



*Friends of the*  
**NEW YORK STATE  
MILITARY MUSEUM**  
Preserving Our Military Heritage

**SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER**

## REMEMBERING DAVID WALLINGFORD

The following tribute to David Wallingford was written by Friends President Mark O'Rourke:

### IN MEMORIAM

#### David T. Wallingford Sr., Captain, USMC

The Friends of the New York State Military Museum recently said goodbye to Dave Wallingford, a dear friend and truly dedicated and longtime member and leader. He was a past President and Trustee of the Friends and was honored as our Veteran of the Year in 2022. Dave was an American hero who was grievously wounded in service to our beloved nation - as an officer with the 3rd Marine Division (I Corps) - during the Vietnam War as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. During his hospitalization and recovery at the USNH in Yokosuka, Japan, he met Lieutenant Helene Hill, a nurse in the U.S. Navy. He proposed to Helene five days later and they were ultimately married for 55 years, blessed with four children and eight grandchildren.

Dave poignantly passed away on March 25, 2025, the very date that he was grievously wounded in service to our nation in 1969. Notably, this date is also in close proximity to March 29, the annual day that a truly grateful nation observes National Vietnam War Veterans Day to honor and remember all who served during the Vietnam War. Brigadier General (USA Ret) Barry Hartman - the Master of Ceremonies of the 50th Vietnam War Commemoration that was held at the New York State Military Museum on March 29 - poignantly paid tribute to Dave Wallingford during his opening remarks.

Dave was recognized with many awards and honors over the years. His vital contributions to our nation and community are simply too numerous to list. For his service in Vietnam, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat V device, the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V device, two Purple Hearts, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation and various campaign medals and ribbons. Dave spent much of his adult life in service to his fellow Veterans. In 1999, he was appointed a Special Assistant to the Director of the NYS Division of Veterans Affairs and later became a Deputy Director for the NYS Division of Veterans Affairs. He was active in local veteran organizations, including Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Marine Corps League, the Purple Heart Association, and the Friends of the New York State Military Museum. He was also a co-founding member of the Malta Veterans Appreciation Program.

Dave was a person of immense character and exhibited courage, duty, honor, loyalty, and love of country. It is often said that the reason that each succeeding generation can see so far and enjoy such abundant blessings and freedoms is that it indeed stands on the shoulders of giants like Dave Wallingford. *Semper Fidelis* (“Always Faithful”) is the storied motto of the U.S. Marine Corps. Well, I think that everyone that knew Dave can readily attest to the fact that the same can certainly be said to describe the life and example of Dave Wallingford.

I’d like to humbly thank all of the Friends of the New York State Military Museum - Docents, Advisory Board Members, and Trustees - as well as the dedicated members of the Museum’s staff from the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs, who were able to gather together in solidarity at Dave’s funeral on April 3 at St. Clement’s Church in Saratoga Springs. Our deepest condolences and fervent prayers remain with the Wallingford family during this time of sorrow. We will endeavor to honor and remember this good man and true patriot and pledge to be worthy of his service and sacrifice. Dave never forgot his fellow Veterans. Now that he belongs to the ages, we will ensure that he is never forgotten nor the many years of service that he rendered to the Friends of the New York State Military Museum. *Semper Fi* Dave and may perpetual light shine upon you.



David Wallingford at the ceremony honoring him as the Veteran of the Year for 2022, presented by the Friends of the NYS Military Museum and the Association of US Army — Capital District of New York Chapter. Photo courtesy Paul Fanning.

## FRIENDS HONOR VIETNAM VETS ON VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

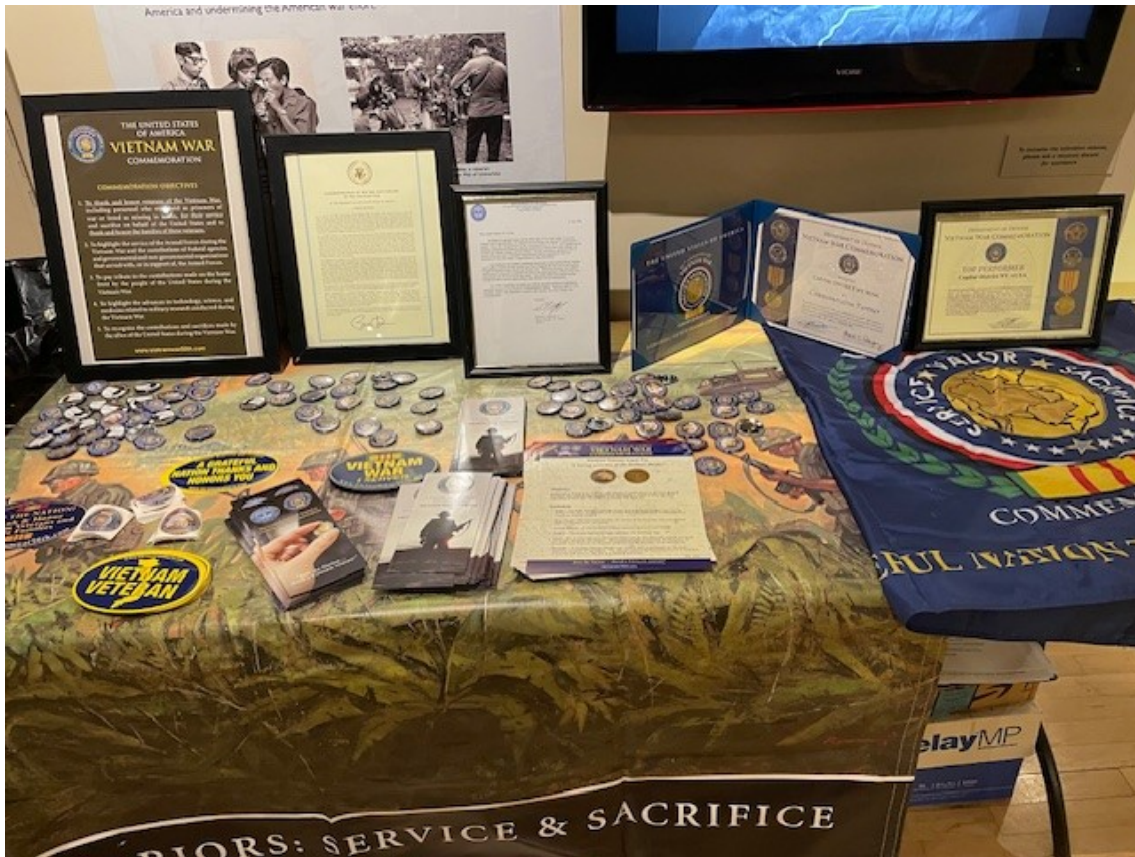


Photo  
courtesy  
Keith  
Lashway

The Friends of the New York State Military Museum , along with the Association of the United States Army — Capital District of New York Chapter, held a ceremony at the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga on Saturday, March 29, 2025, to honor the service of Vietnam War Era veterans who served between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975. The honor included members of all forces in existence during the Vietnam Era —the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. The date of the ceremony (March 29) is the date annually recognized as National Vietnam Veterans Day.

Veterans in attendance, as well as surviving spouses of deceased veterans, received a Vietnam Era Lapel Pin issued by the Department of Defense. Vietnam Era Veterans were also given the opportunity to make remarks.

Friends members Mark O'Rourke, Barry Hartman, Nick Laiacona and Bob Van Pelt were among those who took part in organizing the ceremony.





Photo courtesy  
Bob Van Pelt

## Additional photos from the Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony



Photo courtesy of Bob Van Pelt



Photo courtesy of Paul Fanning

# MUSEUM PRESENTATION AND EXHIBIT ON LIBERATION OF CONCENTRATION CAMPS IN 1945

The Winter/Spring 2025 Speaker Series at the Museum concluded on Saturday, April 26 with a program entitled “The Rainbow Division and the Liberation of Dachau.”

The program included a presentation by Richard Goldenberg, retired 42nd Division officer and veteran of the Iraq War. Goldenberg spoke about the actions of the 42nd Infantry Division across Europe in the winter and spring of 1945, including its race to Munich and the Division’s liberation of the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau in late April of 1945.

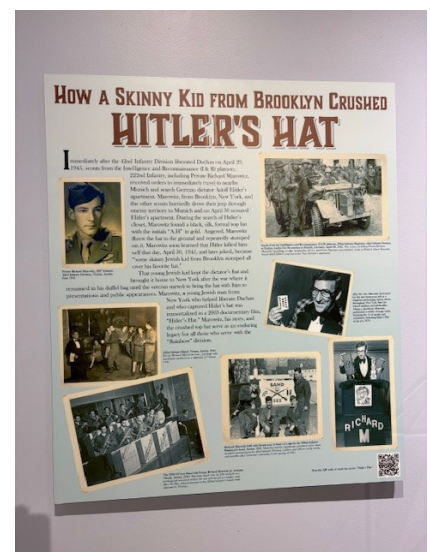
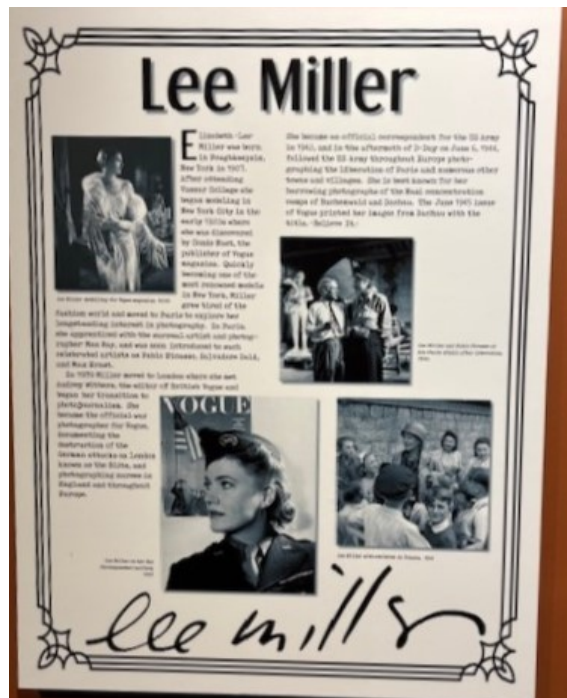
The 42nd Division, a division of the New York Army National Guard, was initially formed during World War I. It was nicknamed the “Rainbow Division” because it was formed from 27 National Guard units from across the United States. The division is currently headquartered in Troy, NY.

Holocaust Educator Evelyn Loeb also spoke at the event. Ms. Loeb, who lives in the Capital Region, spoke about her father’s imprisonment at Dachau, as well as his emigration to the United States after the War and his subsequent service in the American Army.

The event also featured the display of a pictorial exhibit on two stories which are related to the actions of the Rainbow Division in the Second World War:

One part of the exhibit concerns the career of Lee Miller, a female photojournalist who took pictures in the field, as well as pictures at Dachau and pictures in the apartment of Adolf Hitler, after it had been captured by Allied troops.

The other part of the exhibit concerns the story of Richard Marowitz, a Jewish soldier who was part of the Rainbow Division in World War II. Marowitz, then 19 years old, had seen Dachau with the Division, and the next day he also got to see Hitler’s apartment. While there, he stomped on Hitler’s silk top hat and took it with him. He later moved to the Capital Region, and he kept the hat until he died in 2014.





The Friends acknowledges the work and efforts of Museum Director Courtney Burns, and Museum Docent Wayne Rozen, in putting together the April 26 program as well as the pictorial exhibit. The Friends thanks Stewart's Shops for its generous support of the Museum's Speaker Series.

Shown below are some of the additional panels (as photographed by Wayne Rozen) from the exhibit presented at the April 26th Speaker Series program. The panels depict photographs taken by Lee Miller at the time of the liberation of Dachau and the occupation of Hitler's apartment in late April 1945. The exhibit is expected to remain in the Public Area of the Museum for approximately one year.



**US soldiers examine a rail-truck load of dead prisoners, Dachau, Germany, 1945.**

By Lee Miller

Lee Miller took this photograph aware of the rail car's contents. When the US soldiers slid open the door, her thoughts were confirmed as rotting corpses were revealed accompanied by an overwhelming stench of death.

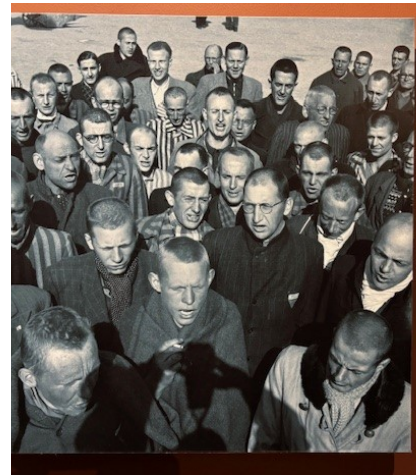
Lee Miller Archives, England 2025. All rights reserved. leemiller.co.uk

**Liberated prisoners sing as they wait for bread, Dachau, 1945.**

By Lee Miller

Amid the horror of Dachau, Lee Miller captures hope and the strength of the human spirit. She wrote: "Trucks arrived and began unloading food, looted officially from German warehouses. Prisoners climbed on roofs, celebrating, singing hymns and national anthems in honor of the birthday of a Dutch princess, cheering everything they can think of."

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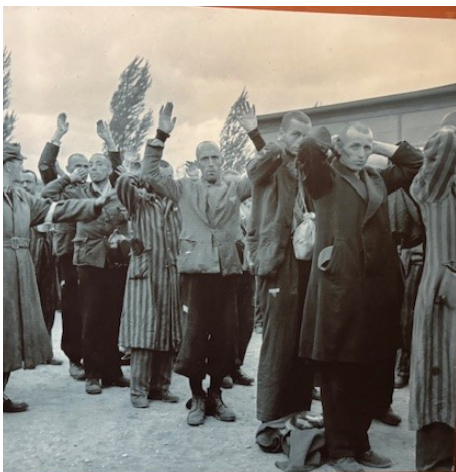


**SS Guards captured wearing prisoners' clothing for escape, Dachau, 1945.**

By Lee Miller

Easily recognizable by prisoners, SS guards dressed in prisoners' clothing trying to escape were captured by US soldiers but not before prisoners and soldiers alike carried out reprisal beatings and killings in reaction to the horrible living conditions and brutal treatment.

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The following is a report of Friends activities by Board President Mark O'Rourke:

## Corporate Governance

The Board would like to thank Mark Ustin, Esq. and his firm Farrell Fritz, P.C. for completing a comprehensive review of the various documents of the Friends as filed with the State Education Department (SED) and for securing a "Certificate in Good Standing" as well. Farrell Fritz, P.C. is also working to ensure that the Friends are properly registered with the Office of the Attorney General so that, as a 501c3 organization, the Friends can receive charitable contributions.

## Audit and Compliance

The Board sincerely thanks Bob Melia for creating a draft Audit & Compliance master checklist that will serve as the foundation of a sound Audit & Compliance program. Bob carefully reviewed the Friends' Charter, By-laws, and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) in creating this important resource.

## President's Appeal/Request

Thank you to everyone who supported the recent financial appeal that will enable a comprehensive technology upgrade for the Friends' various processes and systems including the Museum Store. We received an overwhelming, generous, and immediate response to this appeal totaling \$10,300 in just one short week, including \$1,000 authorized by Courtney Burns from the Museum's Donation's Box fund as well as \$2,750 in donations that were recently made in honor of Dave Wallingford.

## Lecture Series Revival

Many thanks to Courtney Burns and the Docents for their leadership and efforts in reviving the Museum's Lecture Series. The Friends of the New York State Military Museum looks forward to playing a meaningful role in sustaining this vitally important program.

## 50th Vietnam War Commemoration

The Board wishes to sincerely thank everyone that planned, executed and attended the very poignant ceremony that was held at the Museum on March 29 to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. The ongoing national effort to recognize the members of the Armed Forces that served during this consequential period is a very important mission that we are proud to support. Many thanks as well to the Capital District of New York Chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) for co-sponsoring this important program with the Friends. It was truly good to see a capacity crowd for this moving occasion.

## Information Technology

The Board would like to recognize Adam Mason for all of the contributions that he has provided to the Friends in helping to modernize our social media channels and website and for positioning the Communications & Marketing to tackle the comprehensive technology upgrade that is now underway.

## Special Thanks

The Board is making steady progress on a number of vitally important fronts and sincerely thanks everyone for their patience and support during this pivotal period of transition. We truly welcome and value your input and support and we are very grateful for the ongoing contributions of the Docents, Advisory Board, and members of the Board of Trustees. In a very short period of time, we have succeeded in fortifying the Board of Trustees; rejuvenating the Friends' Committee structure; creating a robust audit and compliance program; approving and funding a comprehensive technology upgrade for the Friends' operations and Museum Store; and commencing a meaningful dialogue with the Museum's leadership and the Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) about the Museum's future. All of these reforms are being done so that the Friends can continue to play a meaningful role in support of the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Resource Center and the DMNA.

Lastly, I would also like to recognize Patrick Piccirilli, Tim Holmes and Wayne Rozen for all of the sage advice and timely help that they have provided to the new Executive Committee and Board.

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**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](http://www.museum.dmna.ny.gov)

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

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

**PLEASE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE NYS MILITARY MUSEUM WILL BE CLOSED FOR APPROXIMATELY FOUR (4) WEEKS BEGINNING ON MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025, IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF THE CONTINUING WORK ON THE BUILDING'S HVAC SYSTEM.**



## IN MEMORIAM: STANLEY URBAETIS

Stanley Urbaetis (“Stan”), long-time Docent at the New York State Military Museum, passed away on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at the age of 94.

Stan was born in Mechanicville. He graduated from Mechanicville High School in 1948. He enlisted in the US Navy in 1951 and honorably served until his discharge in 1954. He began his Navy service on the USS Macon, but later he transferred to the USS Missouri. He was particularly proud of being a part of the Missouri’s final cruise, through the Panama Canal and along the West Coast to Bremerton, Washington; the Missouri was the ship on which the Japanese had surrendered to the Allies at the end of World War II. Stan was discharged after attaining the rank of Petty Officer Second Class. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Navy Occupation Service Medal with European clasp.

Stan had a long career with General Electric. In his early work, he was involved in the development of test firing of the Vulcan 20mm six-barrel cannon, as well as in the testing of components for the Hermes missile (which had been upgraded to project a man-made object into orbit). Later, he worked as a heat transfer specialist at GE’s Research and Development Department. He retired from GE after 44 years of service.

Colleen Maheux, Office Manager of the Museum, knew Stan and his family. She said: “Stan was not only a wonderful docent at the Museum, but he was also a friend. I grew up with his children, and I always had the most immense respect for him. He was a great father, husband, volunteer, and friend. He was a very successful and hard-working man. Stan will be missed by many.”

Stan is survived by his wife of 66 years, Carol Stoliaroff Urbaetis, by his five children, by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and by two brothers.



Stanley Urbaetis

Photo courtesy  
of Tim Sinnott



## New Flowers Planted Around Sign in Front of Museum

Spring is here, and thanks to the efforts of Museum maintenance man Jim Carroll and Museum Docent Mary Ann Adams, there are pretty new flowers planted in front of the Museum, around the sign at the Museum entrance.



Photo courtesy Colleen Maheux



Photo courtesy Colleen Maheux



Photo courtesy Wayne Rozen



# EDUCATION PROGRAM HAS BUSY SPRING

The New York State Military Museum's Education Program is often busy during the springtime months, as the weather warms and educators take their students on educational field trips. This spring, the Education Program is welcoming the students from the following schools to the Museum, to view the Museum's exhibits and to hear about the exhibits and the corresponding history from various Museum docents and volunteers:

Schenectady High School

Rosalyn Chatter School (from the Bronx)

Stillwater Elementary School

Augustine Classical Academy

Shaker High School

Schuylerville Elementary School

Lake Avenue School in Saratoga

Museum docents and volunteers taking part in the visits include Bill Watkins (head of the Education Program), Hady Finch, Paul Hauschen, Ian Losz, Sean Luchsinger, Bob Melia, Lisa Munday, Bill Schmeelcke, Tim Sinnott and Charlie Wheeler.

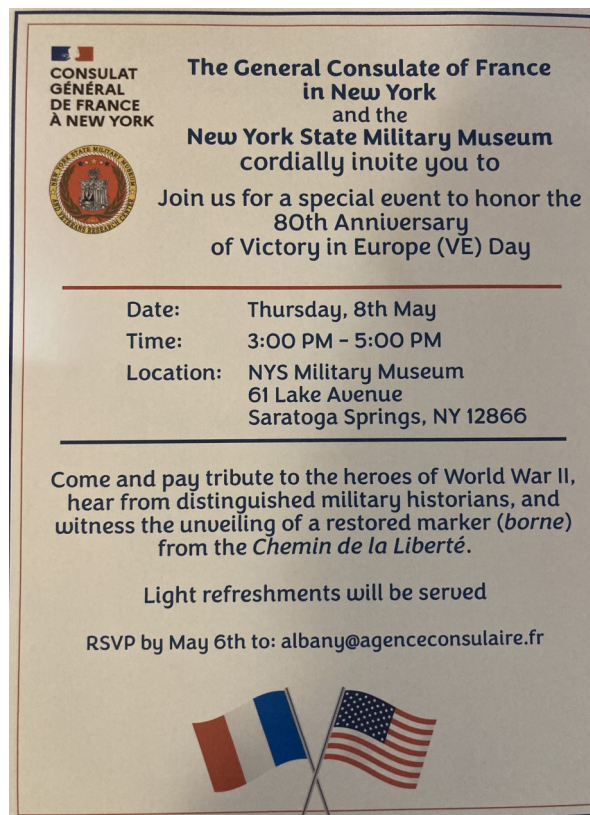
The Museum is also welcoming two groups of seniors under the auspices of the Education Program, with a particular interest in viewing the exhibits on Vietnam and the Naval Nuclear Programs (submarines and aircraft carriers).



Stillwater students visit the NYS Military Museum

Photos courtesy of Bill Watkins





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**FLAG DAY IS SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025.**

**A FLAG DAY PARADE WILL BE HELD ON SECOND AVENUE OFF NORTH BROADWAY IN SARATOGA, ON JUNE 14 BEGINNING AT NOON.**

**BOARD MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS AND MUSEUM DOCENTS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARADE. ANY FRIENDS MEMBER WHO WOULD LIKE TO MARCH OR OTHERWISE PARTICIPATE IN THE PARADE WITH THE FRIENDS MAY CONTACT TIM HOLMES, HEAD OF THE FRIENDS PARADE COMMITTEE. TIM'S EMAIL IS [tim3holmes@gmail.com](mailto:tim3holmes@gmail.com).**

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Thank you to the following people for their efforts in creating and/or distributing this issue of the Friends' Newsletter: Fred Katz, Wayne Rozen, Tim Sinnott, Keith Lashway, Bill Watkins, Paul Fanning, Mark O'Rourke, Barry Hartman, Bob Van Pelt, Tim Holmes, Courtney Burns, Colleen Maheux, Bruce Farley and Francis Crandall (Flight Creative Group).