum Open
Friday, Saturday,
Sunday and Monday
11 am to 4 pm
(Starting April 3rd)
Memorial Grounds
Open 24/7

Follow the Flag



by Bruce Lehman, U.S. Army Veteran

According to a recent internet search battle flags trace back to Bronze Age field signs and used by early armies as a way to maintain unit cohesion and as rallying points and identify combatants through the dense smoke of black-powder warfare. Today, they survive as historical artifacts, naval ensigns, and the inspiration for the reversed flag patches worn on U.S. military uniforms.

Here is a quick breakdown of key milestones in the history of battle flags:

- **Ancient & Medieval Origins:** Armies relied on carved poles (vexilloids) and vibrant banners like the French Oriflamme to mark the commander's location and rally troops during chaotic close-quarters combat.
- **The American Revolution:** Militia units and Continental regiments carried flags featuring iconic localized designs, such as the Pine Tree flag, the Gadsden ("Don't Tread On Me"), or regional slogans like "Liberty or Death".
- **The American Civil War:** Because both sides used visually similar national flags, confusion often erupted on the battlefield. This led the Confederacy to adopt a distinct, square battle flag (famously used by the Army of Northern Virginia) to prevent friendly fire. Union infantry carried both the "Stars and Stripes" and state/regimental-specific colors.
- **The Modern Era:** As rapid-fire weaponry and trench warfare made carrying large flags obsolete, traditional battle flags shifted from tactical tools to ceremonial markers, most notably seen today as naval ensigns flown during special ship operations.

Most relevant to we Americans is the Civil War and the many flags use to differentiate units that's

featured battles, states and even cities. One consideration is the Confederate National Flag and the battle flag of Robert E. Lee and his Northern Virginia army.

The battle flag became popular and was used by other Confederate units as well.



*Roman Army Caesar War
Battle Legion Banner Flag
SPQR Rome Eagle*



*United States
Colored Troops
Flag*



*First Confederate
National Flag*



Moore's Creek Bridge: The Small Battle That Helped Win a Revolution



By Greg Banicki, MS, LMFT Board Member

History often remembers the largest battles, but some of the most important victories are those few people have ever heard of. The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, fought on

February 27, 1776, was one of those defining moments in America's fight for independence.

Early in the Revolutionary War, British leaders believed North Carolina was filled with Loyalists ready to restore royal rule. Their plan was for nearly 1,600 Scottish Highland Loyalists to join British troops arriving by sea and establish a strong southern base of operations.

Patriot militia learned of the plan and prepared a clever defense. They removed the planks from Moore's Creek Bridge and coated the remaining support beams with grease. As the Highlanders charged across the narrow bridge, they slipped into a deadly crossfire of Patriot muskets and cannon. In just minutes, the attack collapsed. Loyalist leaders were killed or captured, and the British strategy for North Carolina fell apart before British reinforcements could arrive.

The victory had consequences far beyond the battlefield. North Carolina remained firmly in Patriot hands, denying the British a valuable foothold in the South. Even more significant, the triumph strengthened public confidence in the cause of independence. Just weeks later, North Carolina adopted the Halifax Resolves, becoming the first colony to instruct its delegates to support independence from Great Britain.

Although overshadowed by later victories at Saratoga and Yorktown, Moore's Creek Bridge proved that determined citizen-soldiers could defeat a larger, well-trained force and alter the course of history.

Here, ordinary citizens summoned the courage to stand together to fight for liberty. It serves as a reminder that the success of the American Revolution depended not only on famous battles, but also on the courage, ingenuity, and sacrifice displayed in places

where history was quietly—but decisively—made. This distant confrontation deserves to be remembered alongside the better-known battles of the American Revolution.



★ Memorials ★

Donations received in memory of:

**Valerie McCormick
 John and Flora Snyder
 Kent Moore
 Ken Kurtz
 Charlie Momper
 Marshall Heckaman
 Steven Wright
 Duane Green
 Matthew Tomkiewicz
 Stephan Walker**

**Loren K. Collier
 Alvis Pfenninger
 Brian (Barney)
 Pfenninger
 Frank Pfenninger
 Dan Tipton
 Jack Marcum
 Charles Lines
 Robert Simmons
 Luther O Statzer**

Elmer Pfenninger - KIA Europe

Fort Fest: Where America's Story Comes Alive



By Tom Schmitt Board Member

For one weekend each August, the quiet village of Fort Jennings, Ohio, (population 525), becomes a gathering place for veterans, historians, reenactors, and families who share a common purpose: remembering the people whose sacrifices secured America's freedom. What began as a local festival to celebrate the bicentennial in 2012 has evolved into an event that welcomes an estimated 10-12,000 guests while remaining rooted in volunteerism and small-town hospitality.

Now entering the 2026 season during our nation's 250th anniversary celebration, Fort Fest has earned a reputation as one of the Midwest's premier patriotic heritage events and the "Most Unique Festival In Northwest Ohio". Rather than focusing solely on entertainment, the all volunteer-led festival blends living history, military heritage, and nationally recognized exhibits into an experience that encourages visitors to reflect as much as they celebrate.

This year's event carries a theme of "The Cost of Freedom" which highlights the enduring principles that have shaped the United States for two and a half centuries. Visitors of Fort Fest 2026 will experience: The Spirit of America's Story - The Wall, The Replica Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Memorial, The Eyes of Freedom: Lima Company Memorial & The Silent Battle Sculpture, The GoldStars Tribute Wall TM, The Ohio Vietnam POW MIA Wall, American Huey 369 and so much more. Each one tells a story. Each one honors sacrifice. Each one reminds us of "The Cost" and how freedom has always required sacrifice. It has been paid for by the courage of the unknown, the devotion of the fallen, the strength of our wounded warriors, the sacrifice of those who never came home, the enduring love of Gold Star families, and the turmoil of those who battle every

How a Small Ohio Community Became One of the Midwest's Most Meaningful Patriotic Gatherings - Fort Fest Preserves the Stories That Shaped America



SCAN ME



Continued on page 10

Fort Fest *Continued from page 11*

day with the invisible wounds of war - including those who succumb to the impossible mental load each and every day here at home.

Throughout the festival, guests encounter veterans sharing firsthand experiences, historic military equipment, living history encampments, educational demonstrations, and tributes honoring those who never returned home. Premier exhibits tell stories of courage, sacrifice, and service, reminding visitors that the freedoms Americans enjoy today were secured by ordinary men and women who answered extraordinary calls. "Every display, every exhibit, and every ceremony is designed to tell a story," organizers explain. "It's a story of the men and women who built this nation, defended its freedoms, and sacrificed so future generations could enjoy them."

What distinguishes Fort Fest is not the size of the village that hosts it, but the dedication of the hundreds of volunteers who believe history should be experienced, not simply remembered. Their goal is to ensure that younger generations leave with a deeper understanding of America's past and a greater appreciation for those who defended it.

In an era when personal connections to military service are becoming less common, Fort Fest offers something increasingly rare—a place where history is not confined to museum walls but shared through conversation, remembrance, and community.

For many who attend, the weekend serves as a powerful reminder that while freedom can be celebrated, it must also be remembered. And that remembrance is a responsibility every generation inherits.

Full Schedule on the next page.

Veterans Memorial at Vet Fest in Fort Wayne

Members of the Board of Directors set up our traveling display at Fort Wayne's Vet Fest on Saturday July 18th at Headwater Park downtown. Our Vets passed out literature, sold T-Shirts, 250th Anniversary of the United States Challenge Coins and Agent Orange patches. We are selling Agent



Orange patches to raise funds for a new memorial that will be dedicated next year. Great exposure for the Veterans Memorial and great meeting all veterans who made it out to the fest. See you next year for sure!



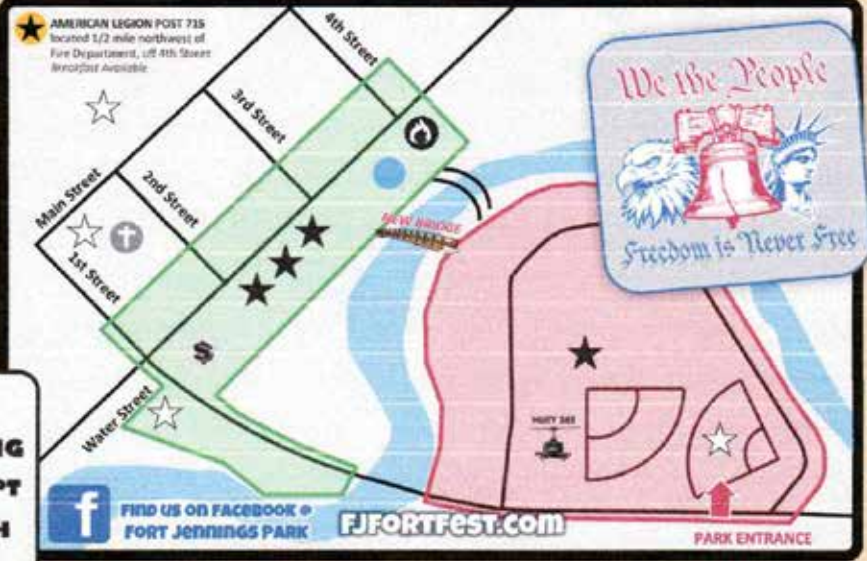
AUGUST 14-16

FORT FEST KEY

● FJ PARK	★ FOOD
● UPTOWN	☆ PARKING
● FJ FD	🔥 FIRE DEPT
● HALL	⛪ CHURCH
● LEGION	\$ BANK

2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

ONE OF THE MOST UNIQUE FESTIVALS IN NORTHWEST OHIO



AMERICAN LEGION POST 715 located 1/2 mile northwest of Fire Department, off 4th Street. Breakfast Available.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK • FORT JENNINGS PARK • FJFORTFEST.COM

AMERICAN HUEY 369 MEMBERSHIP "LIVING HISTORY FLIGHT EXPERIENCES" WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC: FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVE AND WEATHER PERMITTING

FRIDAY

- 12-4:30 pm American Huey Membership Flights
- 11-9 pm The Spirit of America's Story - The Wall
- 11-9 pm The Replica Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- 11-9 The Eyes of Freedom: Lima Company Memorial
- 3-9 pm The GoldStars Tribute Wall™
- 4-10 pm Hometown Heroes Exhibit
- 4:30 pm American Legion Country Fried Steak Dinner
- 5 pm Biker Escort Arrival into Fort Jennings
- 🔥 5:45 pm Bell Ringing Ceremony 9/11 Victims
- 5-10 pm Ohio Vietnam POW/MIA Displays
- 5-9 pm War of 1812 Encampment - River Bank
- 5-9 pm WWII & Lauer Farms 1944 Displays
- 5-9 pm Wolfhounds/Black Lions Vietnam Displays
- 5-9 pm Barrels & Brews Craft Beer/Wine Tasting
- 5-9 pm Kids Fun Zone Bounce Houses
- 5-8:30 pm Live Entertainment - Hollywood Strip
- 5-9 pm Historic Military Vehicle Displays
- 🔥 6-8 pm Fort Jennings Firefighter Experience
- 6:30-8:45 FJ Park Giveaway Attendance Drawings
- 8:15 pm War of 1812 Twilight Reenactment/Demo
- 8:45 pm Dunkin's Diamonds Giveaway Drawing
- 9:00 pm FJ Park Giveaway \$3000 Grand Prize
- 9:00 pm-12:30 am Live Entertainment - The Sturdy 30

SATURDAY

- 9:00 am Morning Colors & 1812 Opening Ceremony
- 9:00 am-1:30 pm Camp Fort Jennings - Register by 8:30am
- 9 am-9 pm The Spirit of America's Story - The Wall
- 9 am-9 pm The Replica Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- 9 am-9 pm The Eyes of Freedom: Lima Company Mem.
- 9 am-9 pm The GoldStars Tribute Wall™
- 9 am-9 pm Ohio Vietnam POW/MIA Displays
- 9 am-9 pm Historic Military Vehicle Displays
- 9:15 am Unknown Soldiers Tribute Ceremony
- 10 am-4 pm American Huey Membership Flights
- 10 am-5 pm WWII & Lauer Farms 1944 Displays
- 10 am-4 pm Wolfhounds/Black Lions Vietnam Display
- 11 am-4 pm Car Show
- 11 am-5 pm Hometown Heroes Exhibit
- 11:30 am Women at War in WWII Demonstration
- 12 pm-3 pm Golf Cart SxS Rally Run - Register 11am at LEGION
- Poker Run Parking (Trucks & Trailers) at Old School
- 12 pm-4 pm 30 Gun Raffle - Main Park Pavilion
- 1 pm-9 pm Kids Fun Zone Bounce Houses
- 1-2:30 pm Antique Tractor Drawn History Tours
- 2:00 pm World War II Live Demonstration - TBD
- 3 pm-6:30 pm Live Entertainment - 2 Fat Dads
- 4:00 pm 1812 Skirmish Reenactment - Auglaize River
- 4:30 pm Vietnam Reenactment - Open Grass Field
- 6 pm-8:30 pm Antique Tractor Drawn History Tours
- 7pm-11 pm Live Entertainment - Dean Maag, Luke Rousch
- 7 pm-11:00 pm Lions Club Famous Duck Races
- 9:00 pm Fort Fest 50/50 Winner Drawing

SUNDAY

- 8:45 am WWII Morning Colors at Flag Pole
- 9-11 am Ohio POW/MIA Vietnam Displays
- ⛪ 9:30 am Veteran's Mass - St. Joseph Catholic Church
- 11 am-1 pm Hometown Heroes Exhibit
- 10 am-3 pm American Huey Membership Flights

Food available at Park until sold out



*** schedule subject to changes ***

Citizen Soldiers Through the Centuries: The Story of the National Guard



by Curator Robert Thomas

• **1636 – America's First Organized Militia.** The Massachusetts Bay Colony forms three permanent regiments, requiring men ages 16–60 to train and equip themselves for defense.

• **1600s–1700s – Colonial Conflicts and European Wars.** Militia units defend settlements, fight Native American tribes, and serve in major conflicts such as the French and Indian War.

• **1775–1783 – The American Revolution.** Local militias become the first to resist British forces; their performance varies, but many units play decisive roles in early battles.

• **1792 – Militia Act Establishes National Standards.** All able bodied free white men ages 18–45 must enroll; the President may call the militia to repel invasion or suppress insurrection.

• **1812 – War of 1812 Service.** Militia units fight alongside the regular Army in defending the young nation from British attacks.

• **1861–1865 – Civil War Mobilization.** State militias join both Union and Confederate forces; after the war, they return to state control.

• **1916 – National Defense Act Creates the National Guard.** State militias formally become the National Guard, serving as the Army's primary reserve while retaining state authority.

• **1917–1918 – World War I in France.** Guard units deploy with the American Expeditionary Forces and earn high praise for their combat effectiveness.

• **1941–1953 – World War II and Korea.**

National Guard soldiers and airmen fight across all theaters of WWII and are mobilized again for the Korean War.

• **1990s–Present – Domestic Response and Global Deployments.** Guard units respond to natural disasters, deploy for the Gulf War and the War on Terror, and continue to serve as dual mission citizen soldiers at home and abroad.



The National Guard is the oldest military force in the United States, tracing its lineage to the colonial militias formed in 1636. Built on the idea that ordinary citizens could take up arms to defend their communities, the Guard has served in every American conflict from the Revolution to the present day. Its dual state federal mission makes it unique—able to fight overseas alongside active duty forces while also responding to disasters, emergencies, and crises at home. Across four centuries, the National Guard has remained a force defined by service, sacrifice, and the strength of citizen soldiers.

Agent Orange Patches for Sale

The Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum is holding a fundraising drive in hopes of raising **\$60,000** for a **Permanent Agent Orange Memorial** to all those soldiers who made it back from the war but later died after suffering the effects of being exposed to Agent Orange, a chemical used in Vietnam to kill vegetation and jungle foliage.



\$10
Each

Actual size
is 3 1/2" Wide

Available in the War History Museum

Volunteers Always Welcome at the Veterans Memorial

Whether you would like to help with our Memorial grounds or work in the War History Museum, we can always use volunteers. No matter if it's a couple hours a week or a few hours a month, give Bonnie Davis a call. She is our volunteer coordinator and would welcome the opportunity to tell you about our needs. You can reach Bonnie by calling the Shrine office at 260-267-5022.

Celebrate America's 250th Birthday with Commemorative Gifts!

"We Stand for Freedom" \$20 ea.
T-Shirts available in Red and Blue

2 XL \$23 ea.



250th Anniversary Collector Challenge Coin
\$15 ea.



VETERANS NATIONAL MEMORIAL SHRINE AND MUSEUM
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
250th ANNIVERSARY 1776-2026



WE STAND FOR FREEDOM

All proceeds benefit the War History Museum.

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.

Museum Open
Friday, Saturday,
Sunday and Monday

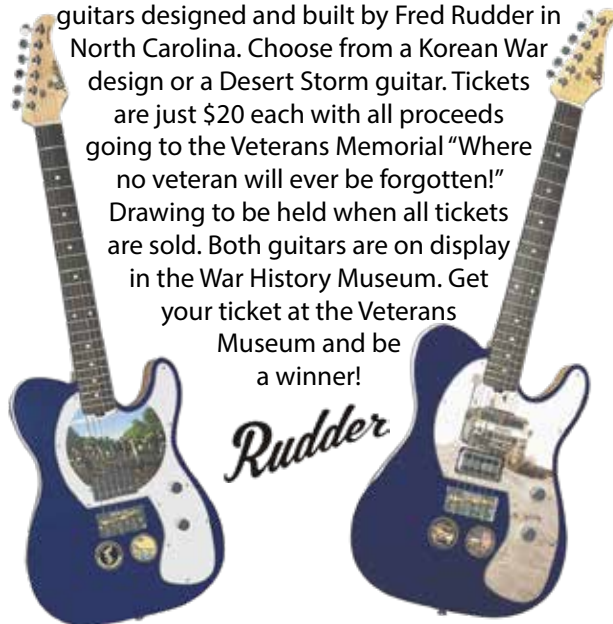
11 am to 4 pm
(Starting April 3rd)

Memorial Grounds
Open 24/7



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!



2122 O'Day Road • Fort Wayne, IN 46818

260-267-5022

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