

THE BUGLE

WINTER 2014
VOLUME 20:4

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM

IN THIS ISSUE

Wisconsin Families
in the Military



A Shared Experience





FROM THE SECRETARY
A PROUD TRADITION

Wisconsin veterans have a long and proud tradition of service to our state and nation that is often passed down from generation to generation. From the very beginning, America has owed its very existence to those who sacrificed so much to fight for it, build it, and sustain it.

The personal sacrifice and determination of the American Veteran has preserved our nation in the toughest of times, of which there have been many. Without the veterans of the Revolution,

America would not exist. Without the veterans of the War of 1812, our new democracy would have been lost. Without the veterans of the Civil War, the condition of slavery would have continued on. Without the veterans of World War II, the forces of darkness and evil that were Nazi Germany and the Empire of Japan would have conquered the world.

In the past half century, our veterans have served to liberate oppressed peoples, restore order, and stand behind our allies, deterring aggression when possible, and backing it with force when required. Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan were all operations not only to promote our values and democracy, but to encourage freedom among people who had lost it or had never known it.

When these brave men and women went off to war, a family waited behind. Our veterans are our sons and daughters, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, nieces, nephews and grandparents.

When our service members leave our communities and their loved ones behind to serve their nation, those they leave behind also share in the sacrifice of that Soldier, Sailor, Airmen, Marine or Coastguardsman.

The post-9/11 generation has brought many of the stories of service and sacrifice of veterans and their families to the forefront of Americans' thoughts, probably much the same way it has for the past two centuries when our young men and women went off to serve. Families are proud to support their veterans. Veterans are proud not only to defend their nation, but also their families. Many are also proud to carry on a legacy of service that dates back generations.

Without our veterans, our nation would not exist. Without the strong backing of their families and traditions of service, our military wouldn't be what it is today.

John A. Scocos
Secretary

WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM SPECIAL PROJECTS

Your membership supports the mission of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. In 2014, we have a number of special projects you may be interested in giving to:

★ **ACQUISITIONS**

- Help WVM acquire significant objects and archival materials.

★ **TRAVELING EXHIBITS**

- Support a series of newly developed traveling exhibits that will increase WVM presence throughout Wisconsin.

★ **STEM PROJECT**

- A developing educational initiative that integrates science, technology, engineering, and math into our school curricula.

REMEMBER, YOUR GIFT MAKES *YOUR* MUSEUM STRONGER!





FROMTHEARCHIVES

FATHER&SON

Thomas Tuffley, an 18-year-old farmer from Boscobel, enlisted into Company K, 12th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment on October 5, 1861. Less than two weeks later, his 45-year-old father George joined him in the company. The two served together for 3 years until October 1864, when George chose to return home at the end of his enlistment and Thomas decided to re-enlist through the end of the war.



FROM THE DIRECTOR
**COMING TOGETHER
 FOR PTSD**

Most of what we do at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum deals with the record of the past, and the ways in which veterans helped shape it. It's not often that we tackle current issues that impact veterans in our exhibits and programs, but that will change in 2015. Together with Artists for the Humanities (A4TH), the Wisconsin Veterans Museum will develop a traveling exhibit featuring the therapeutic art work of veterans dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries. The 2,400-square-foot exhibit is expected to open in early summer 2015, and will run for nine months at the Madison location. Following its run at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, the exhibit expects to travel to additional venues nationwide for an extended period, to be determined by demand.

The exhibit will consist of

framed, two-dimensional works on paper, as well as some selected three-dimensional sculptures – all of which are the products of veterans working through the Return and Recovery Program for Military Veterans, administered by Artists for the Humanities. A digital media component will provide process context in the exhibit space, as well as more in-depth information regarding the program, PTSD, and related resources.

The Museum and its partners envision a robust opportunity for adjunct programming and collaboration with additional partners throughout Wisconsin and the United States. Programs may include panel discussions, seminars, veterans' workshops and lectures. Indeed, there is great potential for augmentation through outreach programming that may go beyond traditional approaches.

Tim Mayer is the founder of Artists for the Humanities, a 501(c)(3) organization that works to promote the return and recovery of combat veterans through an engaging art program. Mayer sees art therapy as a way to help veterans come to terms with the challenges of PTSD. According to Mayer, art therapy helps veterans and their families improve the functional capabilities of those with post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury (TBI).

For Mayer, it started in 2004 when he began painting

oil portraits of U.S. service personnel killed in the line of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. He named this effort the Fallen Soldiers Project. He then created Artists for the Humanities. Three years later, he realized that he could meet the needs of returning veterans through art, and he began to move his efforts toward helping returning veterans through expressive art therapy combined with therapy provided by a mental health professional. He named this “no cost to the veteran” project the Return and Recovery Program for Military Veterans.

In March 2009, A4TH began offering free expressive art therapy and counseling sessions at St. Norbert Abbey in De Pere, Wisconsin, where it continues to operate today. This innovative program was brought to the Tomah VA Medical Center in October 2010. The program has since expanded to serve veterans suffering from traumatic brain injury, substance abuse, and homelessness. To date, the Return and Recovery Program has served more than 1600 veterans, family members, and loved ones.

The WVM looks forward to collaborating with A4TH to increase public awareness of PTSD/TBI and to highlight one of the most innovative and successful treatment programs.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael E. Telzrow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael E. Telzrow
 Director

FAMILY TIES



GREG KRUEGER
CURATOR OF HISTORY



If I were a ground combat soldier in Vietnam, I would want my cousin providing air support for me and my brother in strategic command!

That is essentially what happened within the Rettenmund family's service in Vietnam. Russell Rettenmund served as a heavy weapons specialist with the 16th Infantry Rangers attached to the 1st Infantry Division on the ground. His brother Richard served with strategic command, and his cousin William (Bill) Rettenmund flew on air support helicopters as a crew chief for the 162nd Assault Helicopter Company (AHC).



One of two helicopter crashes Bill Rettenmund experienced.

Bill grew up on his family's dairy farm with two younger siblings in Black Earth, Wisconsin. Cousins Russell and Richard lived "just down the road," all attending Black Earth High School. Bill graduated in 1962 and enrolled at Madison Area Technical School, earning a degree in commercial art two years later. He worked as a commercial artist for a year before getting drafted into the Army in 1965.

Bill completed basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky before studying helicopter maintenance at Fort Rucker, Alabama. He then received orders to join the fledgling 162nd AHC at Fort Benning, Georgia. Chosen to be one of twenty-three crew chiefs for the 162nd, Bill received crew chief training and specialized training on how to operate an M-60 machine gun on air support missions. As the 1965 holiday season approached, orders came through for the 162nd to support the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam.

Transported on the USNS *General John Pope*, Bill's unit stopped briefly in Hawaii before arriving in Vietnam in early February 1966. Unfortunately, he spent the majority of the voyage below deck, confined to his bunk with seasickness. While in Vietnam, Bill's crew operated out of Phuoc Vinh, just north of Saigon, flying a troop transport helicopter referred to as a "slick." Slicks were escorted by gunship helicopters, known as "Copperheads" within the 162nd. Occasionally, Bill saw helicopters get shot down by enemy fire, but Bill's crew went down twice due to pilot error. Thankfully, neither crash seriously injured any crewmembers. Bill did earn a Purple Heart after being injured by shrapnel during one mission. He also earned an Air Medal and numerous oak leaf clusters for meritorious service flying air support for the 1st Infantry Division. Bill returned to Wisconsin in 1967, joined the American Legion, and worked in the marketing department at Oscar Meyer for 32 years.



A disabled helicopter of the 162nd AHC lies on its side in this photo taken by Bill Rettenmund.

In 2008, Bill donated his collection of Vietnam material to the Museum. This collection includes artifacts and archival materials from Bill and his two cousins Richard and Russell, both of whom passed away in the 1970s.



ANDREA HOFFMAN
COLLECTIONS MANAGER



A SHARED EXPERIENCE



This January 1924 postcard labeled "Junior's Smile" shows Doc and Sonny while in Fort Lewis, Washington.

While there are numerous reasons Wisconsin residents have joined the military over the last 150 years—each generation met with unique historical events and changing social expectations—serving one's country has also been a shared experience within families. Whether a parent and child, siblings, or spouses, serving simultaneously or successively, answering the call to duty through tradition or circumstance, many such families have left their multi-generational stories in the care of our museum. Such is the case of the collection from Orville W. Martin Sr. and Orville W. Martin Jr., a father and son from the Oshkosh area who each gave over thirty years as career officers in the United States Army.

Orville W. Martin Sr.—better known as “Doc”—was born in Neenah, Wisconsin in 1897. He began his studies at the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1917, although World War I quickly intervened, leaving Martin to serve as a field artillery officer in Germany before completing his education. Following his 1919 graduation, he returned overseas for an influential tour of the battlefields of Europe. This experience gave him a great personal interest in the history of the war and its landscape, knowledge that would prove useful later in his career.

In 1920, Doc joined the 24th Field Artillery stationed in the Philippines. It was here he met his future wife Priscilla, the sister of one of his fellow officers. They married in 1922, and moved back to Oshkosh the next year ahead of the birth of their first and only child, Orville W. “Sonny” Martin Jr.

Doc's career moved them all around the country during Sonny's youth. The younger Martin described post life during a 1995 oral history interview as happy and well adjusted. Clearly, it was also influential, as it became apparent in his teens that he would follow in his father's footsteps. His father had already included Sonny in base maneuvers since he was twelve, letting him dress in uniform and drive teams of horses right along with the troops. His father also sent him to radio school, made him learn to lay wire, and of particular future use, helped him become proficient in map reading.

While Doc attended Command General Staff School in Baton Rouge in 1940, world events again intervened. He was sent to Fort Knox, training grounds for the 7th Cavalry Brigade (Mechanized)—the Army's first mechanized unit—to be one of the first to implement tactics in the new field of armored field artillery. Major Martin was given command of the 68th Field Artillery Battalion in 1941, and was sent to North Africa the following year with the 1st Armored Division.

The same year, Sonny moved to Madison to attend the University of Wisconsin, also participating in the University's compulsory ROTC program. In 1943, he turned down a transfer to West Point, instead choosing the Enlisted Reserve Corps. He explained it was “because my father was already overseas and I thought the war was more important than going to the school for boys on the Hudson... I knew I wanted to be in the war. I felt very strongly about it.”

Early in 1943, the elder Martin was injured during the attack on Sened Station in Tunisia, taking shrapnel in both his leg and arm. The March 15, 1943 issue of Life featured a full page image of the wounded Martin, arm in sling, on his way back to Fort Knox. Following his recovery at Fort Knox, now-Colonel Martin was put in command of the 7th Armored Division Artillery. He arrived in England in June of 1944, was sent to France that August, and found his division redirected to the Netherlands before



ultimately being ordered to St. Vith, Belgium on December 16th, the commencement of the Battle of the Bulge. Here, the 7th significantly slowed the German advance for a week before being forced to withdraw. Eventually, they would regain St. Vith before redirecting their efforts toward the fall of the remaining German resistance within the Ruhr Pocket.

At the same time, the younger Martin was preparing for his own deployment to Europe. Having completed Armor School in December 1943, 2nd Lieutenant Martin headed to Camp Bowie, Texas with the 13th Armored Division to assist in battle training. In April 1944, the 13th was suddenly stripped of the majority of their lower ranks. Sonny recalled being reassured despite this action by a speech from General George C. Marshall, who stated “I can’t tell you what or exactly why, but you are very soon going ... to be very proud of the men you trained and of the contribution that you have made toward the war.” Unbeknownst to them then, their troops were separated in order to participate in the Normandy Invasion, a testament to the superior training of the 13th despite being a newer armored division.



c. 1944 photograph of recently-promoted Colonel Orville W. Martin Sr., Division Artillery Commander of the 7th Armored Division.



Lt. Martin strikes a pose similar to his father's while the Aide-de-camp to Brigadier General Kurtz, April 1946.

The 13th’s officers spent the remainder of 1944 training, finally arriving overseas early in 1945. In April, they commenced a long march to relieve the 4th Armored Division near Kassel, Germany, but were redirected—just like Sonny’s father—to instead assist in closing off the Ruhr Pocket. While until now the 13th had met minimal opposition, it was not always the case in the lingering Ruhr Pocket resistance. Sonny recounted, “It varied and you didn’t know what you were going to hit next. You could hit one of these old German units that were tough as nails. I asked my father about this and he said, “Well... some of the severest fighting I saw was in the Ruhr Pocket. Some of those old German units just were not going to quit.”

This was not the only commentary on the war the father and son shared. Sonny described Doc’s appreciation of the 13th’s troops during a visit in Bavaria in May of 1945, explaining “... my father came down from Halle [Germany] where he was Division Artillery Commander... he said, ‘You know I could darn near have cried...I’ve talked to some of your soldiers and some of yours in the Battalion here... these people could have been officers in the 7th Armored Division... they’re better material than some of the officers we had who were good combat officers—it showed, you know, the caliber of people.’” It was high praise indeed coming from a man with over 25 years of experience in the Army.

The elder Martin returned stateside that year, and eventually retired as a Colonel from the Army in 1950, having been decorated by three European nations as well as the recipient of two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, three Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm.

Sonny remained in Germany with the Constabulary force until 1949. He went on to serve in Korea and Taiwan, and worked at the Pentagon before becoming the Editor in Chief of Armor Magazine. He retired, also as a Colonel, in 1974, having been awarded the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars, the Meritorious Service Medal, three Army Commendation Medals, and the French Croix de Guerre.



LAURA FARLEY
REFERENCE ARCHIVIST



“HELLO HONEY...” THE WANSERSKI FAMILY LETTERS



Wanserski family, c. 1941.

This is a love story about Wisconsin natives George Wanserski and Florence Lange that spans nearly five years of separation and struggle to raise their family. Married July 18, 1934, the Wanserskis set up home in the Milwaukee area and had two boys, George Jr. and Richard, at the onset of World War II. George, a member of the United States Naval Reserves since 1928, was called into active duty at the beginning of war in Europe and assigned to the USS *Gilmer* in Seattle, Washington.

When a service member enlists, the entire family serves. The Wanserski collection is special in that Florence’s experience of war is represented just as much as George’s. Often military correspondence collections consist of letters written by a service member and sent home. It’s rare to have surviving letters written to an active duty spouse. In the almost daily letters between George and Florence are details about George’s naval service and the financial and parental challenges Florence faced on the home front. All the letters reflect the deep longing George and Florence felt to be together (“You know George I believe our thoughts are the same even when we are so far apart.”) .

With George away, Florence’s financial situation became dire. Consequently in 1941, George appealed to Wisconsin Congressman Stephen Bolles to be discharged from the Navy. His attempt was ultimately unsuccessful, and the Wanserskis missed each other so terribly that Florence and the boys soon moved to Seattle in hopes of spending more time with George. In 1942, to be nearer to his family, George transferred to the USS *Buckeye*, which was patrolling the Pacific coast for Japanese submarines. However, the family’s time together was cut short when George’s service took him to the Aleutians Islands in Alaska, where he faced constant bombardment by Japanese planes. Florence must have been terrified to have her spouse combatting the Japanese in the wake of Pearl Harbor (“Here it is Friday and still no letter from you... I haven’t eaten any of my finger nails yet though.”) In 1943, George spent time in the U.S. Naval Hospital in Adak, Alaska for unknown reasons, before returning to Washington and Oregon for the remainder of the war.

George and Florence’s letters chronicle their hopes of being reunited (“If dreams come true I will try to dream of the day when I can be with you.”) , and the development of their boys, including the birth of a third son, Marty. On July 27, 1945, George was honorably discharged and the family returned to Wisconsin, where a fourth son, Daniel, was born. Florence’s last letter to George on July 8, 1945, closes with:

“I’m all a twitter just thinking of being in your arms again. Oh gosh, it makes me breathless just thinking of it.”



“I’m sending you a kiss, Darling. Is this enough? Or am I foolish?” Florence to George, April 5, 1942.



IN HER OWN WORDS



ELLEN BROOKS
ORAL HISTORIAN



Dolores Raczynski (nee Urbaniak) was born in Milwaukee in 1921. In her oral history interview, conducted in 2003, she touches on many aspects of her life in service including her family's strong ties to the military.

Dolores Raczynski: I have a sister, Virginia, and my mother and father, Martha and Walter. He was, well—I guess it all started with him. He was a Navy man in World War I. And, when World War II came up, he wanted to enlist. But being forty-four, the Navy wouldn't take him on the ship. He had to have an office job, which he refused. I heard him say, oh, he wished he had a son. So, I thought, oh, here is my chance. Maybe I can do something. And that is when I decided to join the service.

Interviewer: Now, let me back up, just a bit. Do you remember what you were doing on Pearl Harbor Day?

Raczynski: Oh, very much so. I was working a switchboard, and it came over the switchboard, to us at the telephone company, and I had a cousin that was in Pearl Harbor, and became a Japanese prisoner. It was a very traumatic time. We went home and the whole family got together because of him. And that started everybody, all my cousins, everyone, we all started to go join the service.



Dolores Raczynski.

Although she wanted to follow in her father's footsteps, Dolores was not accepted into the Navy because she was underweight. She managed to get into the Women's Army Corp and worked as a switchboard operator (T-5) with the 3341st Signal Service Battalion, traveling to England, France, and Germany. Dolores was able to connect with a cousin who was in the Army Air Forces while they were both in London. They went to dinner at the Astor Hotel, where they saw Jimmy Stewart and got his autograph. She discusses meeting up with another cousin, who was also in the Army, in Paris.

Raczynski: Because there was still a lot of underground going on, and they didn't let us free very much at all. We had to have passes. Our captain had to know who we were going with. They had to show credentials. One of my cousins was on R and R from the Battle of the Bulge, and he came in through Paris and found where I was. And he got permission to see me. ... And we spent an evening together. We went to some of the bars and had dinner. It was hard, some times, but it was fun some times. A little bit of each.

Dolores served for a total of eighteen months, after which she moved back to Milwaukee and settled there.

**TO READ THE FULL TRANSCRIPTS OF DOLORES' INTERVIEW
AND OTHER INTERVIEWS IN THE COLLECTION VISIT
WWW.WISVETSMUSEUM.COM/COLLECTIONS/ORAL_HISTORY/**

2014 WINTER EVENTS AT THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM

★ PROGRAM LOCATION IS THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM, 30 WEST MIFFLIN STREET, MADISON, WI UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. ★

LITTLE HAWK AND THE LONE WOLF: A CONVERSATION WITH RAY KAQUATOSH

Saturday, November 1, 2014-
10:00 AM

Ray Kaquatosh, Author
Lecture and Book Signing

Sit in on a unique discussion between World War II and Korean War veteran Ray Kaquatosh and interviewers as the 90-year-old Menominee Indian shares stories from his recent coming of age memoir *Little Hawk and the Lone Wolf*, a new book by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press. A book signing will follow.



SALUTE TO VETERANS HISTORY EVENTS

Tuesday, November 11, 2014- 11:00 AM- 8:00 PM

The Weber Performing Arts Center, 428 Front Street South,
La Crosse, WI

Kick off the Wisconsin Historical Society's *Wisconsin History Tour* programming in La Crosse with a Salute to Veterans History on Veterans Day. In partnership with the Wisconsin Historical Society, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, and Wisconsin Public Television, events include an evening concert with readings from a selection of the Civil War letters from the Society's collections, screenings of documentaries featuring Wisconsin veterans including *Wisconsin Korean War Stories*, *Wisconsin Vietnam Stories*, and *Wisconsin World War II Stories*, and discussions led by authors of *Private Soldiers: A Year in Iraq with a Wisconsin National Guard Unit* and *This Wicked Rebellion: Wisconsin Civil War Soldiers Write Home*.

WISCONSIN STORIES FROM WWI

Wednesday, November 5, 2014- 6:30 PM

Mead Public Library, 710 N. 8th Street, Sheboygan, WI
Kevin Hampton, WVM Curator of Research &
Public Programs
Lecture and Discussion

From the collections of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, we'll explore different perspectives on the "war to end all wars" - from the exploits of Rodney Williams, a daring pilot in the skies over France, to the reality of war experienced by Army Nurse Helen Bulovsky, and others.

A QUIET CORNER OF THE WAR: HIJINKS AND HOME

Thursday, November 6, 2014- 7:00 PM

Judy Cook, Folksinger and Author
Musical Presentation

Featuring songs and stories from the Civil War, folksinger Judy Cook's presentation will highlight the often overlooked aspects of Civil War era history by exploring the everyday activities and pastimes of those who served and those who remained at home.

Presented in partnership with the University of Wisconsin Press.



Funded in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council, with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this project do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

NEVER FORGOTTEN: HONORING WISCONSIN'S HEROES

Friday, November 7, 2014 - 11:00 AM

The Wisconsin State Capitol Building, Capitol Rotunda,
Madison, WI

Annual Veterans Day Commemoration Ceremony

Join us in recognition of the Wisconsin men and women who served their country. This year's ceremony will focus on honoring and welcoming home all of Wisconsin's heroes from all eras of service. The event will be held in the Wisconsin State Capitol Rotunda.

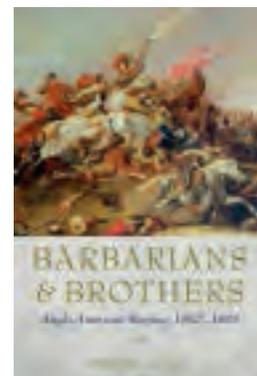
BARBARIANS AND BROTHERS, ANGLO-AMERICAN WARFARE 1500-1865

Thursday, November 13, 2014- 7:00 PM

Dr. Wayne Lee, Professor of History,
The University of North Carolina-
Chapel Hill

Book Talk and Signing

Wayne Lee will discuss his book, *Barbarians and Brothers*, examining the origins and nature of atrocity and restraint in warfare in the early modern Anglo-American world. This talk will focus on two campaigns during the American Revolution as contrasting examples of culture, capacity, and calculation combine to shape the violence of war.



A Distinguished Lecture Series event.

Presented in partnership with the UW-Madison History Department.

1914: THE WAR THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN OVER BY CHRISTMAS

Friday, November 21, 2014- 12:00 PM

Allan Mallinson, Author and Britain's Foremost Military
Historian

Book Talk and Signing



Britain had not expected to be drawn into a land war in Europe, or if she were, it would be "over by Christmas." The miscalculation cost her dearly. Yet there were some who, before the war, advocated a different strategy, one that would have saved the huge losses of the Western Front and probably shortened the war. His talk will focus on two men in particular, Winston Churchill and General Sir Douglas Haig, each of them more usually associated with, respectively, the debacle of the Dardanelles and Gallipoli in 1915, and the disastrous Somme Offensive in 1916.

★ VISIT WWW.WISVETSMUSEUM.COM/EVENTS FOR 2015 SPRING EVENTS ★



★ AVAILABLE ONLY IN-STORE ★ SIZES SMALL-2XL ★ MADE IN USA ★

NEW AT THE GIFT STORE

COATS INSPIRED BY WI MILITARY HISTORY

★ MADE BY SCHOTT NYC, MAKING COATS FOR OVER 100 YEARS ★



\$275



\$500



\$250

QUESTIONS? CALL 608.261.0535 OR EMAIL GIFTSHOP.MANAGER@DVA.WISCONSIN.GOV.



LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

CARMEN BARNES SKILLING, A WAUPACA NATIVE, JOINED THE WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS (WAC) IN FEBRUARY 1944. UPON LEAVING FOR BASIC TRAINING IN IOWA, HER FATHER BRADLEY GAVE HER A SOLDIER'S CREED (SHOWN AT LEFT) THAT HE HAD CARRIED WITH HIM DURING HIS SERVICE WITH THE ARMY IN WORLD WAR I. SKILLING, WHO SERVED AS A SURGICAL TECHNICIAN WITH THE 109TH WAC DETACHMENT, 9206TH TECHNICAL SERVICE UNIT, CARRIED IT THROUGHOUT HER SERVICE AS WELL. AFTER WORLD WAR II, SHE BECAME THE FIRST COMMANDER OF MADELYN LACANNE POST 539, AN ALL-WOMEN AMERICAN LEGION POST IN GREEN BAY.

TOGETHER IN WAR



EMILY IRWIN
MARKETING ASSISTANT



Born twenty minutes apart in Kiel, Wisconsin, identical twins Willard and Wilbur Diefenthaler share a story of duty and sacrifice during World War II. They were drafted together on December 7, 1942 and after induction at Fort Sheridan, Wilbur joined the 919th Field Artillery and Willard went to the 101st Airborne Division.

After three months, Willard requested a transfer and joined his brother at Camp Phillips in Kansas. The brothers later joined the 106th Infantry Division, where Wilbur became an assistant supply sergeant and Willard worked with chemical warfare. After training in Indiana, the 106th was sent overseas in October 1944 and experienced its first major conflict in December 1944 at the Battle of the Bulge.

On December 19, 1944, German soldiers captured Willard and Wilbur along with 1200 of their comrades. Knowing his captors would take any valuables, Willard threw his wristwatch to the ground and stomped it into the mud and snow, effectively hiding it until the inspection was over. This watch is now in the collection of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, its glass still cracked from Willard's boot.

In rain and sleet, Willard and Wilbur were marched towards Germany. While bedded down in a boxcar, they narrowly avoided bombing by an Allied plane, which destroyed part of the train track, the train's engine, and coal car directly next to the POWs. The next morning, after the prisoners were forced to rebuild the train tracks, they were transported to Bad Orb, Germany and marched to Stalag 9B, considered one of the worst German POW camps. The prisoners passed the time by singing, writing poetry, praying, and sleeping. They regularly went without food and, when fed, were forced to share a loaf of bread with six or seven other men. Many prisoners, including Wilbur, became too sick to move. On January 25, 1945, Willard was sent to Stalag 9A. It was the last time he would ever see his twin brother.

Willard was liberated on March 20, 1945. Wilbur's fate was unknown until a fellow soldier saw Willard and said "I swear to God I buried you at Mannheim." It was then that Willard realized his brother had not survived. Wilbur died in a POW hospital on February 21, 1945 at the age of 22. Years later, Willard learned that his brother had died of pneumonia, despite the efforts of German doctors to save him.

After the war, Willard went to vocational school in Sheboygan and became a machinist. He married and had four children. Willard passed away on May 14, 2008 at the age of 85. He donated artifacts from his service and recorded an oral history with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, preserving both his and Wilbur's stories for future generations.



Willard (left) and Wilbur (right) Diefenthaler.



Willard Diefenthaler's wristwatch.



JENNIE CASAVANT
WVMF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER



WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION HOSTS AN EVENING IN HONOR OF EMERITUS BOARD MEMBER LEWIS B. HARNED, BRIGADIER GENERAL, USARNG RET

Friends, colleagues and family of Lewis B. Harned gathered at The Madison Club September 25, 2014 to recognize and honor Dr. Harned's lifetime of service to our country and community.

Dr. Harned's decades of service to our country and fellow veterans began as a teenager when he escorted a Civil War Veteran at the Seventy-first National Grand Army of the Republic Encampment held in Madison in 1937. Upon graduation from high school, Dr. Harned volunteered to drive ambulances for the American Field Service during the North African and Italian campaigns of World War II. Dr. Harned completed his medical residency in Orthopedics in Denver and Chicago (Northwestern) and practiced in Iowa and Madison. After active service with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, he joined the Wisconsin Army National Guard. Dr. Harned served in Iraq during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm where he was decorated with a Bronze Star for saving lives during the conflict.

Melanie Ramey presided over the evening with lively commentary, and close friends of Dr. Harned, Jed Engeler, Jim Ruhly and Rob Stroud, stood to share anecdotes and personal tributes. Guests were brought to their feet in standing ovation as WVMF Vice President Mary Kolar presented Dr. Harned with a proclamation from Governor Scott Walker thanking him for his



Guests stand to applaud Dr. Harned.



Dr. Harned addresses the guests, while Melanie Ramey, Mistress of Ceremonies, presides.

service. Two surprise guests to the podium provided the most poignant moments of the evening; Jerald Slack taking the microphone to declare Dr. Harned a true American hero and Dr. Harned's son, Richard, closing the evening with a personal story about his dad.

It was an inspiring and memorable evening, and a successful fundraiser for the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation. Thank you to all who contributed to making this a special event, especially our sponsors, Affiliated Dentists, S.C., Mary & Scott Kolar, and WPS Charitable Foundation, Inc.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WVMF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

ALAN HEMBEL

VICE PRESIDENT

MARY KOLAR

SECRETARY

MICHAEL ELY

TREASURER

ASHLEY KUMBIER

ADDITIONAL DIRECTORS

JOHN E. BUSBY

CHRIS CARPENTER

ROBERT DENNIK

JOHN W. HALL

LORETTA METOXEN

LARRY OLSON

DANIEL E. SCHWANDT

JOEL SKORNICKA

MICHAEL E. TELZROW

MICHAEL TREPANIER

WVMF STAFF

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND DIRECTOR OF ANNUAL GIVING

JENNIE CASAVANT

608.261.0536

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

ROB HERRICK

608.266.5415

WVM FOUNDATION

WWW.WVMFOUNDATION.COM

608.261.0536



Smithsonian Institution
Affiliations Program

MUSEUM STAFF

DIRECTOR

MICHAEL TELZROW

608.266.1009

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

KRISTINE ZICKUHR

608.261.6802

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

DEBBIE RIPP

608.261.0534

PROCESSING ARCHIVIST

ANDREW BARANIAK

608.266.2320

ORAL HISTORIAN

ELLEN BROOKS

608.261.0537

SENIOR MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

JENNIFER CARLSON

608.264.6086

CURATOR OF RESEARCH & PUBLIC PROGRAMS

KEVIN HAMPTON

608.261.5409

COLLECTIONS MANAGER

ANDREA HOFFMAN

608.261.0540

REFERENCE ARCHIVIST

RUSS HORTON

608.267.1790

REGISTRAR

SARAH KAPELLUSCH

608.264.6099

CURATOR OF EDUCATION

JENNIFER KAYE KOLLATH

608.264.7663

CURATOR OF HISTORY

GREGORY KRUEGER

608.261.0541

STORE MANAGER

GREG LAWSON

608.261.0535

THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM

30 WEST MIFFLIN STREET
MADISON, WI 53703

ON THE CAPITOL SQUARE

608.267.1799

www.wisvetsmuseum.com

MUSEUM HOURS

Closed Mondays

Tuesday-Saturday 9:00 AM–4:30 PM

Sunday (April-September) Noon–4:00 PM

RESEARCH CENTER HOURS

Monday-Friday 9:00 AM–3:30 PM

MUSEUM MISSION

The mission of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum is to commemorate, acknowledge, and affirm the role of Wisconsin veterans in America's military past.



THE BUGLE

The Bugle is published quarterly by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation for our members and friends. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation provides funds for the support of artifact acquisition, exhibit production and the development of educational programs.

COMMENTS & SUBMISSIONS

We welcome your comments and editorial submissions concerning *The Bugle*. Comments and submissions should be sent to Jennifer Carlson at Jennifer.Carlson@dva.wisconsin.gov.

JOIN US ONLINE!



**THE
WISCONSIN
VETERANS
MUSEUM**

30 WEST MIFFLIN STREET
MADISON, WI 53703

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage
PAID
Madison, WI
Permit No. 2783



The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is an educational activity of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

THANK YOU ARTIFACT DONORS!

A most sincere thank you to all who donated artifacts from August 2014 to October 2014. We cannot provide quality programming and award-winning exhibits without your help.

FRANK J. ALIOTO
ROGER BOEKER
CEDARBURG CULTURAL
CENTER
DEERFIELD AMERICAN
LEGION POST
RICK GATES
GENEVIEVE GOGAT

RICHARD HOFFMANN
FRANCES KEENAN
PHIL KEHLER
MARY ANN KINNEY-
PATTISON
DARRELL KRENZ
ROSE LARKIN
TAMARA MILLER

RICHARD MOREL, MD
ALYS MURPHY
DEBBIE NEWTON-
TANTER
ANDRE NOSTER
JAMES OPOLONY
GERALD E. OSBORNE
ELMO PETERSON

CLARICE PHILLIPS
DALE E. REICH
E. JAY SIMS
MICHAEL TELZROW
GAIL WENDT
WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

THANK YOU MEMBERS!

A most sincere thank you to all who purchased a membership from August 2014 to October 2014. We cannot provide quality programming and award-winning exhibits without your help.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP PLUS

DANNY L. ANDERSEN
DIANE AND DAVID DECI
ROBERT DENNIK
JOHN HATTENHAUER
DAVID AND MARY WEGNER
ALBERT H. & PATRICIA L.
WILKENING
DAVE ZIEN

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

EDWARD AND EDITH BROWN
MELINDA AND MARK HEINRITZ
DIANE DIETRICH AND MARK
MARTINKA

STEVEN L. ORECK, M.D.
RAYMOND G. PAHLE
JOHN SCHROEDER
DAVID WEBB

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP
PLUS**

F. ANTHONY BREWSTER
ROY LA BUDDE
ALAN W. DUNWIDDIE, JR.
PAUL EILBES
JOHN & KAREN ICKE
JASON JOHNS
JOHN & MARIA TOWNSEND

**INDIVIDUAL
MEMBERSHIP**

THOMAS M. BOYKOFF
MARILYN BUDISH
NELLIE DEBAKER
STEVE FIENE
ROBERT FULLER
BRUCE GREGG
SHIRLEY HAIDINGER
PAUL C. HEMMER
DALE HOLMEN
RUSSELL HORTON
JOANNE KELLY
DONA LUNDIN

TERESA MULROONEY
ROMAN OLESZAK
SUSAN PARK
JOAN PHELAN
BARBARA J. PULS
JULIE A.
RADOSAVLJEVIC
MARLIN SCHNEIDER
PAUL T. SCHROEDER
JAMES D. SCOTT
ANDREW THOMPSON
CHARLES WAITY
GERALD G. ZIMBRIC

KNOW SOMEONE WHO VALUES THE LEGACY OF WISCONSIN'S MILITARY VETERANS?

GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

CALL 608.261.0536 OR JOIN ONLINE AT WWW.WVMFOUNDATION.COM