

Miami Valley  
Military History Museum



# ***SCUTTLEBUTT***

*Fourth Quarter 2017*



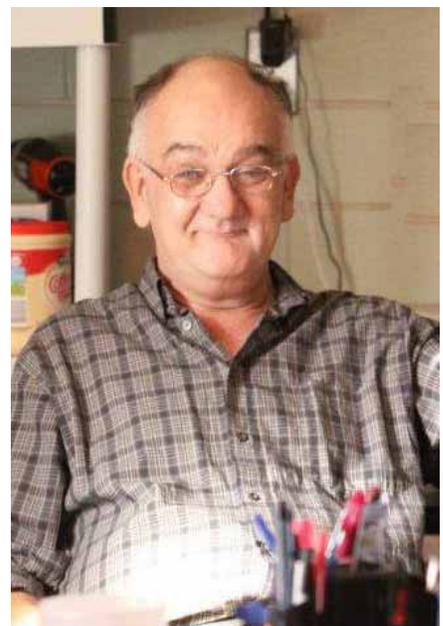
## **CURATOR'S CORNER**

What a full year 2017 was! As we end our tenth year, we can look back with pride on the many things we've accomplished; in addition to meeting all our annual objectives and becoming caretakers of some amazing pieces of history, we've helped preserve the history of dozens more Veterans. It's very humbling to realize that we're telling the history of our great nation from its beginning through the individual stories of ordinary men and women who did extraordinary things when duty called.

On 16 March, two years to the day after she first walked into the museum to ask what a World War I Wagoner was (her grandfather's duty in the Great War), Catherine and I were married in the museum with our closest friends and family in attendance – making the museum not just “Veteran owned and operated,” but a truly “family affair.”



We lost another good friend and museum supporter on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Dewey “Rex” Maynard was a Vietnam-era Army Veteran who was passionate in his support of Veterans and Veteran activities. He was a regular “Johnny On The Spot” when it came to getting donations and supporting our activities, whether it was getting refreshments for an open house or when we needed new flag poles for the building. Rarely seen without his video gear, Rex was always looking for ways to help and was a “Think Big, Go Big” kind of guy. It's just not the same without him when we're making plans. As Rex used to say, “*So long, Buddy!*”



November 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice ending World War I, and we're making plans to mark the occasion with the restoration of a local memorial and a plaque dedication in the Grotto Gardens of the VA.

**Another new project is already underway. In our foyer you'll notice we've started a Veterans Wall – we encourage you to email a photo (in or out of uniform) of your family's Veterans along with some basic information (full name, rank or rate, and when they served) to [curator@mvmhm.com](mailto:curator@mvmhm.com) for inclusion on the wall!**

As we close another successful year, here's a short "by the numbers" list:

Number of individuals represented in our displays: ~1,000  
Individual uniforms on display: 100+  
Individual medals on display: 100+

Number of tours, presentations etc. provided in 2012: 19  
Number of tours, presentations etc. provided in 2013: 22  
Number of tours, presentations etc. provided in 2014: 46  
Number of tours, presentations etc. provided in 2015: 47  
Number of tours, presentations etc. provided in 2016: 70  
Number of tours, presentations etc. provided in 2017: 70

Number of visitors registered in 2014: 774  
Number of visitors registered in 2015: 1,758  
Number of visitors registered in 2016: 2,750  
Number of visitors registered in 2017: 3,629

As you can see, we're continuing to expand – but we want to do better! Please, continue to help us **spread the word** - we've got a lot of great history here! You can help by forwarding this newsletter to people who have an interest in military history, or **"Like" us on Facebook and invite your friends to do the same** – the more people that know about us the better!

We appreciate your continued support and we look forward to seeing you in the year ahead!

Respectfully,

**Mark Conrad, MSgt, USAF, RET**  
**Curator**

**From Public Affairs:**

What a busy year this has been! We've presented well over 1,000 Vietnam War Veteran lapel pins and more than 100 of the Spouse pins. Because I'm a Vietnam War Gold Star daughter, the DODs Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration is a program that's near and dear to my heart, and it's a great privilege to present the pins with a heartfelt "Thanks for your service, and welcome home!"

Service to our Veterans is one of our core beliefs and objectives, and this past November we were honored to serve a Veteran in a most unusual circumstance. The remains of a (then) unknown Specialist 4<sup>th</sup> Class who served in Vietnam were discovered at a local Goodwill store, who turned them over to us in the hopes we could return them to his family or otherwise ensure he had a proper burial. We were able to identify the soldier, and locate the funeral home who performed his service in 2006. We worked closely with them to locate his Next of Kin and return his remains to his family.

Thanks once again to OPERATION: Card Angels and the efforts of Laurie Koester and the members of the Senior Communities of Northwest Dayton (SCNWD), we received about 1200 Christmas cards that we distributed to Veterans in the Hospice, Nursing Home, & Memory Care and the Veterans Homeless Programs on the VA. We supplied cards to two Christmas parties that Volunteer Services held for Vets who receive their care on the VA: we were able to provide cards for several inpatient wards as well outpatient clinics. We distributed the remaining cards on Christmas Eve at the VA's Service. OPERATION: Card Angels also supplied cards for Veterans Day & Thanksgiving. SCNWD also supplied us with Thanksgiving Day Cards. My heartfelt thanks to everyone who made it possible for us to spread smiles and warm hearts.

Some of you may have arrived at the Museum during our advertised hours only to find that we're closed due to "All our volunteers are at appointments." (Mark and I constitute 100% of our full-time staff; at times we both have to be away from the building.) If you have some free time & an interest in history, a desire to serve our veterans, we've got a place for you! Typical assignments are:

**\*\*Office Help**

Man the phones in the office and at the Librarian's Desk

**\*\*Data bases needing built for our general and reference library, donations, and artifacts**

**\*\*General computer work**

**\*\*Interact with visitors**

Call us for an appointment to discuss our activities & needs, your talents, and what you're looking for as a best fit for you. There's always something exciting happening!

Respectfully,

***Catherine I. Beers-Conrad, USAF Veteran  
Public Affairs Officer***

***DONATIONS QUARTERLY WRAP UP:***

This small group belonged to Technical Sergeant Frank C. Sedlak. Frank was born in Toledo, Ohio, the son of Slovak immigrants Frank and Bertha (Danko) Sedlak. He joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1939 and was stationed at Patterson Field when the U.S. entered World War II. In 1942 he married Rosemary Lukacs in Dayton. On his 30th mission while returning from a target in Vienna, Austria in 1944, his B-24 bomber was shot down over Hungary. He was a radioman with the 15th Air Force, 465th Bomb Group, 783rd bomb squadron. A prisoner of war in Stalag Luft IV, he survived an infamous 500 mile forced march in the middle of winter before being liberated in the spring of 1945. (*Donated by Pat Sedlak*)



This Japanese Type 99 rifle was a war trophy of Private First Class Wilbur O. Redmon who served on New Guinea and at Atsugi Air Base Japan during and after WWII. This rifle is in like-new condition, with its dust cover, monopod and cleaning rod intact as well as the Imperial Chrysanthemum on the receiver; without a doubt the best example we have in our collections. *(Donated by Terry Redmon, TSgt, USAF, Ret)*



The "Gibson Girl" radio transmitter was part of the survival equipment carried aboard aircraft; it was operated by a hand crank, and came with an inflatable balloon and a kit as a means of raising the antenna cable mounted at the lower center on the front panel. Its main drawback was that it could only transmit, so the user had no idea if anyone was hearing their signal. *(Donated by Margaret Kruckemeyer)*



Without the generosity of people interested in preserving our military heritage, museums like ours couldn't exist – space doesn't permit an individual listing of all the donations we've received, but we want to thank the following groups and/or individuals for helping us tell the stories of the defenders of our great nation. *(an asterisk indicates multiple donations):*

Terrence Cooney, Capt, USN (Ret) (Ohio) Bill Oberlin (Ohio) \*Patricia Sedlak (Ohio)  
American Legion Post 598 (Ohio) Deborah Duckson (Ohio) The George Family (Georgia)  
\*Richard "Dick" Krewson (Ohio) Russell West (Ohio) Grace United Trinity Church (Ohio)  
Nancy Mantovani (Ohio) James Mieding (Ohio) Robert and Cheryl Maggio (Ohio)  
Sons of Union Veterans William T. Sherman Camp #93 (Ohio) Bellbrook Sugarcreek Historical Society (Ohio)  
George Walters (Ohio) \*Brent Davidson (Ohio) Kathleen Thompson (Ohio) Robert Moore (Ohio)  
Michael J. Bennett, Colonel USA, Ret. (Ohio) Chuck Worm (Ohio) Robert W. Barhorst, Jr (Ohio)  
The Zimmerman Family (Ohio) Vandalia Historical Society (Ohio) Kathleen Hayes, Colonel, USA, Ret (Ohio)  
Tom Mitchell (Ohio) \*Dave and Carolyn Burns (Ohio) Denise C. Klemencic (Ohio) \*Toni Chambers (Ohio)  
\*Margaret Kruckemeyer (Ohio) The Osgood Family (Ohio) Wright-Patterson Cancer Support Group (Ohio)  
\*Terry Redmon, TSgt, USAF, Ret. (Ohio) Dayton Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (Ohio)  
Commander, Department of Ohio Disabled American Veterans (Ohio) Margaret and Russell Cook (Ohio)  
Brian K. Lambert on behalf of Richard L. Profit (Ohio) Diana Spittler (Ohio) John Jones (Ohio)  
Deborah Wiltshire (Ohio) Tommy Adkins (Ohio) Paul Wiford (Ohio) \*Claire Sollenberger (Ohio)  
Teresa Holwarth (California) Marilyn Winn (Ohio) Roselyn Miller (Ohio) Carolyn Hilliard (Ohio)  
Ken Masny-Bushman (Ohio) Anthony Maasoud (Ohio) Garry Arndt (Ohio) Michael Panosian (Ohio)  
Mary Geiger (Ohio) Laurie Koester (Ohio) Betty Lewis (Ohio) Mark Finster (Ohio) Rich Gowdy (Ohio)  
Lisa and Tony DeLaura (Ohio) \*Steve and Beverly Peyton (Ohio) Alex Villalva, SFC, USA (Ohio)  
Betty Dixon (Ohio)

...and many anonymous donors.

## **FEATURED ARTIFACT(S): Cold War leaflet balloons**

In order to get the message of freedom and democracy across the Iron Curtain, the Free Europe Committee used several types of balloons (these are the smallest) to carry leaflets into Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland. Eventually the West Germany Army created several balloon leaflet units to drop materials over East Germany.

These balloons came in red or black and were serial numbered; they were sometimes printed with "SVOBODA" on the sides – the Czech word for "Freedom". Filled with hydrogen, they would explode at an altitude of 30,000 feet and scatter their payload of leaflets.

When you think about balloons being floated across the inter-German border, you immediately recall the Cold War protest song – Nena's "99 Luftballons"...

While at a Rolling Stones concert, Nena's guitarist Carlo Karges noticed that balloons were being released. As he watched them move toward the horizon, he noticed them shifting and changing shapes, until they looked nothing like a mass of balloons but some strange spacecraft (referred to in the German lyrics as a "UFO"). He thought about what might happen if they floated over the Berlin Wall to the Soviet sector – the resulting song tells a story of 99 balloons floating into the air, triggering an apocalyptic overreaction by the military.

The song came during a period of escalating rhetoric and strategic maneuvering between the United States and the Soviet Union in the Cold War. In particular, its international chart success followed the United States deployment of Pershing II missiles in West Germany in January 1984 (which prompted protests across western Europe) in response to the Soviet deployment of new SS-20 nuclear missiles.

(Donated by Kathryn Brown)



## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- **Friday, February 2, 2018 12:00AM:** Four Chaplains Memorial Service and Vietnam Veteran Pinning.
- **Thursday, March 29, 2018, 10:00AM:** National Vietnam Veterans Day.
- **Friday, March 30, 2018, 10:00AM:** Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.
- **April 2018:** Presentation at the Ohio Genealogical Society convention.
- **Saturday, May 19, 2018, 8:30AM:** Armed Forces Day 5K Run/Walk/Roll.
- **Saturday and Sunday, May 26-27, 2018, 11:00AM – 5:00PM:** 13th Annual Patriot Freedom Festival – Theme: 150th Anniversary of the Veterans Administration.
- **Monday, May 28, 2018:** Memorial Day (observed) Open House.
- **Wednesday, May 30, 2018:** Memorial Day (actual).
- **Wednesday, July 4, 2018, 9:00AM - 5:00PM:** Independence Day open house.
- **Tuesday, September 11, 2018:** Patriot Day.
- **Friday, September 21, 2018:** National POW/MIA Day.
- **Sunday, November 11, 2018, 9:00AM to 5:00PM:** Open house in conjunction with the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center service
- **Thursday, November 22, 2018, 11:00AM:** Museum support for VA Hospice Thanksgiving Day meal and visit with patients.

- **Thursday November 22 to Friday November 30 1, 2018:** Museum is CLOSED.
- **Friday, December 7, 2018:** Pearl Harbor Day.
- **Saturday, December 15, 2018, 6:00PM:** Museum Christmas party.
- **Monday, December 24, 2018:** Museum visit to Hospice/CLC with Santa.
- **Monday, December 24, 2018:** Christmas Eve Open House.
- **Monday, December 24, 2018, 7:00PM:** Museum table in the VA Medical Center lobby in conjunction with Christmas Eve Service.
- **Tuesday, December 25, 2018 to Tuesday, January 1, 2019:** Museum is CLOSED.

### **FREE SERVICES WE PROVIDE:**

- Speakers Bureau
- Veterans Wall
- Veterans Roll of Honor
- Veterans History Project
- Operation FOOTLOCKER
- Genealogy and research archives
- Awards and Decorations Replacement

The Veterans Roll of Honor can be found at: <http://www.mvmhm.com/vroh.htm>. To submit a veteran for the Roll of Honor, or for our Veterans Wall, email their full name, rank, branch of service, service history and awards and decorations (these are optional), to our Curator at [curator@mvmhm.com](mailto:curator@mvmhm.com). You may submit only a name, or you can also include a picture; if no picture is available, the appropriate service emblem will be used. *(Note that we reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, grammar and spelling.*

### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

**Our “Wish List”:** We're looking for some specific items to fill gaps in our displays/collection – if you have any of these items, please consider donating them!

**Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican-American War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, Mexican Border Expedition:** *Anything!*

**Korea and Vietnam:** U.S. Uniforms, medals and insignia of all types, field gear, captured North Korean, Chinese and North Vietnamese / Viet Cong items. Stateside newspapers and Stars&Stripes from both wars.

**Cuban Missile Crisis / Grenada / Panama / Lebanon:** U.S. Uniforms, medals and insignia of all types, field gear, captured enemy items. Stateside newspapers and Stars&Stripes from all operations. Uniforms and insignia from USS Liberty and USS Pueblo. Stateside newspapers and Stars&Stripes from all operations.

**Operations IRAQI FREEDOM / ENDURING FREEDOM / NEW DAWN:** *Anything!*

## ***How can YOU help preserve our veterans history?***

Each day more and more of our veterans are passing away. The last veteran from World War I passed away in February 2011; our World War II veterans are dying at the rate of approximately 1,000 a day. For many younger people, conflicts as recent as Vietnam seem to be "old war movies". Unfortunately, many times when a veteran dies all of his or her history dies with them -we want to bring to life the stories of our veterans and provide a tangible link to them. Donations ensure our continued growth, and preservation of our veteran's stories. (All donors are credited on the museum's web site).

What types of things can you donate?

Uniforms

Insignias

Medals

Photographs

Captured enemy trophies

Anything that will help tell our veteran's stories, especially those from Ohio.

We can also use items that you feel may be too damaged or worn to restore. Artifacts may be used to support our educational programs such as Operation FOOTLOCKER (a virtual field trip) and the Speakers Bureau.

***Nothing is too small or insignificant!***

### ***THIS QUARTER IN MILITARY HISTORY:***

January 1, 1863: President Lincoln issues his Emancipation Proclamation during the Civil War.

January 16, 1991: Coalition air strikes open the campaign to liberate Kuwait.

January 17, 1781: Colonial Army and Militia forces defeat the British at Cowpens, S.C.

January 25, 1951: U.N. launches counteroffensive to drive North Koreans and Chinese from South Korea.

January 30, 1968: The Tet Offensive begins.

February 9, 1861: Jefferson Davis elected President of Confederate States of America.

February 11, 1951: Chinese counteroffensive begins north of Hoengsong.

February 12, 1955: President Eisenhower sends the first U.S. advisers to South Vietnam to train their Army.

February 15, 1898: Submarine mine sinks U.S. battleship *Maine* in Havana Harbor, 260 killed.

February 19, 1944: US Marines land on Iwo Jima.

February 24, 1991: Allied ground assault against Iraq begins.

February 27, 1776: North Carolina militia defeat Loyalist Scots inflicting heavy casualties at Moore's Creek bridge.

March 3, 1991: Iraq accepts conditions for a permanent cease fire.

March 7, 1945: U.S. 9th Armored Division captures the Remagen bridge intact.

March 8, 1862: Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas.

March 15, 1781: Battle at Guilford Courthouse, Guilford, NC.

March 18, 1951: United Nations forces retake Seoul.

March 19, 2003: Operation Iraqi Freedom begins.

March 30, 1972: North Vietnamese launch a major offensive across the DMZ.

### ***TRIVIA***

This quarter's question is: ***Who said "The object of war is not to die for your country but to make the other bastard die for his"?***

The Miami Valley Military History Museum is located in Building 120, the historic Putnam Library, in the Historic District of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio.

***Please note that although we are located on federal property, we receive NO funding from the Veterans Administration - we operate entirely "out of our own pockets" and with the help of unpaid volunteers.***

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Miami Valley Military History Museum  
120 Ohio Avenue  
Dayton, OH 45428

Hours of Operation: 9AM to 3PM

Monday through Friday  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month  
All Patriotic holidays  
By Appointment

*(Please note that opening hours are contingent on volunteer availability.)*

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*Official Partner in the United States Vietnam War Commemoration, the United States World War One Centennial Commission, the Imperial War Museum World War I Centenary and a member of the Small Museums Association.*

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