

THE INFANTRY HERITAGE LETTER

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In the Name of Honor

The 6,895 names on the new Global War on Terrorism Memorial represent individuals who paid the ultimate price in service to their country. They were among less than one-half of one percent of Americans willing to do the job. Their loved ones continue to mourn them every day. Their monument must be worthy of their sacrifice.

When project manager Phyllis Aaron of Aaron & Clements, Inc., began work on the memorial, she learned no list already existed containing all the names the stonecutters would need. Using the government's Defense Casualty Analysis System as a source, she created Word documents listing the names of service members killed between October 10, 2001, and March 2017. Those documents were then made into graphics files, but before they could be sent to the engravers, they had to be meticulously proofread.

Columbus State University students who had served in the military -- most, in the Global War on Terrorism -- were asked to tackle the job. Nine passed a test affirming their attention to detail, and were paid a small stipend to review every letter of every name. During two full weeks of arduous proofreading, the team flagged names that might contain an error, and then additional research was done to ensure accuracy. Each name panel was proofed

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Crews have erected four of the eight granite panels that will carry the names of the fallen from the Global War on Terrorism. Nearer Heritage Walk you can see two concrete pillars that will represent the Twin Towers, and will hold the steel beam from the World Trade Center that NYC firefighters donated to the museum.

New Gallery is Perfect Birthday Gift

According to tradition, the oldest Soldier and the youngest Soldier are given the honor of cutting the cake on the Army's birthday. They did just that on June 14 at the National Infantry Museum, in celebration of the Army's 242nd birthday. And then the museum presented a grand gift: the new Securing Our Freedoms/Defining the Nation gallery.

On hand for the ribbon cutting and dedication were BG Pete Jones, Maneuver Center of Excellence Chief of Infantry; LTG (Ret) Tom Metz, National Infantry Museum Foundation Chairman and CEO; Dave Hanselman, MCoE Museums Director; and Frank Hanner, Infantry Museum Director.

The long-awaited gallery fills the chronological gap in the museum's story of the Infantry, tracing the branch's history from 1775 to 1889.



Left to right: Dave Hanselman, BG Pete Jones, Frank Hanner and LTG Tom Metz.

Meet One of the Models

1SGT Jeff Valentine and Dave Hanselman were new neighbors getting to know each other. During a casual backyard gathering, Jeff learned that Dave was the Director of Museums for the Maneuver Center of Excellence. "Hey, whatever happened to my statue?" Jeff asked.

It took a minute to register, but Dave soon learned that Jeff had posed for one of the cast figures sculpted by Brooklyn-based StudioEIS when the museum was under construction nearly ten years ago. But Jeff's figure never made it into any of the museum's exhibits.



Dave started searching and found Jeff's cast figure in storage. It was at the same time Dave's team was in the process of designing the museum's newest gallery, which chronicles the Infantry's infancy. A simple costume change transformed the unused cast figure into a Colonial musketeer circa 1650, now on display just inside the entrance of the Securing Our Freedoms/Defining the Nation gallery.

Jeff was one of a couple dozen active duty Soldiers who had the opportunity to pose for one of the museum's cast figures. The experience was not as glamorous as he imagined. "They put me in Spandex shorts, made me pose in a weird position, and then lathered me up with plaster," he recalled. Even worse, the work took the better part of two days, leaving no time to explore the Big Apple.

Now, Jeff is proud to be part of the story told in the National Infantry Museum. "I didn't do it to bring attention to myself," he said, "but to bring attention to the Infantry." He said it's a story that's not always told in the way it should be.

He enjoys showing off the exhibit to friends and family members. "They recognize me if they know me. But he (the cast figure) has a lot more hair than I have," he joked.

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Pavers to Honor Family's 158 Years of Service

The National Infantry Museum Foundation's Director of Dedications had never gotten a request quite like this one. *I want to dedicate pavers in honor of 11 siblings who all served in the military.* Ilene Kent listened to LeBronze Davis's incredible story, but was worried the family might not be able to afford such a sizable dedication.

LeBronze and 15 brothers and sisters grew up on a farm in Wetumka, Alabama. Their options after graduating high school were limited, and many chose to join the armed forces. The 11 who served, including LeBronze, eventually accumulated 158 years of military service. Five of the 11 served until retirement.

LeBronze said his family takes pride in the achievement, and he wanted them permanently recognized on Heritage Walk. He set up a GoFundMe page and eventually raised enough money to purchase four 8" by 8" pavers honoring all 11 family members. The pavers will be dedicated in a special ceremony on Labor Day 2017 in conjunction with the Davises' annual family reunion.



LeBronze Davis, far right, and four of his patriotic siblings

In the Name of Honor

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a minimum of four times by four different proofreaders. All told, 118 hours were spent on proofreading alone.

This is just one example of the kind of dedication that has gone into designing and building this memorial. It is the Foundation's hope that the loved ones of those whose names are inscribed will believe the memorial is a proper tribute to all who have served.

Construction is due to be completed this fall. A date for the dedication event has not yet been set.

Joe Gobeil and Ashley Bresnahan were two of the student-veterans tasked with proofreading all 6,895 names.

A section of Heritage Walk alongside the new Global War on Terrorism Memorial will be reserved for pavers honoring those who gave their lives in the war and those who served.

If you are interested in having a 4" by 8" granite paver placed in this exclusive section, please place your order by October 1, 2017. The pavers will be dedicated in a special ceremony on Veterans Day.

To learn more about the National Infantry Museum's commemorative paver program, call Director of Dedications Ilene Kent at 706-221-4429.

EXCLUSIVE COMMEMORATIVE PAVERS
For those who have served in the Global War on Terrorism
ORDER BY OCTOBER 1
nationalinfantrymuseum.org/pavers

Parade, Patriots and Powder at Freedom Fest



New YouTube Show Features Benning Family



On some level, it's a makeover show. But it's so much more.

"Moving with the Military" helps military families turn their house into a home -- which isn't always easy when moves happen so frequently. But before the big reveal, viewers meet the family and learn about their struggles and triumphs. The show also helps the family connect with their local community, showing them sites and attractions they may not have discovered yet.

Last month, Moving with the Military came to Fort Benning to help Jordan, a staff sergeant at Fort Benning, his wife Pamela and their three daughters. The family shared some of their challenges with PTSD, then enjoyed a day of white-water rafting, ziplining, and a VIP tour of the National Infantry Museum. Meanwhile, the crew was transforming their backyard into an outdoor oasis with cushy furniture, a large fire pit, a Golden's cast iron cooker and even an outdoor movie screen.

The program can be found on Moving With the Military's Facebook page or YouTube channel.



Volunteer Appreciation Event Defines Dedication

The audience sat patiently waiting for the honoree to walk on stage to collect her award. She was nowhere to be found. Turns out she was downstairs, setting up the party that was supposed to be in her -- and all volunteers' -- honor.

"I was just doing my job!" Holly Amant cried in defense. It was a perfect example of the selflessness exhibited by National Infantry Museum volunteers every day. At a recent Volunteer Appreciation event, while staff and volunteers listened to Chief of Infantry BG Pete Jones, Foundation Chairman LTG Tom Metz and Foundation President COL Greg Camp extoll the virtues and value of volunteers, some of the volunteers were decorating tables and putting out food.

Holly, by the way, has logged 5,040 hours as a volunteer. She, Jim Lee and Carl Fedde received awards for their exceptional dedication to the museum, each surpassing the 5,000-hour mark.

Volunteer awardees (l to r) Jim Lee, Holly Amant and Carl Fedde



Museum is Latest Stop on 9/11 Flag's Journey

A handmade flag honoring the victims and families of 9/11 and the troops fighting in the Global War on Terrorism is on temporary display at the National Infantry Museum.

The 9/11 Memorial Flag is made up of close to 3,000 small American flags sewn together, representing each of the victims of the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and Flight 93. There are also 86 national flags representing the countries the victims came from, and flags of each of the first responder organizations that participated in rescue and recovery efforts.

"United We Stand, United We Sew" was the name given to an organization of Pennsylvania and New Jersey volunteers who were looking for a way to promote healing in the wake of the attacks. The giant flag, measuring 22 feet by 32 feet, made its debut on the decks of the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York in March 2002. Since then it has traveled across the country to be displayed in the Pentagon, state capitol buildings, museums and other public venues.



Gala Guests Will Walk the Red Carpet

Whether drama or comedy, truth or fiction, moviemakers have been drawn to Fort Benning over the years to tell their military stories. Between 1941 and now, marquees carried titles like *The Green Berets*, *Tank*, *Jumping Jacks* and *We Were Soldiers*, with big-name stars like John Wayne, Mel Gibson, Dean Martin, and James Garner.

This year the National Infantry Museum will celebrate the post's silver screen legacy at the eighth annual Salute to Soldiers Gala, hosted by the Foundation's 1775 Society. The annual black tie fundraising event will be Saturday, August 19, 2017, beginning at 6 p.m. at the museum. Tickets are \$150 per person, and the event is open to the public. Members of the 1775 Society receive at least two free tickets to the gala with their membership.



Sgt. Stubby relaxes with his buddy, Pvt. Robert Conroy, in the animated feature now in production.

We Were Soldiers, in which Mel Gibson portrayed Moore as a lieutenant colonel commanding a battalion of the 7th Cavalry Regiment during one of the deadliest battles of the Vietnam War.

12th Infantry Regiment Dedicates Memorial

A new monument honoring the 12th Infantry Regiment was dedicated on the National Infantry Museum's Memorial Walk of Honor during the group's reunion in late May. Among the attendees were representatives of the regiment's two active duty battalions and dozens of Vietnam Veterans and their families from around the country.



One of the gala's special guests will be Hollywood newcomer Sgt. Stubby. Sgt. Stubby was the brave, tenacious and irresistible mutt who became the United States Army's most decorated dog during World War I. He was the first canine in American history to be promoted to the rank of Sergeant in recognition of keen instincts and fierce loyalty. His true story is be-

ing told in a feature-length animated film in production in Columbus, Canada and France. It will be distributed by Columbus-based Fun Academy Studios. One of four premieres will be held at the National Infantry Museum's Giant Screen Theater next spring.

The gala's silent auction will feature dozens of unique items, including a trip to Los Angeles with a three-night stay at the glamorous Fairmont Miramar Hotel, a private tour of the city and a gift certificate to The Ivy. Other items this year include a private pastry lesson and wine tasting with Chef Rizzo at My Boulange, a mountain getaway to North Carolina, a private tour and tasting at Richland Rum and fabulous pieces of art by local artists such as Adleyn Scott, Eve Tidwell, and Bo Bartlett.

It's Your Day Catering Chef Jeff Brammer will prepare an elegant gourmet meal, and there'll be hours of dancing after dinner.

Money raised from ticket sales and the silent auction will go toward the creation and maintenance of the new Global War on Terrorism Memorial. For tickets or more information about the gala, or to join the 1775 Society, call Jane Bayer at 706-685-2604. Ticket sales will close no later than August 14.



Final Farewell to Heroes and Friends

The recent losses of two beloved volunteers has left a hole in the museum's heart.

Both were Army veterans, and both considered it an honor to give their time to an organization that honors all the men they served with.

Dave Ermi died on June 26, at the age of 65. He served 24 years in the Army and later worked as a Sheriff's Deputy for the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office.

Fellow volunteers describe him as perhaps the friendliest of them all. He would come "blasting into the museum" each day with a huge smile, anxious to work. He loved greeting visitors and showing them the way. And, he always had a story to tell.



Dan Terry



Dave Ermi

Dan Terry was 78 years old when he died on July 5. Dan enlisted in the Army in 1957, and later attended OCS. During Vietnam he led his troops through some of the fiercest fighting of the war, and sustained injuries that plagued him the rest of his life.

"For all of Dan's injuries, he never complained about hurting," said friend Jean McKee. "He was always upbeat and made everyone he came in contact with feel super. You never saw him without a smile. He was truly a great man and Soldier."

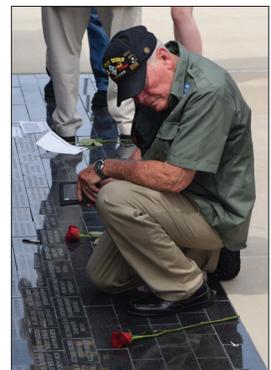
The museum is proud to have known both these brave men, and was fortunate to benefit from their passion for the military. We thank their families for sharing them with us.

The Meaning of Memorial Day

As more than 200 new commemorative pavers were dedicated on Heritage Walk, CSM John Brady of the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning talked about the true meaning of Memorial Day, which he summed up in one word: sacrifice. He talked about losing friends in combat, and wondered how much harder it must be on family members. Then he encouraged attendees to turn and greet the people sitting around them, to show appreciation for each other while we still can.

"The steep price paid for our freedom is paid by so few but for so many," he said. "It has been paid by blood, sweat and tears and by so many selfless individuals over the course of so many decades to protect our freedom and keep us safe."

Every Memorial Day and Veterans Day, the Patriot Guard provides an honor guard for the dedication event. Loved ones then make rubbings of their pavers to take home. Later, local Scouts demonstrate to patriots of all ages how to properly dispose of torn or tattered flags.



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The National Infantry Foundation was established in 1998 to honor our nation's Infantrymen, past, present and future, and to preserve their legacy. The Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Army, is committed to sharing their legacy through the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Patriot Park.

The museum project is sponsored, in part, by the U.S. Department of Defense. The content of this newsletter does not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Government and no official endorsement should be inferred.

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