



Veterans of the Year Ceremony Honors Two Veterans

The 2023 Veteran of the Year ceremony was held at the Saratoga-Wilton Elks Lodge #161 on Saturday, October 14, 2023. The annual event was co-sponsored by the Friends of the New York Military Museum and the Capital District of New York Chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA).

This year, there were two recipients of the Veteran of the Year award: Col. (Ret.) Christine T. Rem, an Iraq veteran; and, David Terry Fox, Sgt., USMC, a Vietnam veteran. The awards were presented by Friends President Roy McDonald on behalf of the Friends, and by Robert Van Pelt on behalf of the AUSA chapter.

The honorees also received proclamations from various government bodies, in recognition of their service: From Saratoga County (presented by Saratoga County Board of Supervisors Chairman Todd Kusnierz); from the New York State Senate (presented on behalf of State Senators Jim Tedisco and Neil Breslin); from the New York State Assembly (presented on behalf of Assemblymen Mary Beth Walsh and Patricia Fahy); and, from the Congress of the United States, together with a flag, presented on behalf of Congressman Paul Tonko. Introductory remarks were offered by BG (Ret.) Barry Hartman, and additional remarks were given by the Adjutant General of the State of New York.

The invocation and benediction were given by Rev. Charlene Robbins. The Colors were presented and retired by students from La Salle Institute. Anne Marie Pinter sang the National Anthem and "God Bless America." Refreshments were donated by Dunkin' Donuts.



Photo courtesy of
Paul Fanning

Friends Trustee BG (Ret.) Barry Hartman delivers
remarks at the 2023 Veteran of the Year ceremony

Col. (Ret.), Christine T. Rem served in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps for 30 years, in the Active Army and Army reserves, beginning in 1982. She served the majority of her time in U.S. Army Reserve Hospitals in the Albany area. She served two one-year active duty tours at the Wurzburg Army Hospital in Wurzburg, Germany. In addition, from 2007-2008 she was deployed to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom; she was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for that service. Col. Rem also received the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (4 awards), Iraq Campaign Medal and the Global War on Terror Service Medal. While in service, she also received her Doctor of Nursing Science degree from Sage College. She retired from the Army in March 2012.

After retiring, Col. (Ret.) Rem founded the Capital District Women Veterans (“CDWV”) group, a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization. She donated what had been her maternal grandmother’s house in Troy to the CDWV. The CDWV currently houses two female veterans.

Col. (Ret.) Rem works daily to enhance the lives of veterans, veterans’ families and veterans’ caretakers. She is also the Chaplain for DAV Chapter 38 in Troy and is an active member of the Saratoga County Peer to Peer Program, VFW of Clifton Park, the Tri-County Vietnam Veterans and the American Legion Zaloga Post in Albany. She currently lives in Clifton Park.

Museum Docent Mary Ann Adams had been urging the Friends to give the Veteran of the Year award to a woman. Adams was delighted that Col. Rem was given this recognition. Adams stated: “It was with hopeful anticipation followed by great pride that a woman veteran was chosen one of the 2023 Veterans of the Year. In the future, I hope to see more women veterans recognized and honored, in similar fashion, for their service and contributions to America’s past and present conflicts.”



Photo courtesy
of Paul Fanning

Col. (Ret.) Christine T. Rem

Sgt. David Terry Fox enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1967, after graduating from Lansingburgh High School.

Fox served two tours in Vietnam, as a helicopter crew chief and door gunner aboard H-34 and H-46 helicopters.

During his tours, Fox was involved in the transporting of both Marines and Army soldiers to and from various remote jungle locations, including artillery fire bases. He also performed re-supply missions and reconnaissance missions, rescued down pilots, and evacuated the wounded. His missions included operations in Khe Sanh, the Demilitarized Zone, Laos, Cambodia and the Ashau Valley.

Fox logged more than 23,800 flight hours, in more than 2,200 sorties. He earned 53 Marine Strike Flight Awards for Aerial Combat. He was also awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his bravery in the rescue of an embattled Marine Reconnaissance Team from a 4,000 foot high cliff while under heavy enemy fire.

Fox left the Marine Corp as a Sergeant.

After leaving the Marines, Fox returned home to Troy. Over the years, he worked at a hardware store, a concrete firm and A1-Tech, before joining the Troy Fire Department. He served in the Troy Fire Department for 25 years, retiring as a Captain of the Department.

Fox is also a long-time member of many veterans organizations.

Fox currently resides in Voorheesville, NY.



Photo courtesy
of Paul Fanning

Sgt. David Terry Fox

Highlights of Grand Re-Opening Celebration

The New York State Military History Museum and Veterans Research Center held a grand re-opening event, to celebrate the Museum's re-opening to the public after being closed to the public from October 2022 to July 2023 for roof repairs and other renovations. While the Museum had been open to the public since July, the celebration was held on the first Saturday in October, in order to provide an optimal time for the public to attend.

The event featured musical performances by the 42nd Infantry Division Band of the New York Army National Guard (a band based in Troy which has appeared all across New York State), and by The Veterans in a New Field (a group featuring music of the Union Army Irish Brigade in the Civil War). There were also costumed re-enactors, who interacted with visitors and displayed and explained various military artifacts from the First World War, including helmets, medals, binoculars, a gas mask, and a shovel used for trenches.

The visitors were also treated to free ice cream, courtesy of Stewart's Shops, at a tent outside the Museum building.

According to Museum attendance records, there were 563 visitors to the Museum for the grand re-opening celebration.



Photo courtesy
of Wayne Rozen

Courtney Burns, Director of the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center, cuts a ceremonial ribbon at the event marking the grand re-opening of the Museum to the public



Photo courtesy of Wayne Rozen

**The 42nd Infantry Division Band of
the New York Army National Guard**



Photo courtesy of Robert Kazalski

**Roy McDonald, President of the Friends of
the New York State Military Museum, talks
with visitors at the grand re-opening celebration**



Photo courtesy
of Robert Kazalski

**World War I re-enactor shows helmets, medals, and
other historic artifacts related to the First World War**

Educational Outreach Program in Full Swing

The Museum's Educational Outreach Program, led by Bill Watkins, hosted four groups of students to the Museum in November.

On November 3rd, a group of 12 students from the Schuylerville School District came to the Museum.

On November 8th, 34 students from Proctor High School in Utica visited the Museum. These students, high school freshmen and sophomores, are also enrolled in their school's ROTC program.

On November 9th, 18 students from the Watervliet City School District visited the Museum.

On November 16, a group of 12 home-schooled students came to the Museum.

The following Museum Docents and Volunteers worked with the students at one or more of the visits, speaking with the students and showing them around the various exhibits in the Museum: Bill Watkins, Garth Lloyd, Paul Hauschen, Tim Sinnott, Lisa Munday, Bill Cooney, Mark Lawton and John Ewashko.

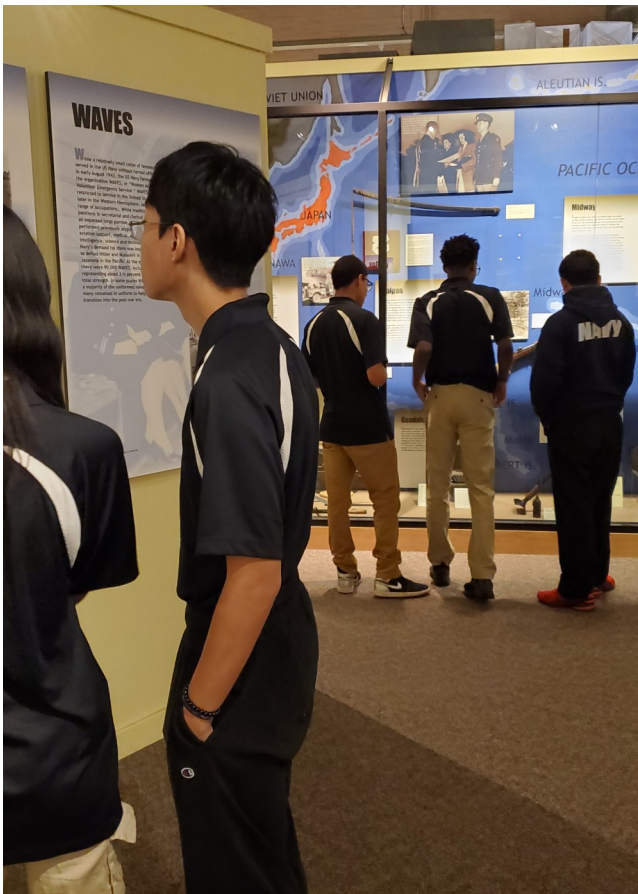


Photo courtesy of Susan Waghorn

Students from Proctor High School in Utica



Photo courtesy of Fred Katz

Students from Watervliet City School District

Elks Club Donates \$1,000 to Museum's Education Program

On November 8, 2023, Saratoga-Wilton Elks Lodge #161 donated \$1,000.00 to the Friends of the New York State Military Museum, for the Military Museum's Educational Outreach Program. The donation came from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant. The focus of this grant was the promotion of literacy and youth education. In addition to the donation to the Friends, funds were used to provide 528 student dictionaries to third grade students in Saratoga and Glens Falls schools.

The Military Museum's Educational Outreach Program hosts students from this area to the Museum, including students in middle schools and high schools, as well as home schooled students. In addition, some of the high schoolers have been students enrolled in their school's ROTC program.

At the Museum, the student learn about New York State's rich military history. In addition, they tour the Museum and are given guided presentations of the various Museum exhibits by Museum Docents and other Museum Volunteers.

Shown below is a picture of the presentation of the donation check by David Waghorn, Past Exalted Ruler and Americanism Chairperson of the Elks, to Bill Watkins, head of the Museum's Educational Outreach Program. Also pictured, from left to right, are Museum Office Manager Colleen Maheux and Museum Docents Bill Cooney, Lisa Munday, Tim Sinnott, Mark Lawton and Paul Hauschen. Also present at the presentation, but not pictured, were the following individuals from the Elks: Dora Lee Stanley, Past Exalted Ruler; Susan Waghorn, Past Exalted Ruler and Americanism Co-Chairperson; and, Kendall Hicks, Exalted Ruler.



Photo courtesy of Susan Waghorn

Docent Paul Hauschen Honored for Naval Militia Service

Museum Docent Paul Hauschen was selected as the New York Naval Militia Member of the year. GySgt Hauschen serves as the Senior Enlisted Leader for Northern Command and as Communications Officer for the Military Emergency Boat Service. The New York Naval Militia comprises 3,100 Navy, Marine and Coast Guard reservists and veterans available to volunteer for civil support operations during state emergency.

Rear Admiral Lawrence Weill awarded Hauschen the New York State Military Commendation Medal for his achievements.



Photo courtesy of
Paul Hauschen

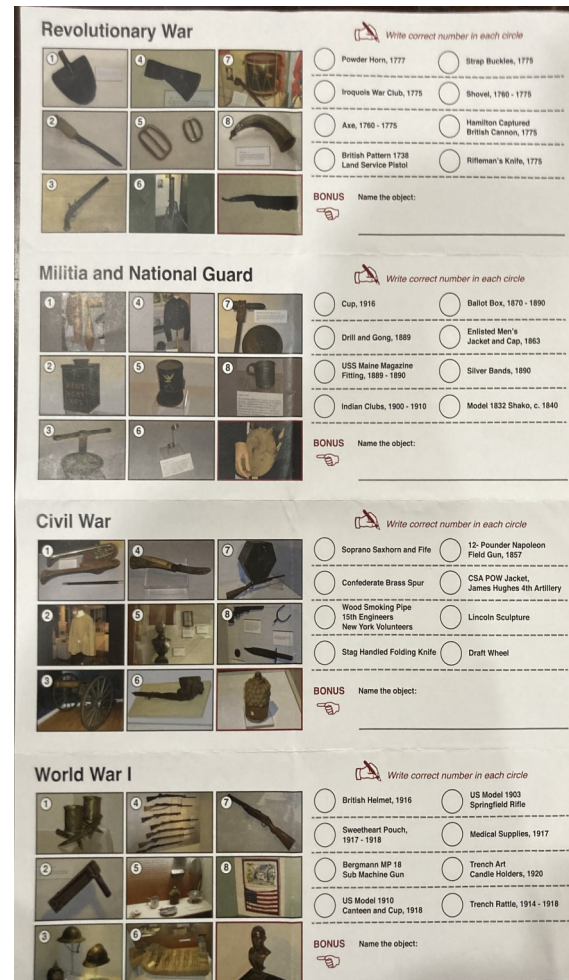
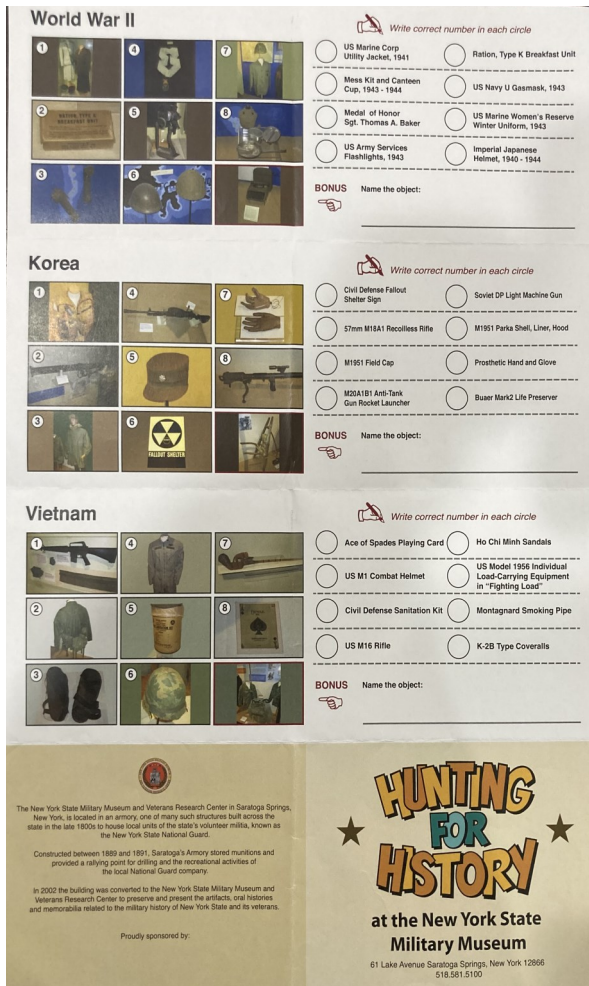
Museum Colleagues Visit Lou Schneider

Long-time Museum Docent Lou Schneider, now residing at the Massry Residence in Albany, was recently visited by Museum Office Manager Colleen Maheux, as well as Museum Docents/Volunteers Robert Kazalski, Terri DiGiacomo, Lucille Millarson and Bill Schmeelcke.



Photo courtesy of
Bill Schmeelcke
and Colleen Maheux

New Hunting for History Booklet Released



Pictures of the newly-revised Hunting for History activity sheet, offered as a fun and educational activity for children who visit the Museum. The original Hunting for History was a series of sheets, created by Herb Kopper and Mark Lawton. This new version has combined the entire activity into a single booklet. The new version was designed by Bruce Farley and created by Bruce Farley and Lucille Millarson.

New York State Military Museum & Veterans Research Center
61 Lake Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Phone: (518) 581-5100
Website: www.museum.dmna.ny.gov

Museum Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 AM—4:00 PM
Also open Mondays from mid-July through Labor Day

Museum Bookstore and Shop:
Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 AM — 4:00PM

In Memoriam — Herb Kopper



Photo courtesy
of Tim Sinnott

Long-time Museum Docent Herb Kopper, a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps, passed away on September 13, 2023. He was 88 years old.

Herb lived for many years in Galway, New York, but he had relocated to the Lubbock, Texas area, where his son lived, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Museum Office Manager Colleen Maheux, Herb was the first Docent at the Museum when the Museum opened in its current location, in Saratoga, in the early 2000s.

Herb was an accomplished artist. Museum Docent Mark Lawton recalled that Herb used his artistic ability to design the Hunting for History booklets which were created for children to use at the various exhibits when they visited the Museum.

Herb was predeceased by his wife Mary Lynn and daughter Mary Kaye. He is survived by his son Herb (Colleen); his grandchildren Brandon (Cassie), Nick (Jacklynn), David and Olivia; and by his sister Karen.

Our condolences go out to Herb's family and friends.

Thank you to the following for their efforts in creating and/or distributing this issue of the Friends Newsletter: Fred Katz, Robert Kazalski, Wayne Rozen, Tim Sinnott, Bill Watkins, Mark Lawton, Paul Hauschen, Mary Ann Adams, Bill Schmeelcke, David Waghorn, Susan Waghorn, Courtney Burns, Colleen Maheux, Paul Fanning, Bruce Farley and Francis Crandall (Flight Creative Group).