

# THE BUGLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION

## Frontline

# TALKING SPIRITS V FOREST HILL CEMETERY TOUR September 25, 26 and 28

## INSIDE:

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Wisconsin At  
War Project /  
Navajo Code  
Talkers /  
Veterans in the  
Classroom /  
Military  
Novelty  
Patches/  
Rare Civil War  
Medal  
and more...



Katie Leedle

Students listen to a "Talking Spirit" at last year's tour at Forest Hill Cemetery.

The research is complete and the script is being written. Actors are lining up to audition and school groups are already making reservations. "Talking Spirits V," the Wisconsin Veterans Museum's annual tour of Forest Hill Cemetery, is right around the corner.

The interesting WWII era individuals portrayed in this year's tour include civilians and servicemen alike, each with their own unique background, achievements, and contributions to the war effort.

Santos Zingale, an artist from Milwaukee, learned that his draft number was up and that

he would have to join the Army. Instead, Zingale volunteered for the Navy, where he found the time to sketch poignant scenes of his fellow sailors and of life on ship. Zingale returned to Wisconsin and became a well-recognized painter and professor at the University of Wisconsin.

Greenbush neighborhood native Frank Schiro's military experience was completely different. In October 1944, Platoon Sergeant Schiro and his men participated in the Battle of the Bulge, one of WWII's most harrowing campaigns. Schiro was captured by the Germans and held as a POW for many months, during

Frontline - continued on page 11



## The Bugle

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

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

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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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**  
 Noon - 4 p.m. (Apr.-Aug.)

#### INFORMATION

**608.267.1799**

## Director's Corner

# CELEBRATING OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## WVM RECEIVES SEVERAL AWARDS



Laura Kocum

WVM Director Richard Zeitlin and Archives Collection Manager Gayle Martinson accept formal recognition from WDVA Secretary Ray Boland

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) earned two awards and a major Federal grant over the summer. In June, The museum's Research Center received the Governor's Archives Award in recognition of its progress in preserving Wisconsin historical records. The award also recognized the Research Center's efforts to make the collection more generally useful by improving access. Deputy Secretary John Scocos of the Department of Veterans Affairs received the certificate on behalf of the museum at the awards ceremony.

The American Association for State and Local History notified WVM in June that it had been awarded a Certificate of Commendation for public programming. The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), is the major professional organization representing history museums. The AASLH Awards Program is the nation's most prestigious competition for recognition of achievement in local, state, and regional history. The Certificate of Commendation recognized the outstanding nature of the annual "Talking Spirits: Forest Hill Cemetery Tour" offered by WVM. This year's cemetery tour is scheduled to take place on Sept. 25, 26 and 28. Be sure to mark your calendars.

The National Historic Records and Publications Commission (NHRPC) of the National Archives

awarded the WVM Research Center a grant of \$110,278. The two-year grant will support the ongoing modernization of museum archives. Grant funds will strengthen the archival program by upgrading the cataloging system to improve public access to the materials. The project will create finding aids and enter data on a national electronic machine-readable system. The museum's archival collections have grown from 200 linear feet in 1993 to some 1,450 linear feet. The NHRPC grant will allow project director Gayle Martinson to manage the processing of 500 linear feet of archival materials.

### By Richard H. Zeitlin



Photo Courtesy Wisconsin Historical Society

Wisconsin Historical Society's Robert Thomasgard presents the Governor's Archives Award to WDVA Deputy Secretary John Scocos



## WVM Outreach

# WISCONSIN AT WAR

## DOCUMENTING THE STORIES



“A little after one in the morning, there was a loud boom that woke everybody up. The building shook so much that the door to our living quarters was flung opened. We all donned our masks once we realized what happened. The missile luckily only did some damage to an empty shopping mall in Kuwait City. It reminded us that it could very easily have been us.” Written by Scott, 64th Troop Command.

Scott wrote this shortly after the official war against Iraq ended. His story, and many more are being collected online at [www.WisconsinAtWar.com](http://www.WisconsinAtWar.com). The online diary documents the stories and experiences of Wisconsin's servicemen and women serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. The web site is a partnership between WisPolitics.com and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. It continues the museum's effort to record the experiences of

Wisconsin's troops stationed overseas. The diaries include stories of daily responsibilities, combat and patriotism.

Brock, from the 128th Air Control Squadron, writes: “I am proud to serve my country, and I enjoy giving back something in return for the freedom and fortune my family enjoys. I feel like I am making a difference in the Air National Guard.”

Buddy, also from the 128th Air Control Squadron, writes: “...Amazing how easy it was to interact with the Army personnel, even when we do not always talk the same language. They are great hosts.”

The stories are posted online as they are submitted. The project is expected to expand as units return home and gain regular Internet access. The online diaries provide a glimpse of current military life overseas.

By Laura Kocum

## WVM Outreach

# MEMORIALS CATALOG

## SEARCH FOR MEMORIALS ONLINE

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum has created an online searchable catalog of memorials dedicated to Wisconsin veterans. The computerized catalog displays photographs, locations and current conditions of more than 660 memorials dedicated to Wisconsin veterans throughout the state, nation, and overseas. It is designed to assist researchers, travelers and veterans groups in locating memorials or documenting their condition.

The project is the result of Assembly Bill 955, introduced by then Representative David Zien (R-Gilman) during the 1989-90 legislative session. AB 955 passed as an amendment to the mini-budget bill, Senate

Bill 542 on March 22, 1990. The bill assigned the Wisconsin Veterans Museum to implement the catalog.



Hans C. Heg Memorial, one of the hundreds available in the online catalog.

Laura Kocum

The catalog was announced to the public on Memorial Day. Since then, researchers and community groups have used the catalog for a wide range of purposes.

The catalog is available at: <http://museum.dva.state.wi.us>. Then click on: “Memorials Catalog.” There is a submission form available online to enter additional memorials. Questions or comments can be directed to the Reference Archivist.

By Laura Kocum

## Program Schedule

FALL 2003

ALL THE WAY TO  
BERLIN

Thursday, Sept. 4

Lunchtime lecture &  
book signing, Noon

Evening lecture &  
book signing, 7 p.m.

James Megellas will present his own war experiences in the European campaign of his 82nd Division. In 1942, Megellas joined the 82nd Airborne as a platoon leader. In the years to follow, Megellas participated in several significant campaigns including Anzio and Operation Market Garden. Megellas was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts for his service. Come see WWII through the eyes of a Wisconsin hero.

TALKING SPIRITS  
V: FOREST HILL  
CEMETERY TOUR

Sunday, Sept. 28

The Veterans Museum will host public tours at Forest Hill Cemetery from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adult tickets are \$6.00 and children are \$3.00 and can be purchased at the cemetery gate on the day of the event. For group or individual reservations, please call Jennifer Dahl at (608) 264-6086.



## Program Schedule CONTINUED

**NEXT OF KIN: A BROTHER'S JOURNEY TO WARTIME VIETNAM**

Thursday, Oct. 9

Evening lecture & book signing, 7 p.m.

Tom Relly idolized his older brother, Ron. In July 1970, Ron died in Vietnam. When the U.S. Army provided no explanation, except that Ron's death was not due to combat, the 19-year-old brother set off on an incredible journey to war-torn South Vietnam. Tom sought answers, revenge, if necessary, and to come to terms with his loss.

**FLYBOYS: A TRUE STORY OF COURAGE**

Thursday, Oct. 23

Evening lecture & book signing. Location TBA

James Bradley's #1 Bestseller, *Flags of Our Fathers*, explored the legacy of war. Now, in *Flyboys*, Bradley returns to WWII with a story of courage. Nine American pilots were sent to bomb Japanese communications towers, and were shot down. One was rescued by a U.S. Navy submarine. The others were captured by Japanese soldiers. *Flyboys* tells their story.

## Upcoming Events

# GALA CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

Photo by Aren Larson Photography



Members of the William "Sonny" Simon Post (VFW Post #8216) enjoy dinner at the 2002 WVMF Gala.

Preparations are underway for "A Tribute to Freedom," the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation's second annual gala. This year's event will celebrate ten years of successful programming and educating from the museum's current location on the Capitol Square.

The event will begin with musical entertainment, cocktails, and a silent auction at 6 p.m. Silent auction gifts include two round-trip tickets on Midwest Express, a Bulova mantle clock, and a wheeled luggage set from Lands' End. A formal dinner will follow at 8 p.m. in the museum's award-winning galleries.

"A Tribute to Freedom" will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2003. Ticket cost is \$100 per person, and includes cocktails, entertainment, and dinner. Only 150 dinner tickets will be available and 10 seats have already sold. The cost is \$50 to attend the silent auction only. Proceeds will benefit the Wisconsin Veterans Museum's educational programs and exhibits. Please call Jennifer Dahl for ticket information at 608.264.6086.

By Katie Leedle

## Preserving History

# "Frankly My Dear..." PLANNING FOR YOUR ESTATE

When movie star Clark Gable died, he left a gross estate of \$2,806,526. By the time his debts and estate taxes were paid, his estate had shrunk to \$1,705,488. Gable's estate had been reduced to 61% of its original size. When actor Henry Fonda passed away, his gross estate was \$4,339,788. After his debts and estate taxes were paid, his estate had only been reduced to \$4,306,743. Fonda's estate was still 99% of its original size. Proper estate planning can dramatically affect the final value of an estate.

One popular strategy to reduce estate taxes is a "planned gift" (a charitable gift designated now but not made until the time of the donor's death). Bequests are the most common planned gifts, and look like the example below:

"I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to [charity name and address] the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for its exempt purposes."

Bequests can be just that simple.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is pleased to announce our new Honor Society. Friends who notify us they have remembered the Museum with a bequest or with some other type of planned gift automatically become members of the new Honor Society (unless they prefer that their planned gift remain anonymous).

By including the Museum in their estate plans, donors realize a host of tax advantages while helping ensure that the Museum continues to carry out its important mission of remembering and honoring our courageous veterans.

In addition to simple bequests, there are several other types of planned gifts, each with its own advantages. If you would like more information about the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Honor Society, please contact Laura Kocum at (608) 264-7663 or Katie Leedle (608) 261-0541.

By David Malone



## WVM Outreach

LEARNING FROM  
EACH OTHER

## VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM

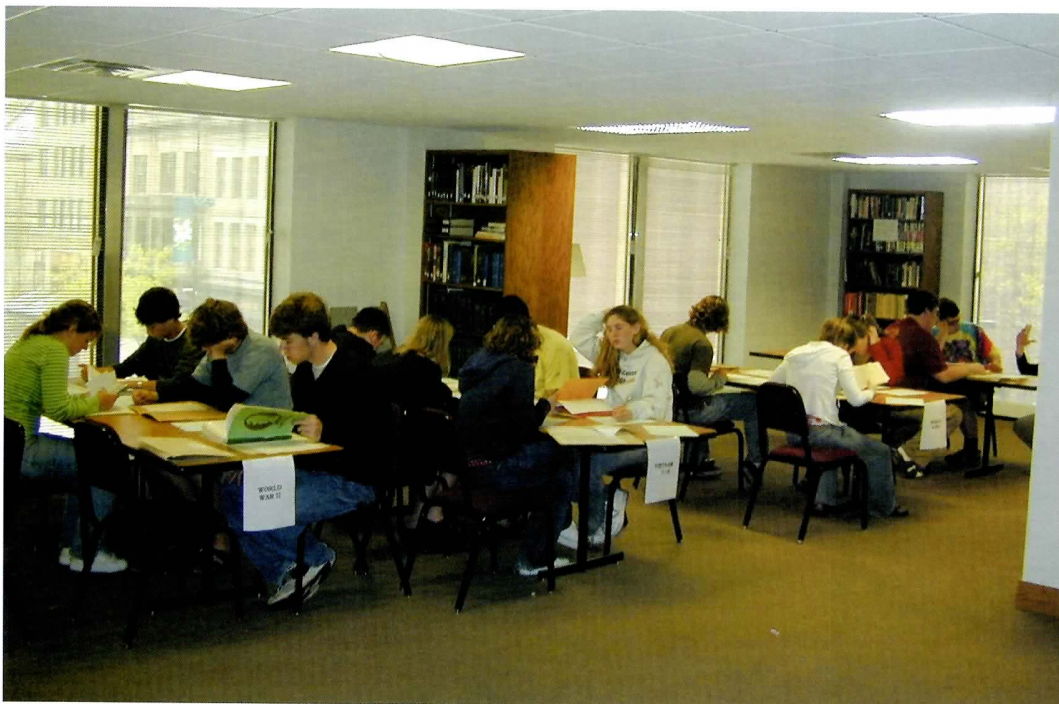
As history students read about what happened at Pearl Harbor or a teacher discusses how the Tet Offensive led to the United States leaving Vietnam, there are questions that students want to pose. Pictures and descriptive accounts can illustrate some of these events in American military history. However, no one can illustrate the events better than a person who witnessed them firsthand.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) makes interaction with veterans possible through the Veterans in the Classroom project. Teachers can contact the WVM Research Center, name a time period in modern history, and be connected to a local veteran who is willing to speak to their students. Veterans who are interested in speaking should also contact the WVM Research Center to be added to the speaker list. Information on this program, and the Veterans in the Classroom submission form, are located on our web site at <http://museum.dva.state.wi.us>. Once on the main page, click on "Veterans in the Classroom."

Veterans in the Classroom was started in 1991, when a budget measure required the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (WDPI) to connect schools with local veterans. The WDPI partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs to provide this unique opportunity for both veterans and students.

Firsthand accounts of military actions are also available to through the WVM's Oral History program. The tape-recorded oral history collection contains over 550 oral history interviews with Wisconsin veterans. If a student is doing paper on a particular battle or war, there may be an oral history that discusses the events firsthand. Please contact the Reference Archivist to see what is available for both teachers and students. To learn more about the oral history collection go to the WVM main page "Oral History."

By Carrie Bohman



Students spend time in WVM's Research Center, learning from firsthand accounts of military service.

Thank  
You!

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation uses your donations to support the Wisconsin Veterans Museum's exhibits, programs, and services to school children. We thank you for your generous support over the last fiscal year.

Anonymous  
Abrahamson Family  
Abram, Lucy A.  
Alliant Energy Corp.  
Am. Legion Post #356  
Am. Legion Post #166  
Am. Legion Post #4  
Legion Auxiliary  
Unit 535  
Am. Ex-Prisoners  
of War Clarence  
Beltman Chap.  
Anderson, Gregory J.  
Angevine Family  
Barbeau Family  
Bardeen, James L.  
Baumgartner,  
Barbara J.  
Bear Stearns & Co.  
Bensoni, Italo J.  
Berry, Richard C.  
Blessed Sacrament  
School  
Bintz Family  
Bleifield, Erik & Molly  
Bliss Family



## Upcoming Exhibit

# NAVAJO CODE TALKERS

## PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT HONORS WWII HEROES

### Thank You!

Bloch Family  
Boese, Lillian R.  
Boland, Raymond  
Bolz, Robert M.  
Bradbury Family  
Brewster, F. A.  
Brophy, Selma F.  
Brower, Glen J.  
Brown Family  
Bucsek, Charles S.  
BUS'N Inc.  
C Clayton Thompson-  
Bookseller  
Chiavario, Shirlee  
Civil War Round  
Table of Milwaukee  
Coe, John W.  
Cohen Family  
Comer, Guy B.  
The Company of  
Military Historians  
Construction &  
General Laborers  
#464  
Cook Family  
Cooper, Jerry  
Credit Union  
National Association  
Crowley Family  
Dahl, Jennifer  
Dale Gallon  
Historical Art  
Disabled American  
Veterans  
Dept. of Wis., Inc.  
David K. Guest Trust  
Davis, Erroll & Elaine  
Davison Family

The traveling exhibition of photos and stories portraying Navajo Code Talkers is owned and being circulated by the National Atomic Museum in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is excited to display this exhibit beginning September 1, 2003. The exhibit contains approximately 40 black and white photographs with additional text by Japanese photographer Kenji Kawano, and highlights the Navajo U.S. Marines who defied Japanese intelligence during World War II with their unique and undecipherable code.

Kawano came to the United States in 1973 and was drawn to the mystery and beauty of the Navajo Reservation. He soon gained acceptance by the Code Talkers and became their official photographer. The exhibit photographs were taken in the late 1980s and reflect the respect and friendship that Kawano was able to develop with the Code Talkers over more than a decade.

With the approval of the Navajo Tribal Council, the U.S. Marine Corps began recruiting young Navajo men at Window Rock, Arizona, in May, 1942. The recruits went through basic training and attended the Field Signal Battalion Training Center at Camp Pendleton. Training included the development of a special Navajo vocabulary. Following training, the recruits were sent to the Pacific theatre. The Navajo-based code used in the Pacific during World War II is significantly different from normal spoken Navajo. Although it is made up of Navajo words, the code is unintelligible even to fluent Navajo speakers. This fact was important to the security of the code because many Navajos who were not Code Talkers fought in World War II, and some were captured by the Japanese.

Many frequently used Navajo words were taken directly from the language and used in the secret code. However, the code's developers also employed compounds, descriptive

metaphors, puns, and other types of word-play in order to communicate those English terms for which no words exist in Navajo as well as to intentionally confuse any potential code-breakers. Even the alphabet was codified. The code's developers assigned up to three Navajo words to each letter of the English alphabet whose English translation began with that letter. Since each letter could be encoded in several ways, a five-letter word in English could be spelled out in 243 different ways. Although slightly more time consuming, this made the code practically impervious to any human effort to crack it.



Warrior with U.S. flag, part of the Navajo Code Talkers Photographic Collection

Kenji Kawano, Courtesy National Atomic Museum

Eventually, use of the Navajo language off the reservation and by non-Navajos increased to a point where the secrecy of the code might be compromised for future use, so it was declassified in 1968.

The Code Talkers were not nationally recognized until 1969. It was not until July 2001, fifty-six years after the end of World War II, that the original group of 29 Navajo

Code Talkers were given the Gold Congressional Medal of Honor by President Bill Clinton. Of the original 29, only five were alive and four were able to attend the ceremony. In November 2001, approximately 400 other Navajo Code Talkers were given the Silver Congressional Medal of Honor in Window Rock, Arizona. Again, only a handful were still living and few could attend the ceremony. This exhibition, Warriors: Navajo Code Talkers, was developed to educate the public about the valiant role the Code Talkers played and to symbolize a healing of the wounds of war.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is honored to display this photographic exhibit from September 1 through November 30, 2003.

By Mary Bade



## Curator's Chronicles

# MORE MILITARY NOVELTY PATCHES

## WORLD WAR I TO PRESENT

I would like to say, "thank you," to all those who wrote in with comments about insignia following my last article. Actually, I have received more correspondence on this one article than in my previous nine years of writing for the Bugle. This either means you normally don't

the 1st Infantry Division had the first authorized insignia. In fact, authorization for the insignia of the 81st and 42nd Divisions both predate it with the 81st Division unofficially adopting their insignia before leaving the United States for Europe. What can be said is the use of shoulder insignia in combat during World War One was unusual with the majority of organizations adopting patches following the end of hostilities. It is even more unusual to find a uniform worn in combat that retains the original insignia, which is the case for the service coat from the 1st Division.

While the focus of our last discussion was on issue and novelty insignia for small units, insignia for all levels of command continued to come from a variety of sources through the Vietnam War. At times, members of large units would purchase their insignia from local vendors because that was the only way to obtain them. Marine Divisions in World War II were newly created organizations with the design of their insignia coming through unit headquarters. The earliest versions of their insignia were often made in small numbers and exhibited subtle variations in materials and detail.

Curator's Chronicles - Continued on page 10



Top: 42nd Division  
Middle: 81st Division  
Bottom: Naval Advisory Group,  
Vietnam  
Patches part of WVM Collection



read my articles or that the subject is of particular interest. Preferring to think it is the latter I will do my best to address the questions raised and provide some new information.

First, several people noted that Army Corps insignia with divisional coloration date to the Civil War. While this is true, the intent of the previous article was to discuss the period following the turn of the 20th Century. I will save 19th Century Corps insignia for a future article. I should also mention that the Vietnam era Med-Evac patch came from a former member of Marine Helicopter Squadron HMM-163. The unit affiliation was not apparent from the patch although the misspelling of Marines is. Drawing the most comments, as it should have, was the photo caption suggesting that



## Thank You!

Day, Susan  
Day Treatment Center  
Club  
DeMoya, Rick & Mari  
Denson, BG Kerry  
Dent, Robert & Jean  
Driscoll, John  
Duckworth, Ted  
Ehle Family  
Emery, Fred & Linda  
Erffmeyer, MG Robert  
Ferris, Jane J.  
Fitchburg Historical  
Society  
Flaherty & Associates  
Frankey, Frederick J.  
Friends of the State  
Historical Society of WI  
Friends of Max Kade  
Institute  
Froehlke Family  
Froelich, Ralph D.  
Functions, Inc.  
Furgal, Michael L.  
Gallenberg Family  
GAR Memorial Assn.  
of Dane Co.  
Gilpatrick, Kristin  
Grace Christian  
Academy  
Grand Avenue School  
Gutenkunst Family  
Haley, Thomas & Diana  
Halverson Family  
Hansen's Auto  
Service Center, Inc.  
Hardie, Anthony D.



## Thank You!

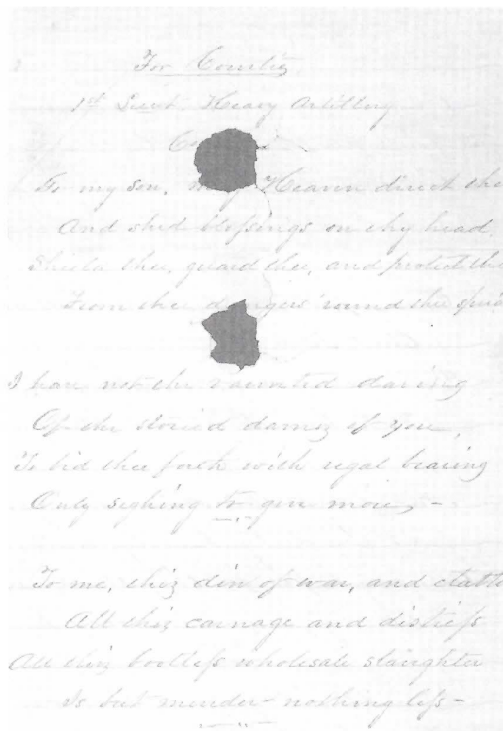
Harned Family  
 Harned, Lewis B.  
 Heckenkamp, Luke  
 Hembel, Alan G.  
 Herbert Kohl Charities  
 Hewitt, Calvin & Marge  
 Hoesly, Michael & Nan  
 Hoeveler, David  
 Hofer, Patsy & Dave  
 Hogan Family  
 Houck, John  
 Hustad, William  
 Icke, John & Karen  
 Indrele, Stephen C.  
 Irving School  
 Johnson, Edmund B.  
 Johnson, Jane E.  
 Johnson, Thomas L.  
 Jones Family  
 JP Cullen & Sons Inc.  
 Kafka, Daniel J.  
 Kallas, Phillip G.  
 Keithan, Jr., J. W.  
 Kindschi Family  
 Kiwanis Club of  
 Appleton  
 Klemmer Family  
 Klobuchar, Marilyn  
 Klodt and Associates  
 Kloster, Bill & Deborah  
 Kras, Eugene & Joy  
 Krueck, James A.  
 Laird, Melvin R.  
 Landa, Juan & Erin  
 Larkin, MD., Charles B.  
 Lawrence Family  
 Leedle, Katie L.  
 Legwold Family

### From the Archives

# UNCOVER THE STORY

## RESEARCH ADDS MEANING TO BULLET RIDDLED DOCUMENTS

Courtland Larkin was nineteen years old when he left Camp Washburn (Milwaukee, Wisconsin) in October of 1863 as a member of the 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery. Larkin carried with him a poem entitled For Country, written by his mother, asking for his safety. He also carried five carte de visite portrait images,



including one of his mother, Mrs. Charles H. Larkin.

The poem expresses a mother's anguish over her child's military service and fear that he may not return. She reminds him that "at home...[she will] watch and pray." Mrs. Larkin explains her fears saying she knows the battlefield is not for her.

That to a mother:

*"This din of war, and clatter  
 all this carnage and distress  
 all this bootless wholesale slaughter  
 is but murder – nothing less."*



Mrs. Charles H. Larkin  
 (Courtland P. Larkin Papers)

She recognizes her son's military service is a result of his patriotism and duty, and that Courtland's "manly zeal" will allow him to fight well, honorably, and bravely.

Larkin first enlisted for Civil War service in 1862, serving four months before illness forced him to resign. After recuperating at home in Milwaukee for nine months, he reentered service, joining the artillery, and left Milwaukee carrying his mother's poetic prayer for safety and her photograph. Mrs. Larkin's wish that "Heaven...shield thee, guard thee, and protect thee" held true until Courtland, now a Major in the 38th Wisconsin Infantry, fought at Petersburg, Virginia.

On June 17, 1864 the 38th Wisconsin was in a cornfield under heavy artillery fire when officers learned that the rest of the line had fallen back. Larkin was severely wounded by a musket ball while leading his men to cover in a ravine. Before reaching Larkin, the ball pierced

his mother's folded poem and the five carte de visite photographs he carried in his left pocket. This injury was the cause of his discharge later in 1864. After the war, Larkin returned to Milwaukee where he lived and practiced law until his death in 1920.

A great deal of research goes into processing manuscript collections. Processing archivists use both contextual clues found within the collection and outside resources.



Courtland P. Larkin Papers





From the Registrar

# STORIES BEHIND HISTORIC OBJECTS

## LEARNING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A SAILOR'S SEA BAG

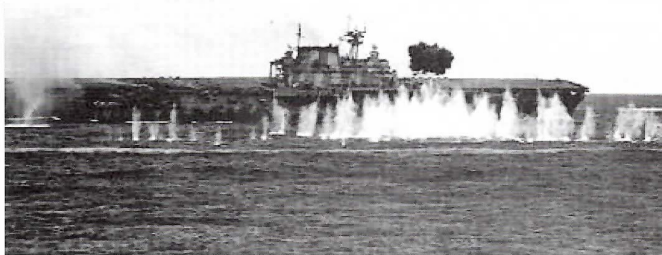
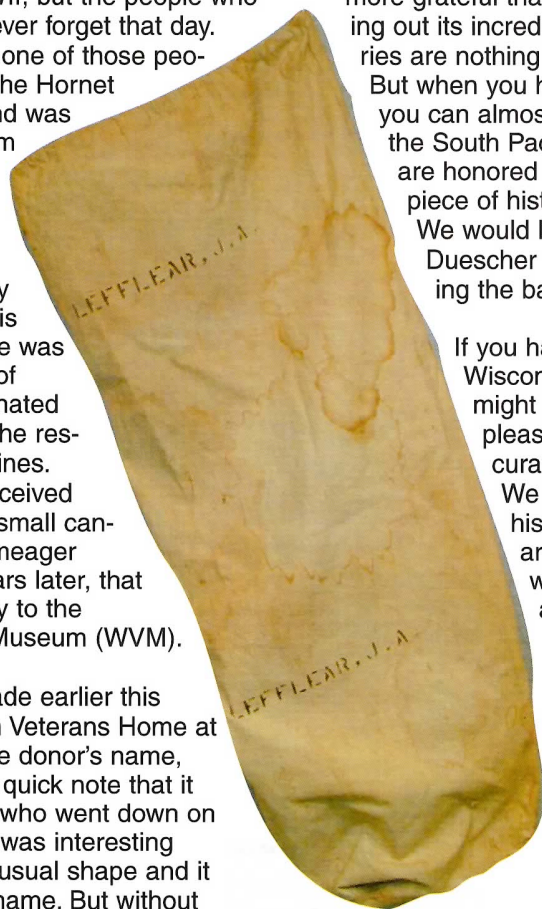
On October 26, 1942 Japanese forces sunk the aircraft carrier USS Hornet (CV-8) with a devastating combination of torpedo and bomber attacks. It certainly wasn't the only dramatic event of WWII, but the people who lived through it will never forget that day. Leonard Duescher is one of those people. He was aboard the Hornet when it was struck and was pulled off by crew from the USS Russell. When he was pulled from the ship he was wounded and had nothing but the bloody and torn clothes on his back. When the battle was over, crew members of neighboring ships donated clothing and gear to the rescued sailors and marines. Leonard Duescher received some clothing and a small canvas bag to store his meager belongings. Sixty years later, that bag would find its way to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM).

The donation was made earlier this year at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King. It came with the donor's name, phone number and a quick note that it came from someone who went down on the Hornet. The bag was interesting because it had an unusual shape and it was stamped with a name. But without any background, it had lost its meaning. We wondered where it had been used and who it belonged to. So we contacted the donor to see if he might have any additional information. It turned out he was good friends with Leonard Duescher who had been aboard the Hornet when it went down. The story got more interesting when we were told that this was the bag Duescher was given after he was hauled off the sinking ship.

Duescher's story is remarkable. It can be found in fuller account in the *The Sun Rose Clear*, edited by Lowell Peterson. We are grateful that the bag found its way to the museum and even more grateful that we had assistance in ferreting out its incredible story. Objects without stories are nothing more than canvas or leather. But when you hear where this bag has been you can almost picture the smoky skies of the South Pacific on October 26, 1942. We are honored to add such an interesting piece of history to the collection of WVM. We would like to thank Leonard Duescher and Richard Studley for bringing the bag to the museum.

If you have an interesting bit of Wisconsin's military history that you might consider donating to WVM, please contact a member of the curatorial staff at (608) 261-6802. We regret to think of how much history is lost when donations are dropped off anonymously or with only a note. We encourage potential donors to set up an appointment so that material can be properly documented and considered for WVM's collection.

By Kristine Zickuhr



USS Hornet during the Battle of Santa Cruz Island, October 26, 1942. Above: Bag donated to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in 2003.

## Thank You!

Lehman Family  
Lincoln-Erdman  
Elementary  
Lucey, Patrick & Jean  
Madison MMSD  
Malone Family  
Marans Trust  
Marty, Lois E.  
Matthews, Jr, John L.  
McArdle Family  
McCrary Properties LLC  
Meddings, William T.  
Mehring, Jerome  
Metz, Gundel  
Mohs, Tom & Nancy  
Moren, Peder E.  
Moses, John R.  
Mueller, Orin L.  
Mukwonago Schools  
Navy Club Wisconsin  
Squadron, Ship 60  
Neumann Family  
Nordby, Eugene & Olive  
Novak Family  
O'Loughlin Family  
Olson, Larry & Alena  
The Osprey Foundation  
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Oxford University Press  
Oxmoor House  
Paulson, Jeff  
Perelman, Seth & Leslie  
Peterson, Gary L.  
Petersen III, John  
PPG Industries  
Foundation  
Prairie Catholic School  
Priority Club



## Continued - Curator's Chronicles



Above: 1st Marine Division  
Right: 801st Medical Air Evacuation Squadron  
Patches part of WVM Collection

Local procurement of insignia was particularly common for units that participated in special activities. The Navy provided advisors to the South Vietnamese during that entire conflict. Members of the Naval Advisory Group

## Continued - From the Archives

For years, this poem was housed in a folder labeled "unknown correspondence," it was only with research that its story was discovered.

Housed separately in the Research Center was a collection of five photographs with holes and cracks in them. The photographs had progressive levels of damage, making it clear that they were stacked when damaged. Upon refolding the poem and comparing it to the stacked photographs, it became clear that they belonged to the same soldier and that a bullet caused the holes.

Because one carte de visite photograph was labeled "my mother, Mrs. Charles H. Larkin," it was possible to identify the soldier to whom the poem was addressed. Since it was written for the "1st Lieu Heavy Artillery" the Civil War database and rosters were used to find soldiers named Larkin. Courtland Larkin was the only Larkin to serve in the Heavy Artillery. It became clear that he carried both the poem and the photographs during the Civil War.

Mrs. Larkin's poem is now used as an educational tool. The striking visual of a letter pierced with bullet holes combined with pleas for Courtland's safety resonate with students and show them the value of historical docu-

wore black berets that featured a distinctive flash. The U.S. Government never issued the beret or insignia yet both were a required part of the uniform.

Since the publication of the last *Bugle* a truly unique novelty patch has come into the museum collection. The 801st Medical Air Evacuation Squadron operated out of Tachikowa Air Force Base, Japan during the Korean War. The unit flew planeloads of wounded soldiers from forward airstrips, often under enemy fire, back to their base near Tokyo. For their actions the 801st received the Distinguished Unit Citation. The

Squadron pocket patch features, "Daisy, Huey, Dewy, and Lewy," of Disney fame flying through the clouds on a stretcher. The jacket patch is of Japanese manufacture and was issued to squadron members. I hope you have enjoyed this further discussion of insignia and PLEASE, keep those cards and letters coming!



By William Brewster

ments. These materials are available for viewing in the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

By Abigail Miller

FOREIGN-BORN VETERANS  
READ THIS!!

Foreign-born Wisconsin veterans who served in the United States military are urged to contact the Wisconsin Veterans Museum immediately.

As a part of Archives Week programming, the WVM Research Center will create a manuscript exhibit focusing on the immigrant experience and American military service.

The exhibit will feature the papers, photographs, and stories of foreign-born Wisconsin veterans and is planned for mid-October.

Please contact Gayle Martinson, Archives Collections Manager, at 608-261-0536 or, by e-mail, at: [gayle.martinson@dva.state.wi.us](mailto:gayle.martinson@dva.state.wi.us) for more information.

Thank  
You!

Prospect Elementary  
Puls, Barbara J.  
Racine County Line  
Rifle Club, Inc.  
Radtke Family  
Ralston, Sarah E.  
Reynoldson, John R.  
Robert W. Baird & Co.  
Roncaglia Family  
Rortvedt, Arthur  
Rowsam, Janet E.  
Rusher, Gary & Jean  
Russ' Barber Shop  
S & S Tours  
Sauk Prairie Schools  
Schrag Family  
Schrimpf, Bruce D.  
Schuster Andrew  
Schuster, Robert  
Schweiger Family  
Scocos, John A.  
Shands, George & Joan  
Shea, Arthur D.  
Sheski, John  
Smith, Lanny  
Solberg Family  
South Central Chapter  
of Wis. Genealogical  
Society  
St Mary Parish School  
St Williams School  
St. James School  
Stenavich, Walter M.  
SW WI TECH College  
Taylor, Peter & Mary Jo  
TP Tours  
United WomanVeterans  
Upham, WM. H.



## Museum News

# CIVIL WAR MEDAL

## POND FAMILY SHARES RARE HEIRLOOM WITH WVM

A rare Civil War Medal of Honor made a brief stop at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) on Friday, August 8. The medal belonged to James Pond, a Wisconsin soldier who helped defeat Quantrill's Raiders in a Kansas Battle.

Pond was a staunch abolitionist, assisting the Underground Railroad and later working as the booking agent for several famous Americans, including Frederick Douglass and Mark Twain.

Pond's great-grandson, James B. Pond, inherited the medal. The day of the exhibit, he spoke to nearly 40 people about the



Pond's Civil War Medal of Honor

medal and his family's involvement in the Civil War.

The Pond family carries a long list of accomplishments dating back to the Civil War. Four brothers, James, George, Homer and Philip fought for the Union. Philip was part of the regiment that captured Confederate President Jefferson Davis. James and George both received medals of honor for their involvement in the defeat of Quantrill's Raiders.

The medal was on display for the first time in 40 years.

By Laura Kocum

### Continued - Frontline

which time his body weight fell from 179 pounds to just 80.

Other vignettes will include a Holocaust survivor, a Women's Army Corps member, a Navy Cooks and Bakers course instructor, and many more. During the two-hour guided walking tour, visitors will view nine living-history vignettes and discover the cemetery's rich history and gravestone art.

Public tours at Forest Hill Cemetery are available on Sunday, September 28, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Adult tickets are \$6 and children's tickets are \$3, available at the cemetery gate on the day of the event. Golf carts are on hand for visitors who cannot take the entire tour on foot and free parking is available at West High School.

School and group tours will be held on Thursday and Friday, September 25 and 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost per group is \$40 and maximum group size is 30 people. Time slots are already filling up. For more information, call Katie Leedle at 608.261.0541.

By Katie Leedle

TALKING SPIRITS V

Carson and Beatrice Gulley  
Madison's 1st African-American  
Homeowners

Wilbur East Leppian  
"Uncle Sam" Actor

Erma Jenkins  
Women's Army Corps. Volunteer

Gian Napoleone Giordano Orsini  
Member of the Italian Underground

Elizabeth Park  
Morse Code Instructor at Truax Field

John "Barkley" Rosser  
Head of the United States Ballistics Program

Frank Schiro  
Prisoner of War

Rabbi Manfred Swarsensky  
German Jewish Refugee & Community Leader

Santos Zingale  
Naval Artist

## Thank You!

Upper Iowa University  
USO of Wisconsin, Inc.

UW Madison

Van de Loop, John W.

Van Metre, Jack & Julie

VFW Auxiliary Medford

VFW Post 1879

VFW Post 6279

VFW Post 10549

VFW Post 1318

VFW Post 8216

Vietnam Veterans of

America, Inc. # 236

Violet Eugenia

Marans Trust

Washington School

Webster Elementary

Weingandt Family

Weller Family

WI Squadron Navy

Club USA

WI Vietnam Veterans,

Chapter 3

Wiberg, Ella A.

Wilkening Family

Williams Family

Wis National Guard

Retiree Council

WI Vietnam Veterans

Wolfe, Lynne & Perry

Woman's Club of

Madison

Woolley, William J.

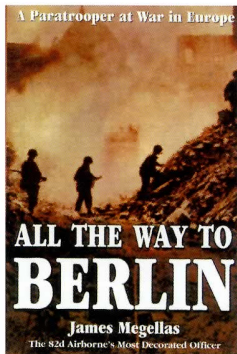
Zeitlin, Richard H.

Zielke, Bridgett

Zuleger, Arthur C.



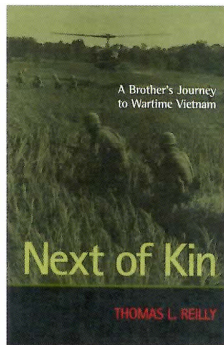
From the Gift Shop



All the Way to Berlin

James Megellas  
\$24.95  
Item: 3014

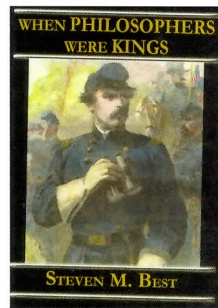
Megellas, James, *All the Way to Berlin*, New York, NY, Ballantine Books (2003). Megellas, a native of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, became the most decorated officer of the 82d Airborne Division in WWII. His book is more than just a personal memoir. Throughout his narrative, he skillfully interweaves stories of the other paratroopers of H Company, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. The result is a remarkable account of men at war.



Next of Kin

Thomas Reilly  
\$24.95  
Item: 3053

Reilly, Thomas L., *Next of Kin*, Dulles, VA, Brassey's Inc. (2003). Tom Reilly idolized his older brother, Ron. In July 1970, Ron died halfway around the world in Vietnam. When the U.S. Army provided no explanation except that Ron's death was not due to combat, the nineteen-year-old orphan set off on an incredible journey from small town Wisconsin to war-torn South Vietnam to find answers, to seek revenge if necessary, and to come to terms with his loss.



When Philosophers Were Kings

Steve Best  
\$28.95  
Item: 3057

Best, Steve, *When Philosophers Were Kings*, NY, Sunshine Press (2003). The story of a Wisconsin family's struggle to survive the American Civil War. Supporters of the North, brothers Socrates and Ed and their cousin Swift, believe in abolishing slavery and preserving the Union. But when standing up for their beliefs means bringing death and destruction to their family, friends, and homeland, the choices with which they are faced become increasingly difficult.

**The Bugle**  
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