



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"

Volume 4, Number 10

October 2016

United States Armed Services Day of Observance

United States Navy Birthday – October 13

Important Date

November 13 – A Salute to Veterans

The MHC will host its annual Veterans Day Patriotic Concert, "A Salute to Veterans", at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 13 at the Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center, located at 701 S. Main Street. The featured performers will be the 77th Army Band "The Pride of Fort Sill" and First Methodist Church Celebration Choir. For more information, contact the MHC at 918-794-2712 or go to our website at www.okmhc.org.

Coweta Mission Civil War Weekend

The Ninth Annual Coweta Mission Civil War Weekend will be held October 28-30 at the farm of Mr. Arthur Street, located southeast of Coweta. Over the three days of this year's event, visitors will be 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.

Friday, October 28 Events begin at 6:00 PM
Saturday, October 29 Events begin at 9:00 AM
Sunday, October 30 Events begin at 10:00 AM

Admission: Daily admission is \$5 per adult, \$2 per child age 6 to 12 and \$1 for children under 6. For more information call the MHC at 918-794-2712.

From Tulsa, Broken Arrow & Coweta - Travel east on Highway 51 to the intersection of 305th Street (also known as Ben Lumpkin Road). This is the intersection at the high school. Travel south on 305th Street to 161st Street. Turn left, and travel east on 161st Street until you see the signs for the event.

Many are unaware of the participation of the people of Indian Territory/Oklahoma in the Civil War or the events and battles in Indian Territory, including in the Tulsa area. The Civil War weekend provides an excellent opportunity to acquaint students of all ages with the Civil War period. Come out and see authentic Civil War weapons, uniforms and accouterments.

**Net proceeds from the Civil War Weekend will
benefit the Military History Center.**



The newly expanded MHC Research Library has more than 2,000 volumes of military history and biography available to the student, author or history researcher.



John Noah Reese, Jr. entered the Army at Fort Sill on December 18, 1942. After completing his basic training, he was assigned to the 148th Infantry Regiment, 37th Infantry Division (Ohio National Guard). The 37th Infantry Division first engaged in combat on New Georgia and Bougainville in the upper Solomon Islands in 1943. In late 1944, it became part of the invasion force that landed at Lingayen Gulf on Luzon in the Philippines in January 1945.

On February 9, PFC Reese was a [Browning] automatic rifleman (BAR) with Company B during the battle for Manila. The 148th Infantry was engaged in the attack on the Paco Railroad Station in Manila. The railroad station was strongly defended by 300 determined Japanese soldiers with machine guns and rifles supported by several pillboxes, three 20-millimeter guns, one 37-millimeter gun and heavy mortars.

Reese's actions are best told by eyewitnesses. First Lieutenant George F. Willett, a platoon leader in Company B, related the following: "The railroad station was a well-defended enemy strong point. The Japanese had built pill boxes containing machine guns, and between these they had dug foxholes for riflemen to furnish protection. In each corner of the building inside the station, the enemy had placed 20-millimeter dual-purpose guns surrounded by sandbags, and had built one large concrete pillbox which contained a clip-fed 37-millimeter gun. There were about 300 enemy troops in and around the station, apparently with orders to defend their position to the last ditch. The two men (Reese and PFC Cleto Rodriguez of San Antonio, Texas) continued forward to a house 60 yards from their objective. Although under constant enemy observation, Private Reese and his companion remained in this position for an hour, firing at targets of opportunity, killing more than 35 Japanese and wounding many more. Private Reese and his comrade moved closer to the station where they discovered a group of Japanese replacements attempting to reach the pillboxes. The Yanks automatic rifles blazed into action and more than 40 of the enemy troops fell dead. No other attempts were made to man the emplacements. Again, the two men braved intense enemy fire to reach a point 20 yards from the station. Private Reese provided effective covering fire and courageously attracted enemy fire to himself while his companion killed seven Japs and destroyed a 20-millimeter gun and a machinegun with hand grenades."

Staff Sergeant Robert F. Green described the final action that led to PFC Reese's death. "By the time Private Reese's companion had killed the seven Japanese with grenades, the pair's ammunition was running low, so they decided to work their way back to the rest of the squad. The two men alternately

provided covering fire for each other. Private Reese stopped to load a magazine with cartridges from an M-1 clip when he was killed." PFC Rodriguez made his way safely back to the American lines. (familysearch.org)

PFC Reese was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, on October 19, 1945. A week earlier, President Truman had presented PFC Rodriguez the Medal of Honor at the White House.

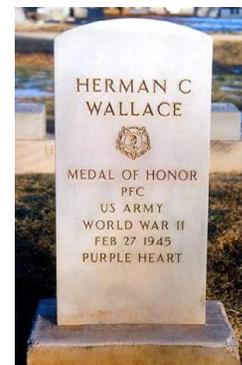
John Noah Reese, Jr. was born at Muskogee, Oklahoma, on June 23, 1923. Before being drafted into the Army, he worked as a groundsman for an electric company in Pryor. He is buried in Fort Gibson National Cemetery, Fort Gibson, Oklahoma. He was twenty-two years old.



On February 27, 1945, twenty-one-year-old PFC Herman C. Wallace was serving in Co. B, 301st Engineer Combat Battalion, 76th Infantry Division near Prumzurley, Germany, just east of the Siegfried Line. His unit was clearing mines, when he stepped on an S-mine, or Bouncing Betty, as the soldiers called them. When triggered, they bounced about three feet into the air and exploded, spraying shrapnel in all directions. When PFC Wallace heard the mine trigger, he knew that if he stepped off, it would not only probably kill him, but others of his squad as well. Instead, he deliberately placed his other foot on the mine to hold it in the ground. PFC Wallace was killed by the explosion, but he saved the lives of the men around him.

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, on October 25, 1945, accredited to Texas.

Herman Wallace was born in Marlow, Oklahoma in 1924. At some point in his childhood, his family moved to Lubbock, Texas, from where he entered the Army in June 1943. PFC Wallace is buried in the City of Lubbock Cemetery.





Master Sergeant Joshua L. Wheeler was killed in the pre-dawn hours of October 22, 2015, as a result of enemy small-arms fire sustained during a raid on an ISIS prison compound seven kilometers (4.3 mi.) north of Hawija in Iraq's Kirkuk Province. The operation secured the release of approximately seventy hostages, including more than twenty members of the Iraqi Security Forces, being held in the compound. He was the first American killed in combat in the war on ISIS.

Wheeler was born on November 22, 1975, at Roland, Oklahoma and graduated high school at Muldrow. At the time of his death, he was a member of the Army's elite Special Operations Command – Delta Force. He was a highly decorated soldier with eleven Bronze Stars and several other decorations.

The United States Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne), or USACAPOC(A), was founded in 1985. USACAPOC(A) is composed mostly of U.S. Army Reserve soldiers in units throughout the United States. Its total size is approximately 10,000 soldiers, making up about ninety-four percent of the Department of Defense's (DoD) Civil Affairs forces and Seventy-one percent of the DoD's Psychological Operations forces.

The primary mission of Civil Affairs is to conduct civil-military operations. Civil Affairs soldiers are responsible for executing five core CA tasks, Civil Information Management, Foreign Humanitarian Assistance, Nation Assistance, Population and Resource Control, and Support to Civil Administration. Some sub tasks to these core tasks include identifying non-governmental and international organizations operating in the battlespace, handling refugees, civilians on the battlefield, and determining protected targets such as schools, churches/temples/mosques, hospitals, etc.

Civil Affairs units are the field commander's link to the civil authorities in that commander's area of operations. The soldiers make up teams which interface and provide expertise to the host nation government. USACAPOC(A)'s Civil Affairs soldiers are particularly suited for this mission since they are Army Reserve soldiers with civilian occupations such as law enforcement, engineering, medicine, law, banking, public administration, etc. (USACAPOC(A) website)

The 486th is one of seven Civil Affairs battalions within the 350th Civil Affairs Command, whose mission is to support the U.S. Southern Command. The 486th CA Battalion's headquarters is at the Army Reserve Center in Sand Springs.

On Saturday, October 1, nine veterans of the 486th gathered at the MHC to dedicate a section of bricks in the Memorial Flag Plaza that are dedicated to soldiers of the 486th.

Support the Military History Center

Do you want to join the many patriotic Oklahomans who are already supporting 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, or click on the link below to go to the MHC website, <http://www.okmhc.org/donate/>.

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

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



(L. to R.) CSM William L. Corbitt, MSG Charles Stanphill, COL Siegfried E. Heit, MAJ Ellis G. Sheker, LTC Don J. Wadley, LTC Phillip W. Tolbert, LTC Larry McCarthy, MAJ Joe L. Todd and LTC Bennett Guthrie



Persian Gulf and Iraq Wars

The Persian Gulf War, lasting from August 2, 1990 to February 28, 1991, was the result of Iraqi dictator, Saddam Hussein's, unexpected invasion of Kuwait. The United States, with the sanction of the United Nations, organized a coalition of thirty-four nations to expel Iraqi forces from Kuwait. The first several months of the war consisted of an intensive air campaign, called Operation Desert Shield, meant to destroy the Iraqi air force and the Iraqi command and control structure. On February 24, 1991, U.S. and coalition forces, under the overall command of General Norman Schwarzkopf, opened a smashing ground and air offensive, called Desert Storm, to drive the Iraqi army from Kuwait. Three days later, Saddam Hussein ordered a withdrawal of his army, and President George H. W. Bush declared Kuwait liberated. On February 28, after only one hundred hours of ground fighting, the war was over.

No sooner had Saddam Hussein gotten his army, including over 80,000 Iraqi POWs, safely home than he began attacking his Shiite Muslim and Kurdish citizens, whom he considered disloyal. The U. S. Government, again with the sanction of the UN, established no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq in 1992. The no-fly zones were enforced by U.S. British and French air force units until 2003. (The French withdrew in 1998.) The allies became more and more concerned with the large stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons, or weapons of mass destruction (WMD), believed to be held by the Iraqis and the suspicion that Saddam Hussein was attempting to acquire materials for nuclear weapons. His lack of cooperation with UN weapons inspectors made the U.S. and British governments grow even more concerned. The U.S. government became convinced that Iraq had successfully hidden its stock of WMD and was willfully ignoring UN resolutions demanding his cooperation with weapons inspectors.



General Tommy Franks

On March 20, 2003, the United States and its allies, led by Oklahoman, General Tommy Franks, launched a massive ground assault – Operation Iraqi Freedom – into Iraq with the goal of overthrowing the regime of Saddam Hussein and locating and destroying the suspected WMD. The 3rd Infantry Division and the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force converged on Baghdad from two directions. The city fell to U.S. forces on April 9. The initial phase of the war was short, but tons of conventional weapons had fallen into the hands of former Iraqi

soldiers and civilians. Saddam Hussein was still at large, and within a month an insurgency was under way. The U.S. had too few troops in Iraq to effectively control the country, and events quickly spiraled out of control as disparate groups in Iraq took up arms to settle old scores, to gain advantage and to fight the “infidel” invaders. Additionally, elements of the terrorist organization, al-Qaeda, entered the country.



An F-16 Fighting Falcon of the Tulsa-based 138th Fighter Wing, Oklahoma Air National Guard, takes off from Balad Air Force Base, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

By 2005, Iraq was effectively in a state of civil war. The new commander in Iraq, General David Petraeus, asked for additional forces. The opponents of the war, and most of President George W. Bush's advisors, counseled troop reductions and withdrawal from Iraq, but the President did just the opposite, sending several thousand more troops in an operation called “The Surge”. The additional troops, along with new alliances General Petraeus had made with several western Iraqi tribal sheiks, turned the situation around.

In 2011, President Barack Obama withdrew all combat troops from Iraq. The U.S. military suffered 4,486 dead, including seventy-five Oklahomans, during the eight and a half years of the Iraq war. One Oklahoman* was killed in the Persian Gulf War. (* vetfriends.com)



Soldiers of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are welcomed to Camp Bucca, Iraq, February 6, 2008.

Fallen Heroes of the Iraq War



CPL Jeremy D. Allbaugh

Jeremy D. Allbaugh was born on January 17, 1986, in Traverse City, Michigan. He grew up in Harrah, Oklahoma, and graduated from Harrah High School in 2004. Immediately following his graduation, he entered the United States Marine Corps. His first duty station was a security detail at Patuxent River Naval Air Station in Maryland. He was then assigned to the 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Headquarters and Service Company where he served in the personal security detachment to Lt. Colonel Bohm in Al An-Bar province in Iraq. He was killed on July 5, 2007, when the Humvee in which he was riding struck a roadside bomb in An-Bar province. During his funeral service Cpl. Allbaugh's family received his decorations: National Defense Medal, the Global War of Terrorism Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Combat Action Ribbon and Purple Heart. He had served in the Marine Corps for three years. Cpl. Allbaugh is buried in Blackwell Cemetery, Blackwell, Oklahoma.



PFC Jaron D. Holliday

Jaron D. Holliday was born in Kansas City, Missouri on November 23, 1985, but grew up in Tulsa. He was a home-schooled student who graduated from Tulsa-based Christian Home Educators Fellowship in 2004 and became especially anxious to join the Army after the September 11 terrorist attacks. At the age of nineteen, he joined the Army in March 2005 and served as a cavalry scout.

On August 4, 2007, he was a member of B Troop 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device during combat operations in Hawr Rajab, Iraq. Among his decorations are a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He is buried in Memorial Park Cemetery in Tulsa.



TSGT Jason L. Norton

Jason L. Norton was born in Miami, Oklahoma on April 1, 1973. He grew up in Miami and graduated from Miami High School. He joined the Air Force in 1992. He was a patrol and K-9 officer assigned to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. In Iraq he was part of the 586th Expeditionary Mission Support Group, which had duties that included transportation and security. He was killed on January 11, 2006, when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device while he was conducting convoy escort duties in the vicinity of Taji, Iraq. Staff Sgt. Brian McElroy was also killed in the explosion.

As brothers-in-arms who died together, Sergeants Norton and McElroy are buried side by side in Arlington National Cemetery, sharing a double-width gravestone. Among Sgt. Norton's decorations are a Bronze Star and Purple Heart.



SGT Ryan M. Wood

Ryan Mitchell Wood was born in Oklahoma City on July 11, 1984. He graduated in 2002 from Putnam City North High School in Oklahoma City. Immediately after graduation, he enlisted in the Army. Sgt. Wood was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany. He served two tours in Iraq. Wood died of wounds received when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Bradley Fighting Vehicle in Baghdad, on June 21, 2007. Sgt. Wood was a much decorated soldier. Among his many awards is the Combat Infantryman's Badge. Sgt. Wood is buried in Yukon Cemetery, Yukon, Oklahoma.

These four heroes are only a small, random sample of the seventy-five Oklahoma heroes who lost their lives in the Iraq War.

This Month's Featured Exhibit – Civil War



Shown in the photograph of the Civil War exhibit are eleven lithographs of Civil War personalities and battlefield scenes. The print at the bottom left, which also has samples of all the U.S. Civil War commemorative postage stamps that have been issued, was donated by Robert Rorschach. The print on the lower right was donated by Tom Mancino. All other prints were donated by Grace Boeger. The mannequin on the right is dressed in a replica uniform of a Confederate cavalry colonel. The uniform on the left is a replica of a Union major general of infantry. The uniforms were donated by Doyle and Visia Sweat. Weapons in the exhibit include a .54 caliber Model 1864 Burnside rifle and a .52 caliber Sharpe & Hankins Model 1862 Navy carbine. There are other Confederate and Union artifacts and weapons not shown in the photograph, including the dress cape and Bible of Major and Chaplain Sherman Martin Merrill of the 177th New York Infantry. Major Merrill's artifacts were donated by his descendant family. The Civil War Exhibit is sponsored by Camp Col. Daniel N. McIntosh, Sons of Confederate Veterans – Tulsa.

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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Midshipmen on the parade ground at the United States Navy Academy. The Navy Academy was established in 1845, at Annapolis, Maryland. Midshipmen may choose whether to be commissioned as officers either of the Navy or the Marine Corps.



United States Navy



The Continental Congress passed a resolution creating the Continental Navy on October 13, 1775. On November 3, Congress authorized the purchase of the first ship, commissioned USS *Alfred* on December 3, 1775, Captain Dudley Saltonstall commanding. On the same day *Alfred* was commissioned, Congress authorized the purchase of thirteen ships for the new navy. No one had any illusions about challenging the formidable Royal Navy. These new ships were intended to be commerce raiders. America's most renowned naval hero of the Revolutionary War was a daring young Scotsman named John Paul Jones. In 1779, commanding a frigate that the French government had loaned him and which Jones had renamed *Bonhomme Richard*, he encountered HMS *Serapis* off the east coast of England. With the two ships entangled and heavily damaged, the English captain asked Jones if he had struck his colors. Jones famously replied, "I have not yet begun to fight". He then boarded and captured the English ship. The heavily damaged *Bonhomme Richard* sank shortly afterwards. (*Bonhomme Richard* – good man Richard – was named in honor of Benjamin Franklin's character, Poor Richard, from Franklin's once published *Poor Richard's Almanac*. Franklin was U.S. Minister to France and helped secure the ship and financing for Jones's operations.)

In 1785, the Navy was disbanded and the remaining ships were sold. By 1794, Congress realized that the nation needed a navy after all. For years, the Barbary pirates of North Africa (modern Libya, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco) had been preying undeterred on American merchant shipping in the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic around Portugal, Spain and Morocco. President Thomas Jefferson ordered the Navy to deal with the pirates. On February 16, 1804, Lt. Stephen Decatur sailed into Tripoli harbor disguised as a Maltese merchant ship to burn the frigate, *Philadelphia*, which had run aground and had been captured by Tripolitan pirates. Decatur and his gallant crew successfully burned *Philadelphia* and made good their escape. The Navy's complete victory over the Barbary pirates the following year was an impressive accomplishment for the young navy.

In 1812, the United States again went to war with Great Britain. The American Navy acquitted itself far beyond any expectations. In September 1813, Commodore Oliver Perry defeated the British Great Lakes fleet at an inlet of Lake Erie called Put in Bay near modern Cleveland, Ohio. On the high seas, USS *Constitution*, the third ship commissioned by the new Navy, back in 1797, shocked the British naval establishment by completely demolishing two British men-of-war: HMS *Guerriere* and *Java*. *Constitution* is the oldest ship in the United States Navy, never having been decommissioned. It is permanently berthed at Charlestown (MA) Navy Yard.

During the Civil War, the Navy essentially had three responsibilities: blockade all Southern ports, destroy the Southern commerce raiders and control the Southern rivers with ironclad river gunboats. In May 1862, a newly constructed and revolutionary ironclad ship, USS *Monitor*, sailed from the Brooklyn Navy Yard, where it had been constructed, directly to Hampton Roads, Virginia, where the Confederate ironclad, CSS *Virginia*, formerly USS *Merrimack*, was busily decimating the Federal wooden ships standing in the Roads. On May 9, the two ironclads pounded each other for several hours without either doing any damage to the other as the iron cannon balls simply bounced off the ships' iron sides. From that date, every wooden naval ship in existence was made obsolete. During the Spanish-American War, Commodore George Dewey, Commander of the Asiatic Squadron, demolished the Spanish fleet at Manila Bay in just five hours.

The Navy was given command of the Central Pacific Theater in World War II. For years, naval aviators had been trying to convince the Navy that air power was the future, not the heavy, slow moving iron battleships. After the Pearl Harbor disaster, and particularly after Navy fliers sank four Japanese aircraft carriers near Midway Island without the two fleets ever coming within sight of each other, the Navy brass conceded. Forward thinking admirals such as Chester Nimitz, William Halsey, Raymond Spruance and others pushed the aircraft carrier battle groups as the offensive arm of the naval war in the Pacific. Battleships and heavy cruisers were relegated to beach bombardment for Army and Marine landings. Along with the aircraft carrier battle groups, the submarine service came into its own during World War II sinking most of the Japanese navy and decimating the Japanese merchant fleet.

With no need for land based launching facilities, aircraft carriers proved invaluable during the wars in Korea and Vietnam. In the mid-1950s, the Navy launched its first nuclear powered submarine, USS *Nautilus*. Without the need to surface to re-charge batteries or to schedule a rendezvous with an oiler to refuel, submarines could now cruise underwater practically indefinitely. By the late twentieth century, the Navy had decommissioned all its old oil-fueled aircraft carriers and submarines in favor of nuclear powered vessels. The Navy continues to provide air power to support the War on Terror in southwest Asia and other places and to project American strength around the globe. The modern United States Navy is unquestionably the most formidable navy afloat.

“Lest We Forget”



Surrender of Lord Cornwallis by John Trumbull

After a twenty-one-day siege around the village of Yorktown, Virginia, and with food and ammunition exhausted, and with no hope of relief, Charles Lord Cornwallis surrendered his army of 7,087 British and German troops and 900 seamen, on October 19, 1781, to General George Washington, 245 years ago this month. Washington commanded a combined force of 6,500 American (on the right in the painting) and French troops (on the left). Although a peace treaty recognizing the independence of the thirteen American states would not be signed for two more years, this surrender decided the American War of Independence. Until recent times, this was America's longest war, having begun with "the shot heard 'round the world" fired by Massachusetts militiamen – the renowned minutemen – on the village green at Lexington, April 19, 1775, and ending with the signing of the Treaty of Paris on September 3, 1783.

The war cost 25,000 American dead, including 8,000 in combat, and another 25,000 wounded. (The casualty figures are historians' approximations.)

Freedom is not free.

