ZEPHYRHILLS MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY

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ZMMH NEWS

President's Comments by Cliff Moffett

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As we bid farewell to 2023, the Zephyrhills Museum of Military History proudly stands tall, reflecting on a series of accomplishments that have enriched our institution and strengthened our commitment to preserving and showcasing the rich history of our armed forces. We have navigated unprecedented challenges in the past year, adapting and evolving to ensure our mission endures. As we turn the page to a new year, our gaze is firmly set on the future, as we project ambitious plans that will continue to elevate the museum's significance and engage our community.

In the past year, the unwavering support from dedicated patrons and organizations, notably exemplified by the generous contribution of WW2 Armor's extravaganza and re-enactment enthusiasts, which has propelled our museum to new heights. With their passion for preserving the legacy of World War II, these supporters have played a pivotal role in the museum's success.

Their contributions have enriched our collection with rare and historically significant displays and fueled a surge in visitor engagement. Museum metrics tell a compelling growth story across all facets of museum operations. Attendance has seen a remarkable increase, with a record number of visitors drawn to our exhibits, events, and educational programs.

Our commitment to technological innovation will continue in the coming year, with plans to incorporate interactive displays that bring historical events to life.

As we embark on this journey into the new year, the Zephyrhills Museum of Military History remains steadfast in its dedication to honoring the past, educating the present, and inspiring the future. Through a combination of preservation, education, community engagement, and technological advancements, we are poised to make an indelible mark on the landscape of military museums, solidifying our position as a beacon of knowledge and remembrance in the years to come.

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Year in Review

Our museum surpassed all expectations this past year, defying new challenges as we delivered a rich tapestry of military experiences through our Remembrance Day events.

Vietnam Veteran Recognition

Under a Department of Defense program, The Daughters of the American Revolution recognized our Vietnam veterans for their unwavering service and sacrifice. Their dedication to freedom and valor left an indelible mark on our nation. Their bravery and commitment preserved the principles that make America strong.



Vietnam Veterans

D-Day Remembrance

On D-Day, June 6, 1944, Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, marking a pivotal moment in World War II. Thousands of brave soldiers sacrificed their lives for freedom, facing daunting odds. Their courage and resilience shaped history, securing liberty and inspiring future generations. We honored their selfless sacrifices.



D-Day Re-enactors

9/11 Remembrance

The 9/11 remembrance event captivated hearts as attendees united in solemn reflection. The ceremony commenced with a poignant tribute, featuring survivors' narratives and a moving rendition of the national anthem. Inspirational speeches emphasized the enduring spirit of the nation.



9/11 Guest Speakers

Attendees left with a profound sense of remembrance, honoring the lives lost.

Battle for Veterans

The Battle for Veterans Event by WW2 Armor surpassed all expectations, immersing attendees in a dynamic and immersive experience that paid homage to the heroes of the war. The highlight was a breathtaking live battle reenactment, meticulously choreographed to mirror historic World War II scenes. Authentic operational tanks and military equipment thundered across the battleground, creating an awe-inspiring spectacle that transported spectators back in time. Adorned in period uniforms, veterans shared gripping narratives, offering a poignant glimpse into their challenges. The event also featured a comprehensive exhibition showcasing vintage weaponry, vehicles, and wartime artifacts.



Visitors Inspecting WW2 Armor Tanks

This and That

Lecture Series

The ongoing museum lecture series offers engaging insights into military history, featuring experts who illuminate pivotal events, strategies, and the profound impact of military equipment.

US 37mm Guns in WWII

The lecture on developing the M3 anti-tank gun delves into a transformative chapter of military history. Exploring its inception during World War II, the speaker illuminates the technological advancements and strategic considerations that shaped this formidable weapon. Attendees gain a nuanced understanding of its design principles, deployment in various theaters, and pivotal role in countering enemy armor.

How did the Lieber Code approved by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862 affect the design of WWII Anti-Tank and Tank Guns? Why did six major countries develop 37mm Guns?

On Saturday 17 February at 11:00 AM US Army COL (ret) Ray Pawlicki will answer these questions.



M-3 Anti-Tank Gun

New Display

HMS Convolvulus

The museum recently lent Zephyrhills City Hall, a 1/16" scale ship model representing the HMS Convolvulus, a Flower-class corvette of the Royal Navy in World War II. Meticulously crafted by the late Jerome "Skip" Gage, and donated to the museum by Kevin Merschdorf, the miniature vessel showcases a remarkable attention to authenticity, replicating every element of a real ship. The 14' model display exudes a sense of maritime history from the finely carved hull to the delicate rigging. An avid steam locomotive enthusiast, Gage dedicated himself to this labor of love. Every detail was scrutinized with unwavering precision.

He painstakingly carved miniature cannons and rigging and meticulously replicated the ship's intricate wooden hull. If you're in the neighborhood of Zephyrhills City Hall, stop by and view this miniature masterpiece



HMS Convolvulus



ZMMH NEWS

ODDS AND ENDS

Community Partners

Community partners play a key role in the success of our museum. They provide financial assistance for special events, and, just as importantly, they support our daily operations through in-kind donations. Jelly Belly, based out of Fairfield, California has supported us with give-away packages of jellybeans for our museum visitors and event attendees. Jelly Belly Candy Company's roots date back to its founding in Illinois in 1869. It has continued to be family-owned and operated by the Rowland candy - family's fourth, fifth, and sixth generations. Recently, Jelly Belly was sold to Ferrara Candy Company, a Chicago-based company. Whether we will continue to receive the giveaway packages remains to be seen. But we want to take this opportunity to thank Herm Rowland, Sr, for his support over the years. We wish him and his family a radiant future ahead, filled with boundless opportunities for health and happiness.

Volunteers

We thank the city of Zephyrhills for its steadfast support in making our museum thrive. With no overhead costs for the museum, every aspect is driven by dedicated volunteers ensuring that monetary donations directly contribute to enriching exhibits and community engagement. The following are those that make your museum a success. Our thanks to:

Cliff Moffett	Ted Johnson
Dave Florek	Carson Murray
Wayne Gibbs	Greg Benton
Ally Hutto	Harold Hughes
Ray Pawlicki	Phil Coffey
Marcy Murray	Chris Murray
John Bolender	James Stevens

Museum Calendar

January 2024

Jan 4 — Board Meeting —11 AM

Jan 6 — Open 10 AM to 4 PM

Jan 13 — Open 10 AM to 4 PM

Jan 19 — BFV Event Review—11 AM

Jan 20 — Open 10 AM to 4 PM

Jan 27— Open 10 AM to 4 PM

February 2024

Feb 1 — Board Meeting—11 AM

Feb 3 — Open 10 AM to 4 PM

Feb 10 —Open 10 AM to 4 PM

Feb 17 — Lecture Series — 12:30 PM

Feb 24 — Open 10 AM to 4 PM

March 2024

Mar 2 — Open 10 AM to 4 PM

Mar 7— Board Meeting — 11 AM

Mar 9 — Open 10 AM to 4 PM

Mar 16 — Open 10 AM to 4 PM

Mar 23 — Vietnam Event — 10 AM

Mar 30 — Open 10 AM to 4 PM

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