Vietnam War Commemoration: 50 Years Later

The Soundtrack of the Vietnam War
Musical Event on Fitch Plaza

August 4, 2016

Save the date to meet the authors of We Gotta Get Out of This Place

Two UW-Madison professors explore how and why U.S. troops turned to music as a way of connecting to each other and the world back home.

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Milwaukee County War Memorial, Inc.
750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
warmemorialcenter.org
Dear War Memorial Center Stakeholder:

It’s a new day at the War Memorial Center.

We enter the year with construction in full swing on Veterans Courtyard thanks to the generous support of so many during phase I of our $1.5 million Operation Renew campaign. On March 25, which is national Medal of Honor Day, we celebrated the reopening of the courtyard in honor of a Milwaukee County resident is one of only 79 living Medal of Honor recipients. A new granite marker and street sign will now honor a place in the heart of the WMC.

On May 24, 2015, a beautifully renovated Veterans Courtyard was rededicated and presented to the Milwaukee community. Citizens and military leaders joined together to remember and honor Milwaukee County residents killed in action engraved in granite along the Eternal Flame. A stunning reminder that freedom isn’t free; and that we must tell the stories of those no longer with us.

The renovated Veterans Courtyard has several new features: a stunning rebuilt Eternal Flame, granite Ring of Honor flagpole and—for the first time since the Vietnam War—names of Milwaukee County residents killed in action engraved in granite above the poster collection on the 4th floor.

More than 700 people visit during the weekend open house. For the first time, WMC participates in Doors Open Milwaukee which attracted more than 700 visitors to our open house over two days. (October brought us our first adult education program event featuring author/WWII veteran Eugene Schulz, a member of the Bradley Foundation, the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, and Albert O. Nicholas for their significant contributions to make that day possible.

The Milwaukee War Memorial Board saw major transition in 2015. In March, we accepted with regret the retirement of our Chairman of the Board, General Michael Berzowski, who carried us through our darkest and most difficult days. We thank him for his tireless service to WMC. In April, a new Executive Committee was sworn in with Peter Pochowski taking the lead as chairman.

Our annual 3rd of July Fireworks Dinner was a huge success with more than 1,500 people enjoying the best seats in the entire city. The separation from Kilbourn Park allows us to accommodate even more guests for this beloved event. September was especially busy. Our annual Remember 9/11 Ceremony included a morning and a new evening ceremony. We also held our first annual Veteran Golf Outing sponsored by The Shoreline on 45. For the first time, we participated in Doors Open Milwaukee which attracted more than 700 visitors to our open house over two days.

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New Elements of Veterans Courtyard:

Eternal Flame: The new Eternal Flame and waterfall stands over the most sacred area of the War Memorial. It honors the fallen 24 hours a day; 365 days a year reminding visitors that freedom is not free.

Ring of Honor: The new granite ring in Veterans Courtyard highlights all military conflicts where Americans have served. The circle represents our military’s never ending commitment to protect our homeland and defend freedom.

Honor Roll: Surrounding the Eternal Flame, etched in granite are the 3,481 names of Milwaukee county residents killed in action since WWII.

Courtyard Flagpole: Donated by the Albert O. Nicholas family, the new flagpole will be used for military events and memorial services. Gold Star Mother Janice Darlak was the first to raise a flag during the rededication ceremony.

We gratefully acknowledge the following generous donors who supported Operation Renew in 2013-2015:

Albert O. Nicholas

Bonaventure Post #169
Joseph F. Campbell
Clapton Foundation
Bill Christofferson
Elizabeth Miller-Christofferson Trust
Fred Christofferson
In Memory of Rose Christofferson
Ralph Evans Foundation
Finnish American Society of Milwaukee
George J. and Anna Clair Gaspar
In honor of George J. Gaspar – Salvation J. Baldwin
Greater Milwaukee Foundations
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Seniornet Technologies Foundation, Inc.
Bertl & Patricia S. Seglender
Dorothy Inbusch Foundation, Inc.
Jack Norman Catering
Johnson Controls Foundation
Juneau Wisconsin Post 15
In memory of Ib Kildegaard – Laurieann Kildegaard
Laurann Kildayard
Richard Vallin
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs
Yontz Valor Foundation
84th Division Alumni Association LTD

“I am more than a fan. The War Memorial is my favorite Milwaukee building! Such a potent, poignant statement about war.”
— Tweet from M.L. Schumacher, Journal Sentinel Architecture Critic
Financial Statements

Revenue $1,652,380

Expenses $1,604,091

Net Revenue $3,692,350

Non-Profit, Civic, $467,417

Veteran, $170,561

Veterans of Foreign Wars, $125,771

Veterans of America, $45,289

American Legion Post 2

American Legion Post 1

American Legion Post 10171 Milwaukee-Grafton Post 10171

Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary Post 1865 Kenosha

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 324

VFW Post 288 Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans, Inc.

Chapter 7 Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans, Inc.

Chapter 3 Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans, Inc.

Chapter 4 Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans, Inc.

Chapter 5 Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans, Inc.

Chapter 1 Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans, Inc.

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2015 Annual Report
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