

The Veterans Memorial Museum Newsletter



October 2017

The Museum is open Wednesday - Saturday 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.
To set up a tour, call the Museum at 256-883-3737 during Museum hours.

Museum News

- Buy a General Admission ticket to the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum for a friend. Tickets may be obtained at the Museum office.



- Buy a T Shirt from the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum for a friend or for yourself. "T" Shirt's may be obtained from the Museum's front office for \$20 each. They come in medium, large, and X large. Get them while they last.



Front



Back

- On **July 22, 1956**, the U.S. Army presented the Huntsville and Madison County Alabama with an iconic landmark that still stands today. The Hermes missile located at Memorial Parkway and Airport Road was officially presented by Army Ballistic Missile Agency commander. The missile and its historical marker were set up at what was once the entrance to the local Huntsville airport. The missile and plaque remain at the same location.



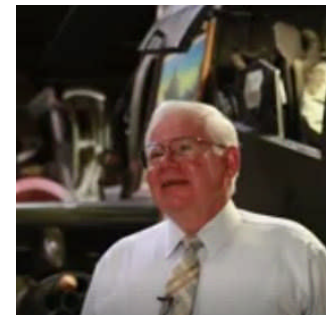
The Hermes missile

- On **August 13** Saturday was motorcycle day at the museum. The Indian 741 motorcycle came back to the museum following restoration completion. This opportunity was taken to "exercise" the three cycles.
- On **August 14** Gavin Abbott, young WWI reenactor, came by the museum on Saturday in full uniform! Shown here beside the "40 & 8" boxcar, Gavin was complete and correct from helmet to hobnails.
- **August 15** A group from the Gurley Senior Center visited the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum.



Gavin Abbott

- On **August 22** The annual Combat Veterans Fellowship sponsored by the VFW Joyce M. Helson Post 5162 was held at the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum. Good folks and good food!
- **On September 19** At the Mike Rose Medal of Honor Medal Announcement at the Veterans Memorial Museum, it was announced that Gary "Mike" Rose, (Captain - Retired), would be presented the Congressional Medal of Honor in White House Ceremony on 23 October, for Heroic Actions, from Sept 11-14 1970 in Laos. At the time he was a Special Forces Medic Sergeant with the Military Assistance Command Studies and Observation Group, 5th Special Forces Group. Despite his wounds, he ensured survival of his injured comrades. Congratulations to "Mike from the Staff of the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum.



Mike Rose

- **IT'S HERE!!!!: On 25 September** the Museum welcomed it's newest addition. A 1918 (World War I) vintage LIBERTY "Class B" Truck. It is in need of a bed and some engine work. The unique thing about the Liberty is, it has solid rubber tires, carbide headlights, with an updraft carburetor. A lot of man hours will have to expended to get it into displayable condition. Some interesting points: Capacity - 6,000 lbs useful load, (exclusive of body and equipment). It is capable of carrying 10,000 lbs maximum load. Maximum speed of 14 miles per hour.



LIBERTY "Class B" Truck

- **IT'S GONE!!!!** Our Cougar Jet has left the house. **On 27 September** James Clemmons High School (City of Madison) has finally picked up the Cougar and transported it to the High School to be refurbished, mounted, and will be put on display at the school. The James Clemmons High School Teams name is the Jets.



Grumman F-9 Cougar

- **Hall of Hero's Inductees:** The future inductees were interviewed at the Museum Conference Room on **September 27-28**. Inductees will be introduced at a formal dinner and honored in the Veteran's Day parade in November.

Upcoming Events

The following events are scheduled:

- **October 6** The North Alabama Chapter of the 8th Air Force Historical Society meets at the Sunny Street Cafe (SW corner of Slaughter Rd & US 72). Order and eat as you wish (11:00). The formal meeting starts at noon.
- **November 11** Saturday, November 11 at 12 PM to 3 PM the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum cordially invites you to a celebration of your service and sacrifice to our nation. Please join us for refreshments, a tour of the museum, and a time to share your stories with those in attendance. Admission is free to all. Donations gladly accepted.
- **December 16** Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artists Shawn Kush, Riley Jenkins & Cody Ray Slaughter. Christmas, Gospel, Rock "n" Roll Concert. Benefiting the Association of the United States Army at the Von Braun Center Mark C. Smith Concert Hall. Tickets on sale at the VBC Ticket office and Ticketmaster.



Some of the operational vehicles of the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum

Museum Artifact Facts

The U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum located in Huntsville Alabama is named after **Paul L. Bolden** (June 15, 1922 – May 21, 1979). He was a United States Army soldier and a recipient of the United States military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, for his actions in World War II.

Paul Luther Bolden joined the Army from Madison, Alabama in October 1942, and by December 23, 1944, was serving as a Staff Sergeant in Company I, 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division. On that day, at Petit-Coo, Belgium, he and Technical Sergeant Russell N. Snoad advanced on a German-held house. While his comrade provided covering fire from across the street, Bolden tossed grenades through a window, rushed to the door, and began firing. Wounded by the greatly superior number of German soldiers inside, he retreated from the house. Realizing that the Germans would not surrender, he returned to the house despite his serious wounds and killed the remaining soldiers. For these actions he was awarded the Medal of Honor eight months later, on August 30, 1945.

Bolden reached the rank of Master Sergeant before leaving the Army. He died at age 56 and was buried in Moon Cemetery, Owens Cross Roads, Alabama. An 18-mile stretch of Alabama State Route 53, from Research Park Boulevard in Huntsville to just south of Ardmore, is designated as the "Paul Luther Bolden Memorial Highway" in his honor.

Bolden's official Medal of Honor citation reads:

He voluntarily attacked a formidable enemy strong point in Petit-Coo, Belgium, on 23 December 1944, when his company was pinned the front. Mortar and tank artillery shells pounded the unit, when S/Sgt. Bolden and a comrade, on their own initiative, moved forward into a hail of bullets to eliminate the ever-increasing fire from the German position. Crawling ahead to close with what they knew was a powerfully armed, vastly superior force, the pair reached the house and took up assault positions, S/Sgt. Bolden under a window, his comrade across the street Where he could deliver covering fire. In rapid succession, S/Sgt. Bolden hurled a fragmentation grenade and a white phosphorus grenade into the building; and then, fully realizing that he faced tremendous odds, rushed to the door, threw it open and fired into 35 SS troopers who were trying to reorganize themselves after the havoc wrought by the grenades. Twenty Germans died under fire of his submachine gun before Bolden was struck in the shoulder, chest, and stomach by part of a burst which killed his comrade across the street. He withdrew from the house, waiting for the surviving Germans come out and surrender. When none appeared in the doorway, Bolden summoned his ebbing strength,



Displays in Entrance Hall



Displays on Main Floor



The Medals of Honor awarded by each of the three branches of the U.S. military, and are to Army, Coast Guard/Navy/Marine Corps and Air Force

overcame the extreme pain he suffered and boldly walked back into the house, firing as he went. He had killed the remaining 15 enemy soldiers when his ammunition ran out. S/Sgt. Bolden's heroic advance against great odds, his fearless assault, and his magnificent display of courage in reentering the building where he had been severely wounded cleared the path for his company and insured the success of its mission.

Historical Facts

Dr. Mary Walker

Out of the nearly 3,500 Medal of Honor recipients, only one was a woman -just one - and her medal was actually rescinded just before she died. Dr. Mary Walker helped change the face of medicine during the Civil War. Walker was born in Oswego, New York, to abolitionist parents who encouraged her to pursue an education. She embraced that idea and in 1855 graduated as an edictal doctor from Syracuse Medical College.

Walker went into private practice for a few years, but then the Civil War broke out in 1861. She wanted to join the Army as a surgeon but wasn't allowed because she was a woman. Because of her credentials, she didn't want to be a nurse either, so she chose to volunteer for the Union Army. Walker worked for free at the temporary hospital set up at the U.S. Patent Office in Washington, D.C. She also organized the Women's Relief Organization to help the families of the wounded who came to visit them at local hospitals. In 1862, Walker moved on to Virginia, this time treating the wounded at field hospitals throughout the state. In 1863, her medical credentials were finally accepted, so she moved to Tennessee, where she was appointed as a War Department surgeon. Her position was paid, and it was the equivalent of a lieutenant or captain. Walker was captured in April 1864 by the South and held as a prisoner of war for about four months. She and other Union doctors were eventually exchanged in a prisoner-of-war swap for Confederate medical officers. According to the National Library of Medicine, sources say Walker had been captured intentionally so she could spy for the North, but there is little evidence to support that claim.



Dr. Mary Walker

Not long after being released by the Confederates, Walker returned to her craft as an assigned medical director at a hospital for women prisoners in Kentucky. Aside from her wartime efforts, Walker was also an outspoken advocate for women's rights. As the war raged on, feminists also struggled to further their cause, which included being able to wear clothing that enabled better mobility. Walker chose to wear what was known as the "Bloomer costume" as a modified uniform all throughout the war. It was a dress-and-trouser combination that had gone out of favor long before the war began, but she didn't care - she wore it anyway. Walker eventually switched to wearing men's clothes and was even arrested for impersonating a man several times. In her defense, she argued that she was given special permission by the government to dress that way.

In November 1865; having left government service for good, Walker was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Andrew Johnson, even though she was a civilian who had never been a commissioned officer in military service. That civilian status is why Walker's medal was rescinded in 1917, two years before she died along with 910 others. Walker refused to return the medal, though, and continued to

wear it until she died two years later. Sixty years after that, in 1977, President Jimmy Carter restored the honor in her name, thanks to efforts made by her family. So thank you, Dr. Mary Walker for representing all women in this long list of honorable Medal of Honor recipients.

General Information

The U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum located in Huntsville Alabama is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization. There are more than 30 historical military vehicles from World War I to the present as well as artifacts and other memorabilia dating back to the Revolutionary War. Displays include a "Merci" 40 et 8 boxcar from World War I, a Cobra attack helicopter, a collection of jeeps, Sherman tanks and Stuarts, a half-track and flags, maps, uniforms and other artifacts from every U.S. conflict. The Museum is located just west of Memorial Pkwy in John Hunt Park at 2060A Airport Road, Huntsville, AL 35801. The U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum is dedicated to promoting the accomplishments of American military men and women.

The Museum's web page is www.memorialmuseum.org.

The Museum email of is Info@memorialmuseum.org.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, send "REMOVE" to

usveteransmuseumlibrary@gmail.com

If you would like to be "ADDED" to our mailing list, send "Add to Newsletter" to

usveteransmuseumlibrary@gmail.com

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