



Freedom's Voice

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Military History Center

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



"Promoting Patriotism through the Preservation of Military History"

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United States Armed Services Days of Observance

The month of June has several Armed Services Days of Observance. We believe the most important are D-Day on June 6, Army Day on June 13 and Flag Day on June 14. Each of these Days of Observance is detailed in separate articles.

Putting up the Flag

Take a few minutes to watch this video. We think you will appreciate it. Just click on the link, and turn on your speakers.

<http://puttinguptheflag.com/>

Important Date – August 6

On August 6, the Ernest Childers Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart will present a program at the MHC Memorial Flag Plaza honoring members of the Armed Services who have received the Purple Heart. You won't want to miss this opportunity to honor those men and women wounded or killed in combat defending our freedoms.



Flag Day at the MHC

The MHC held its annual Flag Day commemoration on Saturday, June 11. Attendance was excellent; the weather was acceptable; and everyone enjoyed themselves. Congressman Jim Bridenstine, himself a veteran, was the guest speaker. He gave a stirring, patriotic address. Decorated Vietnam veteran, Willard Parrish, provided the musical entertainment. Retired Brigadier General and MHC President, Tom Mancino, served as master of ceremonies. The MHC was unable to dedicate the Medal of Honor brick memorial because the bricks are not yet ready. A new dedication date will be announced when ready.



Congressman Jim Bridenstine giving his patriotic address at the Flag Day commemoration



Counter-clockwise from the upper left: David Wade and Lynn Burgess (MHC docent), representing the VFW, raised the National flag. BG Ed Wheeler, Oscar "Junior" Nipps and Harold Hayes (MHC docent) raised the Army flag. Ken Collins (MHC volunteer) and Larry MacNaulty raised the Navy flag. The family of Lynn Hannah, daughter of Major Wallace Butts and sponsor of the Air Force flag, raised that flag. Tom Tejada and Amber Butler raised the Marine Corps flag. Gus Jones, representing Rolling Thunder, raised the POW/MIA flag. Ms. Elaine Childers, daughter of Medal of Honor recipient Lt. Ernest Childers, Woody Woods and Ken Cook raised the Medal of Honor flag. (No photos available for these flag raisings.) Except for the Air Force flag raisers and Ms. Childers, all flag raisers are veterans.



Artist Claudia Ramsey Wilson created eight scenes depicting American fighting men and women from the Civil War to the present War on Terror. The murals have been placed on the west wall of the Memorial Flag Plaza.



Ms. Claudia Ramsey Wilson at the Flag Day event

The bricks laid in the Memorial Flag Plaza may memorialize any veteran of the U.S. military services from the Revolutionary War to the present. Besides veterans of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, U.S. military veterans include merchant mariners who served in time of war, 1st American Volunteer Group (1941-42), certain categories of Philippine Scouts (See VA Fact Sheet–April 2008 for determination of US veteran status.), enlisted Indian scouts (1868-1914) and foreign citizens with Legal Permanent Residence status, who have served, or are serving, in the U.S. armed services. It also includes Confederate veterans of the Civil War. U.S. Code, Title 38 and several other Acts of Congress, recognize Confederate veterans as equal to Union veterans of the Civil War.

In addition to the special Medal of Honor brick memorial to be installed soon, the MHC is planning future special memorials, including a memorial to Oklahoma’s Vietnam War MIAs.

Please help us make the Memorial Flag Plaza a truly beautiful and unique memorial to our military veterans. Begin with a brick for yourself, family member, ancestor or friend.

Click the link below to download a brick order form:

<http://www.okmhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Brick-order-form-one-page-.pdf>

The First Flag

On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress passed the Flag Resolution which stated: "*Resolved*, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation".

Because the flag resolution appears among other resolutions of the Congressional Marine Committee, the 1777 resolution was most probably meant to define a naval ensign. At that time, the idea of a national flag did not yet exist, or was only nascent. Francis Hopkinson of New Jersey, a naval flag designer, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, designed the 1777 flag while he was Chairman of the Continental Navy Board's Middle Department, sometime between November 1776 and the time the flag resolution was adopted in June 1777. The Navy Board was under the Continental Marine Committee.

The story that most Americans have learned of the flag design was disseminated by descendants of Betsy Ross a quarter century after the supposed event. According to the story, she sewed the first flag from a pencil sketch given to her by George Washington. No evidence for this exists either in the diaries of George Washington or in the records of the Continental Congress. The Betsy Ross story seems to be one of those great enduring American myths that have survived over time.

Whether the flag was intended to be a naval ensign or not, it was quickly adopted by the army and the people of the United States. The flag was first flown in battle on August 3, 1777, during the Siege of Fort Stanwix (New York).

In recognition of the date of the 1777 Flag Resolution, June 14 is celebrated as United States Flag Day.



The first United States flag

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 information, call (918) 794-2712

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Mr. Henry Primeaux, a major supporter of the MHC and a former submariner, explaining some feature of a submarine to a group of Boy Scouts at the MHC. Mr. Primeaux served on the submarine, USS *Batfish*, in the early 1950s, and was one of the people instrumental in arranging the financing to bring *Batfish* to Muskogee.



Insignia of an enlisted submariner

This Month's Featured Exhibit

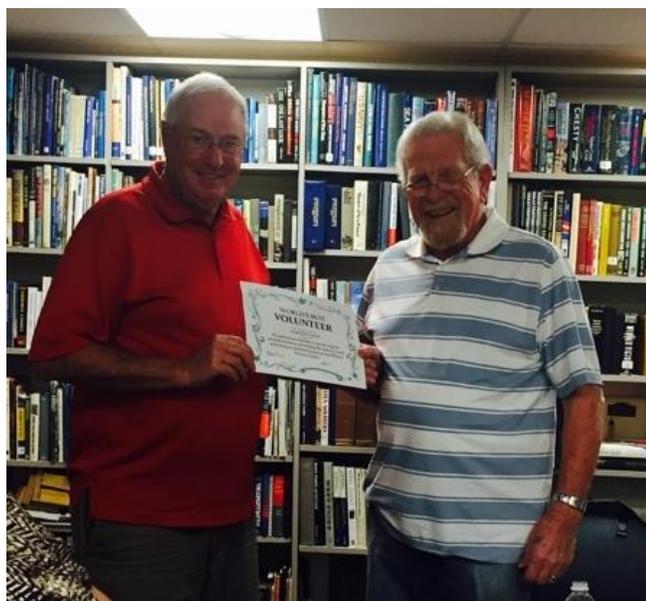


Harold G. Kiner was a Private in Co. F, 117th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry "Old Hickory" Division (Tennessee National Guard), near Palenberg, Germany, on October 2, 1944. His Medal of Honor citation reads: "With four other men, he was leading in a frontal assault 2 October 1944, on a Siegfried Line pillbox near Palenberg, Germany. Machinegun fire from the strongly defended enemy position twenty-five yards away pinned down the attackers. The Germans threw hand grenades, one of which dropped between Pvt. Kiner and two other men. With no hesitation, Private Kiner hurled himself upon the grenade, smothering the explosion. By his gallant action and voluntary sacrifice of his own life, he saved his two comrades from serious injury or death". His Medal of Honor was posthumously awarded on June 23, 1945.

Harold G. Kiner was born April 14, 1924, at Aline, Oklahoma. He was twenty years old at his death. His body was returned to his family and buried in Aline-Star Cemetery, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma.



A Mexican War era artilleryman standing beside a 12-pounder mountain howitzer. (The howitzer and uniform are correct replicas.) The uniform was donated by Randall Beason. MHC Executive Director, Keith Browne, placed the mountain howitzer on loan with the MHC.



MHC President Tom Mancino presents an Outstanding Volunteer Certificate to Harold Hayes – May 19



The United States Military Academy, located on the banks of the Hudson River, at West Point, New York, is the oldest of the five service academies. The Military Academy, commonly known as West Point, was established as an Army engineering school in 1802.



United States Army



On June 13, 1775, the Second Continental Congress adopted the New England Army, then besieging the British army holed up inside Boston, and commissioned George Washington as Commanding General of the newly designated Continental Army. Thus was born the United States Army, the oldest of America's military services. The Army has a long and storied history. Its flag carries 189 streamers emblazoned with the names of its battles and campaigns from the Revolutionary War to the present.

After eight long, and often frustrating years, the Continental Army emerged victorious in the Revolutionary War. With the acceptance of the Peace Treaty, General Washington surrendered his commission to Congress, and he and his men went home to enjoy their hard won freedom. Following the Revolutionary War, the Army languished, primarily because of Americans' fear of a large standing army, but also because there wasn't a need for much of an army. America had no continental enemies and had a deep-seated antipathy for involvement in European affairs. Periodic Indian troubles could be handled by state militias, so went the well-established belief. On March 16, 1802, Congress was finally persuaded to authorize and finance a formal Military Academy, primarily to train engineer officers. The onset of the War of 1812 found the country with a woefully inadequate army and officer corps. The Army's performance during the war reflected the nation's inattention to it. This prompted Congress to authorize a more formal and expanded curriculum for the Military Academy, but it still wasn't interested in a large standing army.

By the time the Mexican War began in 1846, the Army, although still small, had a cadre of exceptional officers, some of whom would become legendary: Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, William T. Sherman, Phillip Sheridan, Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, George G. Meade and many others. After the Mexican War ended, and the Army returned to the United States, it remained small and poorly funded. In the years between the end of the Mexican War and the beginning of the Civil War, the Army never exceeded more than about 15,000 men, most of whom were stationed in numerous frontier posts to deal with Indian problems.

The Civil War severed the Army, as large numbers of its best officers resigned and returned to their Southern homes to serve the Confederate states. Southern enlisted men either deserted or left after their enlistments expired. The Civil War gave those officers who had won their spurs in Mexico and on the Indian frontier an opportunity for rapid advancement and battlefield glory, as some might have put it. During the Civil War, maybe as many as four million men served in the two armies combined. But again, after the war, the Army was quickly reduced to a small frontier force.

World War I, which for the United States, began in 1917, once again required the War Department to quickly grow the Army and just as quickly to train it. It had been more than fifty years since the close of the Civil War; therefore, the army had few personnel with real combat experience. Fortunately, it did have at least one outstanding general officer, John J. Pershing. General Pershing spent a year organizing and training the Army in France before he would allow it to go into battle. When it did, the results were astounding to the Europeans who had professed little regard for it, or its officers.

Between the World Wars, the Army was again pared down, as World War I was supposed to be the war to end all wars. But, by 1940, with the world looking more and more dangerous to the United States, President Franklin Roosevelt persuaded Congress to institute America's first peacetime draft and to begin financing an enlarged and better equipped Army. The new army performed less than stellar in its first outing in North Africa, but soon found its legs and had the right leadership: Marshall, Eisenhower, MacArthur, Bradley, Patton, Devers, Patch, Stillwell and many other generals as well as lesser ranking and lesser known officers. In Sicily, Italy, southern France and northwest Europe, the well-trained, well-equipped, and well-led Army of citizen soldiers eventually crushed the once mighty German Wehrmacht that had been the scourge of Europe for more than five years. The Army made its entrance into the Pacific Theater at Guadalcanal. It fought through the humid jungles of the Solomon Islands, New Guinea, the Philippines, Saipan, Guam, and on Okinawa. This time, because of the onset of the Cold War, the Army was not drawn down to a skeleton force after peace came.

During the years following World War II, the Army provided the bulwark for the NATO alliance during the Cold War. It was called on many times to defend America's interests in hot wars in such far-off places as Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Kuwait, Bosnia, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan and many other largely unfamiliar locations. Since July 1, 1973, the Army has been an all-volunteer force. Presently, about sixteen per cent are women, who can now serve in any position for which they qualify. The current all-volunteer Army is highly trained, highly motivated, superbly equipped and well led.

On June 13, 2016, the United States Army proudly celebrated its 241st birthday.

“Lest We Forget”



Normandy American Cemetery – On a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach

Seventy-two years ago this month at 0630, on June 6, 1944, Allied forces began landing six infantry divisions on five beaches on the Normandy coast of France, west to east: Utah, Omaha (American), Gold (British), Juno (Canadian) and Sword (British). Two American and one British airborne division had begun landing by parachute and glider shortly after midnight. The beginning day of all major combat operations is called D-Day, but the one that most Americans remember from World War II is the D-Day assault of Normandy. Code-named Operation Overlord, it was the beginning of what General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander Allied Expeditionary Force, called the “Great Crusade”. By the end of the day, the Allies had landed 160,000 men and had secured five beachheads. The human cost of D-Day for America was 2,499 confirmed dead and many more thousands wounded and missing.

Normandy American Cemetery is located on the very ground on which many of the men interred there fought and died. It contains the graves of 9,387 American military dead from D-Day and the follow-on Battle of Normandy, as well as several airmen shot down over France as early as 1942. The body of 2nd Lieutenant Quentin Roosevelt, who was shot down over France in 1918, was disinterred and laid beside that of his brother, Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Deputy Commander of the 4th Infantry Division, who landed on Utah Beach on D-Day. He died of a heart attack thirty-six days later. The highest ranking soldier buried in the Cemetery is Lt. General Leslie McNair, killed by friendly fire on July 25, 1944, at the beginning of the Normandy Breakout. The names of 1,557 dead, whose bodies had not been found and identified when the cemetery was constructed, are engraved on the walls of the Cemetery Memorial. The names of any men whose bodies have since been found and identified are marked with a rosette.

Freedom is not free.

