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# ROCKY MOUNTAIN MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY THE GREEN GUIDON

A non-profit Museum located in the Fort Missoula Historic District

RMMMMH  
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 Missoula MT 59807

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Hours:  
 Winter-Spring – Sat. & Sundays 12-5  
 June 1 thru Labor day- daily 12-5  
 Other times by appointment

## RMMMMH OFFICERS 2006-2007

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## USS Missoula Makes Port At RMMMMH

The USS Missoula has finally arrived in its namesake city. After a year of construction, the Museum has taken delivery of a \$14,000 model of the World War II attack transport USS Missoula. The model is now on display in the Museum's entry hall, but the RMMMMH has only commenced its commemoration of the special connection between the WW II Battle of Iwo Jima and Western Montana.

The USS Missoula (APA-211) was an attack transport, and built for the purpose of carrying Marines and landing craft. A ship of the Haskell class, the USS Missoula carried a crew of 56 officers and 480 men; and fully loaded, an additional 86 Marine officers and 1475 enlisted men. The ship also carried an armament of one 5"/38 dual purpose gun mount, 4 twin 40mm gun mounts, and 1 20mm gun mounts. Fully loaded, the USS Missoula could carry 2900 tons of cargo. The USS Missoula was launched on September 6, 1944 at Richmond, Calif. and scrapped in the 1960's.

The USS Missoula was assigned to the operation against Iwo Jima in February of 1945, and took on a complement of Marines from the 28th Regiment of the 5th Marine Division.

These Marines were tasked with the capture of Mount Suribachi, at the island's southern end.

Among their number was PFC Louis Charlo of Western Montana's Salish tribe, and a descendent of Chief Charlo. On February 23, Charlo and a detachment of Marines reached the summit of Mt. Suribachi, and raised the first U.S. flag over the summit. The flag was provided from the USS Missoula. U.S. Navy Secretary James Forrestal witnessed the flag raising and requested possession of the flag, which is now at the U.S. Marine Corps Museum at Quantico, Va.

A replacement flag was raised and immortalized in the photo by the late Joe Rosenthal of the Associated Press. Charlo was later killed in action during the remainder of the Iwo Jima battle.

**On Armed Forces Day, Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.,** the RMMMMH will commemorate the USS Missoula and PFC Charlo with a new, permanent Iwo Jima exhibit featuring period USN and USMC artifacts from the Pacific War. Representation from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Charlo family. will be on hand.

The model was built by Raven Arts International of Seattle, Washington, constructed in 1/96 scale. See **USS Missoula** page 2

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**USS Missoula** continued...

Nearly five feet long, the model also incorporates special brass detailing and replica rigging, and fully represents the Lane Victory Ship design prevalent in this sort of U.S. naval construction during World War II.

The Museum will also take the occasion to thank the donors who financed the model, as well as the CSKT's tribe's support of the project.

A special guest will be Missoula resident Bill Worf, who served as a Marine on Iwo Jima before coming on to a long and distinguished career with the U.S. Forest Service.

The Museum will also feature its second annual vintage and contemporary military vehicle show.

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On **Memorial Day, May 28, at 2:00** o'clock, we will honor U.S. Navy and Marine Corps veterans of all eras with our annual presentation of Certificates of Appreciation. If you would like a Certificate made up for a living or deceased veteran, or their representative, to receive at the ceremony, please contact the Museum at 549-5346. Refreshments will be served and additional Navy-themed items will be on display. Both events will be held at Building T-316 at Fort Missoula

MUSEUM RECEIVES NEW  
COLLECTION OF  
HISTORICAL WEAPONS

In April the RMMMh benefited from a generous donation of vintage weaponry through the Montana State Crime Lab. These guns, secured by the Crime Lab in the 1990's, have been completely demilitarized. They add an important component to the Museum's armaments collection, and demonstrate the development of automatic weapons during the World Wars.

The collection includes a German Maxim Model 1908 machine gun from WWI, a German MG 42, a German Schmeisser Model 2811 machine pistol, a German late-war MG 42, a WWII German bazooka anti-tank weapon, WWII Japanese Type 99 and 92 machine guns, a WWII Japanese "knee mortar," and a US Model 2811 "grease gun" submachine gun. These artifacts are now on display at the RMMMh's gun vault.

The RMMMh expresses its thanks to Bill Unger and Travis Spinder of the Montana Forensic Sciences Division for their help in this matter

KOREA-VIETNAM  
GALLERY UPDATE

The Museum continued work on the Korea-Vietnam Gallery over the winter, and in the process was able to create some new display space in the Bldg. T-316 central corridor. The carpet will be installed soon.

We're preparing Vietnam materials to accompany the substantial Korean-era submissions already in hand.

Museum Intern Sierra Stief is collecting Vietnam-era memoirs from local veterans for incorporation in the exhibit, and would be willing to hear from Korean veterans as well. We are especially interested in perspectives from enlisted personnel. To contact Sierra, call the Museum at 549-5346

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FRONTIER GALLERY NAMED  
FOR KAREN K. JONES

The RMMMh Board of Trustees recently voted to name the Frontier Gallery for Karen Kempel Jones of Missoula, who recently passed away after a two-year battle with cancer.

From helping with the July 4 barbecue to aiding the Museum's fundraising efforts with her local contacts, Karen was instrumental and critical in moving the RMMMh from concept to actual operation. She will be greatly missed.

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We are a private non-profit museum. If you no longer wish to receive the RMMMh Newsletter; please send us a postcard stating that you wish to be removed from our mailing list. If you have moved and wish to continue receiving the newsletter, please send us a change of address card.

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RMMMh NEWSLETTER - NOW "THE GREEN GUIDON"!

For some time we have been searching for an appropriate name for our newsletter, and it was right beside us in spirit all along. From 1935 and possibly through 1941, the original "Green Guidon" was published under Army auspices by the Civilian Conservation Corps at Fort Missoula. The Green Guidon chronicled the happenings of the CCC within the Fort Missoula District. The corpsmen-edited publication utilized camp reports, official announcements, and original illustrations. The RMMMh has in its possession a partial set of the newsletter, and hopes to receive additional copies from donors in the future. To keep alive the name of this historic chronicle, this and future RMMMh newsletters will carry the "Green Guidon" name on our masthead

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FORT MISSOULA CEMETERY STORIES IN STONES

The Second annual Fort Missoula Cemetery STORIES IN STONES will be presented by the RMMMh and the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, on **SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2008 1-3 P.M.** Come and join us as we tell the history of the Cemetery; and stories of some of the men, women, and children that are buried there. This year we are telling several new stories that include a WWII Philippine -Japanese POW survivor; a WWII "Flying Tiger", and others.

THANKS TO VOLUNTEER JAMES SIMS

The Museum expresses special thanks to Sgt. James Sims, USAR, who has volunteered much time and effort to the RMMMh during the period of his retirement transition from the Army. Sgt. Sims has been most helpful in finding material for the Museum's collections, manning the front desk, and providing additional restoration work on the guardhouse, near T-310; including a new coat of paint, and finding a period calendar. He will be leaving Montana soon to take care of family property in Pennsylvania this summer, but we hope he will soon return as a permanent Montana resident.

Sims, and Ken Casper, at the US Army Reserve Center, have been very instrumental in helping with the Stories In Stones project. Sims and Casper arranged access to the burial records to us for verification. Sims, and volunteers Paul and Luanna Fossler, and their son Wesley, who came from Coram, and Don and Marcia Porter, removed the trunk of the tree that fell on the cemetery's back fence. All portions of the fence that could be straightened are back in place. And thanks to Jerry Rude's help with his acetylene torch, even the spikes that were bent down are now upright. There's still work to do, but it looks much better! Thanks to all of you.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

- Tom Seekins - World War II uniforms
- Don Porter - Museum sound system
- Michael Bragg - WW II footlocker and related items
- Hayes Otoupalik - UH-1H helicopter parts
- Kermit Edmonds - U.S. Army items, WW II through 1970's
- Kathy Samuelson - US Army women's uniforms
- Chris Faletti-US Army Reserve – Display case
- John C. Mallory - 1890's U.S. Army Merriam Pack
- M. Blanche Shafman - USS Helena Material
- James Sims - U.S. Army Goretex woodland pattern jacket

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53RD ANNUAL ORIGINAL MISSOULA GUN AND ANTIQUE SHOW

August 8, 9 and 10, 2008  
Adams Center, UofM Fieldhouse, Missoula, Montana  
For further information contact:  
Chairman Hayes Otoupalik 406-549-4817 or write:  
Missoula Gun Show, PO Box 17002, Missoula, MT 59808

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The RMMMh is now a Member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

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**“WINDOWS TO THE PAST” ARE STILL AVAILABLE .**

FOR ONLY \$250.00 YOU CAN PURCHASE A WINDOW TO DEDICATE FOR A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE  
FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MUSEUM.OR CALL US AT 549-5346

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The RMMMh is a private 501 (c)3 non-profit Institution. Contributions are tax-deductible to the amount allowed by law. Your continued support for our exhibits and programs are most welcome.

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The Museum offers memberships on several levels.

**MEMBERSHIP IS RENEWABLE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS, ON VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11.**

- \_\_\_\_ Youth-under age 18--- \$10.00
- \_\_\_\_ Adult-----\$25.00
- \_\_\_\_ Family-----\$50.00
- \_\_\_\_ Business-----\$100.00
- \_\_\_\_ Lifetime -----\$500.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

If you are renewing your membership, please check your address for accuracy, and note any corrections on the form.

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please make checks payable to: RMMMh**

**Mail to : PO Box 7263 Missoula MT 59807**



**RMMMMH**

Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History  
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Missoula MT 59807

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We're on the Web  
[www.geocities.com/fortmissoula](http://www.geocities.com/fortmissoula)

A private non-profit museum promoting the commemoration  
and study of the U.S. armed services from the Frontier  
Period to the War on Terrorism.

LABEL

**DONATIONS NEEDED!!**

We are accepting donations for our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual  
COLLECTORS sale!! We would appreciate any antiques,  
collectibles, or good quality items that you no longer want.

All proceeds from the sale of the items will go  
toward building restoration.

We can arrange to have items picked up if necessary.

Give us a call at **549-5346**, or **549-6280**

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**WE WILL NOT ACCEPT MILITARY ITEMS  
FOR THIS SALE.**

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**ANNUAL JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION  
COLLECTORS SALE!**

At the T/4 Laverne Parrish Building at Fort Missoula  
Join us between 8-5, on the 4<sup>th</sup> and  
see what bargains are available!

**BARBECUE!!!**

We'll also have our annual barbecue, on the 4<sup>th</sup>,  
so shop till you drop, and grab a dog or burger while  
you are there. Come and enjoy the fun!!

**SUMMER PROGRAMS AT RMMMMH**

All programs are at 3:00 on Sunday afternoon, in the  
Parrish Building, unless otherwise noted.

**RMMMMH UPCOMING EVENTS**

May 17: 2:00 p.m. Armed Forces Day, Dedication of  
USS Missoula -PFC Louis Charlo Exhibit, and  
Military Vehicle Show

May 28: 2:00 p.m. Memorial Day, Presentation of  
Certificates of Appreciation to USN/USMC  
Veterans,

June 28 1-3 p.m.: Stories in Stones, Fort Missoula Post  
Cemetery.

July 4: Annual Fourth of July Celebration, Ft. Missoula;  
Sale and Barbecue at RMMMMH.

**CURRENT MUSEUM EXHIBITS**

"The Ultimate Sacrifice: Montanans in Battle"

"Glory Road: The Civil War in the Mid-Atlantic States,  
1862-63"

"The U.S. Army vs. the Depression: Fort Missoula and  
the Civilian Conservation Corps"

"The World Conflict, 1914-45"

"Bluecoats in the Big Sky: Montana, the Army, and the West  
1795-1898"

\*\*\* MUSEUM HOURS: **MEMORIAL DAY THROUGH LABOR DAY DAILY 12-5** \*\*\*