

# THE BUGLE

WINTER 2017  
VOLUME 24:4

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM

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### *Feature Story*

**LISTENING TO LEARN:  
ORAL HISTORIES FROM  
WOMEN IN SERVICE**

**100 Years: World War I**

Ann Fritsch, OH 1968



FROM THE DIRECTOR

A lot is often made of veterans' oral histories and the enduring historical value that they provide. There is no denying that oral histories illuminate the veterans' experience in an immediate way. What better source of information is there than from those who were there? This realization, coupled with the fact that our older veterans are passing from the scene, has led to an increase in individuals conducting interviews of relatives and neighbors who may have served. The frantic rush to record their stories is laudable, but in some cases offers little of reliable value. Oral histories, like all memory-based evidence, are less reliable the further from the event these memories become. While they always contain some merit, the quality and accuracy varies from individual to individual; especially if the events are a distant memory. Consequently, it is critical to record these experiences as soon as possible

to ensure accuracy and completeness. Interpretation of the event certainly benefits from the passage of time that Hegel described in his famous quote about the Owl of Minerva, but accuracy often suffers from recalling a long-ago event. That is why WVM Oral Historian Ellen Brooks seeks to record the stories of veterans from ongoing conflicts, as well as those from the ever-increasingly distant past. In this issue, Ms. Brooks writes about her program's efforts to collect the stories of women veterans of more recent service. Her efforts are on the leading edge of oral history programs, and are certain to position the WVM as a major center of women veterans' oral history resources.

As we close out 2017, I think it's appropriate to take note of the amazing success realized by our traveling exhibits program. Instituted about three years ago, the program, which initially sought to bring low-cost, readily-available banner exhibits to sites across the state, has now grown into a program which makes available some of our finest artwork. The massive demand of our banner exhibit program prompted us to take a close look at other opportunities within our collection. Army veteran and artist, Yvette Pino, has been appointed to conceive and develop our Art Exhibit program. Recently, she completed additional research and development of our John Gaddis watercolor collection in anticipation of making it publicly available for exhibit. The exhibit features newly developed interpretive elements and the option for a speaker, and is scheduled for exhibit at the Sheboygan Historical Society next month. Pino is also working

on a temporary exhibit of the WWII work of Milwaukee-native Harold Schmitz, to be shown at WVM in 2019.

Our Oral History Program and our Art Exhibit Program are wonderful examples of the diversity of talent and resources that we enjoy at WVM. In closing this year out, I want to thank all of our members and stakeholders for their continued support of our mission to acknowledge, commemorate, and affirm Wisconsin's veterans in shaping history. We wish you the best this holiday season and a happy new year!

Michael E. Telzrow  
Director



Drawing by Harold F. Schmitz,  
WVM Mss 2165



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Soldiers on the Korean border during the Vietnam War, WVM Mss 1947



**KEVIN HAMPTON**  
CURATOR OF HISTORY



# WORLD WAR I: 100 YEARS AGO

The year 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the dramatic climax of the Great War. The United States spent 1917 mobilizing for war; it wasn't until 1918 that the majority of American troops began arriving in France, including Wisconsin's own National Guard, now part of the 32nd Division. To put these historical events in context throughout 2018 we will highlight some the events that ultimately contributed to and culminated with the armistice that effectively ended the war.



## *JANUARY 1918*

President Wilson addressed Congress, announcing his “14 Points” plan for peace.

After months of organizing and training in Texas, the 32nd Division began deploying overseas to France.

## *FEBRUARY 1918*

The 32nd Division suffered its first casualties of the war when the troopship *Tuscania* was sunk off the coast of Scotland—the first transport carrying US troops to be sunk by a German submarine. Read more about one Wisconsin soldier's experience on the *Tuscania* on page 6.



## *MARCH 1918*

As more US troops arrived in France on the Western Front, Soviet Russia signed a treaty with Germany formally ending the war on the Eastern Front.

Shifting all its resources and attention to the Western Front, Germany launched the Spring Offensive to end the war before US troops could be effectively deployed to the front.

Look for more in the next three issues of The Bugle and be sure to follow us on Facebook as we commemorate and share the stories of the Wisconsin men and women that were witness to these historic events 100 years ago.



**ANDREA HOFFMAN**  
COLLECTIONS MANAGER



Twentyseven years ago this winter, Staff Sergeant Lee Ziebell of Oshkosh deployed to the Middle East with the 1157th Transportation Company, one of 1,400 Wisconsin National Guard soldiers and airmen whose units were activated for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Ziebell spent six months in Saudi Arabia and Iraq, serving as a squad leader in charge of transporting ammunition. He recently donated a significant collection of objects both brought with him and acquired during his deployment, including the woodland camouflage boonie hat he wore until he received his desert camouflage uniform, Iraqi and Kuwaiti license plates, and a jar of Nescafe and a can of Pepsi Cola brought home from Saudi Arabia. Ziebell's collection also includes a T-shirt depicting a cartoon version of Saddam Hussein captioned "Yer Messin with the 1157," illustrated by fellow Army National Guard member Steve Verwiel.



**RUSSELL HORTON**  
REFERENCE ARCHIVIST



# THE *TUSCANIA*



Last known image of the *Tuscania*, taken from ship *Baltic*.

**1** 00 years ago this February, the *Tuscania* became the first American troop ship sunk during World War I. More than 200 men died in the torpedo explosion or drowned as the ship sank, including many from Wisconsin. As we observe this anniversary, the words of a Wisconsin veteran shed light on the event itself.

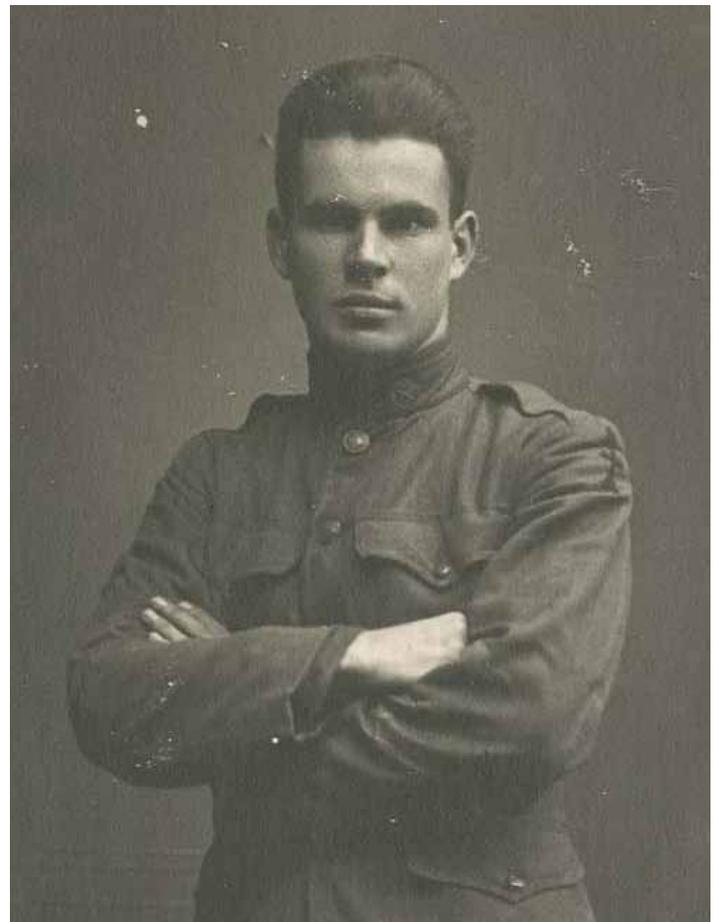
Arthur Cantwell, an 18-year-old boy fresh out of Shawano High School, enlisted in the Wisconsin National Guard less than two weeks after the US entered World War I. He was aboard the *Tuscania* on the evening of February 5, 1918 as it approached the North Channel. German U-boat 77 fired two torpedoes and the second struck the *Tuscania* near the engine room. In a letter to his parents, Cantwell wrote, "I was down in E deck when the boat was hit and as the lights were out, it took quite a while (seemed to at least) before I could get to my lifeboat station."

His assigned lifeboat was shattered in the explosion, so he waited until a British destroyer pulled alongside the *Tuscania* and allowed American soldiers to board directly. Cantwell informed his parents, "So when the Destroyer *Pigeon* came up on the right side, we were the last bunch to get off, the Captain of the ship leaving with us, that is after we were all aboard."

Cantwell wrote that the *Pigeon* deposited the survivors on the Irish coast "and when we put our feet on land, oh what a happy bunch. We marched about two miles to a military camp and the British gave us hot tea and bread at a canteen.

The officials were making out a survivor list and I wrote down my name in a hurry."

Six days later in another letter, he concluded, "I kept cool and that is why I got off. I now feel able to hold my own at any time."



Arthur A. Cantwell, WVM Mss 2072



# NEW YEAR SALE

20%  
Off



**DOC SPARTAN**



**MUSEUM  
GIFT SHOP**

JAN 22<sup>nd</sup> – FEB 12<sup>th</sup>

**INSTORE  
& ONLINE**

\*Sale excludes all Schott products

<https://Store.WisVetsMuseum.com>

**ELLEN BROOKS**

ORAL HISTORIAN



# LISTENING TO LEARN: WOMEN IN

2018 marks seventy years since the passage of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act which enabled women to serve as regular members of every branch of the military. In 1978 the Women's Army Corps was officially disbanded. In January 2013 the restriction on women serving in combat zones was lifted. And in May 2017 eighteen women became the first to graduate from the Army's newly gender-integrated infantry basic training. These are only a few of the milestones that have taken place since the Integration Act of 1948.

The implementation of these new policies has been complicated. Women have had to navigate challenges with uniforms, lodging, bathroom facilities, pregnancy, and sexual harassment. Oral histories can teach us what has changed for women in the service and what struggles still exist today. The following are excerpts from interviews with women, talking about some of the gender-related issues they faced during their time in service:

Deborah Thomas served as a medical lab technician in the Air Force from 1972 to 1996.

While I was at Keesler [Air Force Base], I made a lot of firsts. I was the first female Phase Two student. And they didn't know what to do with me. It took me a couple of days to figure out where I was gonna live.

There were definitely uniform changes. When I first went in, after I did my training and even while I was doing my training, we had to wear hospital dresses. That meant wearing dresses and nylons, and nurses' shoes. And wearing a dress was not always the most logical thing, especially if you're having to climb up on things to get at supplies, or if you're down on your knees drawing blood from a person on a Stryker bed and he's upside down. It took 'em a long time to figure out that the women's fatigues just were not conducive to some of the jobs they were havin' women do.

Michelle Rasmusson served in the Army Reserves from 1999 through 2007.



Michelle Rasmusson, OH2003

"We were assigned to the 10th Mountain Division, and I was the only female out of six hundred guys. They had absolutely no idea what to do with me. I had just gone through six months of hell—these guys were just getting here. I remember them walking up and saying, "Oh my god, you're a female." I was like, "Thank you, yes, yes. I appreciate that." So the guys kind of got shuttled into their tents, and then they said, "Well, how about we put you in the TOC [tactical operations center]?" And the TOC is the command center, basically, where lights are on twenty-four hours, the radio, all the pages, all the calls. And that was where I was for the first week or two. And the thing about the TOC is you hear everything. It was every firefight that guys were in, it was every rescue mission that was coming in. Finally I said to the captain, "I can't do this." There's this closet in the building that we were in that was stacked with paper. "If I clean out the front part of this closet, can this be my spot? I just need a spot," And they said, "Well, we can maybe build you a shower, with a top on it, and down to the ground." It was one of those things where I need to shower, and I need to go to the bathroom. It was almost like I didn't exist. They called me the yeti sometimes, "I saw her; she was up here, and then she was over here."



# ORAL HISTORIES FROM WOMEN IN SERVICE

Laura Naylor served with the 32nd Military Police Company, Wisconsin National Guard from 2003 to 2004.

We were driving into the Green Zone, Central Baghdad. And 1st Cav had just gotten in two weeks earlier, they had just started their missions, and one guy was at the gun right at the checkpoint to get in and out of this Green Zone, and he looks down at one of my fellow females, who's on the gun. He's like, "You even know how to use that thing?" And as soon as we got off the Humvee, she's like, "I can't believe he said that to me, I want to go kick his ass." We were very irate that a fellow soldier would even take us down to such a level. But, if you're an infantryman, you don't work with women, they have no idea what we're capable of doing. And so, there were a lot of stereotypes to break while we were over there, and I think we did a very good job of breaking them.

Of course, service wasn't a wholly negative experience for these narrators or other female veterans. Many of them reminisce about getting along with their male-counterparts and how well they were treated. It's important to acknowledge all parts of the story and that's why oral history is so valuable. Service has been an extraordinary, rewarding experience for many women. The more we listen to their stories, the more we can



Laura Naylor, OH1417



Ann Fritsch, OH1968

appreciate what they've done. And we can consider how to continue making the military an inclusive space that affords everyone the chance to serve our country.

In her interview, Ann Fritsch, who served in the Army from 1951 through 1983, was asked why she wanted to tell her story:

Oh, because I think people ought to know that there were women in the service, working hard. I think that was my reason, that they kind of forget there were women. Women did interesting things in the service, and I think they kind of underestimated us. People around here can't believe that I was a colonel.

In an effort to promote these stories, and make sure they don't go underestimated or underappreciated, we will be highlighting stories of women in service throughout 2018. Check out the "Featured Interviews" page on our website, our April Mess Night, and our Spring Edition of Warrior Book Club, all of which will have a focus on women in the military.



ERIN HOAG

EDUCATION SPECIALIST



2017 was quite a year for the Education Department! While some of our new activities were highly visible to our patrons—Warrior Book Club and Cocktails with a Curator—a lot was happening behind the scenes.

New programming is the theme for this year. We kick off the season of Cocktails with a Curator with a Trivia Night on February 22. Teams will work together to answer the questions or they can “call a curator” for help. All of the answers to the questions can be found in the museum exhibits—so be sure to visit often between now and February. At the end of the year, we will have our first Cocktails with a Curator: Drink-and-Draw. No artistic experience is necessary for this fun evening of drawing and cocktails. As we talk about veteran artists in our collection, participants will sketch from objects and photos. Get those creative juices flowing!

Also new this year, we will be offering summer camps at the museum for children ages 8-12 years old. Maybe the child in your life is interested in aviation or is a budding artist. From *Flight!* to *A.R.T. to Operation Teamwork*, these camps offer

something for everyone. For more information about summer camps, be sure to check out the complete listing on page 11 or the Events page of the Museum website. Registration will open on February 15.

This fall marks the 20th year of Talking Spirits Cemetery Tours! It also marks the centennial of the end of World War I. In honor of both this year’s tour will feature four vignettes; two of which are multi-generational with fathers who served in the Civil War and children who contributed to World War I efforts. Stories will focus on the ways people remember and honor the men and women who fought and will include themes of legacy, duty, valor, and loss. Tickets will go on sale September 4.

Registration for all events can now be done through the Events page of the museum’s website. Don’t forget Foundation members receive 20% off all programs.

We hope that you are as excited about the coming year as we are and we look forward to seeing you at our programs!

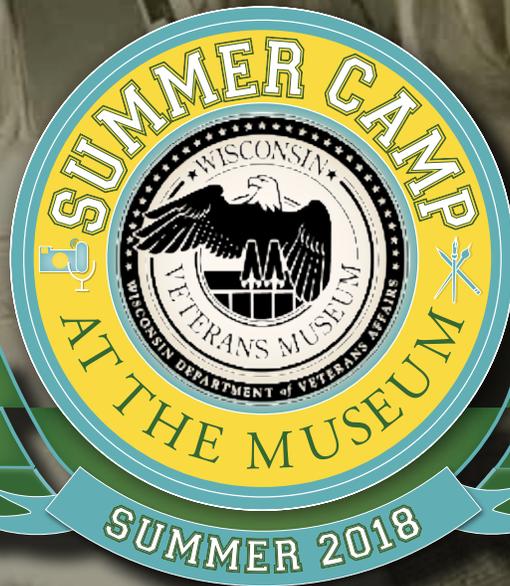
**TRIVIA NIGHT**

Feb. 22 | 5:30-7 p.m.

**FREE**

**Cocktails WITH A CURATOR**





**A.R.T.:**

Appreciation, Recreation,  
Transformation



**Junior Photojournalist:**

Learning About  
Photographic Storytelling



**Flight!:**

Learning About  
Aviation History



**Operation Teamwork:**

Learning How To  
Work Together



**Word Warriors:**

Learning About  
Verbal Storytelling



**Less is More:**

Life on the Home Front



Register online at [www.WisVetsMuseum.com/events](http://www.WisVetsMuseum.com/events)

# THIS SEASON AT THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM

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



## *MESS NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: USS COLE BOMBING AND THE ROAD TO 9/11*

Join us for our own transformation on this historical naval tradition of Mess Night  
**January 25, 5:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m.**

On the morning of October 12, 2000, the USS *Cole* was attacked by two suicide-bombers piloting a small boat carrying explosives. The blast tore a 40-by-60-foot gash in the side of the guided-missile destroyer, and claimed the lives of 17 sailors. Included among those killed was Engineman Second Class, Marc Nieto of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Museum Director Michael Telzrow explores the events leading up to the attack, through the eyes of Petty Officer Nieto.

## *SCHOOL DAYS OFF AT THE MUSEUM*

**10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

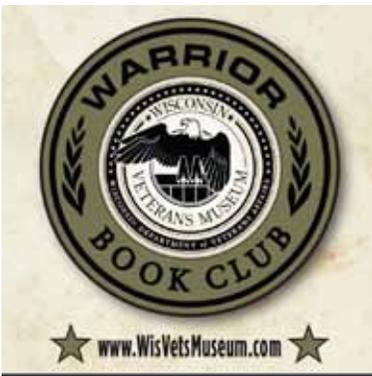
**January 19**

**February 9**

**March 12, 27-30**

**April 6 and 27**

Join us for free, drop-in family-friendly activities at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum for Madison School District's "No School" days. Each School Day Off features different activities.



## *WARRIOR BOOK CLUB*

**7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

Books will be provided; registration is free and required. Featured books will be based on the theme of female perspectives concerning the military.

**February 7**

**April 4**

**March 7**

**May 2**

Register by email at: [visitor.curator@dva.wisconsin.gov](mailto:visitor.curator@dva.wisconsin.gov) or 608-274-7663

## *COCKTAILS WITH A CURATOR: TRIVIA NIGHT*

**February 22, 5:30 p.m. –7:00 p.m.**

Cocktails with a Curator Trivia Night! Teams will work together to answer the trivia questions or they can "call a curator" for help. This event is free and anyone is welcome to participate. All of the answers to the questions can be found in the museum exhibits so be sure to visit often between now and February! Happy hour starts at 5:30 p.m., with trivia to follow at 6:00 p.m.



★ VISIT [WWW.WISVETSMUSEUM.COM/EVENTS](http://WWW.WISVETSMUSEUM.COM/EVENTS) FOR 2018 MUSEUM PROGRAMS ★



# SAVE THE DATES

**APRIL 12**  
THURSDAY

## *MESS NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: WOMEN IN UNIFORM*

April 12, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Join us as we explore the contributions Wisconsin women have made through military service. Following the presentation covering some of the lesser-known stories from the collection, there will be a panel of three contemporary female veterans to discuss their service and experiences with the audience.

**MAY 17**  
THURSDAY

## *COCKTAILS WITH A CURATOR*

May 17, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

A happy-hour event series (yes, with drinks!) with the Museum's curators, who will share stories from the collections here at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Registration is not required and the event is free to attend. Happy hour begins at 5:30, followed by a presentation at 6:00 and Q&A at 6:30.

**SUMMER**  
2018

## *SUMMER CAMPS*

See page 11 for details about our exciting new summer camps at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

**AUG. 23**  
THURSDAY

## *MESS NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: BRINGING THE BATTLEFIELD HOME:*

### *PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR*

Thursday, August 23rd, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

H. H. Bennet Studio Historic Site Coordinator David Rambow will discuss how photography was a major social and historic innovation at the time of the Civil War. An opportunity to get your own tintype taken will be available at an additional cost prior to the beginning of the event. Pre-registration for timeslots is required.

PROGRAM LOCATION IS THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED  
FOR DETAILED EVENT INFORMATION VISIT:

[WWW.WISVETSMUSEUM.COM/EVENTS](http://WWW.WISVETSMUSEUM.COM/EVENTS)

[WisVetsMuseum.com/events](http://WisVetsMuseum.com/events)

Online Registration opens September 4th

WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM

# TALKING SPIRITS CEMETERY TOURS XX

**FRIDAY, OCT. 12<sup>TH</sup>**  
CANDLELIT TOURS | 5:30-8:00 P.M.

RAIN DATE: OCT. 13<sup>TH</sup>

**SATURDAY, OCT. 13<sup>TH</sup>**  
PUBLIC DAY TOURS | 12-4:00 P.M.

RAIN DATE: OCT. 14<sup>TH</sup>

**FOREST HILL CEMETERY**  
1 SPEEDWAY RD. MADISON, WI 53705

## Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation

### FEEL GOOD ABOUT YOUR GIFT

There are so many reasons you can feel good about your gift when you support the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, an organization dedicated to honoring our veterans every day of the year. Your support provides so many wonderful programs and exhibits that tell the stories of Wisconsin veterans and their place in America's military history.

Because of your support we are able to share the stories of Wisconsin veterans like Mortimer Lawrence of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin who enlisted in the Army Air Service (forerunner of the Air Force) at age 26 shortly after the United States declared war on Germany in 1917, and John Isermann, a 22-year-old Coast Guardsman from Kenosha, Wisconsin who was shifted to Navy control during World War I. Their stories and the stories of other veterans who served during World War I are told in their own words in the Museum's current exhibition *Beyond the Trenches: Stories From the Front*. Thanks to you, visitors are able to experience their stories and come away with a greater appreciation for what our servicemen and women faced during World War I.

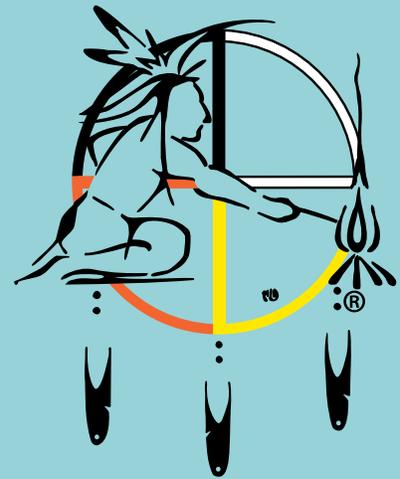
This is special work, and we thank you for joining us in it. You ensure their legacies are preserved and shared with the next generation.

#### DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

Eileen Newcomer recently departed the WVM Foundation to accept a position with the League of Women Voters. For two years she worked very hard to develop the Foundation's membership program, and her attention to detail will be sorely missed. We wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.



# THANK YOU



## FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI *Keeper of the Fire*

For honoring our veterans

# THE FOUNDATION HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

VISIT  
[WWW.WISVETSMUSEUM.COM](http://WWW.WISVETSMUSEUM.COM)  
AND CLICK ON JOIN|GIVE TO  
EXPLORE OUR BRAND-NEW  
WEBSITE



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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 by appointment only

Tuesday-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 through the support of 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 Karen Burch at Karen.Burch@dva.wisconsin.gov.

## JOIN US ONLINE!



**THE  
WISCONSIN  
VETERANS  
MUSEUM**

30 WEST MIFFLIN STREET  
MADISON, WI 53703

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit No. 2783



## THANK YOU MEMBERS!

A most sincere thank you to all who purchased a membership in September through November 2017.  
We cannot provide quality programming and award-winning exhibits without your help.

### **FAMILY MEMBER PLUS**

GOODMAN, WALTER  
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## THANK YOU COLLECTION DONORS!

A most sincere thank you to all who donated to our collections from September through November 2017.  
Thank you for your generosity and support of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

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**WWW.WISVETSMUSEUM.COM, click on Join|Give**

