



Friends of the
**NEW YORK STATE
MILITARY MUSEUM**
Preserving Our Military Heritage

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Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2018

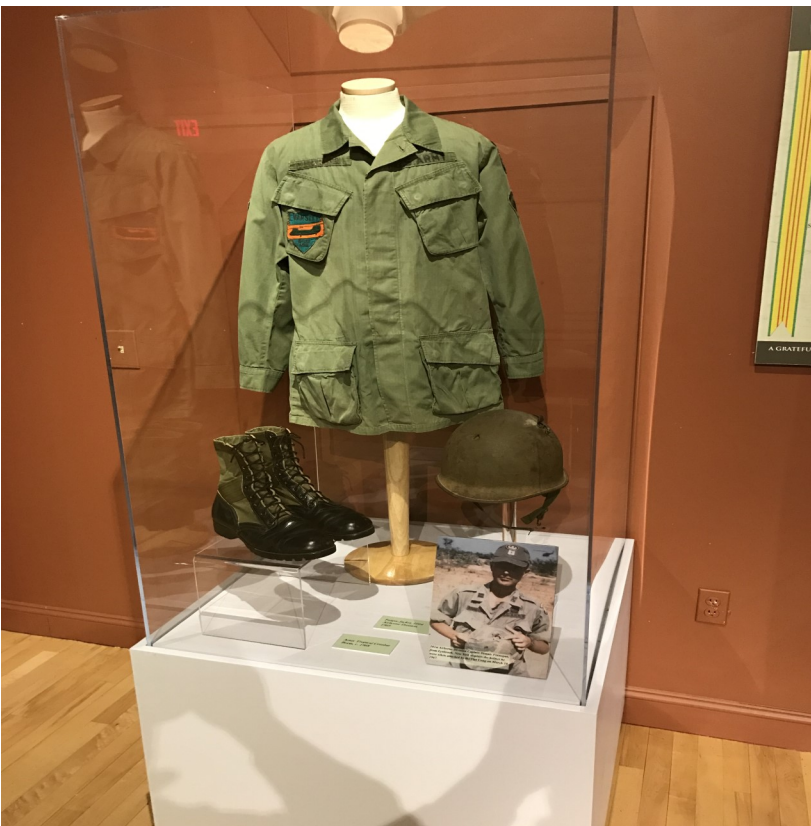
Our “Vietnam Reconsidered” presentation - a preview of our upcoming Korean/Vietnam War exhibit Construction has begun!



Our “Vietnam Reconsidered” presentation on Saturday, March 10th drew a large, enthusiastic group for a spirited, interesting presentation by several Vietnam veterans on their experiences during the Vietnam war. Also on display for this event were several artifacts that will be incorporated into our upcoming Korean/Vietnam war exhibit. Pictured left to right: William O'Brien, Helene Wallingford and David Waghorn.



As construction has now started, the Friends of the New York State Military Museum again expresses it's thanks to the following organizations that have provided funding for this exhibit: the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust, Stewarts Foundation, the Saratoga Foundation and the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs.



Our Docent of the Quarter - Mary Ann Ling, Army WAC



The Military Museum couldn't function day to day without our volunteer docents staffing our front desk. In this edition, we are going to highlight one of our newer docents, Mary Ann Ling, who began volunteering with us in August 2016.

Mary Ann was born in Chester, Pennsylvania, walked to school daily at St. Hedwig's Elementary School, and later graduated from Notre Dame High School in nearby Moylan, Pennsylvania in 1961. She came from a large family, two brothers and one sister, and after high school enrolled in the nursing program at the Wilmington General Hospital School of Nursing, in Wilmington, Delaware, graduating as an R.N. in 1964.

From 1964-1967, Mary Ann worked as a nurse at Taylor Hospital in Ridley Park, Pa. Seeing the need for a

change in her life, Mary Ann then enlisted in the U.S. Army, thanks to encouragement from a female recruiter, and in June 1967 entered Basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama. Mary Ann then went for AIT training in data processing at Fort Benjamin Harrison, in Indianapolis, Indiana from August to October 1967.

After completing basic and advanced training, Mary Ann's next assignment was at Fort Myer, Virginia from October 1967 to June 1970, working as a data processor. At Fort Myer, Mary Ann met her future husband, Arthur. Also at Fort Myer, Mary Ann received an award as WAC of the Quarter. In 1969, her fiancé was sent to Vietnam, and served at Long Binh, from February to October of 1969. He then was then discharged from the Army as an Spec. E-5, with Mary Ann being discharged in June of 1970. Mary Ann received the Good Conduct Medal, Army Commendation Medal and National Defense Service Medal for her service in the Army while attaining the rank of Spec. E-5. Mary Ann and Arthur were married in October of 1970 and moved to Trenton, New Jersey, 1971 in Niskayuna and in 1972 moved to Saratoga Springs.

While in Saratoga, Mary Ann worked at Saratoga Hospital, at data processing, then Grand Union Supermarket. In 1989, Mary Ann's husband, Arthur, died due to a previous exposure to Agent Orange while in Vietnam. In 1993, Mary Ann met Dr. William T. Ling, Optometrist and they were married. He owned and operated Family Vision Care on Lake Avenue, Saratoga Springs. They raised the daughter and son from her first marriage. Dr. Ling unfortunately passed away in 2013. He saw service in the U.S. Army from 1947-49 in Sapporo, Japan as an enlisted quartermaster. After service in the Army, he attended Siena College and received a bachelor's and master's degree from Columbia University in Optometry. If you talk to Mary Ann, she will tell you that had she re-enlisted in 1970, she would have enjoyed a long career in the military, and eventually would have achieved the rank of General. Knowing Mary Ann, we find that to still be true.

Two WWI Medals of Honor, two names, one New York Marine



A Brooklyn Marine received two Medals of Honor for heroism on June 6, 1918, during the historic Battle of Belleau Wood. He also had two names. That June day, Gunnery Sergeant Charles Hoffman conducted a one-man counter-attack against a dozen Germans soldiers armed with five light machine guns, trying to throw the 5th Marine Regiment off Hill 142 overlooking the woods. But when he was one of the escorts bringing the Unknown Soldier back from France in 1921 to Arlington, he was Gunnery Sgt. Ernest Janson.

Janson was already a veteran before WWI, having served ten years in the U.S. Army before he enlisted in the Marine Corps in June 1910. He was promoted to corporal less than a year later and made sergeant in August 1914, serving aboard a variety of navy ships up until 1916. At some point, and for reasons nobody seems to know 100 years later, his enlistment in the Marines was as Charles Hoffman. There are no records or mention of Janson's motivation for serving as Hoffman during the war. Following the World War he changed his to Janson, which apparently was his real name, although the official Medal of Honor Society website records his Medal of Honor as being awarded to Charles Hoffman, not Ernest Janson. The two Medals of

Honor for the same action is easier to explain. In 1918, the 5th Marine Regiment was fighting as part of the Army's 2nd Division.

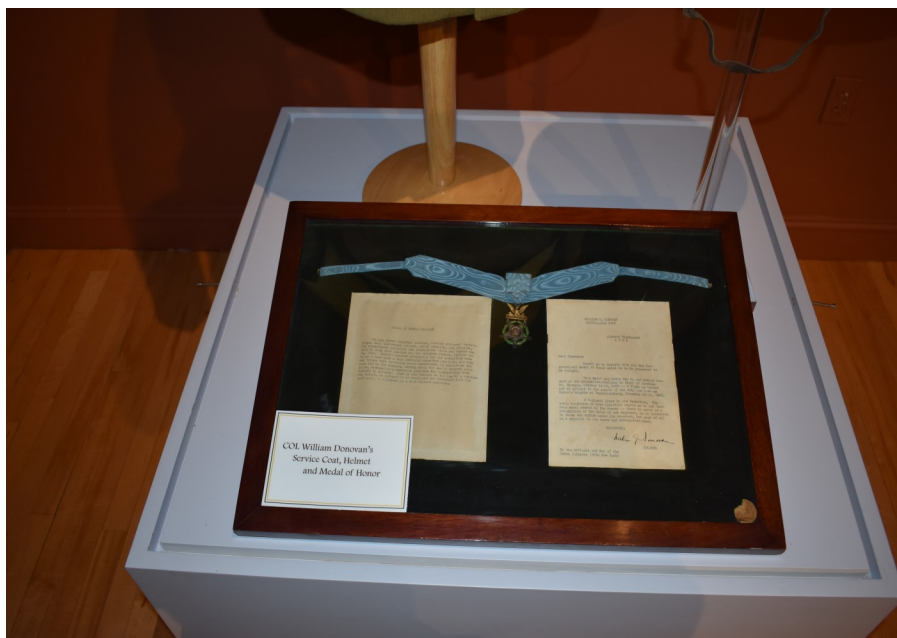
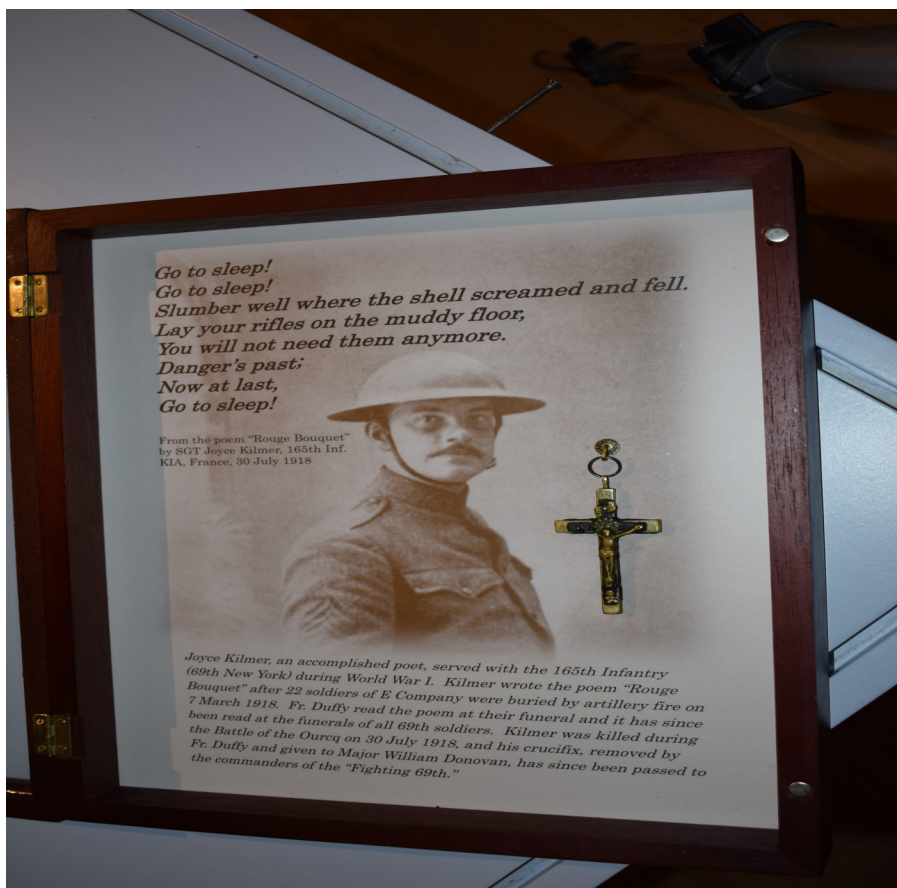
Hoffman/Janson got one from the Army because he served in an Army division and one from the Navy, because the Marines are a part of the Navy. This was not that unusual in World War I. The Army and Navy were both allowed to recommend members to receive the Medal of Honor. Five other Marines would be double recipients—getting a medal from the Army and a medal from the Navy—for the same actions in the same battle. At Belleau Wood, Janson, at 39, was one of the company's oldest and most experienced Marines when the unit moved into the line for combat in the spring of 1918. On June 6 the attack kicked off. The day would be one of the bloodiest in Marine Corps history. The Marine regiments suffered 1,087 killed or wounded on this first full day of the battle of Belleau Wood. Janson's company reached its objective near Belleau Wood on a terrain feature known as Hill 142.

Only two of the five Marine companies had been present at the start of the attack and two more Marine companies would arrive just in time to provide the manpower to hold their position. Janson, while hastily organizing his defense on the objective, saw a dozen enemy soldiers armed with light machine guns approaching his unit position. Janson gave the alarm to his Marines and rushed to stem the counterattack, bayoneting two enemy soldiers and forcing the remainder to flee the scene. "His quick action, initiative and courage drove the enemy from a position from which they could have swept the hill with machinegun fire and forced the withdrawal of our troops," noted his medal citation. Janson's Medal of Honor would be the first among the American Expeditionary Forces.

In November 1918, Gunnery Sgt. Hoffman returned to the United States and was admitted to the Naval Hospital in New York, for continued treatment of wounds received in action back in June. He also dropped his assumed name and returned to Ernest Janson by 1921. As a serving Medal of Honor recipient, Janson was selected to represent the Marine Corps service as a pallbearer for the November 11, 1921 internment of the World War I Unknown Soldier, joining two Navy petty officers and five Army noncommissioned officers.

Janson continued his Marine Corps service as a recruiter in New York City up until the summer of 1926 when, at 48 he was transferred to the Marine Barracks at Quantico, Virginia. Promoted to sergeant major that fall, Janson retired and returned to New York. Sergeant Major Janson died on Long Island after an illness in May 1930 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Brooklyn. (Courtesy DVIDS, 5/30/18)

The Fighting Sixty-Ninth. Artifacts related to the 69th, its commander, "Wild Bill Donovan", Father Francis Duffy, and infantryman, Sgt. Joyce Kilmer were displayed during our Saturday, March 3rd presentation. These items were on loan temporarily and have now been returned to the 69th Armory located on Lexington Avenue, between 25th and 26th Street in Manhattan.



MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

(Closed Sunday &
Monday)

RESEARCH CENTER HOURS

Appointments are
required.

Tuesday – Friday
11:00 am to 4:00 pm

The museum is
closed on
all New York State &
Federal Holidays.

61 Lake Avenue
Saratoga Springs,
NY 12866
(518) 581-5100

Museum Store
(518) 226-0490

(Tuesday thru Satur-
day, 11:00am to
4:00pm)

[www.friendsofthenys
militarymuseum.com](http://www.friendsofthenysmilitarymuseum.com)

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book—"New York
State Military Muse-
um"



Fighting 69th exhibit on display at the Military Museum in March 2018: Opposite page, upper—Sgt. Joyce Kilmer “Rouge Bouquet” poem, with crucifix, and opposite page, lower—Colonel “Wild Bill” Donovan, Medal of Honor and citation. Upper photo: Colonel Donovan uniform with Medal of Honor ribbon.

Please remember to renew your Friends of the New York State Military Museum Membership.

You may renew your membership at our museum store, or by phone at 518-226-0490 or on-line at:

<http://www.friendsofthenysmilitarymuseum.com/index.php/store>.

Benefits of membership include:

E-mail alerts on events,

Membership card,

Invitations to special events and lectures,

Special discounts on purchases at museum store, and our Friends newsletter.

Your support helps us enlarge and open up new exhibits.

Please support the military museum, check out our new exhibits, and visit our museum store.

Schools visits to Military Museum a big hit this spring with local schools

2018's EOP (Educational Outreach Program) is off to a rousing start. A total of eighty + high school students from Saratoga Springs (2 visits) and Greenville Central have visited in the past 45 days. We have also seen eighty-four, 5th graders from Stillwater and by the end of May, Augustine Classical Academy will visit with sixteen, 5th and 6th graders, Melissa Deutsch's 7th grade social studies honor students from Saratoga Middle School will visit for an intense program on the Civil War (her 4th annual visit) and Schuylerville's first of three visits by their 5th graders on May 30th. June and July also appear to be busy.

I am also sad to announce that our program has lost (hopefully temporarily) two very valued original members. Howard Young and Lou Schneider have been with our program since its inception back in the Fall of 2013. Their insight was instrumental in devising the program we have today. Both are exceptional presenters, rarely missing a visit by the many school groups who have attended since 2014. Howard's specialties were WW I and the Civil War and Lou, WW II. However, both could present in any exhibit if called upon. Their love of children, devotion to duty and a particular flair to entertain and share their wisdom is what being an EOP presenter is all about.

The demands of the program have steadily increased over the years, a rapid rise in middle school and high school students attending, very often wanting a two to three hour specialized session on a particular era of American History has put an increased burden on our dwindling staff. With the absence of two of our more gifted and able presenters, Howard and Lou, it is imperative new blood be brought in to the program.

Recently, I entertained two representatives from the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park. This floating museum in Buffalo entertained over 100,000 paid admissions in 2017. They had heard about our EOP and wanted to know much more about it. They are currently implementing a program of their own. So the word is out..... (Bill Watkins, Program Dir.)

Upcoming Events and Exhibits at your Military Museum

Our "Hot Spots in the Cold War: Korea and Vietnam", exhibit is due to be unveiled, hopefully this summer or early fall. Our construction started on Monday, May 21st. This exhibit will examine the origins and outcomes of America's involvement in Korea and Vietnam, with a particular emphasis on the contributions and experiences of New York veterans. In addition, the exhibition will also explore the domestic impact of the Cold War from the pervasive fear of global nuclear warfare to the debates and protests that divided the nation at the height of the war in Vietnam. Unveiling of the exhibit will be a special event for the Military Museum. More information will follow as our exhibit nears completion.

The Friends of the New York State Military Museum "Trivia Night Fundraiser" is scheduled for Friday, November 9th at the Elks Lodge, 1 Elks Lane, Saratoga Springs, NY. This exciting evening which always is a lot of fun for our participants will include a prime rib dinner with dessert, plus a cash bar. Highlight of the evening is our trivia contest for teams with prizes awarded to the top scoring teams. Seats are \$50.00, which includes your meal. For further information or to sign-up, contact the Military Museum store at 518-226-0490. Tables can fill up fast, so please don't hesitate in signing up.

Friends of the New York State Military Museum— "Veteran of the Year". Last year, the "Friends" recognized Army Veteran Phil Imbarrato of Ballston Spa. This year's event at the Military Museum is scheduled for Saturday, October 27th at 1PM. Each year the "Friends" recognize an outstanding veteran of the Armed Forces from our local community. Further information will follow on our website and you can always "like" us on Facebook for more updates.