

SPECIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM, MADISON



# hooch living

WISH YOU WERE HERE... AND I WEREN'T!



## in this issue



DOES ANYONE WANT MY BOONIE HAT? YES!



SHARING STORIES - SITTING DOWN WITH CAPTAIN KURTZ



SLIDES AND PICS - WHAT TO DO WITH THEM WHEN YOU GET HOME

SPRING 2010

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. Hooch Living is a special edition of *The Bugle*, published by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation.

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VETERANS  
MUSEUM

**30 W. Mifflin St.,  
Madison, WI 53703**  
- On the Capitol Square  
- Free Admission

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

608.267.1799

## From the Director

Over 9 million American men and women served in the armed forces during the Vietnam War Era. They represented nearly 10 percent of their generation. Wisconsin alone sent more than 57,000 service members to Southeast Asia. They came from all walks of life and from every corner of our state, serving in myriad combat and non-combat capacities.

Like their forebears, these sons and daughters of the World War II generation answered our nation's call to duty, but unlike the past many Vietnam-era veterans returned home to a largely ambivalent society. A nation politically divided had forgotten how to welcome home its heroes from the battlefield.

Our mission at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum is to commemorate, acknowledge and affirm the role of Wisconsin's military veterans in our nation's past. It is our job to ensure that the stories of Wisconsin's Vietnam-era veterans are not forgotten. Through our programs and exhibits we illuminate the experiences of once ordinary individuals who now

enjoy their rightful place among our nation's heroes. If we listen, their stories have the power to provide us with extraordinary lessons that transcend time and place. We cannot thank them enough for that opportunity and for their unselfish service to our nation.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum helps foster broad based and inclusive conversations about the past, and serves as a reminder of the importance of memory and its role in providing us a sense of attachment. Our programs provide those connections to the past for veterans, their families and the general public. But we cannot do it without your help. As you read this issue of *Hooch Living*, think about your own stories and how you may contribute to the present and future narrative of the Vietnam-Era experience. Ultimately, it is your stories and objects that help Americans put the past in context and, perhaps more importantly, guide all of us in making choices about what to remember.

By Michael Telzrow

## Support the WVM Foundation

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation helps the Veterans Museum develop exhibits, implement public educational programs, acquire historical collections, and engage in other activities that further the Museum's mission. Donations to WVMF are tax deductible.

Donations can be made online at [www.wvmfoundation.com](http://www.wvmfoundation.com) or by mail to:

**WVM Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 2657**  
**Madison, WI 53701-2657**  
**608.264.6086**

Visit the Wisconsin Veterans  
Museum online at:  
[www.wisvetmuseum.com](http://www.wisvetmuseum.com)



# The Things They Saved

Servicemen and women returned from Vietnam with items that continue to hold a unique place in their hearts. A dog tag, a lighter, or a piece of insignia that will recall a specific time and place for the veteran

are cherished relics. After the return to civilian life, however, these items are often forgotten. It is difficult to explain their importance to the folks at home. Tucked away in footlockers, duffle bags and dresser drawers, these artifacts become lost memories.

A lighter carried during a year in the jungle displays the Combat Infantryman's Badge and 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade insignia. This evidence of the pride, or youthful bravado, felt by the trooper while in Vietnam seemed out of place back in the states.

Showing little use, the plastic covered patch of the 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Brigade, that hung from the khaki shirt pocket while on R&R, represents the better times that were had.

A P-38 can opener that "opened more soda than beer" hangs on a woven

bootlace. Always carried, this piece of issue equipment was given to a newly-arrived doorgunner by an Assault Helicopter Company 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant.

A single dog tag, held in a blood-stained plastic cover, hangs from a chain along with the ubiquitous can opener. The owner, a combat medic, explained that the yellowing plastic covering contains residue of "the blood of the guys I worked on in battle." Only a single tag remains.

The other was torn from the chain by a dying soldier. The accompanying stories give life to these objects and illustrate why it is now more important than ever that they be preserved together. Since 1901, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum has provided this service for all Wisconsin veterans and their families. We ensure the preservation of these objects and stories so that we may teach present and future generations about the human involvement and sacrifice during times of war. Please ask yourself one question. Who will tell my story when I am gone?

By Bill Brewster



*Military objects can hold great significance to researchers and historians, particularly when they are linked to their unique stories.*

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**DOES ANYONE WANT MY BOONIE HAT?**

**YES - AND THEY ARE RIGHT HERE IN WISCONSIN!**

# Fading Legacies

One photo is cracked and curled, yet reveals Madison veteran Jon Smith and two friends hamming it up for the camera in July 1968. A once vibrant scenery shot is now obscured by red, yellow, and blue spots on a 35mm slide from Delbert Hunt. A fading image shows a wrecked Huey with gunner Bill Rettenmund, who survived the crash, standing safely nearby. These images, all colored photographs and slides from the Vietnam War, provide unique insight into the Vietnam War. Yet, in some cases, these photographs are fading fast, taking with them the visual documentation of America's most controversial war.

In 1976, Edwin Land, founder of the Polaroid Company, wrote "From its earliest period of conception in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, photography depended on two inextricably interwoven processes: making the image appear and keeping the image from disappearing." Looking through the images in the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center, there is abundant evidence of the successes of photography: crystal clear glass plate ambrotypes, tintypes and albumen prints from the Civil War and Spanish-American War along with sharp, distinct black and white photos from World War I and World War II. Only with the advent of modern color photography in the 1930s did the second half of Land's statement become an issue.

While most black and white photographs will last centuries when stored in the dark, color photography brought the permanence of images into question. Most color images consist of dyes that fade with exposure to light. Due in part to the organic nature of the dyes, the images fade and acquire yellowish stains even if kept out of the light. Fluctuations in temperature and humidity, which are inevitable in the attics, closets, and basements in which these photographs are often stored, accelerate this

process. Thus, until sweeping industry changes in the 1980s, most color photographs were doomed to disappear almost from the moment they were developed.

Since the Vietnam War took place during this period of unstable color photography, all color images taken during the war are at risk of fading away forever. In addition to traditional photographs, many Vietnam veterans have trays of color slides. Most color slides are one of a kind negatives. In addition, the film used to make slides during the 60s and 70s was extremely unstable and prone to fading into a reddish haze even when stored in the dark.

Aware of the fragile nature of mid-century photography, Gayle Martinson, WVM Archives Collections Manager, encourages veterans to donate these materials now before they are lost. However, Martinson understands that many Vietnam veterans are reluctant to do so. Their photos, faded as they are, are important links to those experiences and they may not be ready to give them up.

With that understanding, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) provides a CD of all donated Vietnam War images to the veteran. The WVM retains the original photos and slides in an archival cold storage environment, scans the images, enhances them, and provides the veterans with a CD to share with family and friends. It is hoped that this will provide the best of both worlds for the Vietnam veteran: the preservation of their cherished images and a more electronically friendly means of using and viewing them to be retained by the veteran and their family.

To discuss the preservation of your Vietnam War images, please contact Gayle Martinson at 608.261.0536.

By Russ Horton



# Valuing Each Legacy

Historians have tried to define and clarify the legacy of the Vietnam War through countless books, articles, and seminars. A number of historians provide valuable insights. Robert Schulzinger speaks of a legacy where “Americans have tended to see every contentious or dangerous foreign policy issue through the prism of Vietnam for more than a quarter century.” Jonathan Holloway claims the Vietnam War was the “end of American innocence.” Michael J. Allen characterizes a difference in memorializing as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall focuses on “irredeemable loss” rather than heroic deeds. McGeorge Bundy sums up the legacy of controversy by stating that “gray is the color of truth” when it comes to an understanding of this divisive conflict.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum focuses on a different legacy to add to our understanding of the Vietnam War. It is a story, repeated yet unique, told one at a time by the soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and nurses who served in that war. This narrative can be found in the materials retained by these service members and by their families. Kept together as a collection, these materials tell the personal stories of service and sacrifice through their objects, letters, photographs, diaries, maps, military papers, ephemera, newsletters, and books.

Indeed, it is this commitment to individual legacy and its preservation as a service to Wisconsin-connected veterans that drives the efforts of Bill Brewster, Curator of Collections, and Gayle Martinson, Archives Collections Manager. Brewster and Martinson listen with understanding and compassion to the stories shared by Vietnam veterans as they donate their material legacy; making it a part of our combined understanding. Once transferred to the museum, these materials are kept intact, stored in environments conducive to long-term preservation, and



*Letters, objects, photos and uniforms preserve the stories and experiences of Wisconsin veterans.*

finally, organized and cared for by professional staff.

Relatives of deceased Vietnam veterans often find solace in donating the military service collections of their loved ones to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. These materials also keep alive the memories of special buddies who did not return as they, too, find their place in the photographs, reminiscences, and letters. Educational efforts to understand the Vietnam War through the eyes of the people who served put a personal face to our understanding of war. Exhibits and programs use these materials to interpret the Vietnam War with a focus toward the Wisconsin citizen soldier. Hundreds of years from now, these materials will be available to descendants who will cherish the opportunity to get to know their veteran ancestor through the materials they entrusted to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum generations ago.

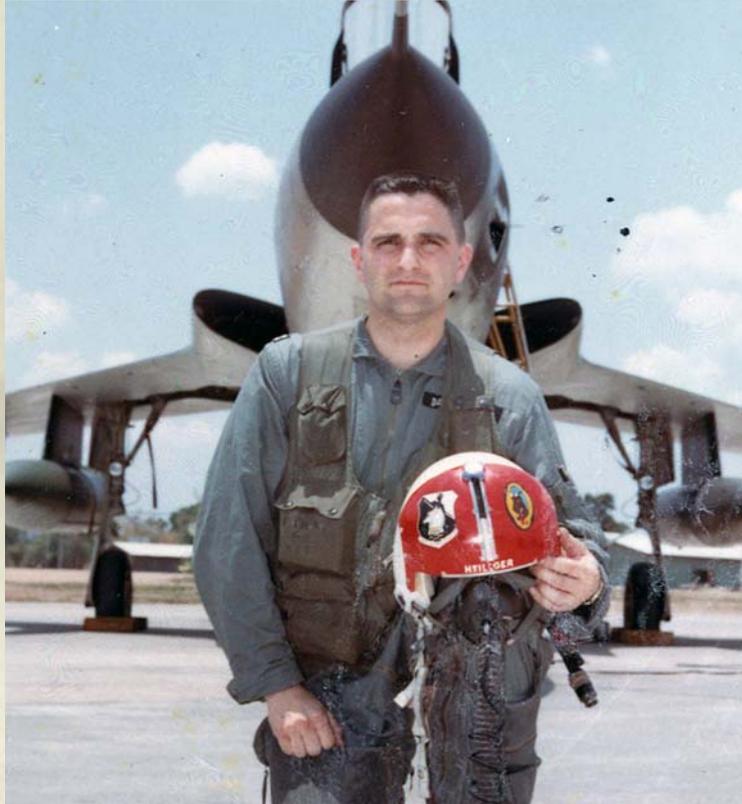
To discuss the preservation of your legacy or that of a loved one, please contact: Bill Brewster at 608.264.6099 or Gayle Martinson at 608.261.0536.

By Gayle Martinson

# Welcome Home Colonel Heiliger

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is committed to preserving the papers and photographs of

Wisconsin-connected Vietnam veterans. This effort provides more than just a unique preservation service. It ultimately allows us the opportunity to consider the wider historical significance that these materials represent. An example of this can be found in the collection of Colonel Donald L. Heiliger, a Madison, Wisconsin resi-



*Col. Heiliger posing by his F-105 Thunderchief, 1967*

dent who served as an officer with the Air Force for nearly thirty years and flew missions during the Vietnam War.

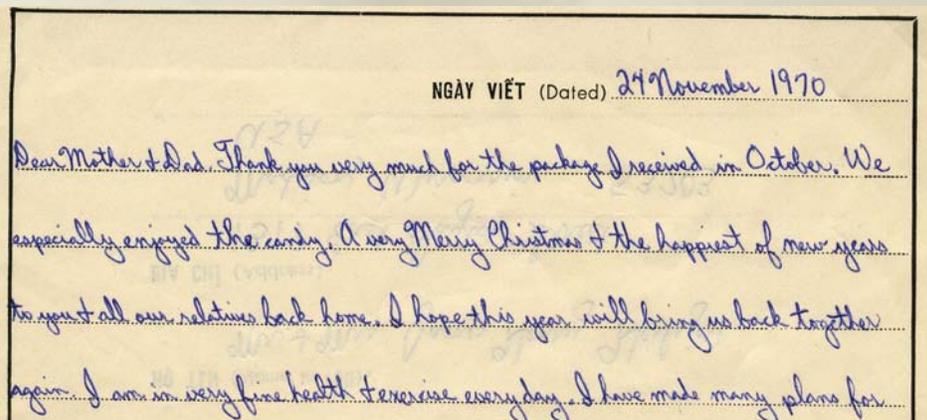
During a mission in 1967, his F-105 Thunderchief was struck by anti-aircraft fire that forced him to eject somewhere over North Vietnam. Colonel Heiliger was subsequently captured by NVA forces and spent the next six years as a prisoner of war before being released in 1973 as part of a negotiation reached between U. S. and North Vietnamese officials. Upon his return home, he continued to serve with the Air Force as an Air Attaché in Chile, Uruguay, and Israel before retiring in 1985.

The collection includes items spanning the entirety of his military career, but most of the materials concern his prisoner of war experience in North Vietnam. Heiliger's papers include letters, military papers, photographs, and other related materials. There are a few letters written by Heiliger to his parents while he was a prisoner but, most of the materials from his

time as a POW pertain to correspondence collected by his parents. They were very active in efforts to gain support for the release of POWs and frequently corresponded with private organizations and the federal government while Heiliger was in captivity.

Colonel Heiliger's welcome home experience was vastly different than that experienced by Vietnam veterans finishing their one year tours of duty. A large portion of manuscripts relevant to his homecoming is correspondence he received from people who had worn bracelets, inscribed with his name. Issued by a private support group called Voices in Vital America, these bracelets inscribed with the names of POWs, helped raise public awareness. Heiliger's collec-

tion also contains a large number of greeting cards and welcome home signs that were given by friends, family, and schoolchildren. Most of these greetings were assembled with construction paper and are oversized, the largest being almost forty inches in length. These items required special preservation treatment, such as placing them in protective sleeves and shelving them in specially crafted storage boxes. Aside from paper items, Heiliger's collection also includes a 16mm reel-to-reel film of an interview given soon after his return to the United States that



*Heiliger's letter to his parents while imprisoned, 1970*



*A welcome home greeting from a local school student, 1973*

describes his experiences as a POW. Additional footage shows a touching scene of parents and son being reunited in Madison.

The Heiliger Papers also present an opportunity for examination of the factors that led to public support for some returning Vietnam veterans, but not for others. Indeed, the outpouring of affection and support shown in the Heiliger Papers is similar to that received by later soldier returnees, first evidenced widely during the Persian Gulf War. It is not uncommon to find cards, posters, and other statements of support in the collections of veterans during the Persian Gulf War, Iraq War, and Afghanistan War that mirror those found in Heiliger's papers. These more recent outward gestures of goodwill may be seen as an outward sign of a national remorse rooted in its treatment of returning Vietnam veterans.

Heiliger's collection, and its diverse nature, helps us understand how the individual veteran's experience fits within the larger historical context. What may be seen as materials of little interest by the veterans who saved them, often have greater importance when viewed within a wider historical perspective.

**By Andrew Baraniak**



*Col. Heiliger climbing into the cockpit with co-pilot, Ben Pollard. Both men were taken prisoner when Heiliger's plane was shot down, 1967*

# Shattering the Silence

*Breaking their silence* is a common phrase applied to veterans. However, in some ways, the silence of World War II veterans can be viewed in a different light than the silence, or “forced amnesia,” of Vietnam veterans. World War II veterans remained silent as they protected themselves and their loved ones from the pain and horror associat-



(left) Jim Kurtz in Vietnam (center) Kurtz interviews Rick Berry (right) Berry while in Vietnam

ed with their combat experiences. America was positive after V-E and V-J Days. Service members received happy homecomings. The economy was booming and many were able to go to college and participate in an American Dream never envisioned before the war.

On the other hand, Vietnam War veterans were often advised to change out of their uniforms as soon as they reached American soil. Anti-war protestors were about, but more importantly, main-street America was conflicted and their response was silence. Thus the silence of the Vietnam War veterans can be seen as more profound; more complete. For many it amounted to a “forced amnesia.”

Jim Kurtz, volunteer oral history interviewer with the Wisconsin Veterans Oral History Program, speaks of his own amnesia in his oral history interview, “...as I said I really never thought about even being a veteran until 1982...I mean, this is the biggest thing that had ever happened to me and it never happened to me, you know.” Kurtz has single-handedly interviewed 116 Vietnam veterans for the program as a way to make sense of his own Vietnam experience and see that others have an opportunity to tell theirs.

Steve Piotrowski, another Vietnam veteran conducting oral history interviews for the museum, encourages Wisconsin Vietnam veterans to come forward and tell their stories. He states, “Listening to Vietnam veterans speak about their experience is vital to our understanding of that time period. People often want to know what Vietnam veterans think or feel, as if they were a monolithic group. Interviews

show the very individualized experience and emotional impact that the war had for them. The war, veterans’ experiences, their perceptions, and the face of the nation changed dramatically during the

course of the Vietnam War; the interviews reflect those changes.” The Wisconsin Veterans Oral History Program was established in 1994 as a part of the Wisconsin

Veterans Museum. It remains an active program, currently at over 1,200 interviews. The goals of the program are fourfold: preserve the veteran’s story in his or her own words **as a service** to the veteran, family, and descendants; accumulate historical material for research, teaching, program, and exhibit purposes; compliment the museum’s manuscript, object, and library collections; and *put a human, individual face to war*.

Although these statistics change weekly, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum currently has 232 oral history interviews with Vietnam veterans. There is also a sizable oral history collection within the Ray Stubbe Papers as Reverend Stubbe interviewed a significant number of Khe Sanh veterans nationally. Additionally, the raw footage interviews of Vietnam veterans filmed during production of the Wisconsin Public Television’s upcoming three-part documentary, *Wisconsin Vietnam War Stories*, will be deposited in the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum considers each story of its Wisconsin-connected Vietnam veterans to be important and is eager to see these stories finally told and preserved. Veterans are encouraged to break their own silence, end the “forced amnesia,” and come forward to speak into the oral history microphone under the guidance of interviewers, veterans themselves, who have shared in that same experience. Oral History Request Forms are located at [www.wisvetsmuseum.com/oralhistory](http://www.wisvetsmuseum.com/oralhistory).

**By Gayle Martinson**

# Sisters in Service: Vietnam

*At midnight we left Long Binh. There was a bus full and you could hear a pin drop. We were all so afraid that we weren't going to get on that plane ...I know I'm not going to get home.*

-Sergeant Susan Haack-Huskey, Women's Army Corps, Long Binh, Vietnam, 1970

Sergeant Haack-Huskey from Madison, Wisconsin was one of approximately 7,500-11,000 female military members who served in-country during the Vietnam War. The majority served as nurses, but women also served in areas such as intelligence, air traffic control, photography, cartography, administration and supply. American women were ready for the challenge and far more volunteered to go to Vietnam than were accepted.

Despite their service, media coverage and the military's own policies perpetuated a widespread misconception that women were not in Vietnam, or at least not in dangerous areas. Weapon training was discontinued in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) in 1963, because the M-14 was thought too heavy for women to handle. Uniform restrictions were also often unrealistic, with the WAC requiring skirts and heels for most members until after the Tet Offensive in 1968.

The reality is that there were no clear front lines in Vietnam and the living conditions were difficult and dangerous for nearly everyone. The majority of WACs were with the WAC detachment at Long Binh, a large and obvious target of the Viet Cong. Nurses of course had a particularly heavy responsibility in Vietnam, struggling to keep up with the horrific injuries and casualties streaming through the hospitals. Sometimes the only comfort a nurse could give was to sit with a dying man so he did not pass alone.

These challenges weighed heavy and many female veterans faced difficulty adjusting to civilian life. Although most counted the days, they tell of guilt over going home. Most women had been in

Vietnam saving lives, yet they were not immune to the hostility of a divided nation. Some were surprised to find they even missed Vietnam, the fast pace seemed more fulfilling than the muddy debates and mundane duties back at home.

Attitudes toward military service have

changed and with wider support, many women who served in Vietnam are finally talking about their service for the first time. With the establishment of the Vietnam Women's Memorial in 1993, the contribution of American women in Vietnam was finally formally recognized. As we welcome home the Vietnam Veterans of Wisconsin, please



*Nurses prepare at the 18th Surgical Hospital in Vietnam (photo courtesy of the US Army Medical Department)*

remember to extend your gratitude and support to the Wisconsin women who served.

Unfortunately the Wisconsin Veterans Museum has very little material relating to Wisconsin women in Vietnam. If you are a female Vietnam veteran from Wisconsin please consider contacting the museum to arrange an interview or discuss the potential donation of your Vietnam related material. Interviews can be conducted by a fellow Vietnam veteran if you prefer. We know Wisconsin women served and we would be grateful for the opportunity to learn about your experiences.

Contact Gayle Martinson at 608.261.0456, or [gayle.martinson@dva.state.wi.us](mailto:gayle.martinson@dva.state.wi.us), to discuss an oral history interview or the donation of letters or photographs. To discuss donating your uniforms or other materials please contact Bill Brewster at 608.264.6099, or [bill.brewster@dva.state.wi.us](mailto:bill.brewster@dva.state.wi.us). Information is also available at [www.wisvetsmuseum.com](http://www.wisvetsmuseum.com).

**By Kristine Zickuhr**

# Letters From Vietnam

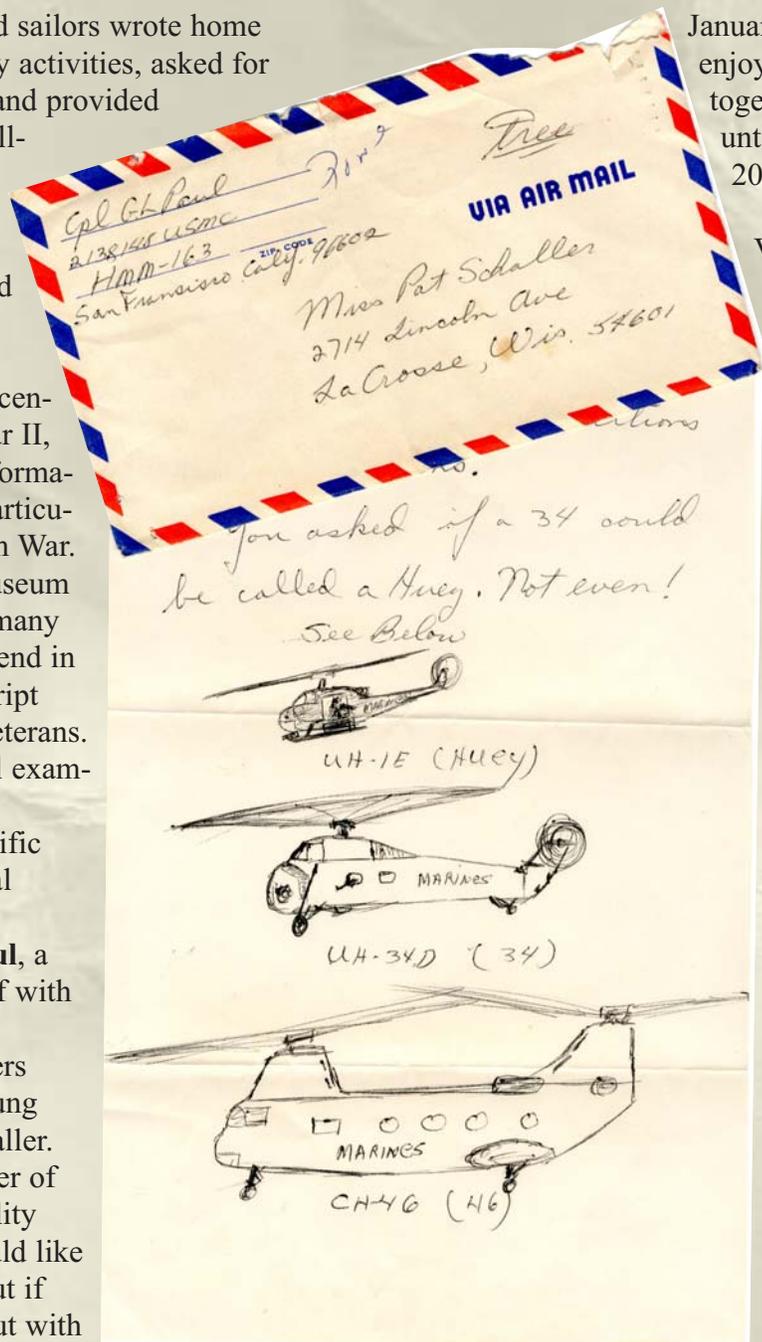
Before the emails, video conferencing, and other social media networking that are used to communicate with family and friends back home, mere pen and paper had to suffice for most service members. The letters soldiers and sailors wrote home usually discussed day-to-day activities, asked for news from the home front, and provided assurances of safety and well-being. The mundane nature of the letters, especially in the first-half of the twentieth century, can be attributed to the active censoring of messages during the World Wars. With the end of such censorship following World War II, dispatches became more informative, colorful, and varied, particularly those from the Vietnam War. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center preserves many letters that exemplify this trend in hundreds of unique manuscript collections from Vietnam veterans. Described below are several examples of missives that served markedly different and specific purposes from the traditional “Mom and Pop” letter.

**Gerald “Jerry” Paul**, a Sparta native and crew chief with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163, used his letters from Vietnam to court a young woman named Patricia Schaller. Letters written in the summer of 1967 have a sense of formality and state things like, “I would like to meet you and take you out if you wouldn’t mind going out with a crazy Marine.” He spent a lot of time informing her about the vehicles, places, and terminology that he was experiencing in Vietnam, often illustrating his writings. He did not censor any discussion of the danger he faced, regularly describing his flights and the heavy gunfire they encountered. Paul met Schaller in person during stateside leave in September ’67, and thereafter the letters took on a more familiar and courting tone. “There

isn’t much else to say except I miss you and wish we were together,” lamented Paul in letters that he had begun to close with “Love, Jerry.” Paul and Schaller married in January 1969 and enjoyed over thirty years together before Jerry’s untimely death in 2000.

Letters from Vietnam also reported tragic events to concerned family members. On July 29, 1967 an electrical surge caused an F-4 Phantom to fire a Zuni rocket on the deck of the U.S.S. *Forrestal*, striking an A-4 Strikehawk and leading to a chain reaction of exploding ordnance and fuel. When the fires were finally brought under control, 134 sailors were dead, 161 wounded, and the *Forrestal* so damaged that it required almost five months of repairs. Airman **Dennis Truman**, a Richland Center native, was below deck when the

explosions began and found safety in the forward mess deck. In a letter to his mother written two days after the event, he provided a remarkably accurate first-person account of the order of events of the tragedy, and his feelings during the explosions. “I swear that alone put 10 years on my life,” opined Truman in a letter home. “There’s six big holes in the Flight Deck...., the back of the ship isn’t there



anymore.” Reassuring his parents about his safety, Truman wrote, “I’m OK [sic]. Still a little shook, nervous and scared, but OK.”

While pursuing a history degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the late 60s,

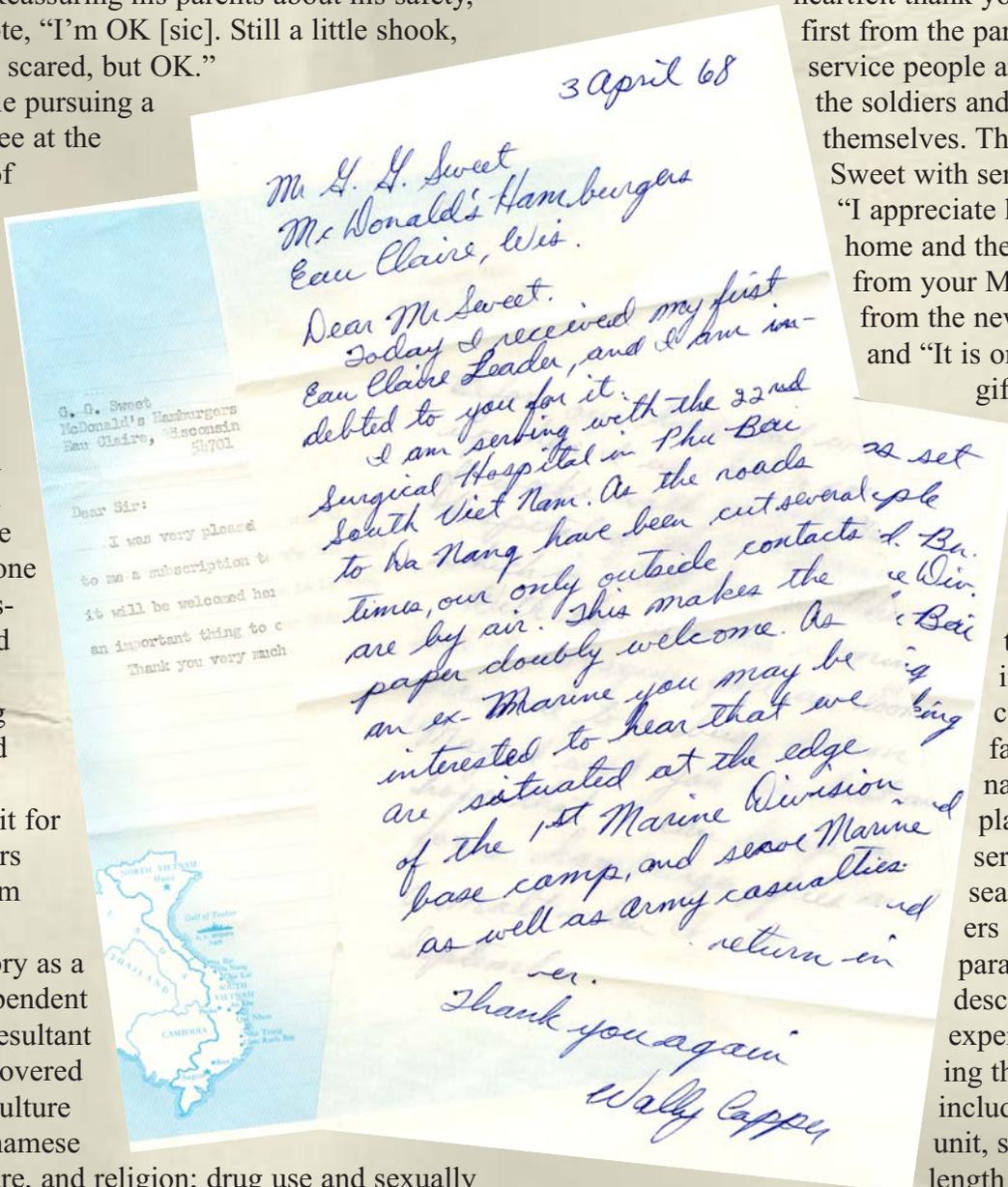
### Benjamin Morgan

decided to leave school and enlist in the Navy. He spoke with one of his professors, Edward Coffman, before going overseas and arranged to receive credit for writing letters from Vietnam with an eye toward history as a sort of independent study. The resultant dispatches covered topics like culture shock; Vietnamese traffic, culture, and religion; drug use and sexually transmitted diseases among soldiers and sailors; and his personal feelings about rocket attacks, Vietnamese civilians and soldiers, and the war in general. Morgan also critiqued military history texts, including one written by Coffman, solicited advice on writing and analyzing history, and even asked Coffman to encourage Morgan’s girlfriend to write more often. Upon finishing his tour, Morgan returned to UW-Madison and earned his history degree in 1972.

Owner of the McDonald’s in Eau Claire and a Marine Corps veteran, **Granville “Fritz” Sweet** understood the value that soldiers and sailors serving overseas placed on news from home, so he donated local newspaper subscriptions to Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls residents serving in Vietnam. This act of kindness resulted in scores of

heartfelt thank you letters, first from the parents of the service people and then from the soldiers and sailors themselves. They thanked Sweet with sentiments like “I appreciate hearing from home and the best way is from your Mother and from the newspaper,” and “It is one of the best gifts I have

received during my tour here in Viet Nam,” showing the vital importance of feeling connected to familiar names and places while serving overseas. The writers often wrote a paragraph or two describing their experiences during the war, including their unit, station, and length of tour.



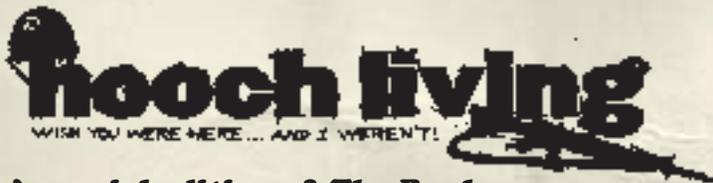
The above are just a small sample of the rich Vietnam War era collections housed at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center. In addition to letters, these collections contain diaries, military records, propaganda fliers, photographs, slides, reel-to-reel audio and film, and much more. The public is welcome to visit and view them, along with other collections spanning the Civil War to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 3:30, and by special appointment. Please contact Reference Archivist Russ Horton if you have any questions: 608.267.1790 or russell.horton@dva.state.wi.us.

**By Russ Horton**

# AAM Awards Wisconsin Veterans Museum with Reaccreditation

The American Association of Museums (AAM) recognized the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) at its March meeting. AAM develops standards and best practices for museums nationwide, and has awarded WVM with reaccreditation. WVM was the first Wisconsin museum to be accredited. The original status was given in 1974, and has been previously reaccredited in 1985 and 1997. WVM is now one of only 17 museums in Wisconsin to be accredited.

“AAM accreditation signifies that we operate according to the highest and most current professional museum standards,” said WVM Director Michael Telzrow. “Our unbroken record of accreditation since 1974 testifies to a level of professional achievement few museums can match.”



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