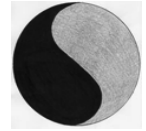




EVER FORWARD



Citizen Soldiers Education Foundation



The picture of our Veteran above serves to remind us all of what the CSEF is all about: *“To remember and honor Americans citizen soldiers in war and peace.”* This annual newsletter is to update you on our success in fulfilling this mission.

The 80th Anniversary of D-Day was remembered by our tour group including Mr. Wayne Peacock, CEO of USAA, several NG General Officers, and leaders of 29th Div. Assn.

Our WWII exhibit was enhanced in preparation of the yearlong remembrance of the entire 80th Anniversary.

We have broken ground on the site of the historic WWI Cabin we are restoring next to the existing museum. It will focus initially on WWI, but may one day include exhibits commemorating the 250th Anniversary of America.

New signs on I-81 and Lee Highway are increasing the number of visitors to the Museum each week.

The staff reports that follow do not begin to cover the success the Museum has had since the last newsletter, in everything from our intern program to grant writing.

We are building our **first** WWI Statue near Verdun, France.

We still need your help to keep us going and growing.

- Funding to support our programs
- Volunteering to assist in archival preservation
- Serving a day as a Docent, as MG Childers does

WE NEED YOU!

Visit our website at: thecitizensoldier.org

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250th Anniversary of Point Pleasant

The CSEF is hosting two trips to Point Pleasant this year. The 250th commemoration will be a significant event including Governor Youngkin and multiple military leaders. Both trips will depart the Museum via private motorcoach.

One Day Tour- Wednesday, 10 October, 0630-1800 includes transportation and scheduled events for \$150 per person round trip.

Two Day Tour- Tues. 9 October, departs at 1000 returning on the 10th at 1800. It includes transportation with stops at militia sites en-route and one night at the Marriott Hotel in Charleston, plus all scheduled events, for a cost of \$350.00 per person.

REGISTRATION or for more information contact the Museum (540) 248-0116. Seating is limited, so let us know ASAP in interested.

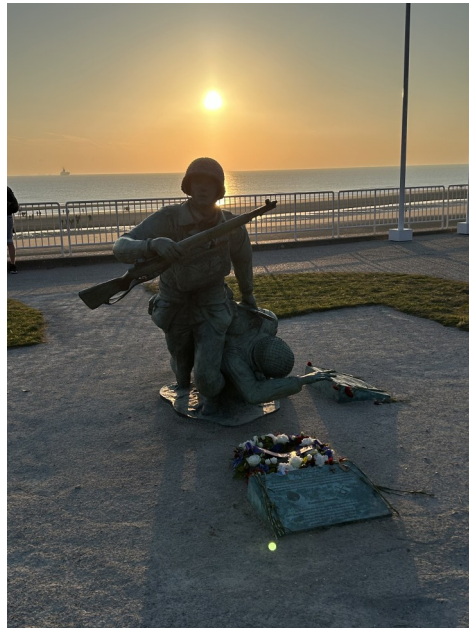
The 80th Anniversary of D-Day



The June tour visited the German HQS at the Chateau de Bernaville with NGB Chief General Daniel R. Hokanson.



Observed the awesome view from WN60 overlooking Omaha Beach.



The sun rise on 6 June over our statue as the rising tide carried red roses from our landing sites to the seawall below our hotel.

Upcoming Events

August -

Purple Heart Exhibit

29-30 - Second Manassas

September-

3 - First Muster, 1742

7-8 SEP- Frontier Culture Museum Pt. Pleasant talk.

11 - Remembering 9-11

October-

9-10 OCT - Pt. Pleasant, WV Trip

19 - Yorktown

November-

8 NOV- Museum Reception

9 NOV - Annual Muster Hotel 24 South

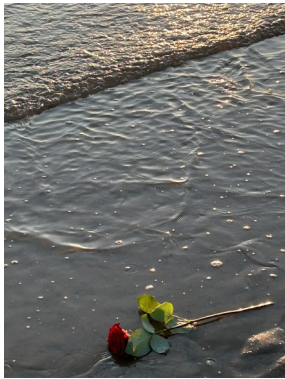
24 S. Market Street, Staunton

December-

19 - Mexican War Callup 1845

Cabin Addition Grand Opening

314th Memorial Cabin



The 80th Anniversary of D-Day was very special as our tour group placed roses at low tide on 6 June at 0630 and then followed then it to the sands just below our statue. This year we are raising funds to place signage around the statue to

explain in English and French, how it represents the sacrifice of the first wave landings of our 116th Infantry Regiment and America's 29th Division. Your support for this initiative would be greatly appreciated. We hope to have the work complete for the 81st anniversary next year.

2025 Normandy Trip Dates

18-24 September 2025
Cost- \$3,500 with Air Fare, Lodging, and Meals.



The foundation for our log cabin exhibit has been poured and structure restoration is set to begin soon. The recently released "100 Cities, 100 Memorials" book, on page 154-55, lists the top WWI sites in American discusses the cabin history and its new location at 566 Lee Highway, Verona, VA.

The restoration of the historic cabin, donated to us after its removal from its previous home at Valley Forge and storage at Ft. Meade, is well underway. Built originally in 1917 by deploying Doughboys, it existed for nearly 100 years as a monument to the citizen soldiers who risked all during the American Revolution to give us the freedom we have regularly been called upon to defend. Cabin details at www.314th.org. Please join us in this new effort to expand our museum and tell our WWI story.

Museum Staff

Manager's Corner

Jimmy



Celebrate Jake

The 29th Division Museum Staff celebrated the end of a very successful internship at the Museum by our intern Jake. We all enjoyed a slice of cake to mark his last day of work at the museum on July 22nd. Jake is a James Madison University student from Virginia majoring in Public History who will be graduating later this year and entering the history field work force.

An intern at the 29th Division Museum gains valuable experience in many aspects of public history and museum operations in the short 6 to 8 weeks they are with us. Jake contributed to many projects we had going on during the final phases of World War II Gallery remodeling and exhibit expansion. He worked in the archives organizing, cataloging, labeling and storing document collections. In our storage area for artifacts, he helped organize, label, and store uniforms and relics in the collection. He spent many hours researching citizen soldiers and their stories and turning them in to exhibit text panels as well as learning how to format, mount and install text and photograph panels in the exhibits. He contributed to the design and installation of major exhibit elements such as a simulated ship's hull and placement of display cases and large features items as well as uniforms and small artifacts. He also learned about volunteer operations, getting the museum open each day and interacting with museum guests. We are very glad to have had his help!

Jake was able to have this experience due to a partnership between the Museum, JMU's History Department and history Professor Dr. Kevin Borg. The school can offer history elective course credit to students who wish to intern with us at the museum. The students are required to work 140 hours for the museum and receive three credit hours towards their degree. We have also had students from Radford University in the past and desire to partner with more schools in our area. If you know of a student or school who would like to participate in our internship program, please have them contact us at the museum. We would like to expand our program and help history students get workplace experience!



New interwar Exhibit looking into the D-Day Landing Craft



Growing Uniform Collection, each telling a story of a Citizen Soldier

Updates

New Signage

Our signage on I-81, Exit 227, continues to bring in travelers interested in learning more about the 29th Division and its 116th Infantry Regiment. Recently a new sign was installed in front of the Museum at 566 Lee Highway. For the first time, we are referencing our gift shop and the hard work of Board member Linda Parslow. Shop sales are a vital part of our revenue and help us to grow while still not charging any Museum admission.



Muster 2024

BG (VA) (Ret.) Buddy Faulconer
Honorary Colonel

Save the Date! 8-9 November 2024

We hope to see you at the Annual Muster events this year. The Muster Dinner will be held at the Hotel 24 South in Staunton on Saturday evening beginning at 5:00 PM with a social hour followed by the dinner and program. On Friday evening we will host a reception at the 29th Division Museum in Verona, starting at 6:00 PM. The museum will also be open both Friday and Saturday during the day from 10:00-4:00. Plan to visit the Museum over the weekend to see the many major changes that have taken place over the past 12 months ... you'll be pleasantly surprised.

We are working to confirm the keynote speaker and will have the usual report of the Brigade Commander on the activities of the 116th IBCT and its units this past 12 months as well as other reports and an after-muster event.

This has been a historic year for the Regiment and the Brigade with the commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, with representatives of the Brigade, the Division, and the Regiment attending in Normandy. I am sure there will be an opportunity for folks to share their experiences of that event as well as the highlights of the past 12 months of training for the Brigade.

For those who may not know, we changed the name of the 116th Infantry Regiment Foundation, Inc. (116th IRF) to the Citizen Soldiers Education Foundation, Inc., CSEF.

We have broadened the scope of the foundation to be more inclusive of the entire 29th Division, the museum, education programs, tours, and other veteran programs. Rest assured the CSEF continues the work of the 116th IRF in support of the Muster.

There will be more information to follow as plans are finalized with a link on the Citizen Soldiers Education Foundation website at <https://thecitizensoldier.org/muster/> on how to register and make hotel reservations. This information will be available in September.

116th IBCT

The 116th continues to be the largest unit in the Virginia National Guard with an authorization of 3,500 Soldiers. It is the only brigade in the 29th Division that still proudly displays the 29th Division patch after the struggle with the Congressional Naming Commission which threatened its removal as a "symbol of the Confederacy."

Task Force St. Lo, 3rd Battalion of the 116th, conducted its annual training in May in the Olomouc area of the Czech Republic. Working with units from 32 NATO Allies, they were part of Operation Immediate Response 24 and larger STEADFAST DEFENDER 24 Exercise.

The readiness of the 116th is highly recognized by the Army and DOD. Their level of activity lives up to their motto: "Ever Forward!"

Curator's Update

Rick



New World War II Exhibit

In honor of the 80th anniversary of D-Day, the 29th Division Museum spent the spring reconfiguring our World War II Gallery. In doing so, we were blessed by a wealth of artifacts and volunteers. Mike Gilkerson, 1SG Retired, played a leading role in the conversion of an existing office into exhibit space. Together with LTC Jimmy Kilbourne and others, they increased our World War II gallery space by 40%. Work began in January and finished just before June 6th. In addition to our previous focus of June 6, 1944-May 8, 1945, we have added exhibits on the Virginia Guard in the inter-war period and the role local citizen soldiers played in winning the war in the Pacific. Additionally, we have been able to tell more stories about the people who made ultimate victory possible in the European Theater. There is the truck driver from Rockingham County, who served throughout North Africa, Italy and France with the Army Air Corps, or Beck Whitmore, also from Rockingham, who was assigned to the 115th out of Maryland. There are more artifacts, images, and also a new video component. None of this would have been possible if not for the family members of these men and women who served in the conflict. They have shared with us material related to their husbands, fathers, uncles, and mothers, which help make the stories of these citizen soldiers come alive.

CSEF Officers and Directors

President- Bob Huffman	Buddy Faulconer
Vice- President- Hugh Sproul	John Graves
Sec/Treas.- Anna Davis	Joel Jenkins
Stephanie Ashwell	Bob Kuykendall
Edmund Davidson	Linda Parslow
Wayne Brown	Mike Gilkerson



New Archives Room

This spring, as part of renovations at the Museum, we moved the Citizen Soldiers Archives into a dedicated space. The creation of this new room was made possible through donations in honor of the late COL Craig Norman, who worked hard to preserve the history of the 29th Division. The new facility is right behind our existing library. At present, we are moving all paper, photographic, and two-dimensional objects into proper acid free boxes where they can be safely stored. Anyone wishing to do research is encouraged to contact the Foundation. On average, we handle about 10 requests a week. These are processed by our volunteer staff.

Advancement Director Update

Judy

We are celebrating! Thanks to friends of the museum, several businesses, and many grantors, we have really good news on the financial front.

After sharing the story of all that is happening at Citizen Soldiers Education Foundation, so many have stepped up to support us. Donations, exceeding \$35,000, have helped us completely redesign our WWII exhibits, add new signage at the museum, and develop much needed storage and design space.

We have also received grant funds from several groups, in addition to donations, which will allow us to complete the log cabin currently awaiting rebuild. The cabin will greatly expand our WWI center.

We are also involved in America's 250th Anniversary celebration with numerous special events planned. We are busy!

If you have not visited us in a while, make plans to see all the changes here and to catch up on how we continue to honor our citizen soldiers.

Please let me know if you know of any potential donors or grants available to support our programs.

Ways YOU can Help!

Here are just a few of the ways you can help us:

1. Volunteer to serve one day each month as a Docent welcoming visitors and telling our story.
2. Assist in construction and maintenance, especially in the rebuild of our log cabin.
3. Support our collaboration events with the Frontier Culture Museum and Augusta Historical.
4. Give to our Education Fund and help us give students a week in France to study our history.
5. Contribute to our Endowment Fund managed by the Community Foundation.
6. Move existing stock to our Truist Brokerage account, an ideal use of retirement fund transfers.
7. Support our "Cabin Builder" account at City Bank.
8. Help fund our WWI Statue to honor the 116th sacrifice at the Molleville Farm outside Verdun.
9. Donate to our General Fund to assist with operating expenses and new exhibits.
10. Share our news with former members of the 116th Infantry Regiment and 29th Division.

Update Our Records

Please update our records so we can stay in touch.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ **City** _____ **State** _____

EMAIL _____ **TELEPHONE** () _____

Please find enclosed my donation of _____ to support for the general fund or _____

Please use my support to honor (Individual/Unit _____

CSEF

P. O. Box 116

Staunton, VA 24402-0116

Please let us hear from you. We can't grow without you! Suggestions are welcome.
