



THE BUGGLE

SUMMER 2021 | VOLUME 28:2

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COVER IMAGE

Joseph Chvala, a Tomahawk, Wisconsin resident, enlisted in the United States Navy January 15, 1942 and served as a pilot of a PB4Y-1, the naval patrol version of the B-24 Liberator, in Patrol Bombing Squadron VPB-110 during World War II. VPB-110 was based at Royal Air Force Base (RAFB), later Navy Air Facility (NAF), Dunkeswell, Devon, United Kingdom and conducted scouting missions and bombing raids on German U-boats. Lieutenant Chvala was honorably discharged on October 29, 1946. After the war Chvala moved to Madison where he attended the University of Wisconsin and earned his law degree in 1950, and worked for American Family Insurance for several years following. Chvala passed away January 1, 2000 and is buried in Resurrection Cemetery in Madison, Wisconsin.



MUSEUM STAFF

DIRECTOR

CHRISTOPHER L. KOLAKOWSKI 608.266.1009

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

JENNIFER VAN HAAFTEN 608.261.6802

OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

ELISE MCFARLANE 608.261.0534

ORAL HISTORIAN

LUKE SPRAGUE 608.261.0537

CURATOR OF HISTORY

KEVIN HAMPTON 608.261.5409

PROCESSING ARCHIVIST

BRITTANY STROBEL 608.800.6958

COLLECTIONS MANAGER

ANDREA HOFFMAN 608.800.6957

REFERENCE ARCHIVIST

RUSS HORTON 608.267.1790

REGISTRAR

SARAH KAPELUSCH 608.800.6955

CURATOR OF EXHIBITS

GREGORY KRUEGER 608.261.0541

STORE MANAGER

GREG LAWSON 608.261.0535

COMMUNICATIONS AND

MARKETING SPECIALIST

JENNIFER STEVENSON 608.264.6068

EDUCATION SPECIALIST

ERIK WRIGHT 608.264.7663

CURATOR OF VETERAN ART

YVETTE PINO 608.266.1854

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30 WEST MIFFLIN STREET
MADISON, WI 53703
ON THE CAPITOL SQUARE
608.267.1799

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608.261.0536

JENNIFER.CARLSON@WVMFOUNDATION.COM

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A most sincere thank you to all who donated to our collection from February 2021 – May 2021. Thank you for your generosity and support of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

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We welcome your comments and editorial submissions concerning The Bugle. Comments and submissions should be sent to Jennifer Stevenson at jennifer.stevenson@dva.wisconsin.gov



**WISCONSIN
VETERANS
MUSEUM**



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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.

Matthew O. Piersma of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1989 and was on active duty four years before joining the Wisconsin Army National Guard in 1993. Piersma served as an Army Unit Supply Specialist (76Y MOS) before becoming a UH-60 Helicopter Repairer (15T MOS) in 2001. He deployed to Saudi Arabia in 1990 during Operations Desert Shield and Storm as part of the Headquarters and Service Troop, 5th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment (HST, 5/6 CAV) under the 12th Aviation Brigade.

As part of the 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment, a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter regiment, he deployed to Kuwait during Operation Desert Spring (April-August 2002), to Egypt during Operation Bright Star (September 2005), to Kosovo as part of the Kosovo Force 8 (KFOR8) peacekeeping mission (2006-2007) as well as to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation New Dawn from 2010-2011.

This photograph, featuring a helicopter on a helipad with a sandstorm approaching, was taken during Operation Iraqi Freedom while Piersma was serving with 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment Task Force Badger.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum,

I hope this finds all of you well and safe. This issue comes to your hands at an exciting time, as we have just reopened after a long layoff due to coronavirus. It is wonderful to see the museum back to full life and welcoming visitors again! As much as we are about history and our collections, the museum is also about sharing stories with our visitors, researchers, and students. You'll see from these pages and the museum exhibits that we have not been idle while closed either.

As usual, there's a lot in these pages. This issue pays great attention to the attacks of September 11, 2001, which occurred 20 years ago. It doesn't feel that long ago and, like many people, I can clearly remember where I was when it happened. (I was the ranger on duty at Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center, for the record.)

Looking back, 9/11 set the stage for much that has occurred over the past two decades. That date is an important milestone in history that grows in significance the further we move from it. For Wisconsin, there are numerous ties to the events of that day and its immediate aftermath; you'll learn about some of those in this issue.

Another major topic we address here is the transition to post-pandemic life. Yvette Pino, Curator of Veteran Art and Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, and I were talking about that, and we realized that there are broad parallels comparable to coming home from a prisoner of war camp or a deployment. The entire society is about to go through a similar transition. To help people find perspective, we compiled veteran accounts of those experiences and present them in this issue. They appear alongside some graphics about the pandemic's U.S. death toll relative to American wars and notable battles.

We continue our extensive online offerings, provided with the critical help and support of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation. I encourage everyone to see what is available on our website.

Some of you also may have seen recent media reports about a possible new future for the museum east of the Capitol at the corner of Webster St. and East Washington Ave. Although much remains to be determined, conversations and studies are happening now, and we are excited about the possibilities. The next 5-10 years here will be a great journey, and we look forward to having you along as we move the Wisconsin Veterans Museum forward.

Best wishes to all of you, and thank you for your continuing support. Hope to see you at the museum soon.

Best, *Chris Kolakowski*

EVERY VETERAN IS A STORY



Elizabeth "Beth" Benn, a Dane County, Wisconsin resident, joined the U.S. Army right out of high school. A personnel management specialist, Benn battled stereotypes as she served multiple deployments to Germany as well as at bases around the States. After seven years of active duty service, she joined the Army Reserve and deployed to Germany and Bosnia with the 416th Engineer Command in support of Operation Joint Endeavor. Benn later served as an ROTC instructor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she earned the nickname "Bazooka Beth" by carrying around a non-functional light anti-tank weapon. She was selected to attend the U.S. Army Sergeant Major Academy and remained in the army after 9/11. She served as an inspector general for the U.S. Army Human Resource Command and was the first woman to serve as an inspector general at the Pentagon. WVM proudly preserves her story through her oral history interview.



By: Russell Horton
Reference Archivist

Jeff Carnes, a Jefferson, Wisconsin native, enlisted in the Army in 1997, at the age of 20. After basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, he studied Arabic languages at the Defense Language Institute at the Presidio in San Francisco and received additional training at the Military Intelligence School at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Joining the 101st Airborne Division, he volunteered for duty in Kosovo, where he served from 2000-2001. When the 101st deployed to Iraq in 2003, Staff Sergeant Carnes served as an Arabic linguist, interviewing locals and acquiring useful intelligence such as the location of weapons stockpiles, landmines, and more. Upon returning to the U.S., Carnes completed his studies at UW-Madison and volunteered at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. WVM proudly preserves his story through objects, papers and photographs, and an oral history interview that he donated to the museum.



EVERY VETERAN IS A STORY

By Andrea Hoffman
Collections Manager

While this paperweight promoting the Wisconsin National Guard Association (WINGA) Insurance Plan might otherwise seem unremarkable, it actually became a small piece

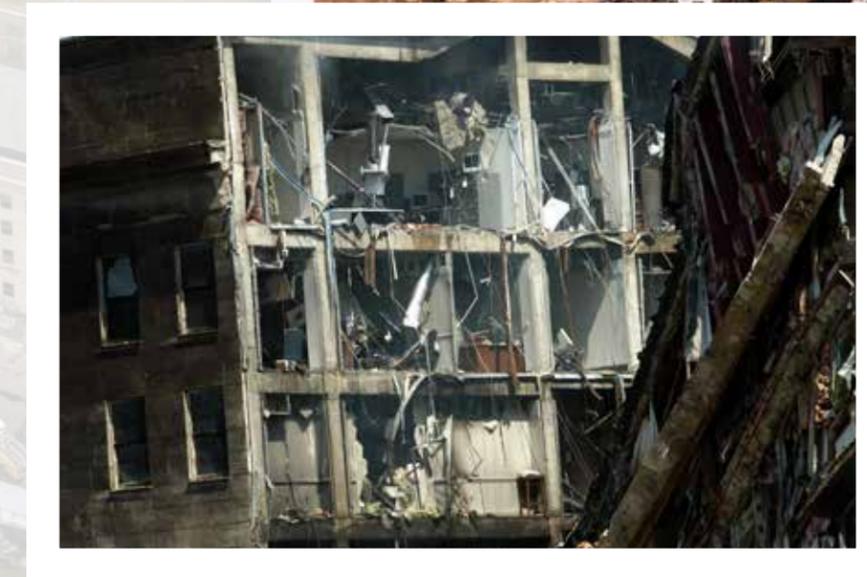
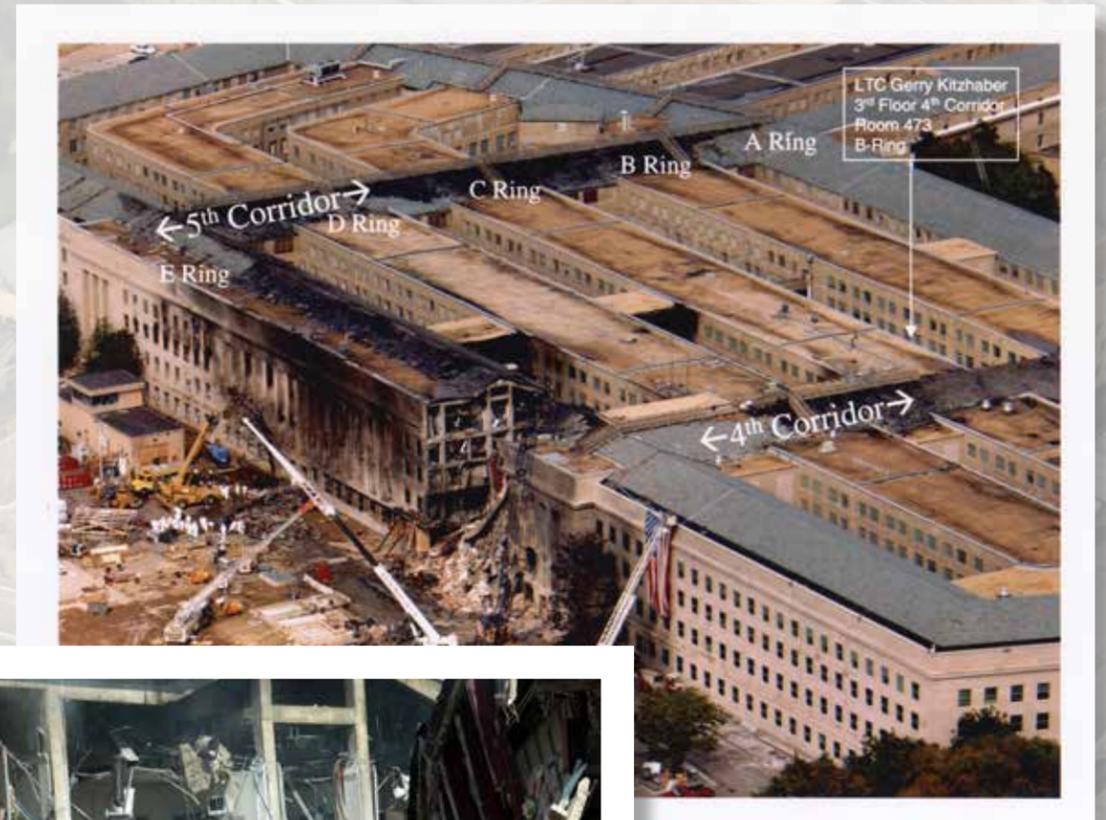


Wisconsin National Guard Association (WINGA) paperweight, V2017.115.1

of history 20 years ago this fall. Following the attacks on September 11th, 2001, this paperweight was recovered at the Pentagon from the desk of then-Lieutenant Colonel Gerry L. Kitzhaber, a native of Greenwood, Wisconsin whose office was located on the 3rd Floor of B Ring near Corridor 4. Kitzhaber was working for the army director of training at the time and was at his desk when American Airlines Flight 77, hijacked from nearby Dulles International Airport, hit the west side of the structure between Corridors 4 and 5 at 9:37 am. The Boeing 757 aircraft impact destroyed a wedge-shaped section of the building that extended through outer E, D and C Rings and partially penetrated B Ring. Kitzhaber later described his experience that day in the Spring 2002 alumni newsletter for his alma mater University of Wisconsin-Stout, stating:

“The first reports were incredulous and incomprehensible. An airplane had crashed into the World Trade Center in New York! This shock was further exacerbated by another plane crashing into the other tower before our very eyes! My colleagues and I were in disbelief. How could this happen? Who could be responsible for such an atrocity?...In the midst of this discussion, I took a phone call from my wife. She had called to wish me a happy birthday, unaware of the recent events. I updated her on what had happened in New York. Instinctively she expressed concern for my safety. I confidently responded that I should be all right; after all, this is the Pentagon. Oblivious to the fact that Flight 77, hijacked by political extremists and loaded with 64 crew and passengers, was on a crash course for the Pentagon, I assured my wife I would be okay and said goodbye. Just as I turned to stand up from my chair, a horrendous explosion and devastating shock wave ripped through the building, nearly knocking me off my feet. The plane had struck the Pentagon, penetrating through the E, D and C Rings, stopping directly beneath my office. The wall and windows next to my desk shuddered violently as an incredible rush of air escaped upward between the B and C Rings, pelting the windows and exterior walls with rocks and debris just inches away from me. An eerie silence momentarily enveloped the office and was abruptly interrupted by my directive, “Let’s get the hell out of here!”

This photo of the Pentagon following the September 11th attacks as labeled by Kitzhaber, noting his location at the time the plane hit the outer ring. Mss2017.115.1002



“Shot of exposed wreckage after the smoke cleared from the hijacked jetliner which crashed into the Pentagon at approximately 0930 on September 11, 2001,” from the Department of Defense, National Archives image 6525020

While Kitzhaber was able to safely evacuate from the building, 125 of his fellow Pentagon personnel lost their lives that day, most of whom were a mix of civilian employees and members of the military working for the United States Army and United States Navy. Kitzhaber eventually returned to working at the Pentagon when subsequent repairs of the structure were completed in August 2002. He also stayed on as a Pentagon employee following his 2008 retirement from the army as a colonel, this time working for the Department of the Army in a civilian capacity. 🇺🇸



ORIGINS AND EVOLUTIONS OF AVIATION NOSE ART

By Brittany Strobel
Processing Archivist



Much like a person would add bumper stickers to a car or hang fuzzy dice on a rear-view mirror, nose art on airplanes grew out of the crewmen's desire to personalize their crafts. Beginning in World War I, European forces decorated their planes with fierce animals, family crests, and other symbols. When the American forces arrived, they quickly followed the Europeans' lead and decorated their planes in addition to marking them with the newly required unit insignia.

Rodney Williams, a Delafield, Wisconsin resident, served in the 17th Aero Squadron in World War I. Williams trained in Waco, Texas after training in Canada. Pictured here is a training plane with a dog and the words "Who Said Rats" beneath it. While not nose art, this artwork distinguishes this plane from the others, and can be referenced as early personalization of aircraft. WVM.1070.1030

During World War II, nose art became an extremely popular means of distinguishing planes, creating a group identity, and bonding crew to craft. Nose art themes ranged from the popular pin-up model to lucky symbols, mascots, scenes of victory, and landscapes. While use of the female form became iconic, viewed today the portrayal of women as objects is offensive; the stereotyped depictions of other groups are likewise objectionable and racist. Because of the evolution of accepted norms and museum editorial standards, most of the nose art images in the collection are unpublishable. Even during WWII, military regulations prohibited the more risqué-style work, but with troops around the world, regulations like this were hard to enforce and were often overlooked in favor of building morale. To skirt the rules, some crews used water-soluble paints for their designs knowing that the next rainstorm would erase their mischief. Of course, not all nose art was controversial. There are also examples where the planes were nicknamed for sweethearts and wives.



Lawrence E. Roberts, a Dousman, Wisconsin resident, served with the Army Air Force Base Unit in World War II. Originally assigned as a tail gunner on a B-24 bomber bound for Europe, Roberts was unexpectedly held back due to a burst appendix. The other members of his crew went to Europe while Roberts recovered from the near-death experience in the United States. Roberts was then sent to Australia, and served as a crew member on a B-24 Liberator, *Sleepy Time Gal*. Seen here on the nose of the craft and the backs of the crew's jackets, the *Sleepy Time Gal* features a pin-up model used on other aircraft around the world. Due to an injury he suffered on board another craft, Roberts was recuperating when the *Sleepy Time Gal* crashed into the Timor Sea, all hands lost. WVM.2127.1033.03, 34.04, 36.02

Milton E. Emkow, a Columbus, Wisconsin resident, served as a gunner in the 90th Bombardment Group in World War II. During his service in the Pacific, he collected photographs of the nose art he encountered.



Gerald "Jerry" L. Paul, a Sparta, Wisconsin resident, served as a crew chief in Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163 in Vietnam. Here a helicopter is being customized with eyes. At right, Paul and a fellow Marine pose in front of a helicopter. WVM.0890.1117, 225.01

Toward the end of the war, restrictions were more strictly enforced after the pin-up art fell out of style. Today, aircraft are still decorated, but now with fierce shark teeth and lucky symbols replacing gendered artwork.



Thomas J. Schnetz, a Milwaukee, Wisconsin resident, served with the 303rd Air Service Squadron in World War II. This image features an unidentified man standing next to a bomber with a shark mouth and eye, named *Who Cares?* WVM.0917.1027



This B-24 is decorated with a view of the Golden Gate Bridge, and is named *Last Horizon*. WVM.1725.1061.01

"I WAS FREE AND SAFE"

By Christopher Kolakowski
and Yvette Pino

The news of vaccines has promised significant relief from the coronavirus pandemic. The end is in sight, with a return to some form of pre-pandemic life visible in the very near future.

In a sense, the country during coronavirus has lived a life broadly comparable to the experiences of prisoners of war or those on deployment. It has been a focused and uncertain existence, narrowly defined physically, often day-to-day, and with a constant danger. It has also required significant adaptation to people's lifestyle and routines.

As the coronavirus pandemic abates, the experiences of released prisoners of war and troops back from deployment offer lessons about the transition that is coming.



Allied POWs celebrate liberation, Aomori POW Camp, Japan, 29 August 1945. | U.S. Navy

"While a prisoner, you never relaxed or dropped your guard. Now I was free and safe. The nightmare began and I started to walk in my sleep . . . By 1948 I was ripe to explode. I started going to a mental clinic in Madison. An old doctor there talked to me. He answered the phone more than he talked to me, but at least he didn't call me a liar. After a year I had explained all the things which happened [in captivity]. His advice: Stop hiding at home, get out, and talk to people. What had happened could not be changed: till I could talk about it I would never get over it. I have taken his advice."

U.S. Army Sergeant Forrest Knox
POW 1942-1945 in the Far East

"I remembered the little amenities people in civilized circles took for granted, but I was not comfortable using a knife and fork, trying to remember that pants were to be zipped, that toilets were to be flushed, that car doors and doors to buildings were to be opened for females, that money was to be kept in checking accounts which one had to know how to balance. I was awkward with all these things, and it bothered me . . . I was fleeing from something, I knew not what, although there was no longer anything to fear or run from. I was nervous because I was nervous."

U.S. Marine Corps Private Howard Charles
POW 1942-45 in the Far East

"I WAS FLEEING FROM SOMETHING, I KNEW NOT WHAT, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO LONGER ANYTHING TO FEAR OR RUN FROM."



Everett Alvarez Jr. after the war. | U.S. Navy

"I think it was just I was unfortunate and I was there and I had to survive. I wanted to survive and I had to do it in the most honorable means, that was, you know, so I could come home and, and not be ashamed of anything . . . I feel positive about my experience in the sense that I have a broader, I think, outlook on life, I know what it is to be without - without necessities, what we consider necessities, clothing, shelter, things like this. I appreciate what we have in this country, in our, in our civilization - and I want to, you know, instill this in my children."

U.S. Navy Lieutenant Junior Grade Everett Alvarez Jr.
POW 1964-1973 in North Vietnam

I KNOW WHAT IT IS TO BE WITHOUT - WITHOUT NECESSITIES, WHAT WE CONSIDER NECESSITIES, CLOTHING, SHELTER, THINGS LIKE THIS.

"Since arriving in the States I have met five men and nine nurses who survived Bataan and Corregidor. We talk together, have drinks and see shows and hear music together, and all the time we know something about ourselves and each other that no outsider can ever know. It is impossible to explain what it is like to meet them here in the opulence and security of America and look back to the unspeakable things, the suffering and the agony - yes, and the glory - we saw together . . ."

I find myself getting panicky in upper berths. I cannot stand closed windows. I cannot sleep the entire night through, and my dreams are fitful and changing. I know I'll get over these things in time, but until now these obsessions are very real."

U.S. Army Colonel Carlos P. Romulo



An unidentified U.S. POW and his family after their reunion in 1973. | U.S. Air Force



After two deployments, isolation and working around the clock are not strange bedfellows to me. I've felt an odd familiarity in all that the COVID-19 stay at home orders introduced. I flipped an embedded switch in my brain that told me that I was now mobilized, metaphorically, and subject to a new existence with perimeters, special rules, protective gear, and an enemy that often presents itself as invisible, thus to remain alive, I must be on constant alert. My brain transitioned into 'deployment mode' over a year ago, and as soon as the COVID threat was real, I prepped my gear and my mind to be ready for the long haul. Going outside was deemed safe for limited amounts of time, and I never left the perimeter of my house without my mask. My decontamination kit stayed at my side and I scanned every passer-by. What I did not realize was that 'deployment mode' is not how society should function. For the first six months, I was either unaware or complicit to living in a PTSD-induced reality. When I learned that my best friend was now on the frontlines as a nurse in New York, it felt like she was in a war zone and I was back home, only aware of her existence by way of the media. How unnerving. And I remembered that when I was in harms-way it was different because, I could see the harm in front of me and I could prepare. My family could not. They could only imagine. Now I knew how that must have felt. As we grow closer to transitioning back to a world similar to the pre-COVID era, I know that it's time to flip the switch and let my brain come home. But I also know that in coming home, or in this case, returning to societal interaction, things won't ever be the same again. We will be constantly looking for the rituals of survival. We will look to make sure we have our masks. We will be aware of the social distance protocols. We will over-analyze every protocol and enforced policy from past to present and we will refer to our personal histories as pre-COVID versus post-COVID. But we can also find comfort in the fact that this is a collective moment. We will experience it together and we will continue to support each other in this new existence.



Yvette Pino paints a helipad for the 101st Airborne Division in Tikrit, Iraq, 2005.

Yvette Pino | U.S. Army, Operation Iraqi Freedom
WVM Curator of Art



"I consider myself a very strong-willed person, I think that I've got a good head on my shoulders, I'm very analytical when it comes to thoughts, and I feel like I'm one of those people who--I thought I was going to be able to adjust just fine. I mean, I'm intelligent, you know, I can think things through, but when I got home, I was, I was just dumbfounded by how depressed I had become. And I couldn't--I wasn't my normal self. I would look at pictures from before I left, and I'm like, "Wow, look at how happy I am. I'm never going to achieve that level of happiness again." I felt like I was scarred from what I went through in Iraq, and I could never, ever be happy again. So it was very depressing when I got home, and then I talked to some of my fellow soldiers like six months later, and realized that we were all going through the same thing. And that lifted every--like it lifted the brick off my shoulders, it made me feel better knowing that I wasn't the only one with these thoughts, that I wasn't alone in all of this.

Laura Naylor | Military Police
Army National Guard | Operation Iraqi Freedom



Laura Naylor poses with members from her platoon.

"...It's the chess match. So you wake up in the morning going, Okay, what was their move last night? What are they trying to plan for today? How are we gonna try to counter that? And I mean, it's exciting because it seems that you're--it doesn't take much for the brain to kick in that this is in fact survival, this is your life at stake. And your senses are at their peak in a way. I don't know, it's a strange thing. All the sudden you're operating at two-hundred RPM whereas back here in the United States you're operating at fifty RPM. You're focused on survival...You wake up every morning just so focused and operating, I think, just at such a high level that you come back from that and it's nice to relieve that stress but... It's difficult. Yeah. You come back and you start--you know, pay a cell phone bill, just bills, little things. This is petty. This has nothing to do with survival. It's difficult from that standpoint of you were the--I was operating basically a county-wide area, trying to root out Taliban. I was the American in charge. And to come back to just a different role is hard. And to come back and--I mean, the word surreal is over used, but that's what it is comin' back. To have to worry about petty things again. Petty, civilized things, you know. As opposed to just survival."

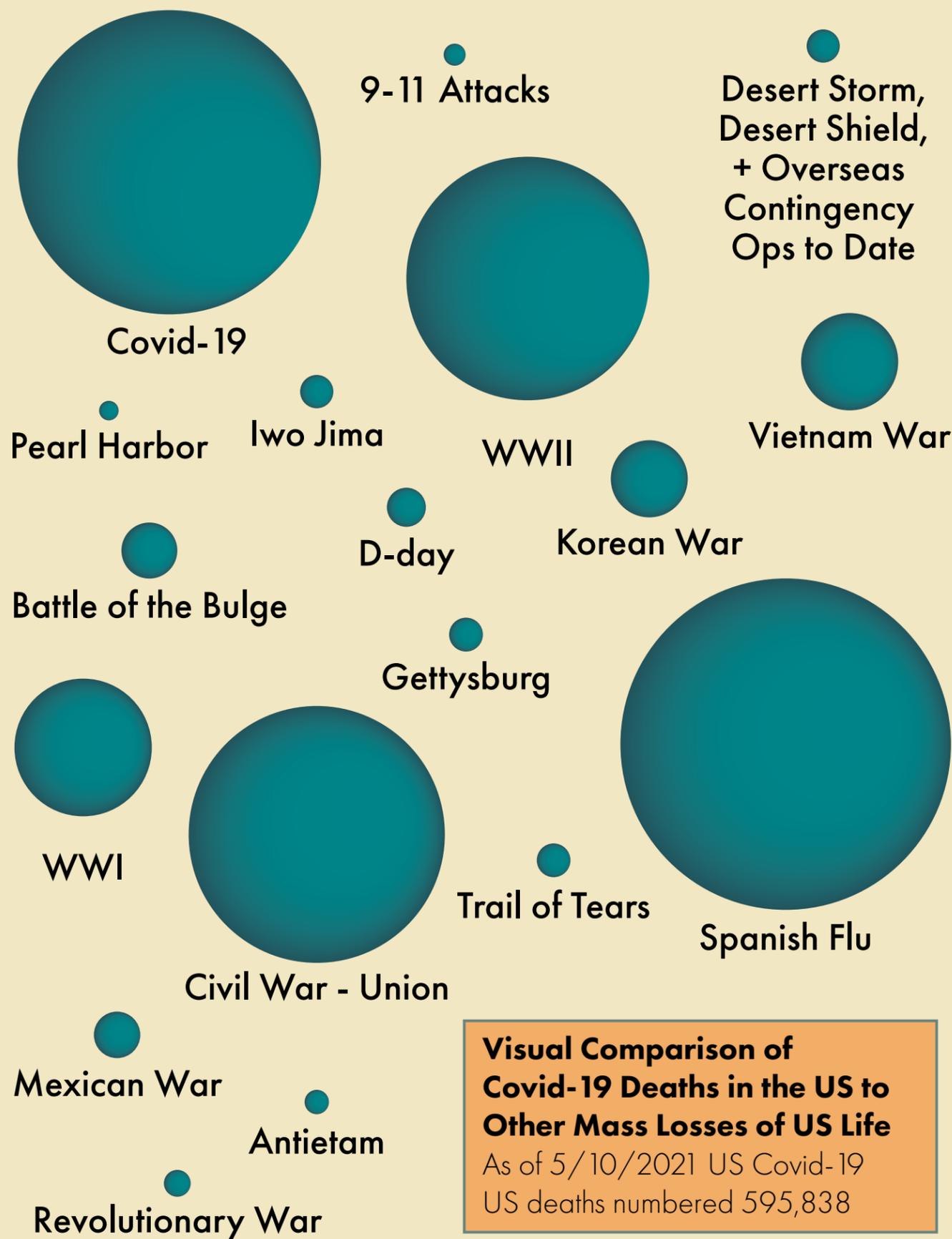


John McNally sits in a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) preparing for a mission.

John McNally | Team Commander, Special Forces
Operation Enduring Freedom



One of the unfortunate realities of the COVID-19 shut down has been the economic impact on restaurants, small businesses, and their staff. Similarly, cities and towns where major military installations reside suffer the same consequences to their local economy when entire divisions of troops deploy at one time. This article was written in February 2003 for the Kentucky New Era and it discusses the effect on local businesses when the 101st Airborne Division began its year-long deployment to Iraq that same month. This article was shared by WVM staff member and 101st Airborne veteran Yvette Pino.



REMEMBERING 9/11

As we approach the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11th, many of us can recall the shocking images of the day as if we experienced them a moment ago. We will never forget the horror and heroism we witnessed, and yet it's natural to want to honor actively the souls we lost that day.

The education team at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum has assembled activities that prompt reflections of the events and honor the victims and survivors of 9/11. These activities can be conducted on your own or with a group and are suitable for youth participation.

Interview a Person Who Was Alive the Day of the Attacks

- Ask two or more adults in your life who remember the events of 9/11/2001 some questions about what they remember about that important day in American history. While you are conducting your oral history (interviewing) them, be sure to take good notes about to what they say, or record a video or the audio (with their permission) on your phone or another recording device.

Think of at least five questions that you would like to ask them. Some sample questions can include:

- What do you remember about 9/11/2001?
- Do you remember the moment when you first heard about the attacks? Where were you? What were you doing?
- What do you remember feeling when you heard the news?
- Did they ever ask their parents or grandparents what they remember about famous event in American history such as the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Kennedy assassination, or when the first man walked on the moon?

More information can be found here:

- Step-by-Step Guide to Oral History by Judith Moyer at DoHistory.org
- National Endowment for the Humanities, What is History? Timelines and Oral Histories. Edsitement.neh.gov

ORGANIZE OR PARTICIPATE IN A 9/11 STAIR CLIMB

This Stair Climb activity is a way to honor and remember the firefighters who died in service. There are several organizations that host events that involve climbing or walking the equivalent of the 110 stories of the World Trade Center, including the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Pierce Mfg., a builder of firetrucks in Appleton, hosts an annual event at Lambeau Field.

Learn more here:

- firehero.org/events/9-11-stair-climbs
- piercemfg.com/climb



WE REMEMBER 9/11 IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Kit Amidzich: “I just remember feeling so helpless like I can’t do anything, how am I supposed to help these people? I’ve got to get to New York, we were only roughly a four and half hour drive away, and I was making all these plans, and I was calling all these people, ‘We need to go up there, we need to volunteer, we need to—take supplies, we need to do this.’ I can’t just sit and watch this. And then the second tower got hit and I just broke down and lost it. And obviously, it is still a very emotional moment for me ‘cause it changed my life completely. My sister finally got home really late that night and she had soot on her, like she was, it was, it hit home. I lost some friends at the Pentagon, they were doing duty there. So, it was really an emotional moment for me. A couple of days later I got through to my recruiter and said, ‘Alright, active duty four years, let’s go.’”



Kelli Carroll: “And I can remember to this day sitting in my office and watching the news when the planes both hit and the plane went down in the field and just sitting there for quite a few hours because obviously everyone was at that point kind of oblivious to what was happening and why it was happening, and I had mentioned before when you hear certain people's names called to the captain's cabin something was going on. Only this time one of my positions was senior enlisted watch bill coordinator so I was responsible for not only my division but the supply department, being chief petty officer I was also responsible for all the watchstanders on board the ship. So this time I got to hear ‘Senior Chief Carroll to the Captain's cabin.’ So I knew it was big.”

Todd Hartwig: “I remember the day exactly. I was actually at my civilian job at that time. ‘Cause I was in a Guard unit. They were sending me to go on a urine analysis test ‘cause in my job I was a diesel technician so in that field you have to be randomly tested two or three times a year, I can't remember what it was. I'd come up, so I was on my way there when they run into the towers. I just couldn't believe it. So then it wasn't too much longer after that we kinda had orders--stand-by orders--that our unit was going. Then it just progressed from there.”



Yvette Pino: “That week was an impact of--our job was affected. We went what's called ‘dark.’ There were no shows. It was the first time that Broadway went dark in, I think, it was fifty years. Then at night the planes, there were no planes flying over, so it was a really strange feeling. When the theater did come back to work the actors were kind of in a state of shock. Everybody was walking around just kind of like zombies. They're doing these big cheesy musical theaters numbers and then coming offstage and weeping.”

“I lost some friends at the Pentagon, they were doing duty there. So, it was really an emotional moment for me. A couple of days later I got through to my recruiter and said, ‘Alright, active duty four years, let’s go.’”



Thomas Fischer: “But with the 9/11 it affected everyone, and being full-time at the time, it was a major impact and it seemed like it just refocused everybody. Training was so much more intense. More realistic, and it just, I don’t know what you can say. I just call it refocused. It’s, honestly, it’s been that way very high, op-tempo, very mission-focused training, for the last fifteen years. It really hasn’t died down since 2001, that I can—and I think that was one of the greatest, what am I gonna say, lessons learned from 9/11 and the Iraq War and Afghanistan, is that the Guard became such a piece of the toolbox that the overall armed forces would use, and I remember my deployment in 2007. We were fully accepted into—it wasn’t like,

oh, these National Guard—no, it was, you were expected to maintain the same exact level or readiness and combat effectiveness as every other branch of the service, and so, and I think that really has carried over, because now we’re dealing with guys and gals I work with. They—most have been deployed, they know that it’s, we’re in—you got to be ready.”

Joe Drees: “It was—like I say, when I first went in, it was like a social club. You know, before September 11th. After that, the training took on a whole different—rifle? Guns? What’s that? I had never fired a weapon in my navy time. And then, all of a sudden, I got to learn how to shoot. Which they didn’t do very well teaching people. So I kind of joined a gun club around here and got involved with shooting. And I ended up being an instructor, firearms instructor in the reserves. That was kind of fun.”



Kimberly Galske: “So I got out in 2001, moved to Phoenix, started working for a company right away. Then 9/11 hit. And I was living in Phoenix when 9/11 hit, and I tried to re-enlist. I had a boyfriend at the time. We were both Marines together. We were together for six and a half years. And 9/11 hit and I tried to re-enlist, and I found out I was pregnant with my son, Brandon. And I kind of say that I think he probably saved my life, because once a Marine always a Marine, and if your brothers and sisters are going into combat, you want to go, too. And with the jobs that I had, truck driver, mechanic, MP, I was frontline. I was frontline. And the Gulf War times two was a dirty, deadly, awful battle that's still going on now. And that's scary because my son is seventeen, now. And he's going into the same one that happened seventeen years ago. But I couldn't reenlist because of that, because of being pregnant with him.”

Talking Spirits 2021

We know summer has just begun, and yet we are talking already about cemetery tours. We're so just excited to announce the program for this year's Talking Spirits Cemetery Tours. We're back with live actors and in-person tours of Forest Hill Cemetery on Madison's near west side October 4-10, and so save the date.



This is the 23rd year we will be presenting the tour and sharing our state's rich history. Following a theme of *Wisconsin Women at War*, we will take you on a 90-minute walking tour highlighting women's contributions to our state's military history, unique features of the cemetery, and spotlighting four women who have made a difference when their country called upon them.

These tours will happen October 4-10 and will include school tours throughout the week. Our famous candlelit tours will be the evening of Saturday October 9th. Afternoon tours for the public will continue Sunday, October 10th.

In addition, aspects of this tour will be added to our virtual tour, so you'll not miss a single detail. For more information about Talking Spirits Cemetery Tours, including registration, ticket prices, and more, please visit us at wisvetmuseum.com.



2021 Featured Vignettes

Eulalie C. Beffel: A Milwaukee native, Eulalie joined the Women's Army Corps (WAC) in 1942 and served in both the Mediterranean and European theaters during World War II.

Jessie Smith: Mrs. Smith was an active Gold Star Mother and advocate for the organization after her son Robert was killed in action during World War II.

Elizabeth Park: Elizabeth was a musician and publisher who was professionally trained at prestigious academies such as Juilliard and Harvard. When the United States entered World War II, she volunteered and taught Morse code to soldiers at Truax Field in Madison.

Elizabeth Roach: Mrs. Roach was the vice-president of the United War Work campaign for the State of Wisconsin, which organized the effective use of women in the nation's defense program during World War I.



This project is supported by Dane County Arts with additional funds from the Endres Mfg. Company Foundation, The Evjue Foundation, Inc., charitable arm of The Capital Times, the W. Jerome Frautschi Foundation, and the Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation.

DANE ARTS



AT WVM THE SHOP

TERRORIST ATTACKS ON WORLD TRADE CENTER: 3 NYC firemen, George Johnson, Dan McWilliams, and Bill Eisengrein raise an American flag near the rubble of the WTC. Taken at 5:01 PM on September 11th.

© Thomas E. Franklin – USA TODAY NETWORK

A Wisconsin Connection

The U.S. flag holds a special place in our nation's heart. It represents liberty, justice, and freedom and the sacrifices of generations of American veterans and those they left at home. And so, naturally many people take great issue with having their American flags made overseas. This was the thought of Eugene Eder, the son of one of seven brothers who founded Eder Flag in Milwaukee in 1887. He led the company for over 50 years after his service in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Bronstein during World War II. Eder's passion for the red, white, and blue raised Eder Flag to the top domestic producer of U.S. flags. Today, Eder Flag in Oak Creek, Wisconsin still flies at the top of the pole for the production of Old Glory.

In the days after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, naturally Americans rallied around our flag. While several images from that event are seared into our collective memories, the image of the firemen at Ground Zero raising Old Glory represented American resolve and reminded us of the iconic raising of the flag on Iwo Jima. It inspired a nation to unite and push forward. When the folks at Eder Flag learned that this now iconic flag was an Eder-made they were filled with a quiet pride.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Shop is proud to offer the Eder 3x5 foot outdoor U.S. flag as well as our state flag, and flags for all five service branches. You can order yours at wisvetmuseum.com/shop.

You can be proud knowing your purchase in The Shop at WVM helps us tell the stories of Wisconsin veterans.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is a repository of the military history of our state and nation. The museum also serves as the archive for the stories of those brave men and women who served our country during our national trials from the Civil War to the battlefields of the Persian Gulf.



When we think of heroic behavior during war time, we most often think of those who put their lives at risk to complete a mission or protect others. We look to leaders, who inspired their brothers and sisters to perform their mission above and beyond the call of duty, as exemplary models of courage and sacrifice.

Citations for the Congressional Medal of Honor use the words unwavering devotion, intrepidity, selflessness, conspicuous gallantry, and extraordinary heroism to describe the actions of those we honor with America's highest military award.

We should turn our attention to another type of heroism enshrined in our museum's collection. This form of heroism is more complicated than that of those who inspire us through their actions taken in the heat of battle. It requires a devotion that is tested throughout a lifetime. A conviction so unwavering and a commitment so intrepid, it remains unshaken when ridiculed or challenged. It is acquired without need of a battle or a shot being fired. We have seen this heroism displayed across our country's history since the Revolution.

Our museum records the stories of:

- Colonel Jefferson of the 8th Wisconsin Regiment,
- The Badgers in the 29th USCT in the Civil War,
- 2nd Lt. Alfred Gorham of the Tuskegee Airmen,
- Akira Toki an internee during the Second World War who then joined the 442nd RCT and fought in France and Italy.

The above-mentioned Wisconsin veterans, among many others, represent men and women of color who served in the armed forces of the United States. They are among the selfless heroes I think of when asked to speak about the service of men and women I most admire. These Badgers answered their country's call to arms under no illusions as to how they would be treated by their fellow citizens during or after their service. Repeatedly in the First and Second World Wars, they were regarded as equals by the Allies and the people they helped liberate. Frequently, they were discriminated against when they returned home, regardless of the extraordinary service they gave to the cause of liberty.

When visiting the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, we should seek out and reflect on the stories of all veterans recorded in our collections, as well as the extraordinary heroism of these Wisconsinites whose service was certainly above and beyond the call of duty.

In gratitude,

Daniel Checki
Foundation President



The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation's

VETERANS GALA

Friday, September 24, 2021

At the Madison Concourse Hotel
& Governor's Club

1 West Dayton Street
Madison, WI

5:30 — 7 PM

VIP Reception / \$100 per person*

*Price includes VIP reception Meet & Greet with cocktails/hors d' oeuvres and dinner.

7 — 9 PM

Dinner & Keynote Address by General Vince Brooks / \$50 per person*

*Price includes dinner, keynote address, and dancing.

9 — 11 PM

Dancing

Tickets go on sale: Monday, July 5

Featuring General Vince Brooks



General Vince Brooks, a 1980 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, led 4,000 cadets as the cadet brigade commander or "First Captain." A history-maker, Brooks is the first African American to have been chosen for this paramount position, and he was the first cadet to lead the student body when women were in all four classes (freshman or "plebe" to senior or "first classman"). He is also the eighth African American in history to attain the military's top rank – four-star general in the United States Army. All proceeds from this event support educational programs and exhibits at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

A Message from Tom Huisman

"Every Veteran is a Story." Each story is unique, and all have a common thread—service to our country. As a veteran, I am proud to continue to serve our community as a board member of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation. I believe I can do more to help preserve the stories of our veterans, which is why I am making a donation to ensure our veterans' legacies are told for many years to come.

Will you join me? To make a gift online, visit wisvetmuseum.com/foundation/give-now/ or use the enclosed envelope to send in your donation. For those who have already sent in your donation, thank you!

We appreciate your support and wish you all health and happiness this year.

Respectfully,

Thomas A. Huisman, Captain, USAF, Retired

THANK YOU DONORS

A most sincere thank you to all who donated from March through end of May 2021. We cannot provide quality programming and award-winning exhibits without your help.



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For more than 100 years, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum has remained committed to honoring Wisconsin veterans and their role in shaping this nation's history, through unique collections, award-winning exhibits, and educational programs. Because of you, we can do even more to tell the stories of our veterans and ensure their legacies are never forgotten.

SUMMER PROGRAMMING

2021

REGISTER FOR THESE EVENTS AT WISVETSMUSEUM.COM

DRINK & DRAW

Join us for our virtual Drink & Draw events as our Artist In-Residence is joined by talented guest artists who lead you through a delightful drawing experience inspired by images from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum collection. Gather your supplies, pour yourself a beverage, and bring your artistic energy as we spend the evening together stretching our creative muscles. This event is free of charge and open to anyone who registers.

- July 9 | 7-8 pm
- August 13 | 7-8 pm
- September 10 | 7-8 pm



MOVIE NIGHT & VIRTUAL DISCUSSION

Grab some popcorn and a seat in your favorite chair, and join us for a Movie Night and Virtual Discussion with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Staff. While we can't all be together, we can share discussion on major motion pictures that deal with the hardships, humor, and horrors of combat.

- **THE LAST FULL MEASURE** July 30 | 7-8 pm
- **PATHS OF GLORY** August 27 | 7-8 pm
- **ZERO DARK THIRTY** September 24 | 7-8 pm

TRIVIA NIGHT

Join us for our virtual trivia night and test your historical knowledge. Sign up as individuals or as a team and go head to head with other players. This free event will be based on 3 rounds of trivia, with each round focusing on topics such as: history, pop culture, names and places, events, and fun facts!

- July 20 | 7-8 pm
- August 17 | 7-8 pm
- September 21 | 7-8 pm



CONCERT AND PANEL DISCUSSION – GENERATIONS: HEALING AND THE MUSIC OF WAR – VIETNAM TO TODAY CELEBRATING THE LAUNCH OF THE ALBUM "The Last Thing We Ever Do"

→ August 5 | 5:15 - 8pm **IN-PERSON**

BOOK TALK WITH GEORGE HAYWARD – THE PARTY DOLLS: THE TRUE, TRAGIC STORY OF TWO AMERICANS' ATTEMPTED ESCAPE FROM A 1969 HANOI POW CAMP

→ August 23 | 12 - 1 pm

SPECIAL LECTURE WITH GARY FRANCIS POWERS, JR.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is pleased to announce its first in-person event since January 2020 with a special lecture presented by Gary Francis Powers, Jr. He is the son of Gary Francis Powers, pilot of the U-2 spy plane that was shot down over the Soviet Union in 1960 and will speak about his father's role in the Cold War, his book *Spy Pilot* and the primary sources used for this work, and his research into declassified documents that bring espionage during the Cold War into a new light.

→ August 4 | 7-8 pm **IN-PERSON**

MESS NIGHT: WISCONSIN AT CHICKAMAUGA WITH DAVE POWELL

Please join us for the return of our Quarterly 'Mess Night' series to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. This event will feature our popular dinner and lecture, presented by author and Civil War historian David Powell. Mr. Powell will be speaking about Wisconsin soldiers and the impact they had on the battle of Chickamauga. Two brigade commanders were from Wisconsin: John C. Starkweather of Milwaukee, who was wounded; and the Norwegian Immigrant Hans Heg, who was mortally wounded. Several hard-fighting regiments contributed to the desperate fighting that characterized the battle, often facing heavy odds. This talk will highlight those important contributions to the Union cause at Chickamauga.

→ August 19 | 7-8 pm **IN-PERSON**

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