



## Museum Celebrated Eight Years of Operation on Memorial Day

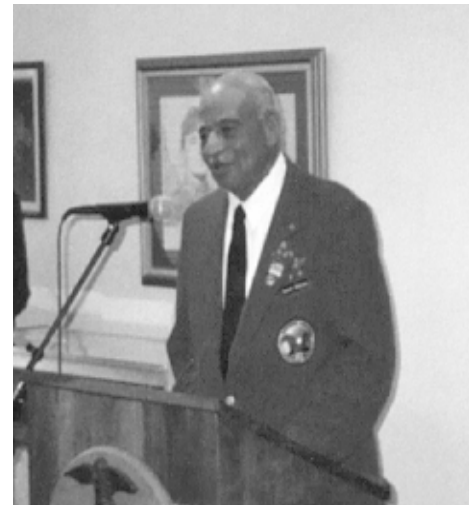
The Museum turned eight on **Memorial Day** and even the rain could not stop our day of remembering. Through the raindrops the parade pressed on and then we welcomed some very special guests. Our guests were treated to a standing room only crowd in Mitchell Paige Hall.

**Marilyn Paige** reminded us “freedom isn’t free.” Marilyn continues to speak on behalf of Col. Mitchell Paige, who passed away on November 15, 2003. It was good to welcome her back to the Museum and we appreciate her gracious visit.

**Lt. Col. Spann Watson** shared some of the hardships that he lived through as one of the Tuskegee Airmen. His speech reminded us of the courageous service of these men who not only had to learn how to fly and fight – they also had to battle racial prejudice within our own ranks. The determination to succeed and the record of these pilots are exemplary. Lt. Col. Watson’s challenge to us all was to live the American dream.

**Navajo Code Talkers Samuel Sandoval, Alfred Newman, and Wilford Buck** put on a display of the famous “Code Talk.” Capt. William Scheiterle handed a printed message that was to be transmitted via the “Code.” We watched them in action as each message was perfectly delivered and translated. Each man also shared some of his personal experiences of coming off the reservation and into the Marines. The stories showed the changes that they faced, the secrecy that they worked under, and were filled with humorous moments. As Wilford was speaking, Sammy leaned close to me and whispered, “We didn’t know what we were getting into.”

We also had a chance to share in a reunion of sorts. **Jim Brunner & Melvin Setzer** met on the voyage from Honolulu to Iwo Jima. Jim is from Duke Center and Melvin is from Coudersport. Jim piloted the LCPL that dropped Melvin on the beach on February 24, 1945. 59 years later, Jim received a letter from Melvin. The battle at Iwo Jima took almost 7,000 American lives and so Jim figured that Melvin had died there. This spring, the two men met and shared their war experiences along with what has happened with their families. On Memorial Day, they came and shared their reunion story with all of us.



Lt. Col. Spann Watson



From left:  
Marilyn Paige,  
Tim Roudebush,  
Ella Cobb, with  
Code Talkers:  
Samuel Sandoval,  
Alfred Newman, and  
Wilford Buck

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## *From the Director*

*By Jay P. Tennies*

Members and Friends of the Eldred World War II Museum and Learning Center,

It is a great privilege to write to you as the new Director of the Eldred World War II Museum and Learning Center. Although I have been "on the job" for six months, I am still new around here. I have enjoyed getting to meet many World War II veterans and other friends of the museum in my short time as director. If you have not been into the Museum lately, make sure you stop in and introduce yourself.

Another new face around the museum is that of our new Curator, Nicholas Pascuzzi. "Nick" is a recent graduate of the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. He started out as an intern and quickly began to fill in our vacant Curator's position. His work and his passion for World War II have made his permanent hiring a real asset for the Museum.

In closing, I would like to extend a word of thanks to Kurt Pfaff. Kurt's years of service at the museum are truly appreciated as well as his friendship during the time of transition. I am also pleased to say that Kurt is now serving on the Board of Directors and is still active at the Museum, along with Lois, as a volunteer.

### *Distinguished Guests*

I hope that you had an opportunity to attend the presentations that we were privileged to host within the last few months. If you were not able to be present, let me give you a brief summary of our time with these distinguished guests.

**Col. Konstantin Sharov** came to the Museum March 22-26. During his visit, he spoke of his experiences in the Battles of Stalingrad and Kursk, his participation in the liberation of a concentration camp in Poland, and he gave us a glimpse into the Eastern Front from the Soviet view. Col. Sharov also brought books, pictures, and articles that we now include in our library; however, the most prized gift that he brought came in a small shell casing. With a sense of pride and a quiet solemnity, Col. Sharov placed soil from Stalingrad in my hands as a donation to the Museum. That soil is currently on display along with other items, which have come from Russia. During Col. Sharov's visit, he spoke to more than 750 persons.

**Maj. Mike Rauhut**, Executive Officer for the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, came to speak of his recent service in Iraq. Maj. Rauhut used a detailed PowerPoint presentation to explain what he has experienced as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The pictures and his comments brought insight into the current war that we don't usually see in the mainstream media. He spoke of committed soldiers doing their job and the majority of Iraqi's who are beginning to know freedom and who appreciate our presence there. On another note, I recently learned that Major Rauhut is being promoted to Lt. Col.. Congratulations!

### *Donations & Displays*

Every day is like Christmas around the Museum. We receive donations of World War II related items on a regular basis. Those donations allow us to make up displays that help remember the war effort and the persons involved. Along with the numerous donations, we have a small problem – space. It is not possible to display every item that is donated. It is our responsibility to preserve every item that is brought in, but display of items cannot be guaranteed.

We will rotate displays to allow us to bring other items out, but each new display means placing the other items back in storage. If you come in and don't see an item that was previously on display, please ask us about it.

### A Veteran's Story

The following is an excerpt from a letter written June 5, 1944. The copy of the letter is included in our collection of Veteran's Statements at the Museum.

Dear Father Liebel,

We landed here April 27, the usual confusion existed, and we were wading in mud ankle-deep and over in the dark, trying to find a place to bed down. Several days followed, of very long hours in getting supplies ashore, cleaning up the area, trying to drain off the water which was coming down as fast as it could be run off. Rats, ants, lizards, and mosquitoes gave us some wakeful hours at night as we didn't have cots or mosquito netting unpacked. There were field rations for chow until we got our mess-hall set up and everybody's heart was glad at the first sight and smell of real coffee and bread and stew. Our only light came from tin cans filled with fuel oil, with a piece of rope or rag as a wick. But now it looks as if a small city had sprung up among these coconut palms. We all have our generators set up, have an electric light in each tent, mess hall completed, and regular chow three times a day. The mud is all gone, and we can really walk around with dry feet. Everyone is waiting for that big push that is to come. I rather think that all of us wish it could be tomorrow. *(It was.)* The sooner it starts the sooner we all get home.

It gets very hot here as of course it is near the equator. Whenever the Mercury gets up around 120 degrees I think of how an ice-cold Coke would go, at Nick's or Elmer's.

I am here in the Solomon's so if any of the fellows are near here, look up the 145<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Seabees to find me. I'll be more than glad to see you. To all the fellows in both theatres, you are doing a swell job, and may God give you a speedy and safe journey home.

Sincerely,  
Harold (Bowser) Morris

### Memorial Contributions

#### In Memory of Colonel Mitchell Paige

John & Jean Baltich - *Weirton WV*  
Dolores Smith Barber - *Pittsburgh PA*  
Jim & Elaine Crist - *Pittsburgh PA*  
Glenrose & Richard Hand - *La Quinta CA*  
Buddy & Mary Hinson - *Hernando MS*  
Michael & Stepahie Landes - *Indian Wells CA*  
William & Margaret Lewis  
Joseph & Patricia Miller - *Oswayo PA*  
Roland A. & Doris Swanson - *Falconer NY*  
Stephanie & John Turner - *Pawcatuck CT*  
Thomas M. Vetter - *San Juan Capistrano*

#### In Memory of Mark Orlandi & Roy J. Fluker

Joe & Cathy Orlandi - *Smethport PA*

#### In Memory of Ivan Rhodes

Gerald Rhodes - *Rapid City SD*

#### In Memory of Richard R. Shoop

Sarah P. Shoop - *Fairborn OH*

#### In Memory of Edward J. Dzierzak

Deborah J. Thies - *S. Wales NY*

Visit the Museum webpage [www.eldredwwiimuseum.org](http://www.eldredwwiimuseum.org)  
for a complete listing of 2003 contributions

*Thanks to all of our members for your on-going support of the museum. We are a private non-profit organization, and we urgently need your help. Your partnering with allows us to offer a way for persons who served in WWII to be honored and remembered. It also allows us to educate thousands of persons about this important time in the history of the world.*

## ELDRED WWII MUSEUM

Name _____		Membership	Amount
Address _____		Family (\$10)	_____
City/ST/Zip _____		Individual (\$5)	_____
Phone _____ Date _____		Student (\$2)	_____
<i>Make check payable to:</i>		Tax Deductible Contribution	
Eldred WWII Museum		Friend (\$11 - \$49)	_____
201 Main Street—Box 273		Sponsor (\$50—\$99)	_____
Eldred, PA 16731		Patron (\$100—\$499)	_____
In Memory of _____ (name)		Underwriter (\$500 — \$999)	_____
_____ (city, state)		Benefactor (\$1,000 & Up)	_____
		Endowment Fund	_____
		Total Enclosed	\$ _____

## ***New Exhibits***

Earl Wayne from Olean brought us a 1/9 scale model of a Grumman Avenger. This is the same plane that former President Bush flew when he was a Naval pilot during World War II. The plane is on display in the Blue Room.

As previously mentioned, Soil from Stalingrad was donated by Col. Sharov. It can be seen as part of the display of Eastern Front items, which are in the basement close to the Kursk Diorama.

A 1/2 scale model based on the Chafee Tank was donated by the Kaluza family. The teenage boys, A.J. and C. J., built this tank for the 2003 Memorial Day Parade. The tank can currently be seen on display in the Blue Room.

June 6 was the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day and to commemorate that event Zippo released a special commemorative lighter package. The lighter is done in the distinctive black crackle finish that was used during World War II. The package is styled after the K-Rations of the day and includes a vial of sand from the beach at Normandy along with a special booklet. Included in the booklet are pictures of some of the rations that are on display in our basement. Zippo CEO Greg Booth presented the Museum with a lighter set (#43 out of 10,000) that is on display in the Library.

For a number of years, Russ Cousins has brought his 1942 Power Wagon to Eldred for the Memorial Day Parade. In 2003, it carried Col. Mitchell Paige and I had the privilege of riding in it during this year's parade. Russ has temporarily loaned it to us for display and you can get a good look at it in the Blue Room.

## **The Eldred WWII Museum**

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Eldred, Pennsylvania 16731

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WEB [www.eldredwwiimuseum.org](http://www.eldredwwiimuseum.org)  
EMAIL [info@eldredwwiimuseum.org](mailto:info@eldredwwiimuseum.org)

### *Museum Hours*

10 AM—4 PM  
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

1 PM—4 PM  
Sunday

*Other hours by appointment*

**ADMISSION FREE**

## ***Capturing History Alive***

*Capturing History Alive* is a supplemental study/research program for college or graduate students. The program allows students to access the extensive resources of the Museum for research purposes. Colleges or students who are interested should contact the Museum for more information.

## ***Learning Center Progress***

On Memorial Day 2004, we were able to officially open the first stage of the Learning Center. It is located in the room above Mitchell Paige Hall and provides an area where students, and others, will find a quiet atmosphere for reading and studying. This is an important step in our continuing educational effort, as it will allow for better use of our library resources.

## ***Memory Campaign***

We are at an important point in our memory campaign. We have already collected more than 3,000 World War II memories, but we are also aware that over 1,000 World War II veterans are passing away every day.

The collected memories cover all of the theaters of operation and the homefront. If you, or someone you know, lived through World War II, would you help us preserve that memory?

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***“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”***

*Santayana*