



David Wallingford Honored as Veteran of the Year for 2022



Pictured here are 2022 Veteran of the Year David T. Wallingford, along with Friends Trustees Robert Van Pelt and Barry Hartman

Photo: Paul Fanning

This past November, the Friends of the New York State Military Museum and the Association of US Army—Capital District of New York Chapter honored David T. Wallingford, CPT, USMC, Vietnam, as the Veteran of the Year for 2022.

A ceremony was held at the Elk's Club in Saratoga Springs. The colors were presented by cadets from LaSalle Institute, and the invocation was given by the Rev. Charlene Robbins. Mr. Wallingford was introduced by Roy McDonald, President of the Friends of the New York State Military Museum and by Barry Hartman, a Friends Trustee and the Vice President for Retiree & Veterans Affairs of the AUSA-CDNYC.

Awards, proclamations and citations were presented to Wallingford by Roy McDonald, 1SG Scott Kyle (President of AUSA-CDNYC), Saratoga County Board of Supervisors Chairman Todd Kusnierz, New York State Senator Jim Tedesco, and Congressman Paul Tonko. Remarks were made by Wallingford and by MG Raymond Shields, New York Adjutant General.

David T. Wallingford, from Albany, NY, graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in 1966 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Marine Corps in 1967. He attended The Basic School in Quantico, VA and Artillery School at Fort Sill, OK.

Dave served in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969 with the 3rd Marine Division in I Corps along the DMZ. He was wounded in Vietnam on March 1969 and evacuated through various RVN sites and eventually to the USNH in Yokosuka, Japan, where he met Navy Nurse Lieutenant Helene Hill. Dave and Helene were later married and have been married now for 52 years. They are the proud parents of four children and proud grandparents of eight grandchildren.

Wallingford was Honorably Discharged from the Marines in 1970 as a Captain. He was awarded the Bronze Star, Medal with Combat V device, the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V device, the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation and various campaign medals and ribbons for his service in Vietnam.

After his service in the Marines, Dave worked for companies in Menands, NY and Dallas, TX, and he later became President and Chief Operating Officer of CARCO, Inc. in Menands. He also worked for the Palmetto Fruit Company in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Dave has also served on many public organizations in Saratoga County and the Town of Malta, as well as in various veterans groups. He was a Special Assistant to the Director of the NYS Division of Veterans Affairs and a Deputy Director for the NYS Division of Veterans Affairs.



Photo: Paul Fanning

Repair Work Continues on Museum Building

The work on the Museum building is continuing. Here is an update, based on information from Museum Director Courtney Burns:

The work on the turret has been completed, and the attic has been insulated. The steel work on one half of the inside of the roof has been completed, and the steel work on the other half is getting under way. Once the internal work on the roof is finished, the Museum will be able to open to the public again, hopefully in the Spring. At that point, work will be commenced on the outside of the roof. The Museum will then be able to open to the public, albeit with scaffolding on the outside of the building and a covered walkway over the entrance walk.



New York State Military Museum Receives Statues Depicting Nineteenth Century Soldiers

The Museum has recently taken possession of two statues from the 14th Regiment Armory in Brooklyn. According to Museum Director Courtney Burns, the Armory had closed more than twenty years ago, but the statues had been left at a location in Brooklyn, on loan to the Veterans' Committee of Kings and Richmond Counties. The Veterans' Committee dissolved during the COVID pandemic, and the statues were brought to the Museum. At present, they are in temporary off-site storage at the Saranac Lake Armory.

The first one, shown on this page, depicts a Civil War infantryman. The second one, pictured on the next page, shows an American soldier from the Spanish-American War.

According to Eric Stott, Military History Technician at the Museum, the statues are similar to other statues in the area, including one used in a Saratoga Springs war monument and another in a war memorial at a cemetery in Saratoga.



Also according to Eric: It appears that the statues were originally made in the late 1800s and subsequently re-done. They originally were zinc with bronze finish or copper plating, and they have since been painted. The Civil War soldier appears to be a product of the J.L. Mott Iron Works, created around 1895. It was painted to approximate the French-style Chasseur uniform used by the 14th Regiment. The statue of the Spanish-American War soldier is known as "The Hiker." It has been given a re-paint and some other changes, in an attempt to make it look more like a contemporary soldier.



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Museum Staff and Volunteers Celebrate at Holiday Party

On Wednesday, December 14th, a holiday party was held for Museum staff, docents and other volunteers, at the home of volunteer Melissa Thompson-Flynn, in Saratoga Springs. The holiday fare included catered Italian food, as well as various appetizers and desserts which were donated by the guests. The Friends of the New York State Military Museum provided financial support for the party. We thank them for their generosity. Trustees of the Friends were also in attendance at the party.

Photos courtesy of Mary Ann Adams. Below: Museum volunteers and party hosts, along with Museum Administrative Assistant Colleen Maheux. Opposite top: Jim Gandy, Museum Research Librarian and Mark Koziol, Museum Curator. Opposite page bottom: Colleen Maheux and Courtney Burns, Museum Director.





Thank you to the following people for their efforts in creating and/or distributing this issue of the Newsletter: Fred Katz, Robert Kazalski, Courtney Burns, Eric Stott, Colleen Maheux, Tim Sinnott, Paul Fanning, Mary Ann Adams, Bruce Farley and Francis Crandall (Flight Creative Group).

Museum Docents

In this issue, we are highlighting a docent who has been with the Museum for several years — **Tim Sinnott**, who has been a docent since 2016.

Tim was born in Binghamton, NY. He graduated from Binghamton North High School in 1971. He then attended Virginia Tech, graduating with a B.S. in Biology in 1975. He also participated in the Army ROTC program, and upon graduation, he was commissioned as an Army Second Lieutenant in the Signal Corps. Tim also met and married his wife, Janet, at Virginia Tech.

After college, Tim was assigned to the 11th Air Defense Signal Battalion in Darmstadt, Germany from 1976-1979. Following that, he returned to the United States and was assigned to the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia from 1979-1981, serving as Signal Officer in the 3rd Battalion, 19th Infantry, and he commanded Headquarters and Light Maintenance Company of the 724th Maintenance Battalion.

In 1981, Tim left active duty and transferred to the Army Reserve, where he remained until retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1976. Most of his time in the Reserves was spent in the 359th Signal Brigade in Syracuse and the 464th Combat Engineer Battalion in Schenectady.

Beginning in 1981, Tim attended SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, receiving an M.S. in Fisheries Science. He taught high school for one year, and after that, he was hired by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, working in the Division of Fish and Wildlife until retiring in 2016.

Tim became a Museum docent at the suggestion of his daughter Liana, who had served as a student docent. Tim is co-chair (with Robert Kazalski) of the Docent Advisory Committee. He is also the Recording Secretary of the Saratoga Springs Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Irish Catholic fraternal organization.



Photo courtesy of
Tim Sinnott