

★★ **THE BUGLE** ★★

DONORS EDITION

Volume 8
V:II

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation

April 2001

FRONTLINE

Legacy of the Buffalo Soldier

by Lisa M. Black



"Fresh Tracks, Sergeant" - Buffalo Soldiers - 10th U.S. Cavalry Painting by Don Stivers

It is believed Native American tribes who encountered the fierce fighters coined the term – “calling them *Buffalo Soldiers*”

because of their curly, wooly hair and buffalo hide coats they wore in the winter.” Perhaps the term originated from references made

by Colonel Benjamin H. Grierson, commander of the 10th Cavalry Regiment, who recognized their *“tireless marching and dogged*

FRONTLINE – CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

BUGLE

Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation

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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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WISCONSIN 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 (Apr.-Sept.) Noon - 4 p.m.

FOR INFORMATION

Call 608.267.1799



COMMEMORATE THOSE WHO SERVED

SUPPORT THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION

ENLIST NOW \$25 \$50 \$100 OTHER

HELP KEEP THE HISTORY OF WISCONSIN'S VETERANS ALIVE BY CONTRIBUTING TO THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND EXHIBITS OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM.

DONATIONS CAN COMMEMORATE EVENTS, PROVIDE A MEMORIAL, OR ACKNOWLEDGE SUPPORT OF AN ORGANIZATION
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WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION
30 W. MIFFLIN ST. • STE. 200 • MADISON, WI • 53703

DIRECTORS' CORNER

Successful Annual Appeal

by Richard H. Zeitlin



The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation started an annual appeal in November 2000, marking the first formal attempt to systematically approach museum constituents and ask for their financial support. While state appropriations support the day-to-day operations of the Veterans Museum, the museum depends on private contributions in order to develop changing exhibits, public educational programs, and acquire artifacts.

Chartered six years ago, the Foundation plays a key role in the activities of the museum. The Foundation has successfully raised contributions from a wide variety of donors in the past. The year 2000 witnessed the introduction of modern fund raising techniques to the process.

Foundation board members voted to acquire the services of a professional fundraiser at its October 19 meeting. Foundation

Board President Bill Hustad, along with board members Lillian Boese, General Robert Erffmeyer, and Richard Zeitlin formed a selection committee to identify potential choices for the job. The committee invited three fund raising organizations to give oral presentations before the Foundation Board. After deliberation McDonald and Schaefer, with offices in Madison and Milwaukee, was chosen to lead the way.

Working effectively with a team principally composed of museum staffers, David Malone, a partner of McDonald & Schaefer, guided the annual appeal. The direct mail campaign sent out thousands of letters. And in a very short span of time the results became evident. The Veterans Museum Foundation annual appeal attracted a broad-based group of donors. Contributions ranged in size from \$5 to \$5,000. The average donation amounted to \$65. As of March 2001, the Foundation has received more than \$15,000.

The positive effect of the annual appeal encouraged all involved. Plans are underway to improve the next appeal. Certificates recognizing donors continue to be mailed as well as letters of acknowledgement. The Foundation with the assistance of Dave Malone is developing a campaign drive to attract corporate donors. Most significantly, staff of the museum and members of the Foundation board have vowed to continue to increase their efforts as well.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Recent Aquisitions Help to Highlight Archives Resources

by Gayle Martinson



"Mess Hall" from the Frederick Fagan Collection. - Wisconsin Veterans Museum

Often being told that the work of an archivist must be interesting, makes me appreciate my role in preserving history. After twenty-three years in the field, I remain intellectually challenged and enthusiastic. For one, I am surrounded by "neat stuff" and the joys of discovery associated with finding more "neat stuff."

However in a wider context, safeguarding and preserving the stories of people—their accomplishments and failures; their life experiences and their deaths is a unique and fulfilling opportunity. Working with families who have the civic-mindedness and foresight to donate these papers so that the life of their family member has continuing meaning and value,

I am able to watch with satisfaction as researchers make use of these papers to further scholarship and insight, to learn, and experience their own joys of discovery.

What follows is a sampling of some of our recent donations. It is offered in the hopes that the reader will enjoy learning about our new "archival treasures."

— CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Staff Changes Bring New Faces and Experiences

by Lynnette Wolfe



Richard Harrison retired in February

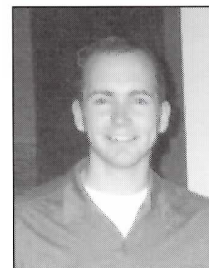
In February, Richard Harrison, Research Center manager, retired from state service. Richard held this position from 1998 until 2001. The entire staff of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum extends its sincerest wishes to Richard for a long and healthy retirement.

Ivan Hannibal, his very capable research assistant, has been temporarily assigned to answer the multitude of incoming requests for information. Ivan has been on staff in the Wisconsin Veterans Research Center for about two years. He recently graduated from the UW-Madison earning a

Bachelor of Arts degree in history and subsequently plans to start law school this fall.

The museum also wishes to welcome aboard Library Technician Roberta Barson who was hired last November to catalog and enter library book data onto WISCAT, the State Reference and Loan System. Roberta's

predecessor, Sara Robertson, accepted a position as a librarian in Joliet, Illinois. Roberta earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the UW-Whitewater with a minor in library science and also works part-time for the Public Service Commission.

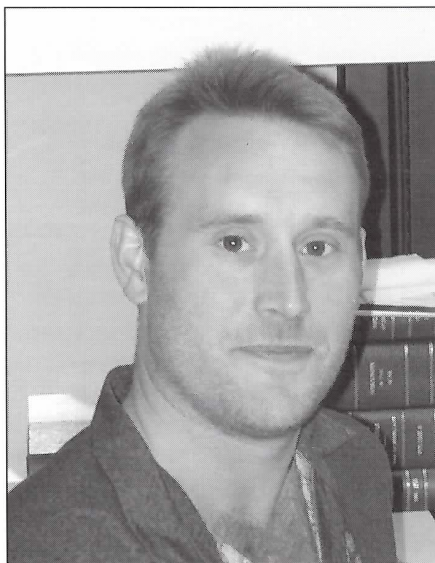


Jason Josvai

On a final note, museum staff extends farewell wishes to Jason Josvai, who served as museum registrar the past five years. Jason was recently hired as the new executive director of the Rock County Historical Society. He was among 38 applicants who were considered for the Rock County position. Congratulations Jason!

Because of the nature of this position, it is essential to keep registrarial duties moving smoothly until a new registrar is recruited. In the interim period, Rachel Putnam will perform registrarial responsibilities. Rachel is also no stranger to the museum—she has held the position of curatorial assistant for over two years. In late 2001, Rachel will be graduating from Concordia University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history.

Welcome aboard new staff and best wishes to those who have ventured into new horizons!



Ivan Hannibal works in the museum archives answering queries.

Benefactors Recognized

by Dave Malone



Cast bronzes statues represent historical figures.

Recently the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation inaugurated its Annual Appeal seeking support for a compelling new exhibit on military intelligence that is now being developed. We proudly recognize the following donors who have already responded to our appeal (as of 3/5/01):

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Unit 18 – Milwaukee
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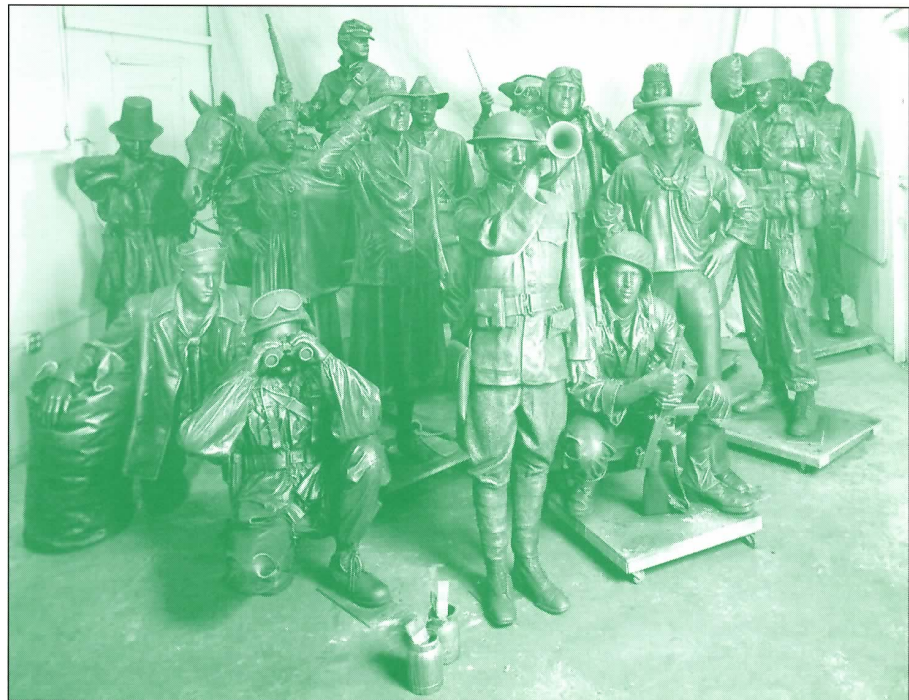
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Steve & Bridgitt Zielke

We gratefully acknowledge all those above whose generosity will enable the Museum to continue undertaking quality

MUSEUM SUPPORT – CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



A variety of cast bronze statues replicate the figures for all to enjoy and add to the museum collections.

Donations to the Museum Help History to Tell the Full Story

by William Brewster

Each year the Wisconsin Veterans Museum receives many different objects for the collection. The material comes from a variety of sources. Individuals, families, public institutions, and private organizations all contribute to collection development and expansion. Objects that are added to the collection help the museum interpret Wisconsin military and veteran history. After one hundred years of collecting you might expect WVM to have an example of just about every military item. While the museum collection does contain over 20,000 objects, the job of collecting never ends. The incredible diversity of military items makes every piece a candidate for addition to the museum. If you consider the multitude of devices, large and small, that we employ in our daily lives this picture will become clearer.

Although the donation process brings numerous objects into the museum, some pieces are unlikely to ever become available. When very rare or unusual pieces appear in the market place the museum staff must decide if purchasing the item will be a good investment of limited resources. During the course of a year many objects go into private hands because museums lack funds for collections acquisition. Fortunately, through the Veterans Museum Foundation, resources are available to acquire significant pieces. The Foundation came to the rescue in November 2000,

when a rare uniform turned up at an estate sale in Appleton.

Prior to the D-Day landings the U.S. Army considered the use of camouflage uniforms in Europe. The Marines and Army were already using camouflage in the Pacific Theater.

Following the Normandy invasion, troops in the 30th Infantry Division, 2nd Armored Division and 17th Engineer Battalion were outfitted in camouflage suits. However, the uniforms were soon abandoned because their casual similarity to German Waffen-SS camouflage resulted in several friendly fire incidents. As a result the uniforms were not produced in mass like their less conspicuous green counterparts. Because of limited production the camouflage suits are now very collectable. When a dealer located this uniform he made it available to the museum prior to offering it for sale on the open market. With the help of the WVM Foundation a deal was struck that brought an

unusual piece of military history into the Veterans Museum collection. It is only through continuing support of the WVM Foundation that such purchases are made possible.



Unusually rare camouflage outfit is highly collectable and very expensive – acquiring and maintaining pieces of history is made possible by your generous donations

Museum Volunteers Selflessly Give Their Time to Educate

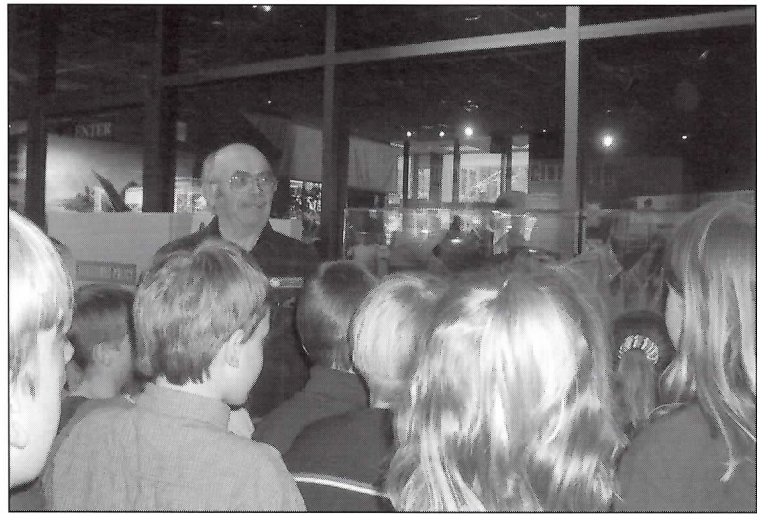
by Julie Bryan

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum welcomes more than 30,000 students and adults in tour groups per year, with almost 300 groups receiving guided tours. Fortunately, the museum has a loyal and dedicated assembly of professional volunteer tour guides who enable the museum to provide high quality tours for all group visitors.

Museum volunteers uphold the mission of the museum, "to commemorate, acknowledge, and affirm the role of Wisconsin veterans in America's military past," by not only teaching the visitors about the conflicts that have shaped the world, but also by the memories of the veterans. Docents pose questions that help visitors

imagine life away from home and the strong friendships that develop during the conflicts. Docents connect the visitors to Wisconsin's citizen-soldiers on a personal level, opening up a world of new and exciting information that for some may spark a lifetime of learning.

The volunteers selflessly give their time to the Veterans Museum and are often praised by



A docent begins a tour with the history of the museum.

teachers and students alike. Teachers consistently comment on the breadth of knowledge docents display. Comments such as, "Our guide did an excellent job, very knowledgeable" and "Our guide was wonderful! He was incredibly prepared! Thank you so much!" are common. Teachers also remark on the ability of our volunteers to keep the interest of the young students. Comments include, "Our guide was very informative and enthusiastic and a pleasure to listen to" and "Our docent did a wonderful job talking to the kids at their level!"

The impact of the volunteer efforts is evident in thank-you letters from students. Children often write about what they learned during their visit. One letter reads, "I learned about WWII, my grandpa was in WWII," and another reads "I learned that many women helped in the war," and "I learned a lot about the



Kids are fascinated with the displays and artifacts on display.



TEMPORARY

30 YEARS IN THE COCKPIT: FIGHTER PILOT COLONEL CHARLES W. KING

January 26 - May 25 2001

Reception Area

30 Years in the Cockpit," a traveling exhibit from the Neville Public Museum of Brown County, highlights the 30 year Air Force career of Green Bay resident Charles W. King, Colonel USAF, (Ret.). King, a World War II combat ace, shot down five Japanese aircraft over the Pacific. In Korea, he was wing commander of the most successful U.S. fighter squadron. The exhibit consists of materials spanning his 30-year career including uniforms, headgear, photographs, and aircraft equipment.

D-DAY - NORMANDY: OPERATION OVERLORD

June 6 - September 30, 2001

Reception Area

A traveling exhibit from The Navy Museum in Washington, D.C., is an exhibit of artworks by Navy combat artists of the D-Day invasion of Normandy France. During World War II, the Navy commissioned artists in uniform to follow ships, sailors, and Marines into combat and capture the action with paint, paper, and canvas. The eyewitness images of D-Day were created by these artists: Dwight C. Shepler, Mitchell F. Jamieson, and Alexander P. Russo.

ONGOING

A TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is dedicated to the citizen-soldiers of our state. Employing exhibits, displays, and presentations, the museum's main galleries tell the story of Wisconsin men and women who served in America's conflicts from the Civil War to the Persian Gulf War.

THEY ALSO SERVED

An exhibit portraying the role of civilians who performed vital services for the military and the nation during wartime.

trail skills" – skills associated with the rugged and revered buffalo. Respectfully nicknamed the Buffalo Soldier, these tenacious and valorous fighters were major contributors to not only U.S. military tradition but to Black accomplishment as well.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum will be hosting an exhibit about the Buffalo Soldiers from March through May 20. The exhibit acquired from the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., features the history of the Buffalo Soldier. The images and text describe in detail the rich history of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments.

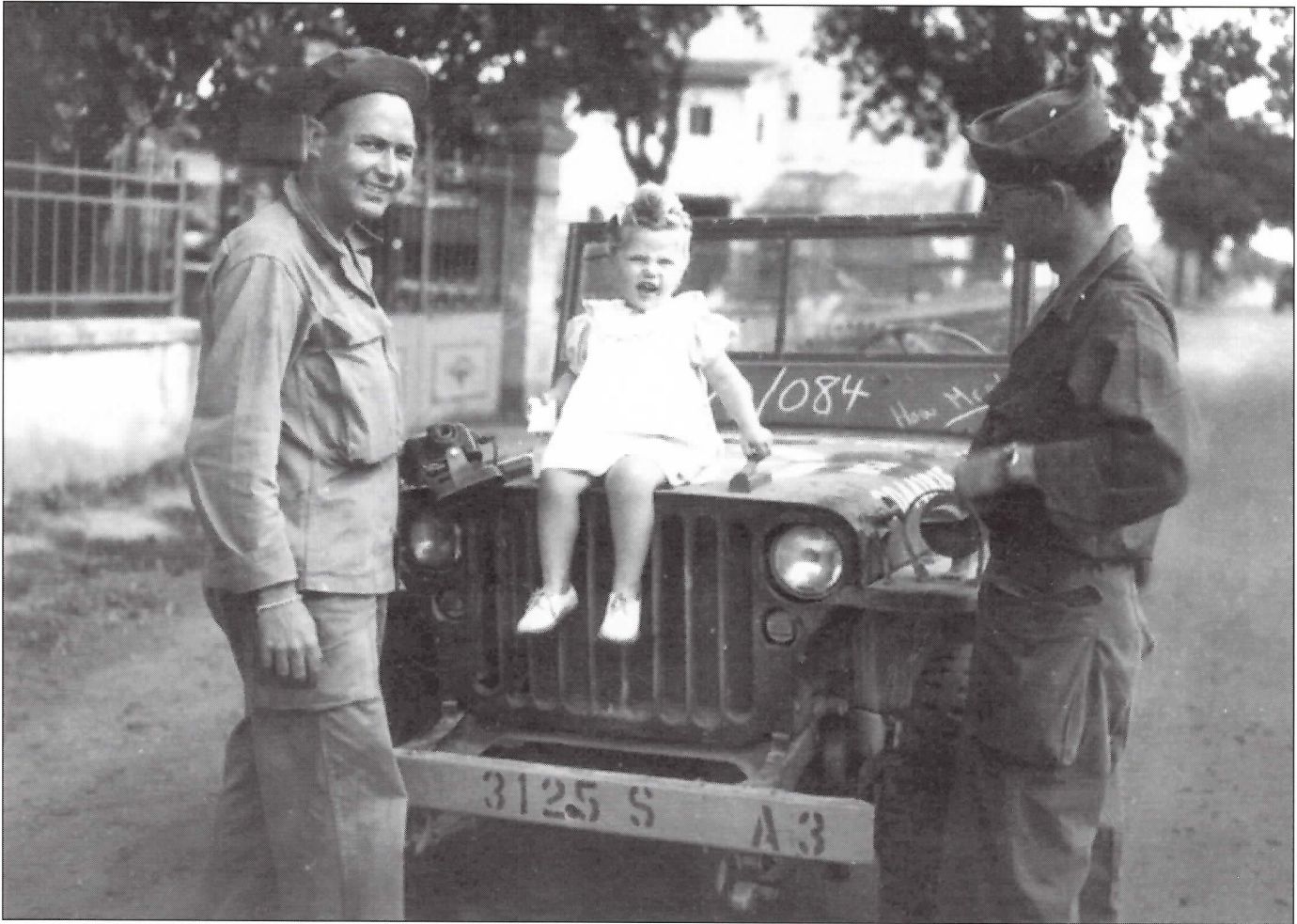
African-Americans have a rich tradition of exemplary military service. In May 1863, the U.S. Colored Troops was established for participation in the Civil War. More than 186,000 Blacks served in the Union Army, representing a significant Black military presence. Furthermore, their participation was a major contributing factor to the defeat of the Confederacy. Immediately after the Civil War, thousands of Blacks were mustered out of the USCT. Respectful of the significant contribution Blacks made to the military, Congress reorganized and restructured the Army in 1866. The Army Organization Act authorized four cavalry regiments, two of which were "to be composed of colored men." The two cavalry regiments were the 9th Cavalry Regiment based in Louisiana and 10th Cavalry rooted at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan. Two Black infantry regiments – the 24th & 25th – also served on the frontier.

The men of these four regiments became known as Buffalo Soldiers. The units consistently

received some of the worst assignments the Army had to offer. Despite the adversities they faced as units and as individuals, the troopers developed into the most distinguished fighting units in the Army. They fought with Teddy Roosevelt at San Juan Hill, where one witness proclaimed, "If it hadn't been for the Negro Cavalry, the Rough Riders would have been exterminated." They also participated in the Native American campaigns of the West, enforced neutrality laws along the Mexican border, served four tours of duty in the Philippines, and many troopers joined new units preparing to fight in World War One.

Buffalo Soldiers also built forts and roads, installed telegraph lines, protected settlers and rode "shotgun" on stagecoaches and mail routes. They also explored and mapped vast territories of the southwest and west, territories now known as Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska. As World War II approached, the military evolved into a more mechanized fighting force. Despite their efficient horse and marksmanship skills, there was no longer a need for horse-driven units. Mechanization during World War II meant the end of the mounted cavalry in postwar America.

These courageous Black soldiers dedicated their lives to serve the nation. They created a unique and distinguished legacy. The Buffalo Soldiers history is not only a significant part of the military tradition of the United States, but attests to the tenacity and valor of individuals who overcame prejudice, danger, and other adversities to serve their country.



"Steve and Hetts with French Girl" from the Frederick Fagan Collection - Wisconsin Veterans Museum

Papers of Stephen Piotrowski who served as executive director of the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project, Inc. The papers pertain to the establishment and operation of The Highground in Neillsville. The collection also includes materials concerning Vietnam Veterans Against the War and a book published on Post Vietnam Syndrome.

Papers and photographs of Duke E. Jones who served 18 years as executive secretary for the Wisconsin Department of the Reserve Officer's Association. Jones enlisted in 1917 and served with the 1st Division in France. After 16 years as a National Guard instructor, he served in Australia during WWII and then in Korea. His papers and photographs span his lifetime military career.

Papers, maps, photographs, and publications concerning the work of Victor A. Ames who served as director of the Mine Action Center for the U.S. Sector in Bosnia, and later, for the NATO Mine Information Cell in Bosnia. The collection includes posters disseminated to alert the public to land mine hazards.

Records and photographs of the 1-126 Field Artillery Wisconsin National Guard of Kenosha.

Reminiscence by Gerald A. Bayer pertaining to his World War II service in the 64th Field Hospital.

Korean War propaganda Christmas card distributed to U.S. service personnel by the Chinese in 1951.

Papers of Gerald L. Paul who served with the Marine Corps in Vietnam from 1966 to 1968. Collection contains letters written to his future wife who got his name from a pen pal list.

Papers and photographs of Helen C. Bulovsky Lawrence who served as a nurse with the Army Nurse Corps during World War I.

Photo scrapbooks of Frederick Fagan who served in the European theater in World War II. Of excellent photographic quality, Fagan recorded many informal views of army life including basic training, inspection, the obstacle course, and mess hall. His photographs of European children and scenery put a human dimension to the war.



Guides often spend time with young students after an hour long tour

wars in our Wisconsin Veterans Museum." Thank you letters also show how much children enjoy their visits to the museum. For example, one student wrote, "The veterans museum was my favorite museum."

The staff of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum would like to thank the volunteers who make it possible for the museum to continue to honor the men and women who served our nation.

James Angevine
Kert Bliss
Tom Brodd
Robert Clampitt
Jim Cohen
Fred Cook
William Durkin
Bruce Gregg
Dave Hoeveler
Larry Hogan
John Icke
Charles Larkin
Barney Lohan
Lorraine McFadden
Jim McIntosh
Art Morey
John Ong
Jim Parker
Jack Reynoldson
Sterling Schallert
James Schulz
John Weingandt
Carl Zentner



"We learned a lot about what it means to serve our country," – written by a fourth-grade class in a thank-you letter to a docent.

I N M E M O R I A M

Eslinger Remembered

by Richard H. Zeitlin

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum has had to say goodbye to Reba Eslinger, who passed away on



Reba Eslinger

April 4, was an advocate for veterans and an active member of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation Board.

A veteran of the Marine Corp, she joined the Disabled American Veterans in 1976. There she became the first woman State Commander for the DAV in Wisconsin. In 1994 she joined the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation Board where she served as president for two terms. She was asked to be on the Department of Veterans Affairs Board in 2000.

The museum staff extends sympathy to Eslinger's family and is very thankful for all the hard work Reba performed on the museum's behalf.

Special Programs

Saturday, May 19

Armed Forces Day

Living History Program, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Vietnam War re-enactors will appear in period uniforms and demonstrate details of military life common to Wisconsin soldiers in the Vietnam War. Re-enactors will give family-oriented and interactive presentations. Visitors will be able to tour a company headquarters. Re-enactors will also describe their uniforms, personal equipment and weapons.

Friday, May 25

Remembering the U.S.S. Wisconsin

Donation ceremony and artist reception, 11 a.m.

Professional military artist Mark Churms will present the museum with a newly created painting of the U.S.S. Wisconsin under enemy fire in 1945.

Sponsored by Paradog Ben's Gallery, International

Friday, May 25

Pearl Harbor Cinema Presentation

TENTATIVE

Movie Screening - Local Madison theatre, 4 p.m.
Reception following the movie

Madison's first showing of the Touchstone Pictures presentation

Wednesday, June 6

The Hero Next Door

Stories from Wisconsin's World War II Veterans

Lecture and book signing, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Local author Kristin Gilpatrick and featured WWII veterans

Monday - Friday, June 18 - 22

Summer Camp

"Unsung Stories of the Civil War"

Students in grades 3 through 6 will learn songs written by Mr. Burnside that tell stories of the Civil War. After singing the songs and discussing the history behind them, the students will perform the songs for an assembly.

S U P P O R T - CONT. FROM PAGE 5

projects that ensure we continue to honor our veterans in a way befitting their service and sacrifice to our nation and ensure that the Museum remains among the most highly respected in the nation.

We also wish to acknowledge all previous donors who have generously supported the Museum over the past several years before we began our annual appeal. Thank you for your sustaining gifts.

We earnestly encourage your support of our Annual Appeal. With your help, we will be able to fund the new military intelligence exhibit and open it as scheduled on Veterans Day, November 11, 2001. Please consider making a

donation using the form below. We would be honored to recognize your gift when the new exhibit is dedicated.

I'VE ENCLOSED MY GIFT FOR:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100

Other: \$ _____

Check here if you wish for your gift to remain anonymous.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) - _____

Please send checks to:
Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation
30 W. Mifflin St., Suite 200, Madison, WI, 53703

BUFFALO SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS OF THE NINTH CAVALRY 1867-1898

BLACK & WHITE TOGETHER

By Charles L. Kenner

BUFFALO SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS OF THE NINTH CAVALRY, 1867-1898

by Charles L. Kenner

Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1999

\$26.95

Charles Kenner eloquently details biographies of white officers and African American enlisted men in the post-Civil War army. Kenner describes the passions, aspirations, and conflicts that both bound blacks and whites together and pulled them apart during what some call one of the nation's most problematic social experiments.

THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS

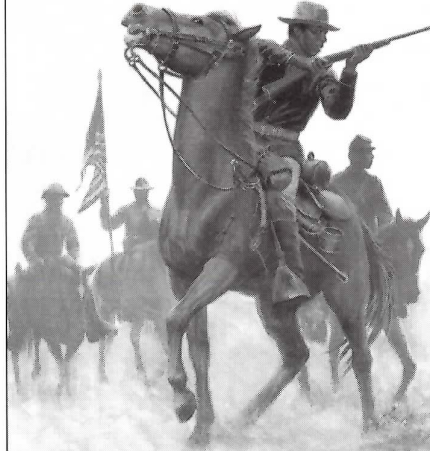
by William H. Leckie

Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1967

\$15.95

An in depth look into the lives and work of the African American soldiers of the ninth and tenth calvery regiments, who became known as the Buffalo Soldiers. William Leckie tells the long-neglected story of African American soldier's courage and devotion to duty, which adds a new dimension to American frontier history.

The Buffalo Soldiers



A Narrative of the Negro Cavalry in the West

by William H. Leckie

Wisconsin Veterans Museum
30 W. Mifflin St., Ste. 200
Madison, WI 53703
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

