



DOG TAGS

FREE

Official Newsletter of The Military Museum of Fort Worth

FREE

Volume I

Spring 2023

Number 1

CURATOR'S CORNER

Tyler Alberts

To continue our mission to share as many stories as possible, we have changed out about one-third of our museum exhibits to share new stories that have come in. All galleries have added new exhibits and display elements. New stories that have come in are as follows:

Cpt. Reuben Weltha – WWII Army Air Corps pilot of the B-24 bomber “Chug A Lug” which flew 50 missions and was featured in a war bond tour.

Lt.Col. Jody Williams – U.S. Army helicopter and fixed wing pilot, served one tour in Vietnam as a gunship pilot with the 170th Buccaneers, and served a second Viet Nam tour with the Air Traffic Control division.

Tim Simmons – U.S. Navy Seabee who was stationed at Da Nang during his tour in Vietnam.

Sgt. Emsley C. (E.C.) Meek – WWII U.S. Army Signalman, 90th Signal Co., 90th Infantry Division. D-Day to VE Day in the ETO.

PFC Henry Marugo – WWII Rifleman with the 357th Inf. Regt., 90th Infantry Division. Twice Wounded In Action.

PRESIDENT'S “SIT REP”

Rodger W Brownlee

It's Springtime; Winter is finally behind us. I hope everyone had a great holiday season with family and friends, and were able to avoid those persistent seasonal maladies that being house-bound and the cold weather always produce.

Wintertime always reminds me of the military campaigns throughout history when armies took a break to restore their fighting strength, and commanders conducted their “After Action Reviews” planning for the campaigns ahead.

For the board and staff of the Military Museum of Fort Worth, our “campaign” is ongoing; there are no stand downs, breaks, or time outs for R & R. We can however, take the time to look back to assess and review our actions and progress while planning the way ahead.

The year 2022 and the past few months saw many “advances” and successes for the Museum; including new inside and mobile displays honoring our military traditions and the lives of Texas soldiers; revamping the museum entry and gift shop and appointing a gift-shop manager, Mr. Paul Fraga;

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FEATURE STORY

RWBLee – Staff

MMFW HONORS LOCAL HERO

SP4 ROBERT DAVID LAW – U.S. ARMY

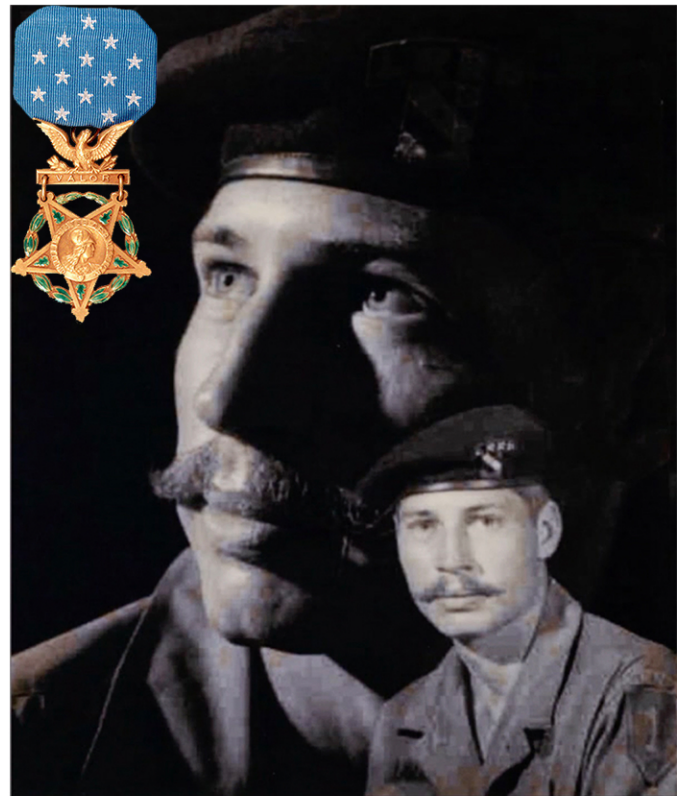
On February 20, 1969, Sp4 Robert Law and five fellow Rangers were inserted by helicopter on a mission to gather intelligence near the Cambodian border northeast of the 1st Infantry Division base camp at Lai Khe. Law paced the patrol, and within one hour of their insertion, they were in a gunfight.

Law covered the patrol with gunfire as they withdrew into the woods for the night. The next day, the Rangers monitored enemy troops near a log bridge over a stream. On the morning of February 22, three Vietcong soldiers spotted the Rangers and opened fire. During the exchange, a grenade rolled close to three of the Rangers. Law threw himself on the grenade to save his comrades. For his selfless sacrifice, Sp4 Robert David Law was posthumously awarded the Nation's highest military award for valor, The Congressional Medal of Honor (MOH), by President Richard Nixon at a White House ceremony in August 1970.

Robert David Law was born in Fort Worth Texas in September 1944. He attended Fort Worth Technical High School and graduated in 1964. He joined the Army in October 1967, took Basic and Advanced Infantry Training at Ft Polk LA, completed Airborne school at Ft Benning GA, and received orders to join "F" Co. (Rangers), 52 Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division in the Republic of South Vietnam.¹ He had been in-country for approximately eight months when he volunteered for the mission that resulted in his death.

Sp4 Law's body was returned to his native Fort Worth, where he was interred at Mt Olivet Cemetery, his grave being marked by a plain, flat, bronze military marker.

Military Museum of Fort Worth (MMFW) Curator and Executive Director, Tyler Alberts, related the following: "Beginning in May of 2019, Kent Knudson, sponsor and marker coordinator, began



SP4 Robert David Law – U.S. ARMY

working with MMFW to sponsor and erect a Texas State Historical Marker at the gravesite to honor Sp4 Law." Years of hard work paid off on Saturday, February 25 2023, when the marker was officially unveiled near Sp4 Law's gravesite.

The cold drizzly morning did not deter those attending the unveiling ceremony. Officiated over by Tyler Alberts, those attending included speaker Kent Knudson, several MMFW Board Officers, City, County, and State officials, and a JROTC color guard provided by Trimble Tech, Sp4 Law's old high school.

It is our ongoing mission at MMFW to honor the sacrifice of those who serve.

1. Attributed to Kent Knudson

CURATOR'S CORNER – cont.

Col. Ernest Benton – U.S. Air Force Heavy Bomber Pilot and Strategic Air Command planner who served in B-29s at the end of WWII and transitioned to B-52s post-war. He finished his career planning strategic air defenses.

Sgt. Mylas Libby – During WWII a member of the 2nd Marine Division who fought at Tarawa, and other Pacific campaigns.



Above are artifacts from Sgt. Mylas Libby exhibit.

Pvt Thomas Agnew – A WWI soldier with the Allied Expeditionary Forces as an ambulance driver. Wounded while serving with the French.

***** WE HONOR *****

SOLDIER STORIES

Tyler Alberts

In this issue, we focus on the service of U.S. Army Col. Wesley “Wes” Geary who served our nation as a U.S. Army Chaplain during a distinguished career of more than 20 years.

Originally from Klondike, Texas, he moved to Pampa Texas and graduated from Pampa High School in 1943. He then graduated from Texas College in Tyler, Texas, and would be one of the first black graduates from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

After a few brief ministries in Texas, Florida, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, he joined the Army Chaplain Corp as a 1st Lt. in 1963. His first duty station was Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He then deployed to Vietnam in 1966 with the 1st Infantry Division,

PRESIDENT'S “SIT REP” – cont.

adding new officers; Rodger Brownlee, President, and John Furlow, Treasurer; electing new officers; Trace Chinworth, Outreach Director, and Mike Zamulinski, Secretary; creating the new position of Media Director and appointing Karen Ferguson to serve in that position; and last but certainly not least, laying the groundwork for “DOG TAGS”, our official newsletter for MMFW. These are just a few of the many accomplishments we can look back on with satisfaction as we move ahead.

Anticipating 2023, we can look forward to a new military vehicle display, an interactive “firing range” and war game suite; expansion of our existing floor-space to accommodate and display our growing collection of artifacts and memorabilia; accelerating and expanding our advertising and outreach programs to attract more visitors, corporate sponsors, and new museum members; and continuing to provide and deploy our mobile displays and educational assets for use within and outside of the museum. All said, 2023 should be an exciting new year of growth and progress for the Museum, its members, fans, and supporters.

As mentioned, this is the debut edition of “DOG TAGS”, the official newsletter of The Military Museum of Fort Worth. Our intent is to provide a quarterly status update, historical and newsworthy articles, and information for our sponsors, members, friends, and interested parties as it pertains to the content, activities, and operation of the Museum. We welcome any and all feedback from our readers.

In closing, I would like to reach back fifteen years to the Museum’s founding, and dedicate this first edition of “DOG TAGS” to the many volunteers, board members, sponsors, friends, and supporters past and present, who created, nurtured, sustained, supported, and grew the Military Museum of Fort Worth into the first-class entity it is today. To all of those who made this happen, we salute you.

“In The Fight”

***** WE PRESERVE*****

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SOLDIER STORIES – cont.

where he served with three Infantry Battalions: 1/18th, 2/18th, and the 1/28th. After he was wounded a second time, he was assigned to Division Headquarters as an Assistant Division Chaplain.



After his combat tour, he was assigned as R & R Center Chaplain in Hawaii. His other noteworthy assignments were Brigade Chaplain, 4th Infantry Division, Ft Carson CO; Assistant Chaplain V Corps, Frankfurt Germany; Staff and Faculty, U.S. Army Chaplain's School; Division Chaplain, 101st Airborne Division; Command Chaplain, Fort Riley, KS; Command Chaplain, 8th Army, U.S. Forces Korea; and III Corps Chaplain, Fort Hood TX. He is also a graduate of the Command and General Staff College.

His many decorations include: the Defense Superior Service Medal; Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf clusters; Bronze Star Medal with V-device and two Oak Leaf clusters; Purple Heart with Oak Leaf cluster; Air Medal and Meritorious Service Medals with Oak Leaf clusters.

Wes was a commanding figure, standing at 6'4" and weighing in at around 200 lbs, yet he provided a sense of peace and calm in the direst situations with just his presence. He is mentioned in several memoirs of various First Division commanders and regular grunts, proving his impact on the soldiers he served with. It is also clear from reviewing his letters of commendation that Col. Geary had the gift of getting the best out of men regardless of their race and background, often providing the conduit to forge relationships between the races during the turbulent time of the 1960s.

Once out of the military, he remained active in religious, military, and civic organizations, including pastoring various Presbyterian

MOBILE DISPLAYS / SPECIAL EVENTS

Tyler Alberts

The MMFW offers mobile exhibits to accent your private or public events when you want to honor our service members. With a relatively short lead time, we can set up mobile museums with turnkey exhibits in most any location for your single or multi-day event.



The Museum located at Ridgmar Mall is available to host your special event. From birthday parties to official military promotions, reenlistment, or awards ceremonies, Military Museum of Fort Worth can handle it all.

In addition, the MMFW is now holding space for gaming events. Your group can rent space for just a quick meeting, or for a multi-hour event. Either way, your use of the Military Museum of Fort Worth will provide a unique, unforgettable experience.

Anyone wishing to inquire about this service, please call the museum at 817-945-2680 or email info@militarymuseumfortworth.org.



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Soldier Stories – cont.

churches and a United Church of Christ congregation. He was the regional president of AUSA (Association of The United States Army), a leader of the Kiwanis Club, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He served as a director of the Samaritan Inn Homeless shelter in McKinney, TX.

Col. Geary passed away in 2016 in Plano TX at the age of 82.

The personal artifacts currently on display from Col. Geary were brought in by his son, Wes Jr., but are, in fact, not the first or only artifacts of his on display at a museum. Prior to his death, Col. Geary was kind enough to donate his helmet and the “slingshot” that he always carried in combat to create a featured exhibit about the Chaplain Service at the 1st Infantry Division Museum at Cantigny, IL, just outside of Chicago.

MMFW is honored to have Col. Geary’s personal military insignia, plaques and certificates of achievement on display to be shared with the public.

***** WE EDUCATE*****

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Trace Chinworth – Director

In previous years, The Military Museum of Fort Worth has had the privilege of giving dozens of presentations to school groups, adult education classes, church and social organizations, civic



groups, and others who are interested in our state’s and nation’s military heritage and history.

Anyone wishing to inquire about this service, please call our Education and Outreach Director Directly.

Contact: Trace Chinworth – 817-223-8455

Should you fail to get through, please leave a detailed message and return contact number, and your call will be returned promptly.

THE OLD GUARD BUNCH

The “Old Guard Bunch” is an informal gathering of military retirees and their significant others who meet from time to time (there is no specific schedule) at the Golder Corral Restaurant – see address below – to enjoy a good meal, renew old friendships, rehash our military memories, and just laugh and have a good time.

If you would like to be notified of up-coming get-togethers, or if there are any questions, Please call Bill Abernathy – 817-401-9237, or Wanita Lovell – 817-992-4018. If no one answers, PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER.

Or you can contact them by email:
Bill.Abernathy@sbcglobal.net
lovellsfc@yahoo.com

NORTH TEXAS OLD GUARD BUNCH Meets at
THE GOLDEN CORRAL
3517 Alta Mere
Ft Worth TX (at Alta Mere and Camp Bowie)
817-377-1034

ALL SERVICES BRANCHES ARE WELCOME
(Remember, No Schedules, Membership or Dues,
Just Good Fellowship)

BACK TRACKS

Staff

JANUARY

On January 28 – 30th, MMFW made their annual return to the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo. Our booth in the main concourse of the Amon Carter Exhibit Hall next to the food court gave MMFW a great deal of exposure to passing Stock Show patrons. We were able to meet and say hello to lots of great folks and to show and tell the great stories MMFW has to share.

FEBRUARY

Bill Leaf, MMFW Board Member and special projects Guru completed his Gatling Gun firing range. So if you've ever wanted to put a few rounds down range, now's your chance. The range features a multi-barrel, belt fed, full-auto, NERF GATLING GUN, firing rubber tipped foam projectiles.

You will be able to test your skill and marksmanship against an array of illum-inated electronic targets that ping and fall when hit. This activity will be fun for the entire family; so be sure to make use of our range when visiting the museum.

Pricing starts at \$5 for a 50-round belt.

MARCH

The MMFW Motor Pool has started up our military vehicle ride day which will happen every 3rd Saturday of the month.

Our own 1943 Willys Jeep is always available for up to 4 people for just \$25. We will also have special "guest" vehicles, as we can arrange them; so check our website each month to see what vehicle rides may be available.

On 21 March, the Museum hosted and provided a tour for 161 – 7th grade students and their teachers from Crowley Junior High school. Seven MMFW board members pro-vided information and guided the students through each of the galleries during their three-hour visit. It was an enlightening and gratifying experience for all concerned.

APRIL

At the invitation of "Hops and Props" at the Fort Worth Aviation Museum, on 29 April MMFW set up tents and created a small village to support a WWII reenactment group. It was a great opportunity to promote MMFW to a crowd of up to 5000 people. More on this event in the next edition.

MILITARY MUSEUM OF FT WORTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2023

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RODGER BROWNLEE	President Newsletter Editor
JOHN KALVALEGE	Vice-President
KAREN GARRISON	Director Media Communications
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PAUL FRAGA	Gift Shop Manager
COLIN FISH	Volunteer
MARCUS ORTIZ	Volunteer/Intern
CHRIS GUERRERA	Volunteer/Intern
JOHN GORDON	Vol. Library Archivist

***** VOLUNTEER NOW*****

MMFW Ad, as seen in the
Texas Ranger Baseball Club Annual



Hours of Operation:
Thurs.-Sat. 11a-5p
Sun. 12p-5p

FREE ADMISSION
for all Veterans
& kids under 11.

Come and enjoy our 11,000 Sqft museum located
at I-30 and Hwy 183, on lower level of Ridgmar Mall.

www.MilitaryMuseumFortWorth.org



THE MILITARY MUSEUM OF FORT WORTH

A Brief history

The concept for the museum began with a group of military history collectors in Fort Worth who already had hundreds of artifacts. Tyler Alberts, current Executive Director and Curator of MMFW, and a part of that group, had always wanted to honor his grandfather, SFC Warren G. Alberts, who served with the 90th Infantry Division during WWII; and so the idea of a museum took root.

In 2008, he leased a 1,000 square foot space near Fort Worth's cultural district to exhibit the combined collections, as well as the influx of WWI and WWII artifacts donated by soldiers and family members of the of 90th Division Association.

Knowing the significance of the 36th Infantry Division in the development of Camp Bowie

Boulevard and West Fort Worth during WWI, he expanded the scope of the Museum to include this important aspect of local history, as well as to include the numerous histories and artifacts of servicemembers who served in America's wars from WWI to the present, and who have local or Texas ties. Soon the small "exhibit" space became a formal museum, and expansion became necessary.

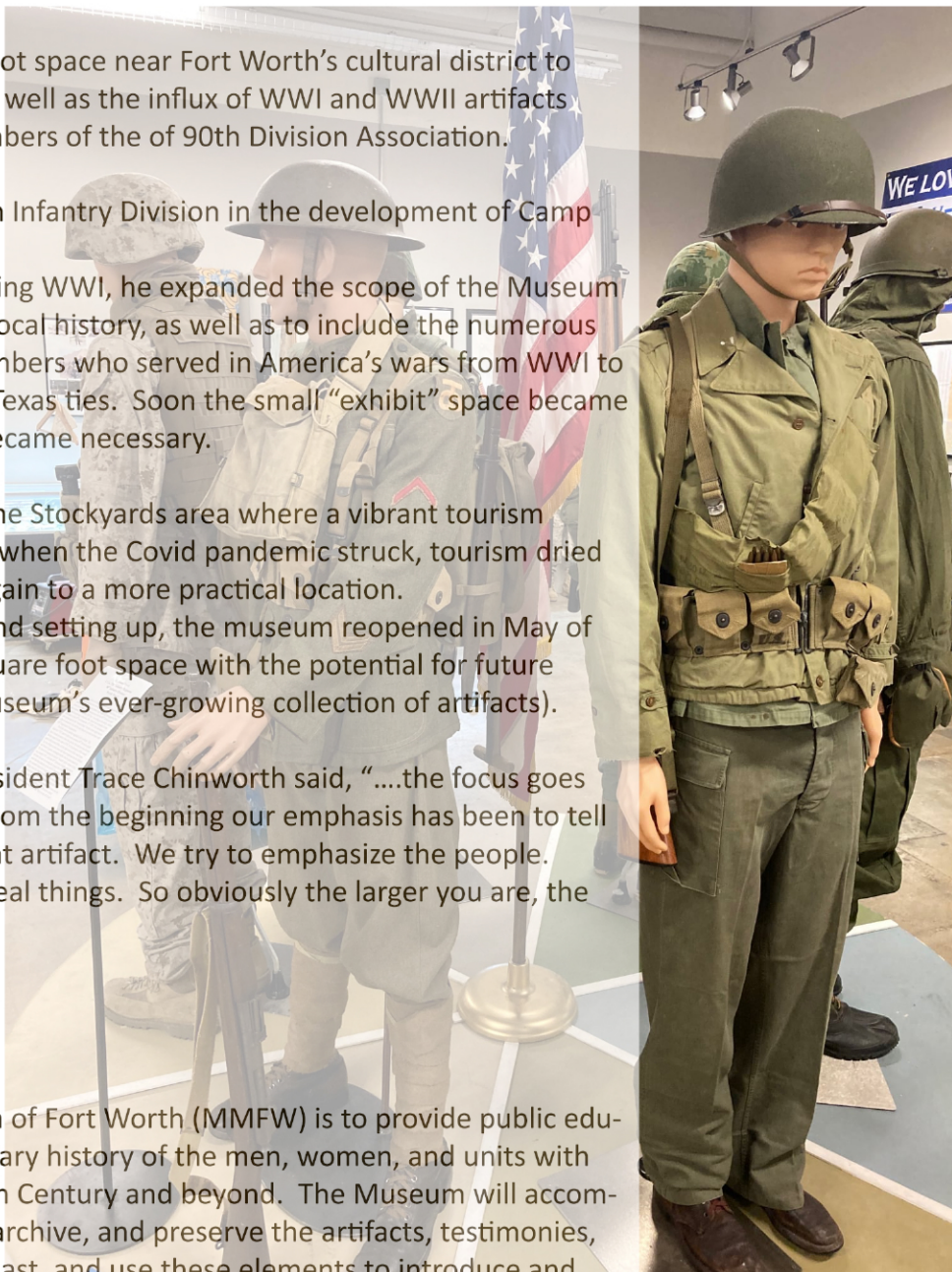
In 2017, the museum relocated to the Stockyards area where a vibrant tourism business already existed. However, when the Covid pandemic struck, tourism dried up, and it was time to move once again to a more practical location. After a year of searching, moving, and setting up, the museum reopened in May of 2021 in Ridgmar Mall; an 11,000 square foot space with the potential for future expansion (to accommodate the Museum's ever-growing collection of artifacts).

In the new location, then Board President Trace Chinworth said, "...the focus goes deeper than displaying uniforms. From the beginning our emphasis has been to tell the story behind that uniform or that artifact. We try to emphasize the people. These were real folks and they did real things. So obviously the larger you are, the more stories (you can tell)."

To Be Continued.....

Our Mission

The Mission of the Military Museum of Fort Worth (MMFW) is to provide public educational outlets focused on the military history of the men, women, and units with connections to Texas during the 20th Century and beyond. The Museum will accomplish its goal by seeking to acquire, archive, and preserve the artifacts, testimonies, and histories linked to our military past, and use these elements to introduce and educate the residents and visitors of Texas about the proud history and heritage through the use of permanent and temporary displays and exhibits.





WE WANT YOU!

**MILITARY MUSEUM OF FORT WORTH
JOIN TODAY!**

Becoming a Member helps fund and sustain the Museum, mobile exhibits, educational and internship programs, while enjoying the Benefits of Membership throughout the year.

Choose from one of these Annual Membership / Benefit Levels:

COMMANDER	\$125.00
BENEFITS:	A, B, C, D, E, & F
ADJUTANT	\$50.00
BENEFITS:	A, B, C, E, & F
COLOR GUARD	\$25.00
BENEFITS:	B, C, & E
SOLDIERS FRIEND	\$15.00
BENEFITS:	C & E

MEMBER BENEFITS

- A. 1 Free Military Museum of Fort Worth T-Shirt
- B. 20% Gift Shop Discount of All Items
- C. Membership Card and Quarterly Newsletter
- D. 1 Private Tour for a Party of up to 10 people
- E. Free Admission for 1 person per visit for the duration of the membership
- F. Unlimited Access to the Museum Library

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Print this page; Detach this portion and mail or bring to the Museum
(NOTE: You must collect your Free Military Museum of Fort Worth T-Shirt in person)

Date _____ Membership Level _____ Amt Received \$ _____

New Member Name (print) _____

Mailing Address _____

Email * _____ Phone _____

*Required to Receive MMFW Newsletter May we text you? Circle one. Yes No

Mail To: Military Museum of Fort Worth – 1726 Green Oaks Rd, Fort Worth TX 76116