



## RESULTS OF ELECTIONS FOR TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS OF FRIENDS OF NYS MILITARY MUSEUM

The Friends of the New York State Military Museum recently held its latest election for members of the Board of Trustees.

As a result of such election, the following individuals were elected to three-year terms as Trustees, through 2027:

Allyssa Barringer

Bill Burke

RJ Elliott

Maggie Folk

Jack Ladd

Nick Laiacona

Dave Lockhart

Adam Mason

Roy McDonald

Pat Piccirilli

JoAnn Swapp

Mark Ustin

Charlie Wheeler

In addition, the following individuals were elected to the following offices, for the periods indicated:

Mark O'Rourke — President (through 2026)

Pat Piccirilli — Vice President (through 2025)

Barry Hartman — Secretary (through 2025)

Dave Waghorn — Treasurer (through 2025)

Allyssa Barringer — Assistant Treasurer (through 2025)

With the election of Mark O'Rourke, Roy McDonald has stepped down from his position as President of the Friends after four years. The Board of Trustees of the Friends thanks Roy for his many years of service, dedication and commitment to the Friends. As noted above, Roy is continuing as a member of the Board of Trustees.

**Mark O'Rourke, new President of the Board of Trustees of the Friends of the New York State Military Museum, has provided the following statement to the Friends' Newsletter:**

“I sincerely thank all of the members the Friends of the New York State Military Museum — Docents, Advisory Board, and Board of Trustees as well as the Museum’s leadership and staff — for their dedication and considerable efforts in furtherance of the noble mission of the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center. It is important to convey that the following point be well understood as we move forward together: a very concerted effort is now underway to revitalize not only the Board of Trustees but also the committee structure of the Friends of the New York State Military Museum. To this end, going forward, all proposals, recommendations, and requests for funding must be routed through our various committees. To this end, the Executive Committee of the Friends is making a direct appeal for all of the members of the Friends to support — with utmost good faith — this committee structure in word and deed. We truly need a renewed commitment to this committee structure given the vitally important work and crucial milestones that lie before us and that will demand our absolute level best so that our common goals can be achieved. The Executive Committee is very clearly asking for all who identify as Friends of the Museum to support this appeal. Your robust participation and unwavering support are truly needed for the effectiveness and success of our committee structure.”



Photos courtesy  
Mark O'Rourke



Friends President Mark O'Rourke — in the U.S. Army and in a more recent photo

# FRIENDS TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS MAKE PLANS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE MILITARY MUSEUM

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees held on December 16, 2024, the Board of the Friends of the New York State Military Museum adopted its Strategic Plan 2025, a plan for the Museum moving forward.

According to new Friends President Mark O'Rourke, the Board is "looking to create a comprehensive and highly prioritized plan that we can execute as quickly as possible" to "ensure that we provide robust support to the Museum in a way that meets the most pressing needs."

At the same time, O'Rourke enunciated a list of the Board's priorities at the current time, as it looks to the future of the Museum.

Here is a summary of that list of priorities:

Board and Committees: Integrate video conferencing technology, fortify and embed key capabilities

Finance: Enhance reporting and audit capabilities

Communication and Marketing: Develop integrated plan, fast track banners and comprehensive exhibit table toolkit

Digital and IT: Website and social media enhancements

Global War on Terror and Lecture Series: Awareness and funding

Store: Modernize operations and create e-commerce platform

Preserving Our Military Heritage Awards: Planning for October event (including date and venue)

Museum Expansion: Potential private sector match

Strategic Partnerships: Build with key stakeholders

Development: Corporate support, crowdfunding, board contributions, foundation grants, planned giving, fundraising campaign, online donations

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Thank you to the following people for their efforts in creating and/or distributing this issue of the Friends' Newsletter: Fred Katz, Wayne Rozen, Tim Sinnott, Mary Ann Adams, Mark O'Rourke, Barry Hartman, Courtney Burns, Jim Gandy, Colleen Maheux, Bruce Farley and Francis Crandall (Flight Creative Group).

## ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW:

### COL. DENNIS WHITE

US Army Col. Dennis J. White (Ret.) was interviewed on February 19, 2025 by Museum Volunteers Fred Katz and Wayne Rozen, in the Saratoga Room at the NYS Military Museum, for the Museum's Oral History Project.

Col. White served in both the New York Army National Guard and the Army Reserves, in medical positions including medical entomologist and force health protection officer; he also served as Commander. His service occurred both in the United States and on multiple deployments to foreign locations. He joined the Guard — commissioned as a Captain — on November 9, 1989. As White pointed out, it was the same day on which the Berlin Wall fell. At that time, White was working for the New York State Department of Health, where he had started in June 1976 and continued until July 2021. His work at the Department focused largely on insect borne diseases, such as Lyme Disease and West Nile Virus.

White served in the Guard from 1989-2000, becoming Commander of the 244th Medical Brigade, and actually had an office in the building now housing the Museum. While serving as Commander, White dealt with the major ice storm that hit the region in 1999. He recalled, in particular, that conditions caused by the ice storm created havoc in Clinton County for about six weeks, and parts of that County lost power for weeks.



Col. Dennis J. White (Ret.) at his oral history interview, conducted in the Museum building on February 19, 2025

White transferred to the Army Reserves in 2000. While in the Reserves, he took part in two major deployments — to Kosovo and Kuwait. The deployment to Kosovo occurred from October 2002 to April 2003. In Kosovo, the Americans were part of a NATO peacekeeping force. White’s medical units took part in providing medical, dental and eye care for the local people, as well as in supporting the schools.

One of the challenges in Kosovo was that both Serbs and Albanians lived there — two groups with a longstanding enmity toward each other. Despite that enmity, White noted that the experience in Kosovo that left the greatest impression on him was “[w]hile in Kosovo, our American troops developed [the] mission to support schools and school children for both the Albanian and Serb villages, but all shared the same sentiments, regardless of national affiliation.”

White was deployed to Kuwait from December 2003 to February 2005, in support of the soldiers who were taking part in the action in Iraq. The medical units in that deployment played a major role in treating wounded soldiers. As White explained, soldier would be treated in locations in Iraq, including Saddam Hussein’s old hospital. Seriously wounded soldiers would typically be treated at that location, and then transferred to hospitals first in Germany and then in the United States.

When asked about the people he worked with during his service, White said that the people were “100% effective, professional & mission oriented.” White said that he would have liked to have stayed in the service longer. He added, “I still miss it.”

The full oral history interview with Colonel Dennis J. White can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/v-yVISn4Y9U> .



Col. Dennis White with his wife at the time of his retirement in 2012

Photos  
courtesy  
Dennis  
White



Col. Dennis White (right) with then Brig. Gen. Dean Sienko in 2006, on the occasion of White’s promotion to full Colonel.



## RESEARCH CENTER RETURNS TO LOWER LEVEL

The necessary renovations and repair work on the lower level of the Museum have now been completed. As a result, the Veterans Research Center has returned to its prior space, after having used the Public Room on the Main Floor as a temporary home. The Public Room is now available again for other uses, including the Lecture Series which is shown on the last page of this Newsletter.



Museum Librarian and Archivist Jim Gandy (rear) and Volunteer/Docent Curt Auerbach (left) are shown in the newly renovated quarters of the Veterans Research Center.

The former and once again Public Room at the back of the Main Floor of the Military Museum, where lectures and other activities can take place. As shown here, the Museum's Public Room also offers facilities for video presentations.



# MUSEUM BANNERS TO BE DISPLAYED IN SARATOGA

Thanks to the efforts of long-time Museum Docent and Volunteer Melissa Thompson-Flynn, the New York State Military Museum will be displaying a banner on street poles throughout downtown Saratoga. A copy of the banner is shown below. While plans have not yet been finalized, the initial plan calls for 20 of the banners to be displayed on Broadway in Saratoga during a two-week stretch in June 2025.



Photo courtesy of  
Melissa Thompson-  
Flynn

**New York State Military Museum & Veterans Research Center**  
61 Lake Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
Phone: (518) 581-5100  
Website: [www.museum.dmna.ny.gov](http://www.museum.dmna.ny.gov)

**Museum Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 AM—4:00 PM**  
Also open on Mondays from mid-July through Labor Day,  
10:00 AM—4:00 PM

**Museum Bookstore and Shop: Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 AM —4:00PM**



# New York State Military Museum

## ★ ★ ★ PROGRAMS ★ ★ ★ Winter/Spring 2025

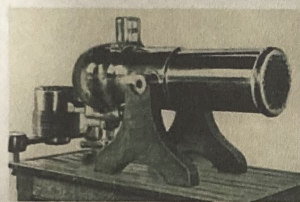


### Feb. 1, 2:00pm - *The Black Woods: Pursuing Racial Justice on the Adirondack Frontier*

Regional historian Amy Godine will describe the Civil War experience of Black Adirondack pioneers who took up arms for the Union, and track the life-changing impact of this service on their citizenship, their families, and their community standing.

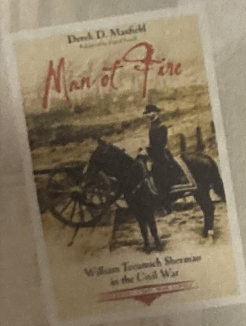
### Mar. 1, 2:00pm - *Strange, Unusual and Innovative Weapons of the U.S. Civil War*

Author and military historian Patrick Chaisson will examine interesting and unique weapons of the Civil War, providing a look at the ingenuity displayed by inventors and how these weapons impacted military tactics and operations.



### Mar. 8, 2:00pm - *Man of Fire: William Tecumseh Sherman in the Civil War*

Historian Derek Maxfield examines the life and career of General William Tecumseh Sherman, one of the Civil War's most peculiar and compelling characters.



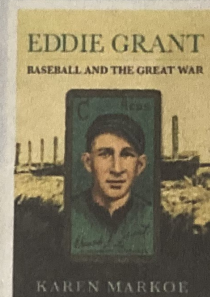
### Mar. 29, 2:00pm - *America 250: The Ballston Connection*

Rich Reynolds, Town of Ballston historian, will discuss the important role Ballston played during the American Revolution and some of the lesser known local skirmishes and heroes.



### Apr. 5, 2:00pm - *Eddie Grant, Baseball and the Great War*

Historian and lifelong Yankees fan Karen Markoe shares the story of Eddie Grant, the first professional baseball player to be killed in action during World War I.

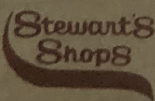


### Apr 26, 2:00pm - *The Rainbow Division and the Liberation of Dachau*

Richard Goldenberg, retired 42nd Division officer and veteran of the Iraq War, presents the combat history of the 42nd Infantry Division across Europe in the winter and spring of 1945, culminating with the Division's fateful liberation of prisoners from the notorious Dachau Concentration Camp on April 29, 1945



All Programs are FREE and Open to the General Public  
New York State Military Museum | 61 Lake Avenue | Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
For Information, call (518) 581-5100



The Winter/Spring 2025 Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the New York State Military Museum with generous support provided by Stewart's Shops.