

Stars and Stories

The Official Newsletter of the Michigan Heroes Museum



SGT GORDON D. YNTEMA
MEDAL OF HONOR, VIETNAM, 1968

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The Medal of Honor Project

By John Auger, Staff Curator

A year from now, the Michigan Heroes Museum expects to host living Medal of Honor recipients during the Medal of Honor Annual Conference in Detroit. In anticipation of their visit, our team is working tirelessly to ensure these extraordinary heroes — and the legacy of Michigan’s own Medal of Honor recipients — are represented with the respect and depth they deserve.

Currently, the Michigan Heroes Museum proudly features 33 Medal of Honor recipients, including 22 original, named medals on display. Yet Michigan’s legacy is far broader: 111 Medals of Honor have been accredited to the state, awarded to 109 individuals, including two double recipients — Thomas Custer and Frank Baldwin. In addition, research has identified 31 more heroes with Michigan connections, whether through birthplace or later residence.

To uphold our mission to *Honor, Respect, and Remember* every one of these remarkable individuals, we have undertaken an extensive project to research the 107 untold stories not yet featured in our galleries.

Research for each recipient requires at least an hour, often much more. Our process begins with online records and expands into deeper documentation through census data, military service records, and archives accessed through Ancestry.com. Each story we uncover reveals not only a hero’s actions but also their humanity — the families they left behind, the communities they came from, and the values that carried them through unimaginable circumstances.

Our goal is to have all 107 stories written and available to the public by October of next year. While not every individual will have a full display case, our walls will once again transform into a gallery of remembrance, much like our 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor tribute, which

featured every Michigan man from the USS Arizona.

It is a daunting task to be sure. However, we have nearly completed the research side of it, and we will be writing stories through the end of 2025. It is a great project that we have enjoyed working on. The outcome will be just as great.

Expanding the Legacy Through Education and Collectibles

To make these stories more accessible beyond our walls, the museum will also expand its popular WWII Heroes Trading Card Series to include select Medal of Honor recipients. Each card will feature a portrait, service details, and a brief account of the recipient's heroism.

These collectible cards are more than mementos — they're portable history lessons designed to inspire younger generations to learn about courage, sacrifice, and the cost of freedom. By incorporating Medal of Honor recipients into the next series, the Michigan Heroes Museum continues to bridge the gap between education and remembrance in a way that is both interactive and enduring.

Looking Ahead

Though the work ahead remains substantial, our excitement grows daily. We are deeply grateful to the donors, researchers, and volunteers who make it possible. The Medal of Honor Project is more than a research effort — it's a promise to our heroes that their stories will never fade.

When conference visitors walk through our Medal of Honor gallery next year, they will not only see medals and artifacts; they will see the living testament of Michigan's courage, service, and sacrifice, on display, one story at a time.

The Soul of a Great American Museum

By Will Twomey, Volunteer

Some of the best memories I have with my parents involve long detours from family trips to visit military museums. I do not know how I ended up so lucky, but wherever we were in the world, they always agreed to upend plans so I could stand in awe before stories of heroic veterans. We once went eight hours south of our hometown of Petaluma, California to visit the Palm Springs Air Museum with its (at the time) many World War II veteran docents, my dad drove me through a blizzard in Idaho to meet Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Bernie Fisher, and in 2014, my mom agreed to take me an hour north of our cousin's Detroit wedding to see one of the most outstanding museums in the country—the Michigan Heroes Museum.

The latter trip coincided with the first month of the museum's new Executive Director, John Ryder. He had eagerly taken the helm to be a part of its mission. I walked in the door, a fourteen-year-old as eager as my classmates might have been to go to Disneyland, and immediately hit it off with John. While my supportive mother made it clear that we could only stay an hour if we wanted to catch our flight home, John and I rushed off to explore the history crammed into one small, special building in Frankenmuth.

The museum's founder, Stan Bozich, had dedicated his life to building this monument to Michigan's veterans. He possessed an unparalleled ability to convince others to join his mission, whether they were Medal of Honor recipients, astronauts, or generals. These heroes and their families trusted him with their most prized possessions, physical artifacts commemorating the defining moments of their lives. Inspired by personal small-town displays in the Soviet Union, Stan recognized the power of a museum built around individuals and crafted an experience to remind visitors that war, despite its

horrific grandeur and scale, is personal. Perhaps to dedicate more energy to his collecting and exhibition genius, Stan was not the most organized person.

We looked through the museum's vast archive, finding unissued Medals of Honor, Polar Bear artifacts and other treasures that Stan had itemized meticulously in his mind but seldom in writing. The visit ended far too soon, and I left with a promise to return in the summer when we made our annual trip to visit my grandparents. Over the next few summers, I worked with John and the museum's other passionate supporters to organize, research, lead tours, and, oftentimes, just nerd out together over heroes like LTC Matt Urban, CMSgt Duane Hackney, and SSG Travis Mills. It was primarily because of these experiences that I worked to build my own small version of Stan's project — a nonprofit called the National Military Archives (nationalmilitaryarchives.org).

For over a decade now, I've collected all sorts of artifacts, ranging from the uniform of General Colin Powell to the Purple Heart of a young sailor killed at Pearl Harbor. Through collaborations with institutions like the National Museum of the United States Air Force (where one of CMSgt Hackney's uniforms is on display), these artifacts are used to do what the Michigan Heroes Museum does best – connect visitors with individual heroes.

In the years since those special summer internships in Frankenmuth, I graduated from college and joined the United States Navy, beginning the long path towards becoming a naval aviator. The Michigan Heroes Museum means so much to my family and me. It inspired me to try and give back to our great country in the way the Michiganders it honors once did, knowing it is impossible to live up to the standard so many of them set. Undoubtedly, there are thousands of other young men and women who were equally moved by the museum. It may not have the multi-million-dollar theaters, the multi-story structures, or the massive battlefield recreations of major institutions, but it has a characteristic

that most other museums lack – soul. As soon as you enter its doors, you feel the pride Michigan has for its heroes, the countless hours Stan Bozich worked to build it, the trust that thousands of veterans had in its mission, and the dedication of people like, the museum's current staff members, who go above and beyond to bring young kids closer to its powerful stories of service and sacrifice. There is nowhere else like it.



Honoring the Greatest Generation: A Week of Remembrance in Grand Rapids

Brian Hauenstein, Board Member

From September 1–7, 2025, Grand Rapids was transformed into a city of remembrance as the community came together to honor the Greatest Generation—the men and women who served during World War II, and those on the home front whose efforts helped secure victory. The 80th anniversary of the end of the war was marked by a weeklong series of events, coordinated through the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, the Michigan Heroes Museum, the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, and the City of Grand Rapids, with support from numerous local partners and volunteers.

A Parade and Flyover to Remember

The week began with a stirring Honor Parade through downtown Grand Rapids, featuring veterans, active-duty service members, historical vehicles, marching bands, and proud citizens lining the streets. As the parade concluded, spectators turned their eyes skyward for the Wings of Honor flyover, which filled the skies with the thunder of aircraft in tribute to those who served.



FIG 1: Board Members Celebrating the Greatest Generation.

The Michigan Heroes Museum was proud to participate, with staff, volunteers, and a restored historical vehicle bearing the museum's insignia joining the procession. These symbols served as a reminder of the Museum's mission: to Honor, Respect, and Remember Michigan's heroes.

Voices of Legacy

Throughout the week, attendees had the opportunity to hear from renowned historians and family members of veterans, including lectures by Rick Atkinson, Garrett Graff, Sir Antony Beevor, and Susan Eisenhower. Their insights shed light on both the triumphs and sacrifices of the WWII generation. The week also included prayer services, remembrance ceremonies, film screenings, and the solemn Bell-Ringing Ceremony at 8:08 PM on September 1, (Grand Rapids Time) the exact moment the war officially ended.

Partnerships That Made It Possible

This ambitious undertaking was made possible by a coalition of organizations and dedicated individuals. The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation provided vision and leadership, while the City of Grand Rapids and countless civic groups ensured smooth logistics and enthusiastic community participation. The Michigan Heroes Museum was honored to collaborate in both planning and presence, bringing Michigan's stories to the forefront of this national moment of remembrance. Volunteers, students, veterans' groups, and local businesses all contributed to the success of the week's programming, demonstrating what can be achieved when a community unites in gratitude.

Lasting Impact

The Greatest Generation Celebration was more than a commemoration—it was a living testament to the enduring values of service, sacrifice, and resilience. For the thousands who attended, the week provided not only solemn reflection but also a renewed commitment to carrying forward the legacy of those who served.





FIG 2: Everyone loves a parade. Even Mike and Grobbel!



FIG 3: MHM Supporters, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Brewster, Drive their Packard in the Greatest Generation Day Parade

Packard: A Michigan Car in the Arsenal of Democracy

As the restored 1940 Packard made its way through the streets of Grand Rapids during the Greatest Generation Celebration, it represented more than the elegance of a bygone era. It stood as a reminder of Michigan's defining role in World War II—the *Arsenal of Democracy*.

Packard Motor Car Company, once synonymous with luxury automobiles, redirected its engineering and manufacturing might to the war effort. In Detroit, Packard built thousands of Rolls-Royce Merlin engines under license, providing the power behind the legendary P-51 Mustang fighter. This aircraft gave the Allies the ability to escort bombers deep into enemy territory, shifting the balance of air superiority over Europe.

Packard also produced marine engines that propelled America's PT boats, including PT-109, the one famously commanded by what would be our future President, John F. Kennedy, in the Pacific. With each engine and each boat, Packard contributed directly to the war's outcome.



FIG 4: Packards being built in Detroit.

The appearance of a Packard in the parade was a fitting tribute—not only to the company’s storied automotive past, but to the pivotal role that Michigan industry played in defeating tyranny. Alongside Ford, Chrysler, General Motors, and countless suppliers, Packard embodied Detroit’s transformation into the Arsenal of Democracy, where assembly lines once dedicated to comfort and luxury became lifelines of freedom.



FIG 5: Sheet of MHM WWII Trading Cards

WWII Heroes Trading Cards: Honoring Service, Inspiring Remembrance

One of the most creative projects to emerge from the **Greatest Generation Celebration** was the launch of the **WWII Heroes Trading Cards**, a collaboration between the **Michigan Heroes Museum** and the event’s planning committee. Designed to capture the spirit of the Greatest Generation in a form that engages both young and old, the cards honor the legacy of Michigan’s World War II veterans in a unique and lasting way.

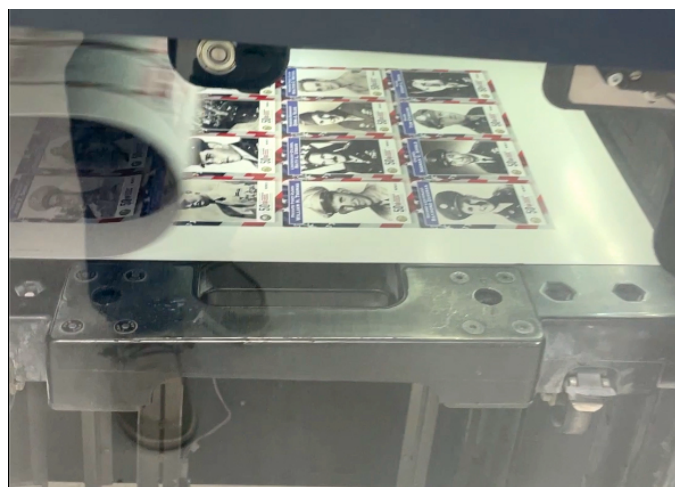


FIG 6: MHM WWII Trading cards hot off the press

The Vision Becomes Reality

The idea for the trading cards was brought forward by **Brian Hauenstein**, GGC Committee Member and MHM Board Member, who saw an opportunity to connect history with a format beloved by generations. From there, a dedicated team made the vision possible:

- **Museum Staff** – Researched and authored the biographical text for each card, created the initial design, and edited content.
- **Todd Lewis** – Finalized the professional design, ensuring historical accuracy met visual appeal.

Honor ★ Respect ★ Remember

- **Neil Kirby**, GGC Committee Member and MHM Board Member – Coordinated the project from concept to completion.
- **Holland Litho Printing Service** – Produced the high-quality cards that debuted at the celebration. Even AI support was utilized during the creative process, underscoring how innovation and tradition can blend in the service of remembrance.

A Collection of 32 Heroes

The finished set includes **32 trading cards**, each featuring the photograph, name, and service details of a Michigan WWII hero. From Medal of Honor recipients to decorated servicemen and women, and even civilians who made extraordinary contributions, every card tells a story of courage, sacrifice, and dedication.

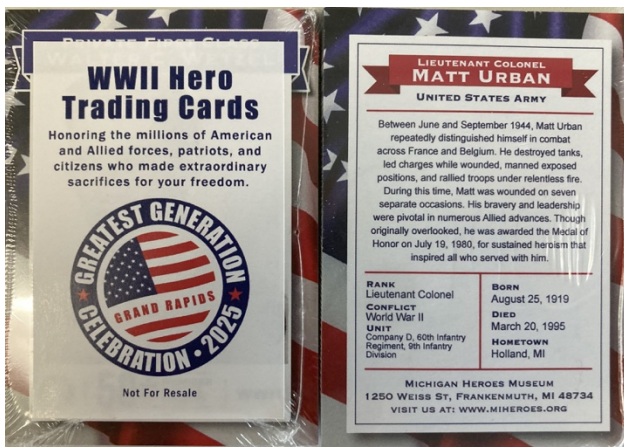


FIG 7: MHM WWII Trading Cards Packaged and ready for the parade

Bridging Generations

The trading cards proved especially popular among younger attendees, who eagerly studied the images and stories, asking questions about the lives and sacrifices of those depicted. In this way, the cards accomplished exactly what they were created to do—**connect today's generation to the legacy of the Greatest Generation.**

More Than Memorabilia

Far more than keepsakes, these cards are a **portable history lesson** and a **tribute in miniature.** They remind us that remembrance

does not always require marble monuments or grand speeches. Sometimes, the most enduring legacy is found in the stories we hold in our hands and pass along to the next generation.



FIG 8: MHM Board Member shows support for Susan Eisenhower and our veterans

A Night of Reflection with Susan Eisenhower

On Thursday, September 4, 2025, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum welcomed **Susan Eisenhower**, author and granddaughter of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, for a compelling evening titled *Perspectives on the Greatest Generation*. The event, part of the **Greatest Generation Celebration**, drew a thoughtful crowd to reflect on the resilience, sacrifice, and legacy of the generation that faced the hardships of the Great Depression and the trials of World War II.

Illuminating the Greatest Generation

In her address, Ms. Eisenhower emphasized that the stories of that generation are not distant or abstract. Rather, they are a bridge to understanding courage in ordinary lives and the heavy costs borne by individuals and families. She spoke of leadership forged through adversity and the quiet strength of those who returned

home changed, many bearing wounds invisible to the eye.

She urged the audience not to relegate these stories to static remembrance, but to see in them living lessons in service, character, and continuity. In times of uncertainty, she said, we can look back to the Greatest Generation not to idealize their lives, but to draw strength from their responses to crisis.

A book signing followed her talk, including her work *How Ike Led*, which further explores her grandfather's leadership principles.

A Night to Remember

The hall glowed with respectful attention—voices hushed as she spoke, heads nodding in recognition of shared values. Those gathered included veterans, scholars, community leaders, and young people eager to connect past to present. The Michigan Heroes Museum was proud to be a partner in this event, strengthening ties with the Gerald R. Ford Foundation, the Hauenstein Center, and other collaborators.

This evening stood as a reminder that honoring the Greatest Generation is not simply an act of looking backward, but a call to bring forward their spirit of service, sacrifice, and moral responsibility.

* * * * *

COVER STORY: SGT Gordon D. Yntema, U.S. Army, Holland, Michigan

By John Auger, Staff Curator

Gordon Yntema was born in Bethesda, Maryland, on June 26, 1945. Gordon and his family moved to Holland, Michigan, in 1946. He graduated from Holland High School and Culver Military Academy in 1963.

With a desire to serve his country, Gordon enlisted in the US Army in 1964. After basic

training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, he attended Airborne school, Ranger school, and was selected for Special Forces training. At that time, only 3 out of every 100 men made it through Special Forces training. Gordon was one who made it.

He became an intelligence specialist with the Green Berets and spent four months in the Dominican Republic before being assigned to Company D, 5th Special Forces Group. He arrived in Vietnam on October 8, 1967, and was stationed in the delta area, one mile from Cambodia, Southwest of Saigon.

He was first wounded on October 27, 1967. Near Thong Binh, Vietnam, on January 16-18, 1968, Gordon was with another advisor and two platoons of civilian irregular forces as they moved to set up a blocking position. They became engulfed in a firefight with a large force of Viet Cong. When the Vietnamese commander was wounded, Gordon assumed control and led the men to within 50 yards of the enemy's bunkers. This caused the small group to be surrounded on three sides. With casualties mounting and the Viet Cong now employing mortars, the irregulars withdrew. Yntema pulled the wounded Vietnamese commander and the other Green Beret, who had also been wounded, to the safety of a small gully.

Yntema then repelled all the attacks on that position until running out of ammunition. He was then offered to surrender, but he refused. Instead, he attacked the Viet Cong using his rifle as a club. His resistance was so fierce that the VC were forced to kill him. For his intrepid actions and supreme sacrifice, Gordon Yntema was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on November 18, 1969.





The U.S. Navy's Post-WWII Repatriation of Japanese Troops and Civilians

By Mike Grobbel

At the time of Japan's formal surrender on September 2, 1945, nearly two million Japanese soldiers and civilians were stranded in China, Korea, and Formosa (Taiwan), unable to return home. Concurrently, one million Chinese and Koreans who had been forced into slave labor in Japan also needed repatriation. Adding to the complexity, Formosa remained under Japanese Army control and required relief by Chinese troops.

U.S. officials understood that immediate repatriation was crucial for Asia's post-war recovery. Without it, more American troops would be needed for regional stabilization. Recognizing this urgent need, the U.S. Navy quickly established the Japanese Repatriation Group, part of the newly formed Shipping Control Authority, Japanese Merchant Marine (SCAJAP). Over 100 U.S. Navy LSTs (Landing Ship, Tank) from the 7th Fleet were pressed into service for this massive effort.

One of these ships was the USS LST-847. Robert Grobbel, a U.S. Navy Coxswain from Center Line, Michigan, served aboard this vessel and witnessed firsthand the appalling conditions and severe weather encountered during the repatriation efforts in the winter of 1945-1946.



FIG 8: Robert Grobbel was the son of Clement Grobbel and the brother of Vincent Grobbel, whose stories are told at the Michigan Heroes Museum.

On February 19, 1946, Grobbel wrote to his parents from Sasebo, Japan: "Sorry for not writing this last month or two, but they have been keeping us busy with these dam Japs... We arrived here today with 1400 Jap civilians which makes it our 4th trip to Sasebo. Two babies died last night when I had the watch so the Pharmacist Mate and I had to bury them... I am sending a clipping I got out of the Stars & Stripes the other day in Tsingtao. It sure tells the truth but it should have been printed in the US paper instead of over here..."

From October to December 1945, the LST-847 made several trips transporting Chinese National Army troops from mainland China to Formosa. Following repairs in a Tsingtao, China dry-dock on January 21, 1946, six U.S. Marines and 1,020 Japanese repatriates boarded the ship for the journey to Sasebo, Japan. The LST-847 completed three more such trips over the next three months, ultimately transporting a grand total of 4,300 Japanese troops and civilians from Tsingtao to Sasebo.

The article Grobbel sent home was titled, “Gobs, Marines ‘Bitter’ About Repatriation Job.” It had been published in the February 13, 1946 China Edition of the “Stars and Stripes” and it captured the sentiment of the time:

“American seamen and Marines with long combat records, still in foreign waters because they are charged with repatriating some two million Japanese, are bitter at handling a peacetime job they think the Chinese or the Japanese themselves should be doing... many of the more than 100,000 men engaged in the huge task are carrying on despite health hazards far higher than those faced in wartime, winter storms that batter their LSTs unmercifully, and living conditions approximating combat life.”

The article also detailed the unsanitary conditions on many ships:

"Isolation of American personnel on the jammed ships from their disease-ridden charges is impossible, said a medical officer, 'because the stinking odor of filth and disease permeates the entire ship... Japanese soldiers follow orders and obey sanitation regulations admirably... but they are the minority compared to Japanese civilians, who cannot be taught to use urinals and have not the slightest conception of sanitation rules.'"

At its peak, over 400 American, Japanese, and Chinese vessels participated in SCAJAP's repatriation operation. Most U.S. Navy ships were released from repatriation duty by May 1946. However, the LST-847 was released in early March and ordered to deliver ordnance from Okinawa to Pearl Harbor. Grobbel was transferred to a different ship on April 11, 1946 while at Pearl Harbor. The LST-847 then sailed to San Francisco, arriving on April 23, 1946.

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, millions of Japanese, Chinese, and Koreans were able to resettle in their war-torn homelands, safe from reprisals.



“From Student to Storyteller: *Learning History at the Michigan Heroes Museum.*”

Doug Kolar – MHM Staff Member

Although I have been to many museums in my life, MHM was something I've never seen before or since. Instead of just focusing on artifacts and relics, the Michigan Heroes Museum takes a more unique path that focuses on the stories of Michigan's veterans that served in the military or in space pioneering. Walking through the museum for the first time really opened my eyes to the true cost of these grandiose wars and events that intrigue people today. That ordinary people, like you and me, got caught up in these deadly conflicts, with some of them never being able to return to their lives afterwards. As naive as it sounds, I had never taken the time to think about if I were thrown into the same kind of situation. MHM provides many of these instances of reflection and learning that highlight the value of preserving and remembering this history.

Finding experience in the field of history can be tricky as a college student, which is why I am happy that I found the Michigan Heroes Museum. Last year during the summer, I had just finished the second year of my history degree at Saginaw Valley State University and was hoping to find some sort of history related internship. Luckily, I happened to stumble across the Michigan Heroes Museum and started to volunteer here once a week. Once college started back up, I was able to turn my volunteering into an internship counting for my major. After that was done, I was fortunate enough to be hired to work the weekends here, which is where I've been ever since.

Not only has MHM taught me more about history but has shown me what exactly goes into running a historical museum. This includes things such as introducing the museum to guests with preliminary information about the place, making sure each gallery is clean and presentable, and

going through and organizing our vast inventory of stories and their corresponding artifacts that is ever growing. One of my favorite things to do at MHM is to learn more about the history it holds and sharing that information with our visitors. This comes in the form of giving group tours throughout our galleries or checking up on people periodically to see if they have any questions or thoughts on the museum. Through this, I've learned how to communicate this history to others which is crucial to remembering the heroes we display.

Overall, working at the Michigan Heroes Museum has given me a valuable start to my career pursuing history. The good news is that MHM is always looking for volunteers to help us out. Meaning that if you're a college student like me, or just anyone interested in history, you can gain the experience of what it would be like to work in a historical museum. Not only would you be able to learn about the stories we display, but all the work that goes on behind the scenes by our incredible staff. If you happen to be interested, just give us a call and we'll be happy to meet and incorporate you into the MHM experience.



Join the Mission — Become a Volunteer or Intern

Are you passionate about history, education, or honoring our nation's heroes? The Michigan Heroes Museum offers opportunities for volunteers and interns to be part of something truly meaningful.

Whether you're a college student seeking hands-on experience, a retiree wanting to give back, or simply someone who loves history, your time and talent can help us preserve and share the stories of Michigan's finest.

You'll gain firsthand experience in:

- Historical research and artifact preservation

- Exhibit presentation and storytelling
- Guest engagement and museum operations

Every volunteer helps us continue our mission to Honor. Respect. Remember.

Interested? Call us at (989) 652-8005 or visit www.miheroes.org to learn more about joining our team.



A Message from the Executive Director

Your Support Keeps Their Stories Alive

As we approach the close of another remarkable year at the Michigan Heroes Museum, I want to take a moment to speak frankly. Every display, every artifact, every uniform carefully preserved within our walls carries the voice of a Michigan Hero. And every one of those stories continues to live on because of you—our friends, visitors, and supporters.

This season, I ask for your help once more as we prepare for another year of honoring and preserving Michigan's proud military and space heritage. Your year-end donation ensures that we can continue our mission to *Honor, Respect, and Remember* through ongoing operational support and exhibit preservation.

These funds are vital to our daily work—caring for more than 900 individual displays and thousands of artifacts that require constant attention and proper storage. Here are just a few examples of how your generosity directly impacts our efforts:

- \$55 – Photo enlargements that help bring our heroes' faces to life.
- \$50 – Archival-quality photo frames to protect their portraits.
- \$150 – Each mannequin used to present our uniforms respectfully and authentically.

- \$15–\$20 – Per replacement medal (averaging six per display) to complete and preserve accuracy in the integrity of the collection.
- \$40 – Riker mounts (two per display) to safely showcase small artifacts.
- \$100 – Acid-free storage boxes, plus the acid-free tissue needed to safeguard fragile historical items indefinitely.

These may seem like simple tools, but they are the foundation of our mission—allowing us to share the stories of courage, sacrifice, and service that define our state and our nation.

Recently, one of our supporters shared a note that moved us deeply. They wrote:

“The Michigan Heroes Museum is a worthwhile cause. It’s someplace where we know our [Gold Star] son’s service will never be forgotten.”

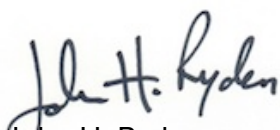
Those words embody why we do what we do. This museum stands as a living testament to Michigan’s sons and daughters who gave so much—and as a place where their memory continues to inspire generations.

As Executive Director, I see firsthand the impact your generosity has. Each contribution, whether large or small, makes an immediate and lasting difference.

Together, we ensure that every Michigan hero’s story is told with dignity, accuracy, and reverence.

From all of us at the Michigan Heroes Museum, thank you for standing with us in this mission—and for continuing to be part of our story.

With gratitude,



John H. Ryder
Executive Director
Michigan Heroes Museum



10th Anniversary Celebration

VETERANS APPRECIATION DINNER EVENT

Saturday, November 1, 2025
Registration: 1:45 – 3:45 p.m. (Military ID Required)
Event: 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
FREE for Veterans and A Guest (RSVP Required)
KERN PAVILION
599 WEISS ST., FRANKENMUTH, MI 48734
Full Buffet Dinner * Meet the Veterans Esteem Team Students!**
Before Event Music: Third Degree Burns begins at 3:00 p.m.
Speakers: Eric Hipple, Former Detroit Lions Quarterback
Ryan Walters, Lead Pilot in Significant Military Action

Dinner Music:
126th Army Band



Headliner:
JOSH GRACIN
Country Music Artist
American Idol Finalist
Marine Corps Veteran



RSVP Required:
By Oct 15 or full capacity
Return RSVP Form
our.vet.team@gmail.com
Call 810-346-3560
Military Attire Appreciated (not required)

Free Admission for Veterans to Heroes Museum, 1250 Weiss St, Frankenmuth, on November 1

VETERANS ESTEEM TEAM

“Students helping Veterans”

10th Anniversary Appreciation Dinner Event

Saturday, November 1, 2025
Registration 1:45-3:45 p.m. Wristbands for readmission will be provided.
**No admissions before 1:45 p.m.*
Dinner Event and Entertainment 4:00-8:00 p.m.
Kern Pavilion, 599 Weiss St., Frankenmuth, MI 48734

A **FREE** appreciation dinner for military Veterans and their spouses/significant others
SPECIAL EVENTS:

Beginning at 3:00 p.m.: Third Degree Burns, a talented youth band bringing the joy of classic rock to everyone!

Dinner Music: 126th Army Band, Talented musicians enhancing morale, motivation, and esprit de corps, while fostering public trust to promote national interests both at home and abroad.

Country Music Artist JOSH GRACIN, American Idol Finalist, CMA Awards Nominee, and Marine Corps Veteran, coming from Nashville!

Special Speakers – Eric Hipple, Former Detroit Lions Quarterback
Ryan Walters, Lead Pilot in Significant Military Action

RSVP required – please RSVP as soon as possible but not later than October 15 or until capacity is reached.
Mail RSVP form below to: Veterans Esteem Team, 5068 Van Dyke Rd., Brown City, MI 48416
Email: our.VET.team@gmail.com or call 810-346-3560

Military ID required. Military attire is appreciated but not required.

-----CUT AND MAIL THE BOTTOM HALF-----KEEP THE TOP FOR YOUR RECORD-----

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Date: _____, 2025

Circle the branch you served in: Air Force – Army – Coast Guard – Marines – Navy – Space Force

War era you served in: _____ Years served: _____ to _____

Will you be bringing a spouse/significant other? **yes** or **no**

If yes: First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Did your spouse/significant other serve in the military? **yes** or **no** Years served _____ to _____

Circle the branch he/she served in: Air Force – Army – Coast Guard – Marines – Navy – Space Force

“When his position was overrun, SGT Yntema was offered the opportunity to surrender but refused. Instead, he chose to fight, defending his comrades until his last breath.”

MEDAL OF HONOR—NOVEMBER 18, 1969



SHARING HEROES' STORIES SINCE 1975

www.miheroes.org

HONOR. RESPECT. REMEMBER.