

ABOVE & BEYOND

Quarterly News from the Charles H. Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Members of the Volunteer Corps at the National Medal of Honor Heritage Center are dedicated to telling the stories of Medal of Honor recipients through a variety of approaches. Their dedication can be seen on their faces as they engage with visitors in the gallery, share stories of valor with the youth in our community, or work with our collections at the storage facility. They have been stalwart workers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and constitute an essential component of the efficient operation of the Heritage Center.



Volunteer Dr. Clint Cavett engages with a visitor in the Above and Beyond Gallery

Most volunteers serve as Gallery Assistants. As front line volunteers who engage the visiting public in the permanent and changing galleries, they answer questions, provide directions, and offer supplemental information. While their primary purpose is to assist the public in a self-guided exhibit setting, they may, on occasion, provide a guided tour to adult groups that specifically request such a service. They elegantly weave the values of the Medal of Honor into a narrative that humanizes the recipients in a way that inspires visitors

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save these dates on your calendar. For details, visit www.mohhc.org or call (423) 877-2525.

- SEP 11** Patriots Day Program: The Twelve Horsemen of Afghanistan
- SEP 13** Heritage Center Presentation, Moccasin Bend Lecture Series at the IMAX Theater
- SEP 14** *War Comes Home* Exhibit Opens
- SEP 21** 5th Annual Celebration of Valor Luncheon Featuring Medal of Honor Recipient Kyle Carpenter
- SEP 28, 30** History Club Fall Semester Begins
- OCT 1** 3rd Annual Clay Shoot
- OCT 23-28** First Responders Free Admission Days
- NOV 6-14** Veterans Free Admission Days
- NOV 13** Bricks of Valor Dedication Ceremony
- NOV 25** Thanksgiving Day Holiday: Heritage Center Closed
- DEC 5** Pearl Harbor Living History Program

to take what they have experienced and use it to make the world better. These volunteers often find themselves in conversations with children about the values of the Medal of Honor and guide these young minds to find their own values in their lives. Difficult conversations with visitors from around the world can turn into meaningful dialogue about the nation's highest military award and the values modeled by its recipients.



Volunteers and staff enjoy a recent Trivia Night at the Heritage Center

The children in the local community and schools also often interact with Education Assistants at the Heritage Center. These volunteers assist with scheduled educational programs for students in the galleries and classrooms. Such programs typically consist of several activities, including a targeted tour of one or more galleries. When students tour together, they start to engage with one another about what they are learning and how to use the character values in their own lives. The volunteers witness this rewarding learning process firsthand.

The Heritage Center's exhibits and collections tell the story of valor through the physical objects and archival materials that were integral to the daily lives of Medal of Honor recipients. Volunteer Collection Assistants assist with the registration, cataloging, identification, inventory, and basic care of these items. The materials in the collection, some of which are extremely rare, are attached to the stories that we tell, and they deserve the utmost care. The preservation of these artifacts and archival items enables them to be exhibited in the center's permanent and temporary exhibits. Exhibit Assistant volunteers assist with the development, installation, and disassembly of temporary exhibits, as



PATRIOTS DAY PROGRAM: THE TWELVE HORSEMEN OF AFGHANISTAN

by Master Sergeant Christopher Spence, US Army (Ret.)
September 11, 2021 at 2:00 pm

Master Sergeant Christopher Spence, US Army (Ret.) will present a program on the exploits of the 5th Special Operations Group, the Green Beret unit that launched the first ground combat operation in Afghanistan after 9/11. Using horses for transportation, the unit became known as the Twelve Horsemen of Afghanistan. The program begins at 2:00 pm in the Heritage Center's Johnston Education Center, and Spence's presentation will be followed by a Q&A period and a signing of the *Horse Soldiers* book, authored by Doug Stanton. Copies of the book will be available for sale at the event. Admission to this special event is free for Heritage Center members and is free with the cost of admission for the general public. The tickets will include a tour of the exhibits. As seating is limited, reservations are required and can be made by calling (423) 877-2525, Ext. 101.

well as the cleaning and periodic rotation of artifacts in the permanent gallery. These volunteers serve under the direction of the Curator and have assisted in building award winning exhibits in which objects can tell amazing stories.

The Heritage Center recognizes the service of its volunteers in several ways, including awards and an annual dinner. The newest and most popular activity, which combines knowledge and fellowship, is Volunteer Trivia Nights. These activities are enjoyable and further strengthen relationships among both volunteers and staff.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the Heritage Center's Volunteer Corps, please complete a volunteer application at www.mohhc.org/volunteer or email info@mohhc.org. ●

GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT!

Volunteers have been very busy this summer making plans for the 3rd Annual Clay Shoot to benefit the Charles H. Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center. As this newsletter goes to publication the field of shooters is almost complete. The event will be held at Benton Shooting Clays on Friday, October 1st.

We are grateful for our Presenting Sponsor Johnson Reference Books and Militaria. The sponsorship honors LTC (Ret.) Thomas M.



Johnson, a Vietnam veteran who was decorated twice for valor by the South Vietnamese government during the 1968 TET Offensive. Johnson co-authored the U.S. Army Field Manual on the M-16 rifle and was an instructor on the Rifle Marksmanship Committee of the Weapons Department for the U.S. Army Infantry School. An avid collector and researcher of German edged weapons for over 55 years, Johnson authored 33 reference books about collecting European edged weaponry and captured enemy war booty.

We are also grateful for the following additional sponsors supporting the event. U.S. Xpress, our Valor Sponsor, is one of the nation's largest asset-based truckload carriers by revenue, providing services throughout the United States and across North America.



Sponsoring the award-winning shooting instructor, Dale Bouchillon, is Miles and Kirk Design, a Chattanooga based interior design firm comprised of Christie Miles Denton and Ryan Kirk Kopet. Providing ammunition for the event is American ammunition manufacturer Federal Premium Ammunition.



Join us for a day of friendly competition that supports the mission of the Heritage Center. For information on how to get involved contact development@mohhc.org.

HERITAGE CENTER TEACHES CHARACTER EDUCATION

Despite some COVID related challenges, the Heritage Center was able to teach 486 students in the Chattanooga Youth and Family Development Centers this summer.



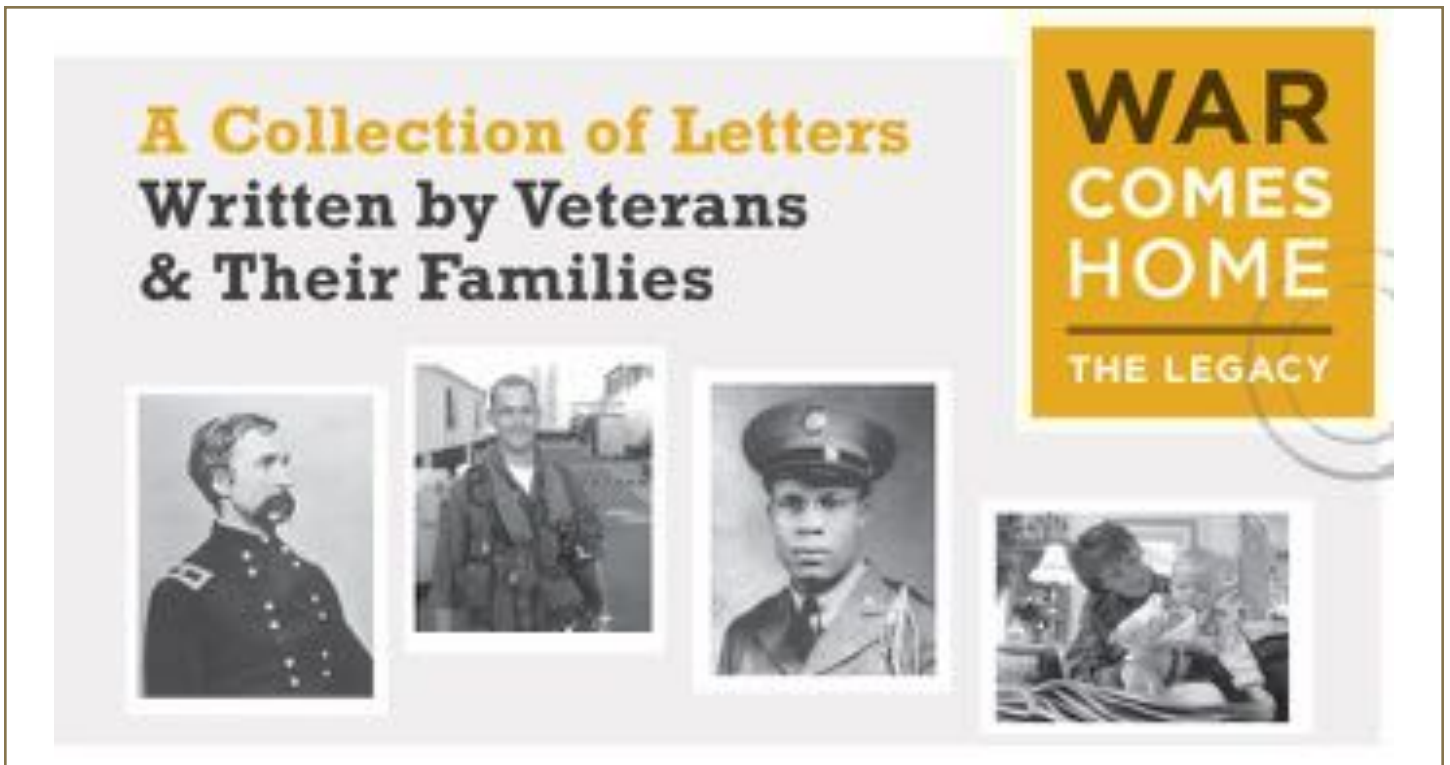
Executive Director Keith Hardison portrays Medal of Honor recipient Moses Veale for students at the John A. Patten Youth and Family Development Center



Volunteer Connie Cavett teaches Medal of Honor history and character traits at the John A. Patten Youth and Family Development Center

The students learned the stories and characteristics of Medal of Honor recipients through our children's book, *The Making of a Hero*. For their culminating projects, students picked one of the characteristics and drew a picture of how they could demonstrate that value. These beautiful and insightful works of art are on display in the Heritage Center lobby and are a powerful testament to the importance of our mission.

We are grateful for the commitment of Lead Instructor Aubrey Sanders and volunteers Clint Cavett, Connie Cavett, Fred Faery, Terry Johnson, and Bob Rhein who assisted in executing this important educational program.



HERITAGE CENTER HOSTS WAR LETTERS TRAVELING EXHIBIT

The Heritage Center is excited to host a new exhibit, *War Comes Home: The Legacy*, which opens September 14, 2021. The traveling exhibition offers an intimate perspective into the thoughts and emotions of veterans and their families upon a soldier's homecoming.

The exhibit is part of Cal Humanities' current War Comes Home initiative, a thematic program designed to promote greater understanding of veterans and explore how war shapes a community. The exhibition is based on the work of the Center for American War Letters (CAWL) and is presented by Exhibit Envoy. Andrew Carroll, the director of CAWL and an award-winning and *New York Times* best-selling author, and John Benitz, associate professor in the Department of Theatre at Chapman University, co-curated the exhibition.

The exhibition explores the joys and hardships that returning soldiers and their families face during homecoming, as expressed through private letters and email correspondence. Spanning conflicts from the Civil War through the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and

displayed on thirteen interpretive panels, *War Comes Home: The Legacy* explores the shared themes of wartime separation, the adjustment to life at home, and the costs of war.

The exhibit will also feature significant pieces from the Heritage Center's collection to better illustrate the struggles that returning veterans and their families face. These pieces will act as windows into a larger experience shared by so many of our men and women in uniform.

As Staff Sergeant Parker Gyokeres writes, "Those of us coming back...are not looking for sympathy. We might be reluctant at first to talk about what we've been through... [but] your support has made this journey an incredible one...Thanks, above all, for listening." To help continue this conversation, the Heritage Center is partnering with The Shephard's Men, an organization dedicated to providing advocacy and opportunities for America's veterans.

Please join us soon to see this exciting new exhibit. ●



FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

How did it get to be late summer? We had so many activities that it kept all of us hopping. Tourism did pick up for the city and our attendance steadily increased week by week to a high the last week of July, but with school starting it has virtually collapsed. Last week saw one of the lowest visitations since opening. Luckily, we have had several groups--military groups, church groups and a tour or two to keep us going. Also, we cannot thank our loyal members and donors enough for supporting us as we pursue our mission.

You will see that our education program is alive and growing. The education team is doing a superb job. The virtual history program has reached nearly 10,000

students. The Book Club had about 60 people connect for its meeting last week. Character education in schools will pick up as soon as the schools get back to their regular schedules.

We have located a new facility for our artifact and archival storage and will be getting it ready to move into over the next few months. We have a little construction work to prepare the space and then we will be developing a moving plan and calling on our volunteers and supporters to help with the move. Stay tuned for information on this opportunity to help.

I urge all our members and supporters to continue to promote the Heritage Center and its great work.

--Rear Admiral Noah Long, USN (Ret.)

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Fall is upon us and, in addition to moderating temperatures and brightly colored foliage, will bring with it a flurry of exciting events and activities. September will be particularly busy with two premier events. On our inaugural Patriots Day program on September 11th, special guest Christopher Spence will share his amazing story as one of the "Twelve Horsemen of Afghanistan," the first American military unit to arrive in that country during the War on Terror.

Chris will share his personal experiences in words and images, followed by a question and answer period and book signing. Admission is free for Heritage Center members and is part of the regular admission charge for the general public. However, as seating is limited and reservations are required, I encourage you to reserve your seats now.

Ten days later, the Heritage Center will host its fifth annual Celebration of Valor luncheon at the Chattanooga Convention Center. Medal of Honor recipient Kyle Carpenter, the featured speaker for the event, will recount his amazing journey and his perspective on life. There is still time to buy tickets, but they are going fast! Purchasing instructions are found elsewhere in this newsletter. You will want to hear what these heroes have to say about current events.

September will also witness the closing of the very popular *Experiencing Europe* exhibit and will see the opening, on September 14, of the new traveling exhibit *War Comes Home: The Legacy*. This exhibit, based on materials collected by the American War Letters Center, will examine the impact of the wartime experiences of servicemen and servicewomen on themselves, their families, and local communities. The exhibit will be supplemented by select pieces from the Heritage Center's collection.

October and November will bring excitement all their own. The Southeastern Museums Conference, composed of public history professionals from 15 southeastern states, will hold its annual meeting in Chattanooga, with the Heritage Center and Tennessee Aquarium

partnering to host the closing reception on October 26. In addition, the Heritage Center will sponsor two events honoring local groups that deserve special recognition. First Responders will receive free admission on October 23-28, and veterans who will receive free admission on November 6-14 to coincide with Veterans Day.

Enjoy the fall by taking advantage of one or more of these events at your Heritage Center! I look forward to seeing you.

--Keith Hardison, Executive Director



STAFF LISTING

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V A L O R

PRESENTING SPONSOR

 **FIRST HORIZON**™

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: KYLE CARPENTER, MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

Please join us for our 5th annual Celebration of Valor Luncheon benefitting the National Medal of Honor Heritage Center's educational initiatives, including the teaching of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's Character Development Program in our area schools and "The Making of a Hero" book and curriculum in our local community centers. Come and listen to Medal of Honor recipient Kyle Carpenter speak about his heroic actions, including his "Alive Day." Kyle's inspirational story of courage, sacrifice and commitment will captivate you as he shares lessons he's learned about adversity, leadership and his new-found perspective on life that will inspire you to rise up and overcome your own challenges and forge a life of joyful purpose. We promise this luncheon will be one of the most inspirational events you'll experience this year!



Tuesday, September 21, 2021
Chattanooga Convention Center
VIP Reception: 10:00 am - 11:15 am
Doors Open: 11:00 am · Program: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

SEATING IS LIMITED

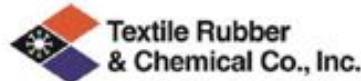
For tickets, sponsorships and corporate tables, visit MOHHC.org/valor or contact us at (423) 877-2525 or via email at info@MOHHC.org.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



 **FIRST HORIZON**



DR. TIM
& ERIKA
BALLARD



Sponsors as of July 31, 2021

YES! I wish to purchase a Corporate Table at \$1,500 ea. # of Tables: _____

(Reserved table for 8 guests and company name included in promotion)

YES! I wish to purchase a Platoon Table at \$750 ea. # of Tickets: _____

(Reserved table for 4 guests)

YES! I wish to purchase a VIP Ticket(s) at \$150 ea. # of Tickets: _____

YES! I wish to purchase a Ticket(s) at \$125 ea. # of Tickets: _____

No, I regret that I cannot attend, but I am enclosing a donation. Amount: \$ _____

PAY ONLINE:

MOHHC.org/valor

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

Charles H. Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center
P.O. Box 11467 • Chattanooga, TN 37401
(423) 877-2525 EIN 58-1739072

- Payment Enclosed
- Please Send Invoice

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

The Charles H. Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center continues its recognition of our new members. We thank you all for your generous support.

Supporting Members (Annual)

Andrews Raiders Council

RADM Jeffery Spivey

Contributing

John A. Swafford

Gunnery Sergeant Michael & Mrs. Stephens

Col. Sherman Reed

General Members (Annual)

Individual

Stephen Meyer

Col. Greg H. Parlier



P.O. Box 11467
Chattanooga, TN 37401

Physical location:
2 W. Aquarium Way, Suite 104
Chattanooga, TN 37402

HOURS

Monday - Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday 10:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Last tickets sold 45 minutes prior to closing

ONLINE

Visit www.mohhc.org

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