



# Freedom's Voice

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Military History Center

112 N. Main ST  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
<http://www.okmhc.org/>



MILITARY HISTORY  
CENTER

## "Promoting Patriotism through the Preservation of Military History"

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## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



### A Thousand Reasons

The theme of the Military History Center's current fund raising campaign, "A Thousand Reasons", is the answer to the question, "Why do we exist"? There might be many answers to this question, but one simple and obvious one is the many more than 1,000 Oklahomans who have given their lives for their country from World War I to the present.

Prior to the Veterans Day Patriotic Concert, the Military History Center hosted a luncheon in honor of the many patriotic, local citizens who donated \$1,000 or more to the current fundraising campaign. Some of them are showcased in this newsletter.



Dr. Clarence Oliver, Jr., Tom Mancino BG USA (Ret.) and President of the Military History Center, and Broken Arrow Vice-Mayor, Richard Carter, at the luncheon

### Veterans Day Patriotic Concert

On Sunday, November 8, the Military History Center presented a Veterans Day patriotic concert at the Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center. A Broken Arrow High School vocal group opened the concert with the "Star Spangled Banner" and two other patriotic songs. The Pride of Fort Sill, the 77<sup>th</sup> Army Band, was the featured performance. The Band performed an eclectic repertoire ranging from Scottish pipers to rock to country to traditional patriotic music. The concert was very well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy the performance.



77<sup>th</sup> Army Band conducted by Warrant Officer One Jac'kel Smalls

The Band is not just composed of members whose only mission is pomp and ceremony or entertainment in comfortable surroundings. Several of its members have been deployed to combat zones.



## 77<sup>th</sup> Army Band

The Band was constituted March 1, 1907, in the Regular Army as the 13<sup>th</sup> Band, Coast Artillery and activated at Fort Du Pont, DE. After World War I, it was reorganized and re-designated as the Band Section, Headquarters Battery, 16<sup>th</sup> Coast Artillery at Fort Armstrong, Territory of Hawaii. Next it was withdrawn from Headquarters Battery and re-designated as the Band, 16<sup>th</sup> Coast Artillery, in July 1927.

After earning Central Pacific and Western Pacific Campaign Streamers in World War II, the Band, 16<sup>th</sup> Coast Artillery was reorganized and re-designated on May 23, 1944, as the 77<sup>th</sup> Army Ground Forces Band. The 77<sup>th</sup> Army Ground Forces Band was inactivated November 29, 1946, on Saipan, but became the 77<sup>th</sup> Army Band on April 15, 1947 and was reactivated May 1, 1947, in the Philippines as the 77<sup>th</sup> Army Band (Philippine Scouts). It was inactivated June 1, 1949, then activated November 1, 1951, at Fort Huachuca, AZ as the 77<sup>th</sup> Army Band. It was inactivated May 8, 1953.

The Band was finally activated February 24, 1955, at Fort Sill, OK, where it has remained. It has served under many different headquarters at Fort Sill and is currently aligned with the Fires Center of Excellence, but since its latest activation, it has been "The Pride of Fort Sill!". (Visit the Band's website at <http://sill-www.army.mil/77thband/>.)



### Important Dates

December 24 thru January 1 – Christmas/New Year Holidays  
**Military History Center Closed**



Broken Arrow High School vocal group



Jim Langdon, Jane and Henry Primeaux at the luncheon



BG (Ret.) Ed Wheeler, a major supporter of the MHC, at the Northeast Tulsa Active Timers Veterans Day lunch.

## Museum Hours and Admission Fee

Tuesday – Friday: 10:00 – 4:00; Saturday: 10:00 – 2:00  
Closed Sunday and Monday and major Federal holidays

Adults – \$5.00

Members and Children under 18 – Free

**FOR MORE INFO CALL (918) 794-2712**

## Brick Flag Plaza

The first section of 500 bricks for the Memorial Flag Plaza was installed two years ago. Ultimately the entire grass area of the Flag Plaza will be paved with memorial bricks. The bricks are intended to memorialize any veteran of the U. S. military services from the Revolutionary War to the present. Anyone wanting to memorialize his or her military service or that of a parent, grandparent or more distant ancestor has the opportunity to do so. It may also be a generic memorial. One patron memorialized the Unknown Soldier. Several families have purchased bricks with only their family names on the bricks.



Bricks are \$100 each with four lines of text of eighteen characters each, including spaces. You may want to choose a service logo to be lasered on the brick. A brick with a service logo is \$150 of four text lines of nine characters each, including spaces.

## Support the Military History Center

Do you want to support the Military History Center's mission of "Promoting Patriotism by Preserving Military History"? If so, contact the Military History Center at (918) 794-2712 to learn how you can be a supporter.

There's something to accommodate everyone's budget. Monetary donations, as well as gifts in kind, are tax deductible, subject to IRS regulations.

Please be a part of this unique opportunity to support a first-class military museum and history center in Oklahoma.

## Day of Infamy

At 7:48 a.m. Hawaiian time (11:48 a.m. Oklahoma time), Sunday, December 7, 1941, 353 Japanese fighters, bombers and torpedo planes in two waves, launched from six aircraft carriers attacked the US Pacific Fleet anchored at Pearl Harbor. All eight battleships moored at the base were damaged, with four being sunk – *Arizona*, *California*, *Oklahoma* and *West Virginia*. The Japanese also sank or damaged three cruisers, three destroyers, an anti-aircraft training ship and one minelayer, destroyed 188 aircraft, almost all on the ground, killed 2,402 Americans, almost half of them aboard *Arizona*, and wounded 1,282 more. Important base installations such as the power station, shipyard, maintenance, fuel and torpedo storage facilities, as well as the submarine piers and headquarters building (also home of the intelligence section) were not attacked.

*California* and *West Virginia* were later raised, repaired and reentered the war. *Oklahoma* was also raised, but too badly damaged to be repaired, was sold for scrap. While being towed to San Francisco in 1947, the tow line broke and the ship sank. *Arizona* rests on the bottom of Pearl Harbor as a tomb and memorial to her crew.

Japanese losses were light: twenty-nine aircraft and five midget submarines. Sixty-five Japanese servicemen were killed or wounded. One sailor from a midget submarine was captured.

On the day following the attack – December 8 – Congress declared war on Japan. Germany and Italy declared war on the United States on December 11, which was reciprocated by the United States the same day.

Because of the lack of a declaration of war or any formal warning by the Japanese government, particularly while negotiations were ongoing, President Roosevelt called December 7, 1941, "a date which will live in infamy".



USS *Arizona* Memorial



## This Month's Featured Exhibit



This month's featured exhibit is an authentic 1904 McClelland saddle and a 1907 saddle blanket. The artifacts were donated by Scott Sutterfield (shown above), who restores, or as he would say, rescues, McClelland saddles.

The McClelland style saddle was designed by Captain George B. McClelland (later a major general during the Civil War). The War Department sent McClelland to Europe in April 1855 as part of a military commission to study developments in European tactics, weaponry and logistics. After he returned, McClelland proposed a cavalry saddle that he claimed was a modification of a Hungarian model used in the Prussian service. The saddle was almost certainly a modification of the Spanish tree saddle in common use in Mexico during this period, and which had become common in some parts of the US.

The McClelland saddle continued in use in various forms until the US Army's last horse cavalry and horse artillery units were dismounted in World War II. Today, the McClelland saddle is used by ceremonial mounted units in the US Army.

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## Coweta Mission Civil War Weekend

This year, the Military History Center assumed sponsorship of the Coweta Mission Civil War Weekend. The eighth annual event was held October 23-25 at the farm of Mr. Arthur Street, located southeast of Coweta. Mr. Street was born in England and came to the United States as a child. From an early age, he developed an interest in artillery, which led him to become a Civil War reenactor and an expert on Civil War era artillery.

The Civil War Weekend has grown dramatically from its beginnings. Over the three days of this year's event, visitors were able to enjoy a candlelight tour, see an authentic infantry camp, an artillery battery, field hospital, signal corps, engineering, officer's meeting, Coweta Mission Trading Post, a Civil War battle, to enjoy Civil War period music and a dance and to participate in a Civil War church service. It was an excellent environment in which to educate young people about the Civil War.

Attendance was down from last year, maybe attributable to the weather. A cold front passed through the area Friday night, and the temperature at Saturday's opening was in the low sixties with a brisk north wind. The event was also competing with OU and OSU home football games. Nevertheless, about 100 visitors were on hand for the start of the program at 1:30.



Military History Center docents, Lynn Burgess and Dennis Hoch, at the Coweta Mission Civil War Weekend.



Arthur Street standing next to a Model 1857 12-pounder Napoleon field gun in a Confederate artillery battery.



## Night Out Against Crime

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, for the fourth consecutive year, the Military History Center participated in the Broken Arrow Police Department's "Night Out Against Crime". The event brings several thousand people to the downtown Rose District each year.



## Broken Arrow Christmas Parade

As it has for the past four years, the Military History Center had a float in the annual Broken Arrow Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 5.



(L. to R.) MHC Vice President Dennis Laffin, Docents Lynn Burgess and Dennis Hoch on the parade float



## Col. Powell's Ashes Scattered in Holland

Peter Plank

The parachute jump into Groesbeek to honor Col. Powell was scrubbed due to low clouds, rain and strong winds. As an alternate plan, a small ceremony was held whereby RCPT (Round Canopy Parachute Team) President Hubert Achten and Jumpmaster Peter Braun spread the remains of Col. Powell on Dutch soil seventy-one years to the day he crashed landed in the country. Mission accomplished!



**Vive la France!**



*“Freedom is not free”.*



Arliss Cole, born to a World War I veteran near Porum, OK, was a seventeen year-old sailor aboard USS *West Virginia* on December 7, 1941. Mr. Cole is a member of Oklahoma's Last Man Club – Pearl Harbor survivors. The current Club membership includes Don Baldrachi, Dewey; Arles Cole, Tulsa; Lonnie Cook, Morris; Ed Vesey, Moore; Gene Meeker, Tulsa; and Joe Alsop, Tulsa.

# *“Lest We Forget”*

## **Christmas at Valley Forge – 1777**



*George Washington and Marquis de Lafayette at Valley Forge (Library of Congress)*

## **Christmas at Bastogne, Belgium - 1944**



*Breakout at Bastogne by Matt Hall*