



ROCKY MOUNTAIN MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY THE GREEN GUIDON

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

RMMM
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Missoula MT 59807

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[remove geocities for 2010](http://www.fortmissoula.org)
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E-mail:
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Hours:
Winter-Spring – Sat. & Sundays 12-5
June 1 thru Labor day- daily 12-5
Other times by appointment

RMMM OFFICERS 2008-2009

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Museum President Emeritus M.Y. "Bo" Foster Awarded French Legion of Honor

All of Missoula took great pride last summer as one of its own was awarded France's highest civilian award for public service. The current President Emeritus of the Museum, retired Brigadier General M.Y. "Bo" Foster, was invested as a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. The award is comparable in rank to the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom. The award was created by Napoleon I in 1802 to acknowledge services rendered to France by persons of great merit.

The French envoy to the United States, Ambassador Pierre Vimont, noted that the award "testifies to the President of the French Republic's high esteem for your merits and accomplishments...it is a sign of France's true and unforgettable gratitude and appreciation for your personal, precious contribution to the United States' decisive role in the liberation of our country during World War II." As a U.S. Army Captain in World War II, Foster flew an artillery liaison aircraft for the U.S. 36th Infantry Division.

At Fort Missoula's Heritage Hall on July 22, 2009, Foster formally received his Legion of Honor. Before 300 who gathered in his honor, Colonel Matt Quinn of the Montana Army National Guard reviewed his career: "Foster did not have an ordinary career by any stretch of the imagination.."

"What BG Foster did with [organizing] the 443rd Field Artillery Battalion in Missoula, Mt. post-WWII was nothing short of extraordinary ...[at the 1959 Montana state prison riot] the comrade BG Foster did not leave behind was a group of fellow Montana citizens...[one saying] 'those folks can credit their lives to the quick decisions and actions of BG Foster.' No greater tribute can be given to a Montana Guardsman. [In the Montana floods of 1964] BG Foster's tactical leadership was again put to the test...for 36 hours straight, without rest, BG Foster led the relief, deploying soldiers and equipment throughout Montana...in 1971 BG Foster retired from the Guard, but not from serving the citizens of Montana...for that we should all be grateful."

The medal was then formally presented by Missoula's Honorary Consul for the French Republic, Chantal Davoine-Moser. Her thanks for Foster's service was then followed by the Missoula City Councilman Dick Haines' presentation of a City of Missoula Proclamation of July 22, 2009 as BG Bo Foster Day in Missoula.

For all of us here at the RMMM, the honor of association with General Foster has been ours alone. We congratulate him on receiving this fitting tribute for a lifetime of service.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS:

Tottie Parmeter - WW II and general military history books
 Lt. Carl J. Williams, USNR - Iraq War items.
 Raymond C. Backstrom - Vietnam War field gear.
 Jeffrey Cole - Vietnam War and WWII USS Mississippi items.
 Gary Lancaster family - WWII newspapers and manuals.
 William Evan Jones - Old West artwork.
 Truman K. Tolson - Vietnam uniform items, modern field manuals.
 G. Berwick - Military History magazine.
 Charles Umphrey - Company of Military Historian prints, military history journals.
 Laura Guoley - WW II parachute.
 Terry Loveland - German military armband, Moroccan dagger.
 Connie Baylor - Korean War photos.
 Debra Dibble - WWII USN uniforms and paper items.
 Earl Shenck Family - WWII 10th Mountain Division items.
 H.B. Seines - WWI letter of greeting to US troops from King George V
 Tommy Tristan-military patches.
 Jeff Shaara -WWII book collection.
 Gerald and Ethel Diettert-military book collection.
 US Army Reserve-Official US Army History of World WarII multivolume series, bookshelves.

FROM THE FILES OF THE CCC'S GREEN GUIDON:

October 15, 1935: "It happened on October 2 at noon. Four enrollees from (Civilian Conservation Corps) Company 954, Camp Goat Creek, left their lunches beside the road and went to work, industriously piling brush. Old Bruin, in search of sustenance, came along and took the lunch. The men had no objections and no lunch...In order to more fully emphasize the importance of safety in the CCC camps in the Fort Missoula District, a copy of J.C. Furness's already famous article which appeared in the Readers Digest a short time ago, 'And Sudden Death,' has been sent to all companies."

MUSEUM RECEIVES GRANT

The Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History has been the recipient of a \$10,000 grant from the Jane Hemen Foundation which will be used for the construction of a classroom in the main building.

The grant will allow the museum to have an established location to focus on its efforts to educate the public on the military history of the United States, and on the past and ongoing sacrifices of our men and women in uniform.

Mr. John Dayries, Director of the Hemen Foundation, presented the check at the museum to General M.Y. "Bo" Foster, president emeritus of the board on July 6th, 2009. The completion date of the classroom is scheduled for March 1, 2010

VETERAN'S DAY EVENT

The Museum will be celebrating Veteran's Day on Sunday, November 8. Certificates of appreciation will be presented to honor all veterans who were prisoners of war, and to surviving family of POW veterans. The event will feature the experiences of Richard Peschel, U.S. Army, who fought in World War Two on the Philippine Island of Corregidor until it was surrendered by U.S. forces to the Japanese army in May of 1942. Peschel spent the next 40 months interned by the Japanese under horrific conditions until he was finally released in Tokyo in late August 1945. The event will begin at 2 p.m. The public is cordially invited. Refreshments will be served. If you wish to receive a certificate, please call Tate Jones 549-5346, or Dennis Gordon, 549-6280.

SPECIAL THANKS:

Sierra Stief, RMMMh intern, for a years' work on design and execution of the Vietnam exhibit.
 Monte Bowker and Richard Christian, our Experience Works trainees, for Summer 2008 front desk duty and building/grounds maintenance.
 Ted Kirschmann, for his continued work on the Building T-316 restoration.

RMMMh CONTINUES DEVELOPMENT OF ARCHIVES

RMMMh Executive Director Tate Jones in September visited the National Archives Archives II research facility at College Park, Maryland. While there he was able to reproduce a number of items from Record Group 394 pertaining to Fort Missoula operations in the 1930's. These include lists of serving officers, the post's daily diary, disciplinary proceedings and select personnel actions. Jones notes "While this is in no way a comprehensive copy of the National Archives' total holdings, it will allow us to continue rebuilding the Fort's records and allow us a foundation for future archival collection. These reports are rather formal and minimal in style, but they do paint a broader picture of who was doing what at the post during the CCC years." The files will be open to researchers at the RMMMh's F. Morris and Helen Silver Research Library. Our thanks to Louise Marmion of Baltimore, Md. for her help with this project.

MUSEUM RECEIVES FIRST DETAILED IRAQ WAR COLLECTION

The Museum conveys special thanks to Lt. Carl J. Williams, USNR (Dillon, Mt.), who has donated many unique Iraq-related and naval items this fall. Lt. Williams with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the Persian Gulf during 1992, and with the USN in Iraq more recently. Among his recoveries are marble fragments from the Baath Party Convention Center in Baghdad; a chandelier fragment from Saddam Hussein's Perfume Palace near Camp Slayer, Baghdad; a possible fragment of the first U.S. Tomahawk missile launched during the 2003 campaign; a life ring from the NOAA ship S-222 Mt. Mitchell, which observed the effects of Saddam's 1991 oil discharge into the Gulf; a life ring from the WW II Victory Ship USS Las Vegas; a 2003 deck of Iraq's Most Wanted playing cards; a photo overview of Pearl Harbor taken prior to the 1941 Japanese attack; and numerous Iraq War personal items. We thank Lt. Williams for his contributions, and for his ongoing service

IN MEMORIAM

The Museum wishes to extend condolences to:

MEMORIAL DAY 2010: HONOR YOUR
CIVIL WAR ANCESTOR

The family of Joe Schrage. Joe, a USAF veteran, and his wife Vi served as RMMMh board members for many years, and provided much hands-on assistance to Museum projects. Joe was instrumental in building contacts and goodwill for the RMMMh around the Bitterroot Valley.

The family of Neal Davis. A former USN destroyer escort crewman, Davis came to the RMMMh through the Experience Works program in 2008, and that summer manned the Museum's front desk.

The family of Robert A. Svoboda. A UM graduate, WWII USN veteran and California banker, Svoboda provided financial support to many RMMMh and Fort Missoula endeavors over the years. He enjoyed collecting Montana memorabilia, some of which may be accessed on the Museum's website; he recently helped sponsor acquisition of the USS Missoula model.

The family of Tom Peterson. A retired U.S. Navy Seabee, Tom helped with aspects of the Museum's early restoration, and with many aspects of the physical plant's upkeep. He also donated a number of models to the Museum's exhibits.

We will miss these men who so generously gave of their time to benefit the RMMMh.

If you are a Civil War buff, then the next six years will be your Super Bowl! From 2010 to 2015 the nation will be marking the U.S. Civil War Sesquicentennial, with commemorations and retrospectives on all aspects of the conflict's many 150th anniversaries. Here at the RMMMh, we do not have a battlefield to promote - but we will have just about everything else! We have a special program in the works for Lincoln's Birthday 2010. But we especially invite your participation this coming Memorial Day in 2010, when we will again be presenting Certificates of Commemoration. We will be offering them to descendants of all Union and Confederate Civil War veterans, accompanied by a special program centered on the start of the Civil War Sesquicentennial. If you would like to have your ancestor honored at the event or simply would like a certificate mailed to you, please contact the Museum at our usual email address or call us at 549-5346. Please include your ancestor's rank, name, and unit if possible.

**NOVEMBER IS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
MONTH.**

If you are already a member, it's time to renew.
If you would like to become a member, use the form on the bottom of this page. We appreciate your support!!

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

“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

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.

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 _____

E-mail address: _____ Amt. Enclosed _____

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

Please make checks payable to: RMMMh

Mail to : PO Box 7263 Missoula MT 59807



RMMMMH

Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History
PO Box 7263
Missoula MT 59807

NONPROFIT ORG
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Missoula MT 59801

We're on the Web
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

We are always accepting donations for our 10th Annual
COLLECTORS sale, next July 4th. 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**

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

We are a private non-profit museum.
If you no longer wish to receive the RMMMMH Newsletter;
please send us a postcard stating that you wish to be
removed from our mailing list or call us at 406-549-5346.
If you have moved and wish to continue receiving the
newsletter, please send us a change of address card.
Thank You.

FALL-WINTER PROGRAMS AT RMMMMH
All programs are at 3:00 on Sunday afternoon, in
Building,T-316 unless otherwise noted.

RMMMMH UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 8 - Veterans Day Weekend Event - Tribute to American POW's. 2:00.
- December 20 -Museum Christmas Party, public welcome;1-4
- February 13 - Lincoln's Birthday Weekend, Civil War Sesquicentennial; presentation; 2:00.
- May 15 - Armed Forces Day; 4th Annual Military Vehicle Show, 12-5,
- May 2010 - Memorial Day Weekend - Presentation of Civil War Certificates of Commemoration..
- June 2010 - Stories in Stones, Date TBA.

CURRENT MUSEUM EXHIBITS

- "The Ultimate Sacrifice: Montanans in Battle"
- "Glory Road: The Civil War - 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"
- "Morning Calm to Big Muddy: Montana- and the Asian Wars, 1950-75."

*** MUSEUM HOURS: **LABOR DAY THROUGH MEMORIAL DAY - WEEKENDS 12-5** ***