April 1, 2022
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ZMMH NEWS

President's Comments by Cliff Moffett

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Still on a natural high of being selected by the Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce to receive their Diamond Award for excellence in 2021, we're hoping to keep the momentum going into 2022. But we also have to face reality. Its going to be tough to beat last year's accomplishments. But we're going to try!

To start off the new year we were fortunate to have a 1959 Grumman OV-1B Mohawk be the center of our exhibits during our first annual Vietnam Remembrance Day on March 26th at the museum.



Also available were a number of displays , and military hardware of the Vietnam era. The highlight of the event was hearing the many varied experiences the veterans shared among themselves and visitors. The downside was observing the obvious post-war sufferings of many of these veterans. Still, plans for this event next year are already in the works with attention being centered on enhancing the Vietnam veteran experience.

Our next event is D-Day which will be recognized by the museum on Saturday, June 4, 2022. The Museum will provide visitors with an up close and personal view of armored vehicles, hardware, living history, and exhibits.

While the Museum is only open Saturday's we encourage group visitations that with prior arrangements, can be held during normal weekdays. If you have a group that would like a weekday tour, please call any member of the management team to make arrangements.

Do you have any suggestions for this newsletter? How can we improve the content? What is of interest to you, the reader? Email your comments, suggestions and criticism to davef@zmmh.org.

Finally, I want to welcome our two new volunteers to the team. Ally Hutto, retired US Navy Commander and Curt Brewer, retired US Navy MSC Chief. Welcome aboard!



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Donations & Exhibits

Lack of available space limits how much we can do to expand our displays. Donated funds however provide an avenue for ongoing upgrades. For example, new mannequins have been purchased and erected with the latest being in the Korea display room where we now have a mannequin dressed in the old "Class A" blue uniform of a US Air Force Staff Sergeant.

A new mannequin dressed in WWI attire is also on display. A special thanks to Cliff Moffett for purchasing the riding pants and Greg Benton for "dressing" him up.

We were fortunate to have a visit from our 911 display donors, Mr. Steve Spelman and Mr. Dominick Maggiore of the FDNY. Steve resides in Wesley Chapel and Dominick was visiting from New Jersey. Both individuals participated in rescue operations during the attack on the Twin Towers. The two presented us with a piece of Ladder Firetruck #18 which was destroyed during collapse of the north tower. Steve will be available during our D-Day event to share his experiences with visitors.



Soon, changes in the museum will take place. As our Florida visitors from up north return home, the museum staff will begin the annual upgrade of displays during this "lull" period. First on the list is the Navy room. We'll be going through our stored inventory and with recommendations from our new volunteers which happen to be Navy retirees , we expect to have a much improved display for local visitors and when our friends return form up north.

Often, visitors will offer family items that they feel should be in a museum. Unfortunately, unless the item has historical significance or can enhance our displays, we have to decline acceptance. For those wishing to donate items, please contact Cliff Moffett or Dave Florek for instructions.

Museum Calendar

April 2022

Apr 2 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Apr 7 — Board Meeting — 11:00 AM

Apr 9 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Apr 16 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Apr 23 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Apr 30 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

May 2022

May 5 — Board Meeting — 11:00 AM

May 7 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

May 14 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

May 21 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

May 28 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

June 2022

Jun 2 — Board Meeting—11:00 AM

Jun 4 — D-Day - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Jun 11 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Jun 18 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Jun 25 — Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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Board Members



Director Harold Hughes

A graduate of East Tennessee State University, Harold enlisted and subsequently retired as a Lt. Colonel in the US Army. During his stellar military service as an aviator, he flew L-19 Birddog's and U-6A Beavers in South Korea. After 22 years of service, Harold went to work for Eastman Chemical Company performing in crafts training and production. He moved to Florida in 2020 and immediately became a volunteer at the museum.

We are continuing our synopsis of those folks that run your museum. To repeat, it has often been noted that the museum operates solely by volunteers. The City of Zephyrhills owns the building and pays for utilities, repairs and grounds keeping. Everything else is done by volunteers including personal purchases for displays and exhibit construction. Funds raised through donations go directly to exhibit production. We owe the City of Zephyrhills and the Chamber of Commerce a huge "THANKS" for their support.



Secretary Dave Florek

In 1986, after 23 years, CMSgt Dave Florek retired from the US Air Force. Specialized in aircraft maintenance, he worked on a number of aircraft including C-124s, F-4Es, C-130s, and C-5s, Following his military service, Dave worked in logistics for several aerospace companies including Aerojet/Rocketdyne. He has over 30 years experience in museum management by serving in various board and operational positions.

Legacy Brick Program

Our visitors continue to show a vast interest in our very successful Legacy Brick Program This fundraiser is a tremendous help to the museum financially. It is an ideal way to permanently memorialize parents, relatives, or friends. These personalized bricks will be featured at the museum flagpole.

Cliff Moffett
U.S. Navy
1983—1992

As previously noted, one does not have to be a military veteran or spouse to obtain an engraved brick. Presently, purchased bricks are on display in the museum and will be placed at the flagpole soon. Applications are available at the museum or may be downloaded from our website at www.zmmh.org.

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News of the Past

The museum recently became the owner of some replica local newspapers from eras gone by. Following are excerpts from the St. Petersburg Times, Monday, March 6, 1933:

Headline: Roosevelt Closes All Banks. Declares four-day holiday as drastic blow to hoarding. House and Senate convene Thursday to tackle problems of ending bank and money crisis; all banks forbidden to pay out any money.

Headline: Beer by April is Predicted. Rainey says the democratic party is ready to make good its wet promise.

Headline: Cuba Declares Bank Holiday. Reopening set for Thursday; News of U.S. action had been suppressed.

Headline: U.S. Not Off Gold Standard During Crisis. Postal savings deposits to be temporarily inaccessible.

Headline: Merchants Will Keep Business Going Here With Scrip; Many Will Accept Visitors Checks. Clearing house plan will help visitors meet expenses here.

Headline: U.S. Will Send Ambassador to Russia, Report. Recognition of Soviets is near with La Follette Tentatively picked.

Headline: Roosevelt Asks Peace Time War On Hard Times. New president addresses his first speech to Legion and all good citizens.

Headline: Japanese Airplanes Bomb Chinese in Jehol Area. Fighting continues over weekend. Heavy loses reported.

Headline: Will Rogers Sez: America hasn't been as happy in three years as they are today, no money, no banks, no work, no nothing. But they know they got a man in there who is wise to congress, wise to our big bankers, and wise to our so-called big men. The whole country is with him, even if what he does is wrong, they are with him, just so he does something. If he burned down the capital we would say "well we at least got a fire started anyhow." We have had years of "Don't rock the boat." Go on and sink it if you want to, we just as well be swimming as like we are. Yours,

Will

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Community Partners

Community Partners are partnership businesses that want to assist the Zephyrhills Museum of Military History by becoming involved in community affairs. Having them on the team with their in-kind support of our functions is deeply appreciated. We urge our visitors and friends to support them.