

The U.S. Army Heritage Education Center /Museum

Carlisle, Pennsylvania

By: Skypilot

Recently a Brother, My Lady (TEXY) and Myself had a chance to take a ride with the weather being just perfect. So we headed up toward Carlisle to visit the Army Heritage and Education center/ Museum. We didn't know at the time but they were all running around getting the center prepared for a Major Inspection, which was going to take place the next day. If they passed this inspection they would become an official recognized Museum. They still took time to give us a tour of the facility inside and out.

The U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center (AHEC) Mission:

Educate a broad audience on the heritage of the Army by acquiring, preserving and making available historical records, materials and artifacts. AHEC is located off 81 in Carlisle, Pa. The museum basically located on the outside grounds, with various displays covering different military periods in this nation's history, which also holds reenactments several times throughout the year. In the indoor area "Ridgeway Hall", you can get help on all most anything you can think of dealing with the Army, from battles that occurred during the Indian Wars, Civil War, World War I, and so on. You can obtain information on individuals who served our nation during different periods of our nations history, as I found out by looking up information on my Uncle Alvin C. York who served in WW I and was awarded The Medal of Honor. In Ridgeway Hall you can view a Art and Photo Exhibit, different artifacts such as saddles, flags and weapons. By the way this is a non profit facility.

This facility is going to give Pennsylvania's Educators a greater tool that will help the young men and women attending school currently and in the future. I remember when my daughter was in high school they did not even cover the Vietnam War, because teachers just didn't have a facility like this to research material that they could pass on to their students. Now that this facility exists our children, grandchildren and their children will be better educated about The



United States Army through this nation history.

As a U.S. Army Retired Ranger, Sergeant First Class and a Vietnam War Veteran this facility makes me so proud that our children and their's will learn a lot more about the Army's role in America's history. I wish something like this were around when my three sons and daughter attended school.

So if you get a chance stop by The AHEC/Museum and visit the facility. It is open to the public Monday - Friday 9:00

a.m. to 4:45 p.m., if you have served or not it is well worth your time to stop by and visit the facility.

Well until next month be safe and may the "Great Spirit" ride with you and have a Great Christmas. "Keep On Triken" As always let us pray for this nation's POW~MIA and their families, also all of this Nation's Personnel in the Armed Forces, both Men and Women deployed throughout the world. You may not agree with the government's policy about the war, but we must pray for the safe return of our people. We have already lost way to many young Americans. GOD BLESS AMERICA.

Skypilot



Older Vets Reach Out to Younger Troops

By ELLIOTT MINOR

COLUMBUS, Ga. (AP) - Jack Wagner was wounded twice in Vietnam, but instead of a hero's welcome upon his return, he was advised to ditch his uniform to avoid the wrath of anti-war protesters.

"That made a lot of Vietnam veterans go in the closet. They didn't want to be labeled as baby killers," said Wagner, the national commander of the Combat Infantrymen's Association.

After being disparaged by demonstrators, Vietnam veterans also found themselves shunned by some World War II and Korean War veterans who belonged to the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and other leading veterans groups.

"All we wanted was for someone to say, 'Welcome Home,'" said Wagner, 59, of Cape Coral, Fla. With World War II veterans dying at a rate of 1,100 per day and many Korean War vets now in their 70s, it's Vietnam veterans like Wagner who have taken the helm of some of the nation's leading veterans organizations. They know the importance of extending a welcoming hand to the latest generation of combat veterans: the more than 1 million Americans who have served in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Even though many of us may disagree on the way this war is being handled, we are in total support of those young troops," Wagner said during his 4,800-member group's recent annual convention here.

The association, which limits its membership to those who earned the Army's blue-and-silver Combat Infantry Badge, has stepped up its recruiting, particularly among those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Nearly 24,000 soldiers have earned the prestigious badge in Iraq and 9,700 in Afghanistan. Yet despite offering free, two-year memberships, the group has only attracted 58 of them.

"We need new blood," said Dan Sankoff, 76, the association's national membership officer from Lehigh Acres, Fla. "Our boys are dying."

The association has worked out deals with other veterans groups to swap ads and has launched membership drives around Army posts and reserve and National Guard units that have sent soldiers to war zones. The drives brought in 1,617 new members in three years, just not many Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

Joining a veterans group is not a high priority among young people, said Sankoff, a Korean War veteran. "They're busy," he said. "They're moving from place to place. They don't get involved."

Ralph Dula, the group's national adjutant, says career and family responsibilities left little time for him to be involved with veterans' groups until he was older. Now the 79-year-old Korean War veteran from Florence, Ala., is leading a campaign to have the group recognized by Congress through a national charter. Other veterans groups have launched programs to sign up and assist younger veterans. AmVets sponsored a recent job fair and symposium in Chicago that focused on the needs of young veterans and attracted more than 1,000 people. The 200,000-member group has urged its local posts to boost membership by 20 percent next year.

The American Legion's new "Heroes to Hometowns" program helps young veterans, particularly disabled ones, and their spouses find housing and jobs. The Legion also runs a support network through its 1,700 posts to assist families of deployed soldiers with such services as baby-sitting and home and auto repair.

Gary Kurpius, the VFW's commander in chief, has urged members to consider new ways to make their local posts relevant to younger members,

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