



THE BUGLE

WINTER 2019 | VOLUME 26:4

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"To Mrs. M. J. Corrigan, by Landovic Leblanc, artist, given by Capt. Ray J. Kenney, 'Au Bois Fleury, 1916.'" This pen-and-ink drawing was given to Mrs. Corrigan, mother of **Herman Corrigan**, who died on November 3, 1918.

WVM.1823.I002

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ON THE CAPITOL SQUARE
608.267.1799

www.wisvetmuseum.com

MUSEUM HOURS

Closed Mondays

Tuesday–Saturday

9:00 AM–4:30 PM

Sunday (April–September)

Noon–4:00 PM

RESEARCH CENTER HOURS

By appointment only

Tuesday–Friday 9:00 AM–3:30 PM

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A most sincere thank you to all who donated to our collection from August 2019–November 2019. Thank you for your generosity and support of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

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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



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 and present.

THE BUGLE is published quarterly for our members and friends through the support of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation provides funds for the support of artifact acquisitions, exhibit production, and the development of educational programs.



Photograph of a bugler at the 1979
American Legion State Convention.
WVM.0016.129



Editor's Notes

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum has a wide reach and attracts researchers from across the globe, as well as nationally. Our presence on the Internet certainly assists researchers in finding out what we hold in our collections. In the last five years, we've assisted people with their questions and research on Wisconsin service members and military history from over 19 European countries, as well as countries in Asia, the Pacific, and the Caribbean. Using library web tools like WorldCat (a world-wide internet library catalog), researchers from around the world can search the archival collections that we care for. In addition, our website links to a searchable artifact collections database through which people can find objects, photos, and collections related to Wisconsin service members.

Making collections accessible to the public is no small task. After a collections committee reviews and accepts items into the collections, a team of people handles the tasks of cataloging it into the appropriate databases, as well as starting the processing that makes them more usable for the public. Processing could include listening to an oral history to create a summary of the topics covered in the interview, going through personal papers one by one to be able to make a list of contents and topics for people to understand what is contained in paper collections, or taking measurements and photos to create a record entry for objects to be searched online. For each of the items we take, processing staff also diligently adds to the story of the service member that the collections represent.

Stories are at the heart of what the Wisconsin Veterans Museum does. Indeed, it is at the heart of any museum. Here at the Veterans Museum, "Every Veteran is a Story" is the vision that guides how we tell the experiences of service members. We start with each individual and how they came to service, what they experienced while in service during peacetime or war, and how veterans reflect upon that service once they ended their time in the military. Visitors and researchers to the museum, and even staff, can often find themselves in the veteran stories we share. Finding that connection helps us all to grow in ideas and understanding of different people. We hope you take some time with the stories we share in this issue.

Janet Van Houten

W.I. VETERANS MUSEUM

RESEARCH CENTER

Reference Services

The Research Center provides individual reference assistance and consultation. Whether you are searching for details about an individual veteran, examining the role of a particular military unit, or looking at the history of veterans' organizations, our reference staff is available to assist you in your effort.

Research Center hours by appointment only. To schedule an appointment please contact our Reference and Outreach Archivist, Russell Horton at 608-267-1790, or by email at Russell.Horton@dva.wisconsin.gov

COUNTRIES

20

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STATES

50

INDIVIDUAL VETERAN RESEARCH

George Masin, a former Olympic fencer from New York, found photographs of all but one of the 259 American Olympic fencers. After 10 years of searching, he finally found a photo of the final fencer at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Theodore Carstens, who competed in the 1904 Olympics, traveled the country performing fencing demonstrations with **Carleton Brosius**, a Wisconsin veteran of the Spanish-American War. Masin found a postcard-sized photo of Carstens in the Carleton Brosius papers.



MILITARY UNIT RESEARCH

"The Wisconsin National Guard for the centenary of WWI...conducted several weeks of research at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum reviewing the collections of dozens of **Red Arrow Soldiers** so we could tell their stories. WVM staff's knowledge of their vast collection and their professional expertise allowed us to conduct a three-year social media campaign, write a 130-page book, and prepare an 84-minute documentary commemorating our Guardsmen who answered the call to service 100 years ago."

—MAJ Brian J. Faltinson, Public Affairs Officer, Wisconsin National Guard



VETERAN ORGANIZATION RESEARCH

"I am very thankful for your help during my research trip regarding the **Gratitude Train**. It was so kind of you to arrange everything, even last minute, so that I could see the archives you hold. The findings were very rich, and I have already started using them. Thank you, also, for the oral interviews you unearthed for me."

—Dr. Ludivine Broch, Lecturer in History, University of Westminster



LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

The library and archives collections provide researchers and genealogists resources to learn more about the social, political, and cultural aspects of the veterans' experience. Our library holds a unique collection of military-related items and other materials from Wisconsin-connected veterans.



ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

The Wisconsin Veterans Oral History Program captures the personal stories of Wisconsin-connected veterans in their own words. The collection of recorded interviews is accessible to the public and contain more than 2,000 samples from the Spanish-American War through the present.



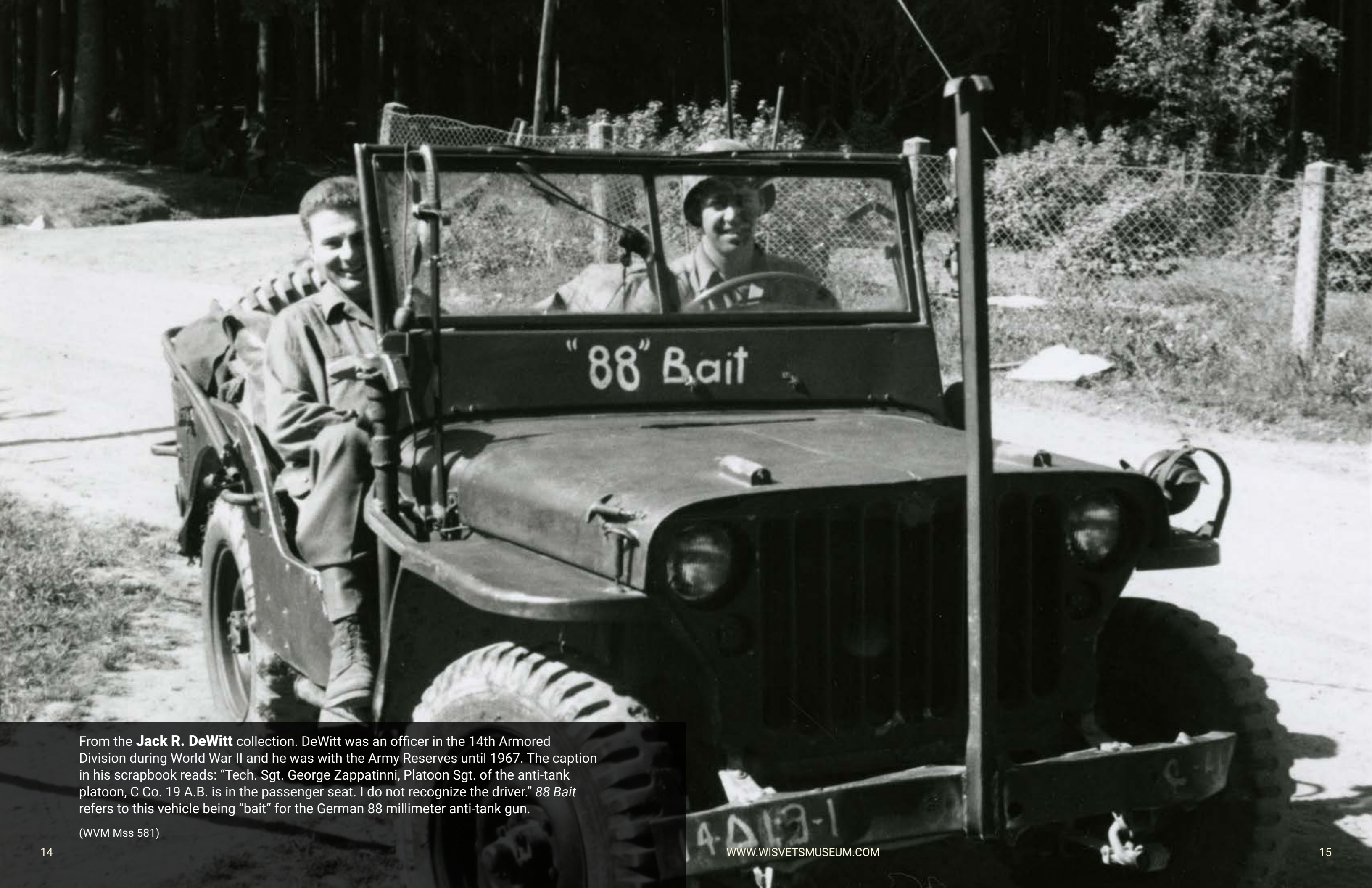
"I'm an old Vietnam vet who was reading a new book on Vietnam -- Vietnam: An Epic Tragedy, 1945-1975, by Max Hastings (2018). This is the most realistic and balanced book that I've read on the war. The book explained a lot, and it set me to Googling some of the vets with whom I had served in Vietnam 51 years ago. Not a lot was coming up. But I did get a hit on "Paul Dunwiddie" because of the exhibit listing on your museum. There was a reference to a number of slides that were part of that exhibit. Living in Washington, I have no way to get to Wisconsin to see the slides, so I thought I'd ask to see if I could get copies made. My email was answered by Russ Horton, who was amazingly helpful. The proof images that Russ first sent triggered a flood of memories. The emotional impact was strong, largely because my unit suffered a 70 percent casualty rate in 1968. That kind of experience tends to hold vivid memories for a long time. Russ made the process easy, even for someone not all that computer literate. I will always appreciate that kindness. And I especially appreciate the museum and the incredible resource it provides. Many thanks for the work you do."

—Josey Paul
Joyce, Washington

Vietnam War veteran **Eric Oxendorf**, a lifelong resident of Wisconsin, enlisted in the United States Naval Reserve in 1967 and was called to active duty the following year. Between 1969 and 1971, Oxendorf completed four tours in Vietnam as a Navy aviation electrician with Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron SIX (HS-6 “Indians”) followed by Helicopter Combat Support Squadron SEVEN (HC-7 “Seadevils”), Detachment 110. HC-7 performed Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) missions aboard U.S. Navy Sikorsky HH-3A Sea King helicopters (dubbed “Big Mothers”) which became the Navy’s only dedicated CSAR squadron on active duty. He recently donated his G-1 flight jacket to add to the collection he first presented to the museum in 1992, which includes his Nomex coveralls and flight helmet among other items from his time in service. Oxendorf remained in the Naval Reserve through the 1980s, and has spent the years since working as a nationally-recognized architectural photographer. 📷

By: Andrea Hoffman
Collections Manager





From the **Jack R. DeWitt** collection. DeWitt was an officer in the 14th Armored Division during World War II and he was with the Army Reserves until 1967. The caption in his scrapbook reads: "Tech. Sgt. George Zappatinni, Platoon Sgt. of the anti-tank platoon, C Co. 19 A.B. is in the passenger seat. I do not recognize the driver." 88 Bait refers to this vehicle being "bait" for the German 88 millimeter anti-tank gun.

(WVM Mss 581)

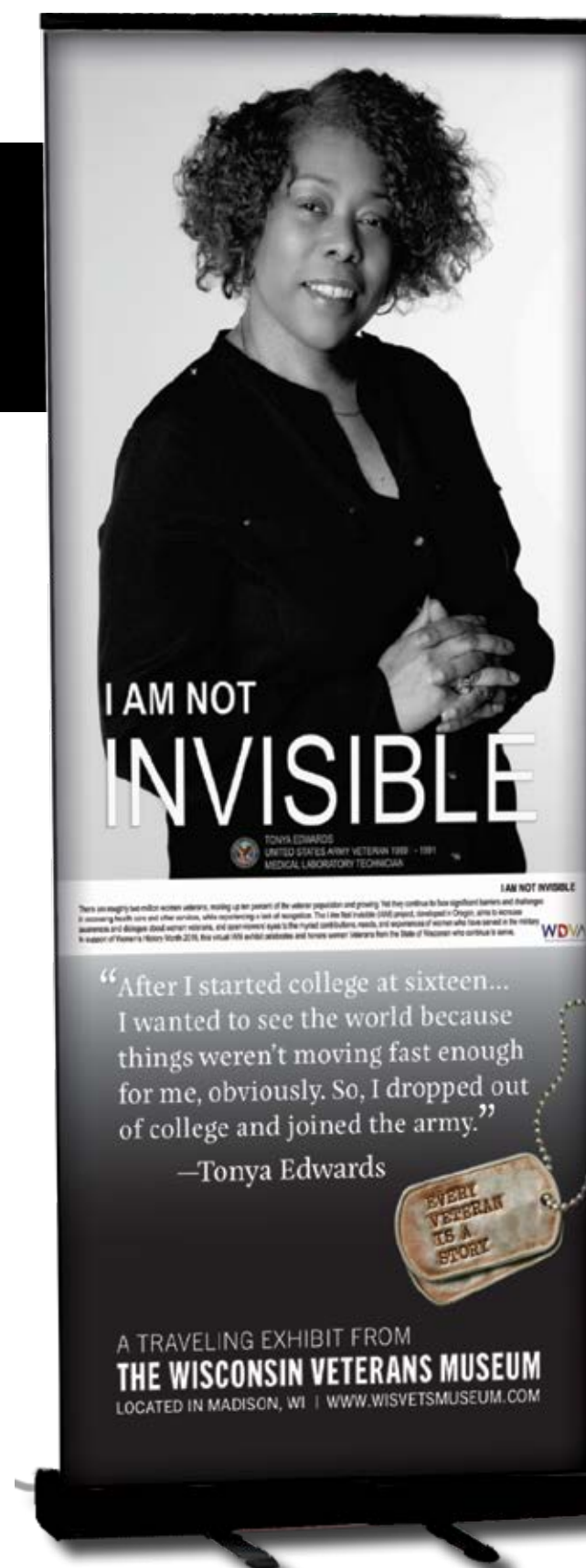
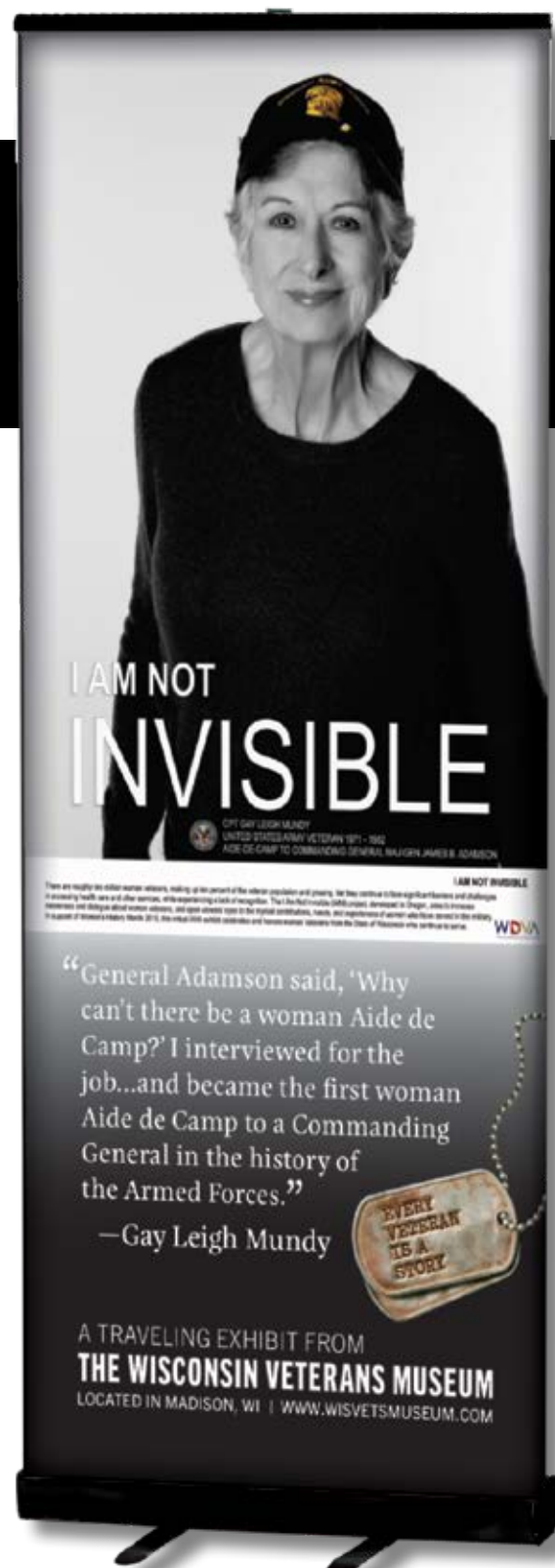
I AM NOT INVISIBLE

On Thursday, November 7th, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, and Governor Tony Evers unveiled the new Wisconsin Veterans Museum traveling exhibit, *I Am Not Invisible (IANI)*. This educational exhibit highlights the military service of dozens of Wisconsin women veterans through thirty-two banners measuring six-feet tall with portraits of each veteran, whose services range from WWII to the present.

There are about 30,000 women veterans living in Wisconsin, or about twelve percent of the state's veteran population. With the new exhibit, Wisconsin becomes the latest state to participate in the *IANI* project, which was initiated by the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs in February 2017 as a way to increase awareness and dialogue about women veterans. Since then, the project has grown to include nine states and fourteen cities.

Wisconsin's *IANI* exhibit is a result of a partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Center for Women Veterans and the WDVA's Women Veterans Program. *IANI* is available to the public as part of the **Wisconsin Veterans Museum Traveling Exhibit Program**.

To learn more about the museum's traveling exhibits or to book an exhibit, visit www.WisVetsMuseum.com/oral-histories/featured-interviews





This Christmas tree, surrounded by family photographs, features a military portrait of **Ray J. Sherman**, a Belleville, Wisconsin resident who served with Company K, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Division during World War II. Sherman was taken prisoner at the Battle of Anzio on February 16, 1944, and remained a prisoner until he was liberated in April 1945. (WVM.2045.1032)



Marie Kutz, a Manitowoc County, Wisconsin veteran, volunteered for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (later the Women's Army Corps, or WACs) in January 1943. She deployed to the European Theater in April 1944 and was stationed in London. During a German air raid on July 28, 1944, a "buzz bomb" exploded near the jeep she was driving, throwing her through the window of a nearby public house. Kutz required surgery, but recovered and later served as a commissary steward at an Army post exchange. WVM proudly preserves her story through her Purple Heart medal, WAC uniform, photo album, and more that were donated to the museum in 2017.

EVERY VETERAN IS A STORY





Clifford Johnson, a Kenosha, Wisconsin resident, had a long and distinguished military career. He enlisted into the US Army in 1939 and served in the Quartermaster Corps during World War II. After the war, he earned a degree in journalism before enlisting into the Air Force and beginning a 21-year career. Johnson received a special commendation ribbon for his work in providing news releases and photographic coverage of the nuclear testing of Operation Plumbbob in Nevada. His final assignment was Information Superintendent with the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing based in Thailand during the Vietnam War. WVM proudly preserves his story through his papers and photographs.

EVERY VETERAN IS A STORY

INSPIRED BY SOLDIERS.
BENEFITING VETERANS.



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Mark Your Calendar

JAN

23

Mess Night
5:30–8:00PM

Join us as author Laura Naylor Colbert shares her combat story through her recently published book, “Sirens: How to Pee Standing Up.” Laura includes a chronological depiction of a female combat veteran’s deployment, post-traumatic stress, and how she coped. Her story sheds a light on the war that the media mostly forgot about and one with few civilian ties. Laura is currently a principal at Waupaca Middle School.

\$30 Members | \$38 Non-Members | \$25 Students (w/ID)

FEB **NEW NIGHT!**

14

Drink & Draw
6:00–9:00PM

No artistic experience is necessary for this fun evening of drawing and cocktails. As we talk about veteran artists, participants will sketch objects and photos from our collection. Experienced artists can join us and draw at your own pace with limited guidance.

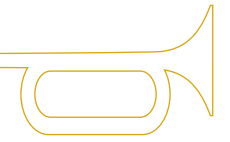
FREE ADMISSION: INCLUDES DRINKS & SNACKS

\$10 ADMISSION: INCLUDES 2-ADULT BEVERAGE TICKETS

MUSEUM MEMBERS RECEIVE 2-COMPLIMENTARY ADULT BEVERAGE TICKETS & SNACKS

*Program location is at
Wisconsin Veterans Museum, unless otherwise specified.
For detailed information visit:
www.WisVetsMuseum.com/events





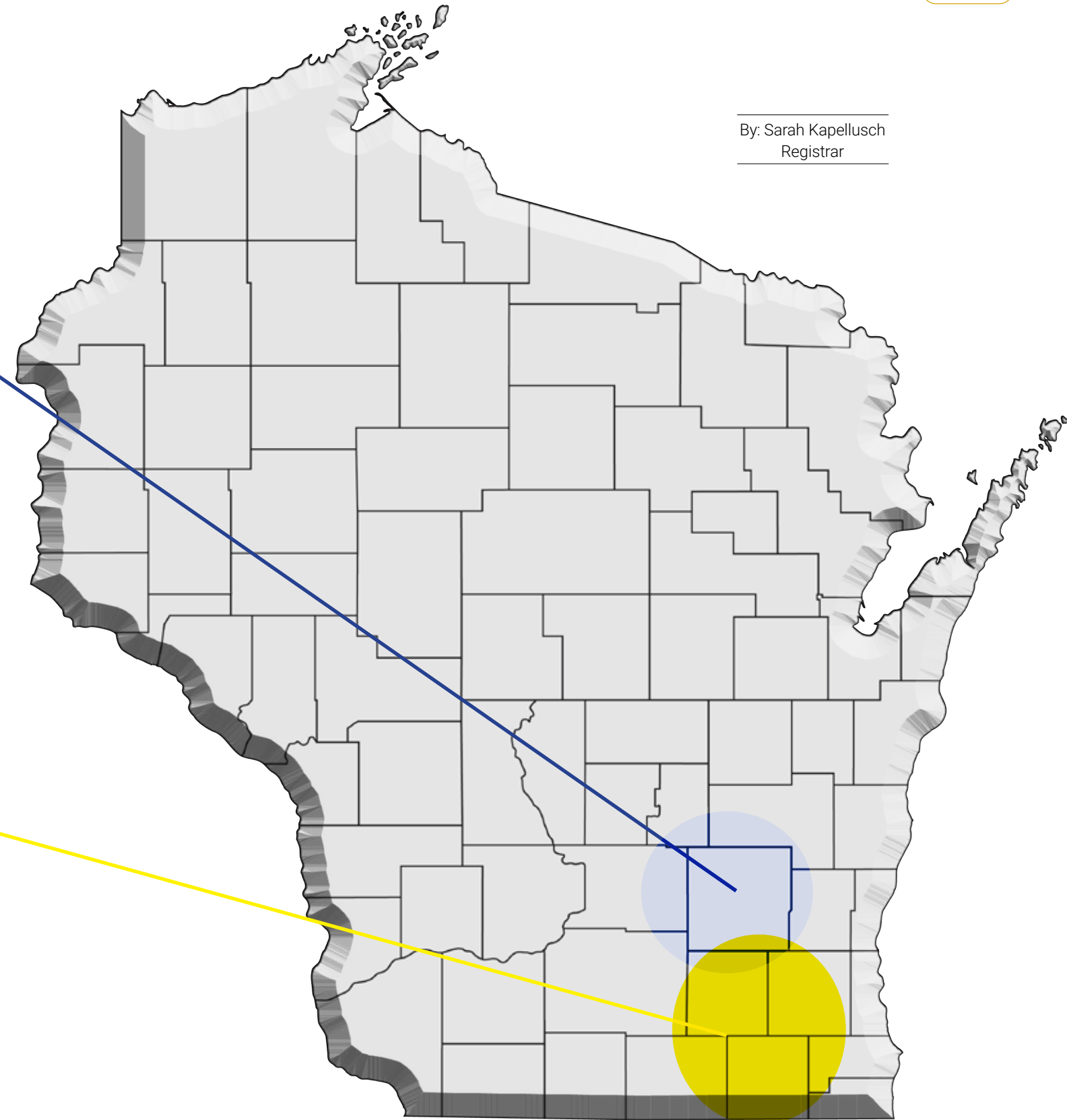
By: Sarah Kapellusch
Registrar

Allen Louis Mirk was born in 1916 in Theresa, Wisconsin. He was working as an elevator operator when he was drafted into the US Army in 1942 for service during World War II. He served as a radio electrician with the 3924th Signal Service Company. This ring is a souvenir pertaining to his first deployment in Oran, Algeria. Following service, he returned to Wisconsin and passed away in Waukesha in 1988. This donation is an addition to a collection which includes archival material and a souvenir bracelet pertaining to Mirk's service in Italy. This ring was donated to the museum in October by Walter Mirk, Allen's son.



Henry C. Fuller was born in Whitewater, Wisconsin in 1891. He enlisted with the Army through an ROTC program and was commissioned as a second Lieutenant on November 26, 1917. He steamed for France in January 1918 and was wounded in action that fall, taking shrapnel to the chest. After three years recovery, he was honorably discharged in February 1921 and returned home to Wisconsin.

Fuller carried this Bible with him throughout his service and the US flag was presented to him in 1946 by Senator Wiley after having flown over the US Capitol Building. It has been signed by many notable figures including Lancing Wilcox, who was the last surviving Wisconsin veteran of the Civil War, and Ira Hayes, who helped raise the flag at Iwo Jima. These items were donated to the museum in October by Fuller's son, Henry Fuller, Jr..





A big thank you to everyone, especially to all our sponsors, for making our 2019 Veterans Gala with our special guest, Medal of Honor Recipient Clinton Romesha a huge success! We are amazed by the strong support we received from the community. This year we had over 150 attendees come out for the event at the Memorial Union! The funds from this year's gala will provide critical financial resources for new exhibits, education programming, and acquisitions. We are so grateful for your support, and I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your participation in our annual fundraiser.

Thank you for making a difference!



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From the **Edward T. Lauer** collection. Lauer was a sanitary squadman during World War I and was very active and prominent in veterans’ organizations throughout his life. Other than the handwritten caption seen here, very little is known about this photo because it is part of an aggregate collection that includes material from Lauer’s work as historian with three different veterans’ organizations: the 32nd Division Veterans Association, the National Tuscania Survivor’s Association, and the Red Arrow Club of Milwaukee. WVM Mss 32.

THANK YOU DONORS! A most sincere thank you to all who donated from September through end of November 2019. We cannot provide quality programming and award-winning exhibits without your help!

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