



NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION

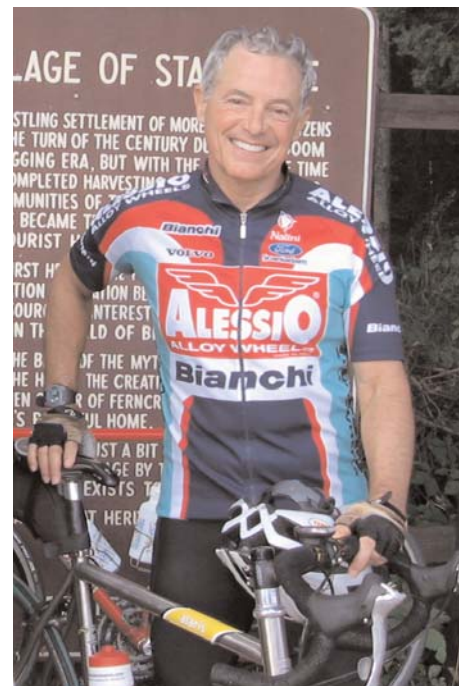
Frontline

# IN MEMORIAM: DR. RICHARD H. ZEITLIN, PH.D

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of the passing of Wisconsin Veterans Museum Director Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin. He was 63 years old. A published author, a respected historian, and an accomplished scholar, Rich led the Museum and Foundation for nearly three decades, overseeing the move of the facility from the State Capitol to 30 West Mifflin, and increasing the status of the Museum from a once quaint room of military relics to an internationally-known and revered military history institution. Rich took special enjoyment in hosting his friends and colleagues during the museum's Distinguished Lecture Series, and was always impressed at the intelligence, interest, and caliber of our museum audience. While he is no longer with us, Rich's legacy remains – in our exhibits, in our educational programs, and in our future – his vision for a grand showcase to honor the service and sacrifice of Wisconsin's citizen-soldiers.

We offer his family and friends our sincerest condolences during this sad time.

We will celebrate the life of Dr. Zeitlin on Saturday, March 21, 2009 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Everyone is invited to attend.



**Dr. Zeitlin in the museum's 19th Century Gallery (left), and (right) enjoying his bicycle on one of his many trips on Wisconsin trails. He was known for his love of history, and the outdoors.**

A special fund has been established by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation to honor the legacy and career of Dr. Zeitlin. Donations can be made online at [www.wvmfoundation.com](http://www.wvmfoundation.com) or sent to:

Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation  
Attn: Richard Zeitlin Memorial Fund  
PO Box 2657  
Madison, WI 53701-2657

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History in a Jar

Thanks to  
Donors

ABC's Bob  
Woodruff to  
visit WVM

and more...

## The Bugle

The purpose of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum is to commemorate, acknowledge, and affirm the role of Wisconsin veterans in America's military past by means of instructive exhibits and other educational programs.

The Bugle is a publication of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation, which serves to further the museum's mission by providing funds for the acquisition of artifacts, exhibit production, and development of educational programs.

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VETERANS  
MUSEUM  
30 W. Mifflin St.,  
Madison, WI 53703  
- On the Capitol Square

HOURS  
**Mon. - Sat.**  
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
**Sunday** Noon - 4 p.m.  
(April-Sept.)

### Preserving History

# 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

## WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM AND FOUNDATION

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization designed to support the programs and exhibits at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. The museum is an educational activity of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, and has a state allocated budget to cover operating and staff expenses. Only 3% of the Museum's state allocated budget supports exhibits and programs. The majority of programs and exhibit costs are covered by grants and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation. 100% of the Foundation's funds support the Museum's programs and exhibits.

### Fiscal Year 2008

#### Foundation Funding

Total donations received: \$177,210  
Grants: \$1,000  
Interest Income: \$13,396  
Government Support: \$3,000  
In-kind Contributions: \$25,209

#### Museum Attendance & Gift Shop Revenue

Total visitors to the galleries: 79,407 (30,989 students)  
Total volunteer hours: 6,216  
Gift Shop sales: \$84,567 (Avg. Daily Sales = \$248)

#### Museum Educational Program Attendance

Annual program attendance: 2,678  
Number of programs provided: 36  
Average attendance at each program: 64  
Travel trunk outreach: 26,364

#### Research Center and National Guard Gallery

Reference contacts: 1,788  
Donor contacts: 2,507  
New library titles added: 3,000 books & 200 periodical titles  
Number of processed manuscript collections to date: 1,203  
Number of oral history interviews to date: 1,218

#### Museum Exhibits

*In the Belly of the Dragon: Life and Death in I Corps* (closed March 31)

#### Traveling Exhibits:

*Marking Time: Voyage to Vietnam* (July – September in Madison; September – December at Volk Field; on loan from the Vietnam Graffiti Project)

*A Concrete of Images: Paintings and Photographs from Iraq and Afghanistan* (September – November; on loan from the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum)

#### Temporary Exhibits:

*An Instinct for Light: The Photography of Robert J. Ellison* (February – June)

*Nuestros Veteranos from Wisconsin: Latino Veterans – Stories of Valor, Honor, and Duty to Country* (September – November)

*Fishhook and Siege Line: Gettysburg and Vicksburg in Photographs and Battle Maps* (November – present)

#### Off-Site Facilities

WVM operates two additional off-site facilities. The Wisconsin National Guard Museum (WNGM) is located at Volk Field. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum at King is a single gallery display hosted by the Wisconsin Veterans Home.

Attendance at WNGM: 5,758  
Attendance at WVM-King: 7,800



From the Archives

# ARTISTIC TREASURES



John G. Goldapske collection ca. 1945.

**Sketch drawn by John Goldapske while stationed in Korea after the end of World War II.**

Greetings to everyone associated with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. My name is Andrew Baraniak and recently I joined the staff at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center as the processing archivist. I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself to the rest of the WVM community and to provide my first impressions of working at the Research Center.

To begin, let me describe what a processing archivist is and the service they provide for the WVM. The processing archivist organizes, preserves, describes, and catalogues manuscript materials that have been donated to the Research Center by veterans. I am on the "front line" of preserving the history of Wisconsin veterans for their families and future generations to access. My interest and background in archival studies, history, and foreign relations compliment this role well, and I am enjoying getting to know Wisconsin veterans through their letters, photographs, and unique experiences.

One aspect of these unique experiences I have found fascinating is that several collections have contained drawings and sketches done by Wisconsin veterans while they were in the service. An example of this can be found in the papers of John G. Goldapske. Goldapske, served with the 173rd Engineer Combat Battalion in the Pacific Theater during World War II, and was attached to the Third Army during its postwar occupation of Korea. The collection included a series of cartoon panels, with one he signed. Upon further investigation I discovered a newspaper clipping that stated Goldapske was an artist and some of his drawings had

appeared in Army newspapers.

Another sketch sent home to family appeared in the papers of Robert "Bud" Paunack. Paunack served in World War II and saw action in Italy with the 88th Infantry Division and was eventually stationed in France after being wounded. Included in his letters home was a humorous Christmas V-mail greeting from 1944 that includes various images of soldiers and puns on Christmas phrases and traditions. These two examples provide an interesting look into how individual soldiers entertained themselves and their families during their service and have now been preserved for future generations to see.

As I go through collections in the future, I plan to share with you the stories and experiences of other Wisconsin veterans. In closing, I would like to say thank you to all of the staff who have made my transition here an easy one, and I am looking forward to continuing my work at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center.

**By Andrew Baraniak**

## Museum Staff

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608.266.1009

Processing Archivist  
**Andrew Baraniak**  
608.266.2320

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608.264.6099

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608.427.1280

**INFORMATION**  
**608.267.1799**  
www.museum.dva.state.wi.us

## 2009 Spring Programs

### REINTERPRETING GETTYSBURG: LESSONS FROM THE CIVIL WAR

Wednesday, March 11,  
2009 – 7pm  
John Latschar, President,  
Gettysburg Foundation

### LIONESS – a film about women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan A Women's History Month event

Thursday, March 26, 2009  
– Noon

### A NEW DEAL FOR VIET- NAM

Friday, April 3, 2009 –  
Noon  
Dr. Robert Brigham, Vassar  
College

### WHY VIETNAM MATTERS

Tuesday, April 7, 2009 –  
7pm  
Rufus Phillips, author

All programs are free-of-charge and open to the public. They will take place in the Wisconsin Veterans Museum's 2nd Floor Education Center. For more information, call 608-261-0541 or go to [www.wvmfoundation.com](http://www.wvmfoundation.com). (Programs continued on facing page)

## Curator's Chronicles

# SMALL REMINDERS OF *U.S.S. LISCOME BAY*

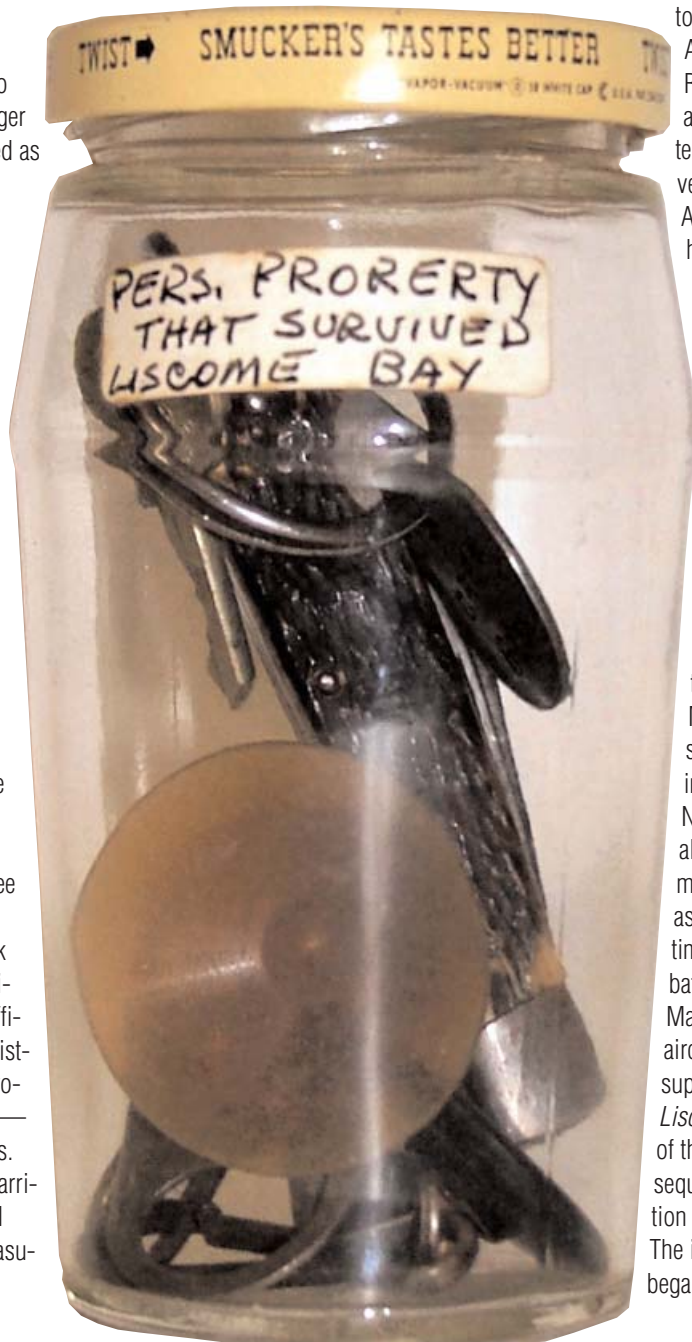
“Good God, here comes a torpedo!” An instant later an explosion rocked the *U.S.S. Liscome Bay*, shattering the carrier almost as if it were a toy. The lookout's warning, screamed over the intership telephone, had come only moments before the torpedo hit. A second, larger explosion followed as the munitions stowed below the ship's waterline detonated en masse, tossing her again. Fire illuminated the sea for miles around while a hail of flaming debris, molten metal, bits of clothing and human flesh rained down on the surrounding vessels of Task Force 52 near Makin Island. The time was 0513, November 24, 1943. Twenty-three minutes later, the *Liscome Bay* sank carrying her admiral, captain, 53 officers, and 591 enlisted men—over two-thirds of the crew—beneath the waves. No other single carrier in World War II suffered higher casualties.

Martin Matoushek was one of the lucky ones.

A native of Milwaukee, yeoman, third class, Martin A.

“Marty” Matoushek had enlisted less than a year prior to serving aboard the *Liscome Bay*. A fresh graduate of the Naval Radio and Signal Training School at the University of Chicago, nineteen-year-old Matoushek joined the vessel's crew in September 1943. Assigned to the intelligence office, he was charged with briefing pilots on the topography they would fly over, in case they were forced to make an emergency landing. This was an especially important job given the number of sorties these men would soon be flying during the coming engagement.

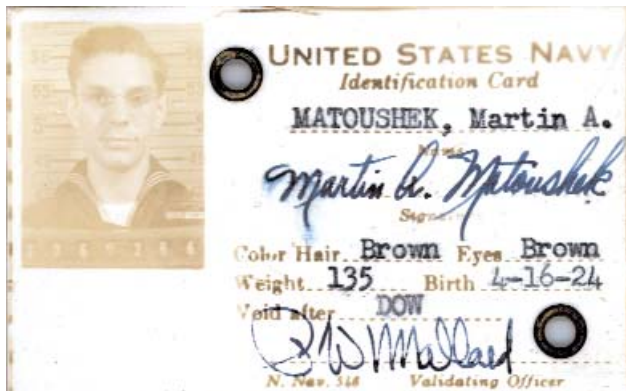
Code-named Operation Galvanic, its objective was the capture of three tiny Japanese-held atolls in the Central Pacific—Tarawa, Makin, and Abemama—seen as a steppingstone for future landings in the nearby Marshall Islands. On November 20, the *Liscome Bay*, along with 190 other warships, the most powerful U.S. naval force assembled in the Pacific up to that time, converged on the atolls. 76 battle-filled hours later, Tarawa and Makin were captured. Lending its aircraft to the 2,278 action sorties supplied by carrier-based planes, the *Liscome Bay* provided direct support of the amphibious landings and subsequent ground operations, in addition to flying numerous air patrols. The islands secured, U.S. forces began a retirement.



Matoushek kept his surviving personal property in this jar.

## Continued- Curator's Chronicles

In the early morning darkness of November 24, only hours after major combat operations had ceased, Martin Matoushek seated himself on a chair in the *Liscome Bay's* intelligence room and began reading the ship's newspaper.



### U.S. Navy yeoman, third class, Martin Matoushek's ID card

Little did he know that only a few hundred yards away, the Japanese submarine *I-175* was simultaneously positioning itself to take advantage of the unsuspecting ships of the task force. Having arrived off Makin during the night, *I-175* was able to approach the American vessels on the surface, avoiding sonar detection. Sighting the *Liscome Bay*, it fired a spread of torpedoes before diving to escape retaliation.

The explosion knocked down a bulkhead in the room where Matoushek was sitting, trapping him under its weight. Dazed, he struggled to free himself until someone lifted the bulkhead just enough to release him. Running out into the passageway, Matoushek found that it was blocked on both ends. Several other sailors were trapped in the passage as well. Working frantically, with flames enveloping the area, Matoushek and the other sailors managed to dig a hole through the debris. With the public address system smashed by the torpedo, it was every man for himself.

Recounting the situation, Matoushek later said, "The ship started listing and I grabbed my inflation belt and tried to blow it up. No go. I must have ripped it crawling around. I got to the catwalk next to the flight deck and found a rope dangling off the side...

Down the rope we went and started swimming." Not a moment too soon; by the time he got about 100 yards off, the *Liscome Bay* went down. Floating on his back, Matoushek was lifted by a wave and watched as her prow swiftly disappeared.

As daylight broke he was picked up by an American destroyer. Wounded from the falling bulkhead and flames, and covered in oil from the ship, Matoushek received medical attention, a change of clothes, and a meal. He would later be awarded the Purple Heart. Taken to Pearl Harbor, Matoushek was eventually allowed sixty days rehabilitation leave before being transferred to the *U.S.S. Bountiful*, a hospital ship, for the remainder of the war. During that time, he made a point of setting aside the few personal items that he had happened to be carrying with him on that fateful day. Small, simple objects, they would be seen as trifles under normal circumstances. Yet these were not normal circumstances. They were the only things that had survived with him from the *Liscome Bay*: a dice, a button, cigar-cutter, two belt clips, a suction cup, and a pocket knife with a key and metal tag stamped "Crew 626" attached. These were treasured mementoes, and Matoushek kept them for the rest of his life.

Although he would go on to serve gallantly in nearly every major operation in the Pacific while aboard the *Bountiful*—Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Saipan, Guam, Peleliu, Angaur, Leyte Gulf, the Philippines, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa—Martin Matoushek would always remember the *Liscome Bay* and just how lucky he was to survive. These few, seemingly trivial objects served as constant reminders.

By Peter Kraemer



**Martin Matoushek's surviving personal property**

All items pictured from WVM Collections and Archives

## 2009 Spring Programs, continued

### LESSONS IN DISASTER

Tuesday, April 14, 2009 – 7pm  
Gordon Goldstein, author

### CRUSADING REALISM: THE BUSH DOCTRINE AND AMERICAN CORE VALUES AFTER 9/11

Tuesday, April 21, 2009 – Noon  
Dr. Lamont Colucci, Ripon College

### FROM 'HEARTS AND MINDS' TO 'SHOCK AND AWE'

Thursday, April 30, 2009 – 7pm  
Dr. Jeremi Suri, UW-Madison

### THE UNPOPULAR MR. LINCOLN

Wednesday, May 13, 2009 – Noon  
Larry Tagg, author

All programs are free-of-charge and open to the public. They will take place in the Wisconsin Veterans Museum's 2nd Floor Education Center. For more information, call 608-261-0541 or go to [www.wvmfoundation.com](http://www.wvmfoundation.com)

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Museum.

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