



NEWS FROM HOME

Volume 16 Issue 1

mvmeec.org

Spring 2025

MILITARY HISTORY DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 3RD, 2025 10:00am – 3:00pm



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ALL DAY PRESENTATIONS & DISPLAYS | FREE ADMISSION



50/50 raffle tickets are available NOW. Can be purchased by Board Members or Office. Drawing at 1:00pm.

Gift Raffle at 2:15pm.

11:00am – 2:00pm | Food & Beverages available for purchase. Provided by Scout Troop 641.

MILITARY VETERANS MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER
 4300 Poberezny Rd., Oshkosh, WI 54902
 920-426-8615 • www.mvmeec.org

TO BUILD OR NOT TO BUILD...

By Dale Anderson, President

That is the question. Ok... Perhaps that does sound a bit lame....

During the January 2025 MVMEC Board of Directors meeting, all members that were present were asked to express their opinions and concerns as to our most recent Capital Campaign attempt. In an 8-4 vote, the BOD decided to suspend it. The BOD also agreed unanimously that the future expansion of the building is a good goal for the future.

In the last two capital campaign feasibility studies (one in 2018 and one in 2023), one thing really stands out. Potential donors are not aware of our existence or overall mission. This is something that clearly needs work, but after several years of increased spending on marketing, we have been unable to really change that perception. The number one reason people stop in is the eye-catching position of the building and flag plaza. Additionally, we are getting some visitors through the museum's web sites on the internet.

There is still a definite need for increased fundraising for our organization. Two examples of future needs are:

1. The current building will need repairs as it continues to age. Roof or rooftop HVAC replacement will be quite expensive.
2. The US flagpole in the Flag Plaza is nearing failure and is in need of replacement. If you would like to see what I mean, come down during one of our windy days and watch that pole whip around. Passersby have expressed concerns that the current 4X6 US flag looks "wimpy", but our Buildings and Grounds Committee has serious doubts that the pole would survive the stresses even a 6X10 flag would place on it during heavy windy days. In addition, with the implementation of Space Force, we are short one pole if our goal is to honor all major military branches.

Assuming we are serious about eventually attaining the Phase 2 addition to our current building, we will need to add to our current savings reserve to attain that end goal. The current estimated cost of the addition is approaching \$5,000,000 (5 million dollars). The bottom line is we will need to identify and apply for monetary grants from foundations and perhaps even the Government (tourism dollars, for example) to bring in a flow of cash so we can attain the above goals. Pursuing grants is something we have yet to do.

So, what does that mean for us as an organization? During the December 2024 meeting the BOD decided to disband the Building Task Force and transfer responsibility for a possible building expansion and related fundraising to the MVMEC Executive Council. The Executive Council consists of MVMEC Board President Dale Anderson, Vice President Zach Zabel, Treasurer Joe Miller, Secretary Terri Schlack and the previous Board President Stu Tribbey. I have also asked the Fundraising Committee Chair Tom Sonnleitner to attend so we can have his insights into the issue of fundraising. We have a lot of items we will need to address as we try to lift up our level of professionalism as an organization so we can be more appealing to possible future donors.

I have heard several questions as to when the building expansion will happen. The answer is simple; when we have the money. I have also been asked if we will borrow money for the expansion. That answer is also simple; No. The risk is too great for the gains we would receive from an expansion.

I will continue to address these items in future Newsletter articles. If anyone has any questions on these issues, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached via email through Dale.Anderson@mvmec.org. Or you can call and leave a message at my Google Voice number 920-252-6352.



Military Veterans Museum & Education Center's 9th Annual Golf Tournament

All proceeds benefit the the Military Veterans Museum and Education Center.



EVENT DETAILS

Wednesday, May 28th, 2025

Lake Breeze Golf Club

6333 Ball Prairie Road

Winneconne, WI 54986

9:00 AM Registration

10:00 AM Shotgun start/scramble

\$90.00/golfer - Includes green fees,
cart, meals, & 2 drinks

Sign up as a foursome or as an individual in support
of the Military Veterans Museum.

Enjoy a great day of golfing at the
Lake Breeze Golf Club

**RAIN OR
SHINE**

Box Lunch and Dinner

- Hole Events • Raffle Prizes
- Hole Prizes • Silent Auction

Please RSVP by May 27th

Call Tom Sonnleitner at
920-420-2030 or email
tsonny4058@aol.com

**Major Sponsor:
AMCOR**

Would you like to help increase awareness of our museum on the internet?

Here are some things you can do:

1. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/MVMEC/>. “Like” and become a follower of the page. “Share” postings from the page you like with others you know on Facebook.
2. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGDEwy1rSyd05hXYTTs5WyQ>. Subscribe, “like” individual videos and hit the notification “bell” so you will be notified of future video releases. We do several videos each month.
3. Go to <https://g.page/r/CaOcSeHQA1MiEAE/review> and leave a review for the museum.

If you do these three things, you will help tweak the underlying algorithms of these sites and potentially increase the number of times other people see information about our museum and hopefully will increase visitor interest.



A “BUCKET LIST” WISH

Jack Kraszewski from Pulaski was able to cross another wish off his “bucket list”. His daughter Ruth Bloesl arranged to have about 50 family members and friends visit the MVMEC so Corporal Jack Kraszewski, soon to celebrate his 101st birthday, was able to “put his hands on ‘his’ weapon again”. During World War II, his weapon was a 50 cal. machine gun. Jack was with the US Army 553rd Anti-Aircraft Battalion in Europe. There are videos you can view on MVMEC’s Youtube and Facebook.

2025 ANNUAL APPEAL DONORS

*Judy Britton
Richard & Betty John
Leonard Kachinsky
David & Barbara Kersztyn
Thomas & Barbara Kushner
Mary & John Morelli (Honoring Robert Morelli)
Lloyd Wettstein (Plus Matching Grant from WPS Foundation)
Stuart & Lynn Tribbey
Anonymous Donor*

thank
you

Thank you for your generous support!

Funds will be used to keep our 20+ vehicles in great condition.

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT SPONSORS

The MVMEC would like to thank the following for supporting the Cornhole Tournament on March 15, 2025.

65 Insurance Group
 Alro Steel
 Aquire Restorations
 Back Again Stadium Bar
 Distillery Pub, LLC

Green Bay Packers, Inc
 Hoffmaster
 Kingsbury, Inc
 Retro's Pub LLC
 Zillges Materials, INC



DATES TO REMEMBER

- APR 14** Air Force Reserve Birthday (1948)
- APR 23** Army Reserve Birthday (1908)
- MAY** National Military Appreciation Month (1999)
- MAY 21** Armed Forces Day (1949)
- MAY 30** Memorial Day (1868)
- JUN 14** Flag Day (1916)
- JUN 14** Army Birthday (1777)
- JUN 23** Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday (1939)

LITTLE KNOWN DATES TO REMEMBER

- MAR 25** National Medal of Honor Day (2007)
- MAR 29** Vietnam Veterans Day (1974)
- APR 5** Gold Star Spouses Day (1945)
- APR 9** National Former POW Recognition Day (1984)
- APR 13** National Borinqueneers Day (2021)
- MAY 1** Silver Star Service Banner Day (2010)
- MAY 6** Military Spouse Appreciation Day (1984)
- MAY 13** Children of Fallen Patriots Day (2002) - *Recognized in 18 states including WI*
- JUN 12** Women Veterans Day (2008) - *Recognized in 13 states including WI*
- JUN 19** Juneteenth (2021)



NEW MEMBERS

Jon Branson
Travis Hartman



NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

March 25

The Medal of Honor is the United States' highest military decoration. It is awarded to armed forces members who risk their lives, act above the call of duty and fight the enemies of the United States.



For the first fifty plus years, this was the only medal for valor in the military. The youngest to receive the medal was eleven-year-old Willie Johnston during the Civil War. The only female to receive the award was at the beginning of the Civil War. Dr. Mary Edwards Walker made outstanding contributions to medicine.

The Military Veterans Museum & Education Center has dedicated a wall to the 63 Wisconsin recipients of the Medal of Honor. Come visit and hear some of their stories.

AIR FORCE RESERVE BIRTHDAY

April 14

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman created the Air Force Reserve by moving the Army Air Corps Reserve to the Air Force. The history of the Reserves goes as far back as the National Defense Act of 1916.

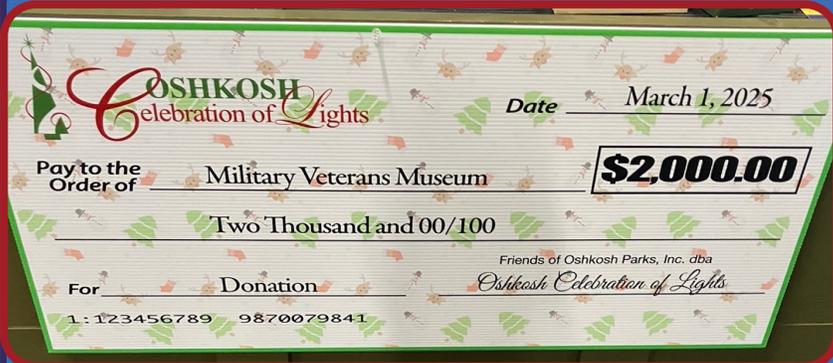
The Air Force Reserve is active in our national security and serves with other military forces in combat since the Korean War. Added to its mission, the Reserve Units deal with humanitarian assistance, disaster relief missions and counter-drug operations.



**THE MUSEUM IS LOOKING
FOR CASHIER OR TOUR GUIDE
VOLUNTEERS FOR AS LITTLE AS 4
HOURS A MONTH.**

CALL 920-426-8615

A Thank You plaque from the Veterans Museum was given to TrueNorth Store #831 on Oshkosh Avenue for participating in the hosting of the MVMEC's donation boxes. The staff shown are Tong, Carrie and Diane.



Because of the generosity of the *Oshkosh Celebration of Lights*, the MVMEC received \$2000.00 donation. Thank you for helping our staff assist the public in remembering our veterans.



MVMEC 50/50 Raffle

\$5.00 EACH - 5 FOR \$20.00

Drawing held 1:00 pm - Saturday May 3rd, 2025
At Military Veterans Museum and Education Center
You need not be present to win

- 1st PLACE EQUAL TO 25% OF TICKET SALES
- 2nd PLACE EQUAL TO 15% OF TICKET SALES
- 3rd PLACE EQUAL TO 10% OF TICKET SALES

50% to Military Veterans Museum and Education Center
4300 Poberezny Rd, Oshkosh, WI 54902

SPORTSMAN'S RAFFLE WINNERS:

12/5	Barb K	\$235	Oshkosh
12/12	Andy R	\$450	Fond du Lac
12/19	John M	\$320	Hortonville
12/26	Mary Anne A	\$1840	Neenah
1/2	JoAnne G	\$600	Milwaukee
1/9	Mark E	\$310	Chilton
1/16	Collin J	\$420	Oshkosh
1/23	Paul T	\$390	Omro
1/30	Dale P	\$570	Oshkosh
2/6	John H	\$375	Omro
2/13	Sandy M	\$320	Neenah
2/20	Travis G	\$275	Shiocton
2/27	Shaun M	\$505	Fond du Lac



Military Veterans Museum & Education Center
 4300 Poberezny Rd
 Oshkosh, WI 54902-8903

Non-profit org.
 US Postage
 PAID
 Oshkosh, WI
 Permit No. 90



COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

- Building & Grounds: Grady Freeman
- Collections: Larry Kuepper
- Executive: Dale Anderson
- Exhibits: Grady Freeman
- Fundraising: Tom Sonnleitner
- Marketing: Tony Reeves
- Membership/Volunteer: Dale Anderson
- Operations: Joe Miller
- Outreach/Education: Stu Tribbey



"Honoring our Nation's History Through Preservation and Education"

<p>Facebook</p> 	<p>MVMEC.org</p> 
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