



Freedom's Voice

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Military History Center

112 N. Main ST
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
<http://www.okmhc.org/>



"Promoting Patriotism through the Preservation of Military History"

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Wreaths Across America

Many Wreaths Across America programs for 2020 were either cancelled, reduced in scope or were virtual. However, American Legion Post 226 in Coweta stepped up and held a wreath laying event in Vernon Cemetery in Coweta on Saturday, December 12.



American Legion Post 226 member, Everett Dodd, carries a veteran's wreath to a memorial site in Coweta's Vernon Cemetery as part of the Wreaths Across America program held Saturday, December 12, 2020. One of the graves in the cemetery is that of Vietnam War Medal of Honor posthumous recipient, SP4 Donald P. Sloat.



"THESE are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.

Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.

What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated."

Thomas Paine
The Crisis No. 1 – 1776



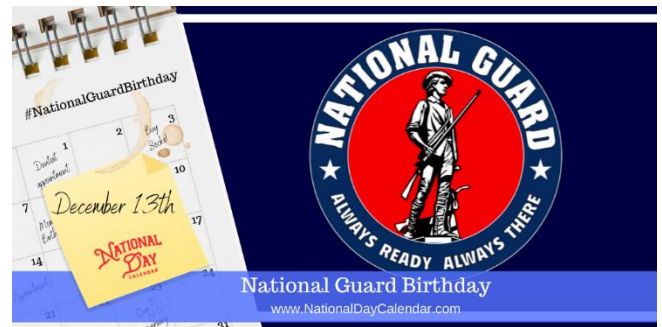


MHC President Tom Mancino was recognized as MHC volunteer of the year at the MHC Christmas lunch on December 17.



MHC docent and Vietnam veteran, Mitch Reed, selected as the December Veteran of the Month from Congressman Kevin Hern's office.

National Guard Birthday



The United States National Guard birthday is recognized as December 13. It was on that date in 1636 that the first militia regiments in North America were organized, in Massachusetts Bay Colony, based on an order of the colony's General Court. The militia was organized into three permanent regiments. Today, the descendants of those first regiments are the 181st Infantry, 182nd Infantry and 101st Field Artillery regiments and 101st Engineer Battalion of the Massachusetts Army National Guard. They are the oldest units in the United States military system.

The National Guard of the United States is collectively the National Guard of all the states, territories and the District of Columbia. The National Guard Bureau is the federal entity responsible for the administration of the National Guard of United States. The Bureau was created by the Militia Act of 1903. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 elevated the National Guard to a joint function of the Department of Defense. The act also elevated the rank of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau from Lieutenant General to General.

The Oklahoma Army National Guard traces its lineage from the establishment of the Oklahoma Territorial Militia on May 25, 1890, from which the 1st Infantry Regiment was organized. The militia was renamed the Oklahoma Territorial National Guard on March 8, 1895. The 1st Infantry Regiment is now the 179th Infantry Regiment of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. The Oklahoma Air National Guard began on July 30, 1940, with the creation of the 125th Aero Squadron, renamed the 125th Observation Squadron in December 1940. The current 125th Fighter Squadron, of the 138th Fighter Wing, traces its lineage to the 125th Observation Squadron.

Museum Hours and Admission Fee

Tuesday – Friday: 10:00 – 4:00; Saturday: 10:00 – 2:00
Closed Sunday and Monday and major Federal holidays

Adults – \$5.00

Members and children under 18 – Free

For more information, call (918) 794-2712

www.okmhc.org



Seal of the United States National Guard

In Memoriam



Charles William Ward, Jr.

Charles William Ward, Jr. was born at Midwest, Wyoming, on September 11, 1924. He graduated from Castle Heights Military Academy at Lebanon, Tennessee, in 1941. After graduation, he enrolled in the University of Oklahoma intending to study engineering, but World War II interrupted his plans. After basic training, Ward was selected for Officer Candidate School. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant at age eighteen, one of the Army's youngest "90-day wonders".

Ward was made a platoon leader in the 5th Infantry Division, a unit of Third Army. The 5th ID entered France at Utah Beach on July 9, 1944. It took part in Operation Cobra (the Normandy breakout), fought in the battle for Metz, the Battle of the Bulge and the Ruhr Pocket. At the end of the war, the 5th ID was in Czechoslovakia. By then, Ward had advanced to Captain, because he said, his predecessors were all killed in combat. During the war, Ward was awarded a Silver Star, presented personally by General Patton, a Bronze Star with Valor Device, Combat Infantryman Badge and French Croix de Guerre with Palm. After the war ended, he served briefly during the occupation as the mayor of Simbach, a small Bavarian town.

He married Shirley Ann Hawthorn on July 30, 1945, while on leave from the Army. After separation from the Army, Ward returned to the University of Oklahoma to continue his education. While in Europe, he had been taken with the beauty and majesty of the Medieval cathedrals, particularly the Reims cathedral in France. So, he changed his major from engineering to architecture. After his graduation in 1950 with a degree in that subject, he moved to Omaha, Nebraska, to intern with the Leo A. Daly firm. Upon completion of his internship, Ward located to Tulsa and established his own firm. He went on to become one of Tulsa's leading architects. Among his projects are the Tulsa Central Library, Southminster Presbyterian Church, Thornton Family YMCA, Charles C. Mason Education Service

Center, Parkland Plaza Office Building, LaFortune Stadium and his personal residence, the "Comma House".

Mr. Ward was also heavily involved with charitable and professional organizations: Will Rogers Rotary Club, University of Oklahoma, especially the College of Architecture Board of Visitors, Southminster Church where he served as a deacon and elder and Eastern Oklahoma Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Over his lifetime, Mr. Ward received numerous honors in recognition of his many accomplishments, including University of Oklahoma Regent's Alumni Award (2007), the Governor's Arts Award (2012), and in 2018, he was inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame.

Mr. Ward was also a student of military history and over time accumulated a sizable library of military books. In 2013, he donated his library of 332 volumes to the MHC.

CPT Charles William Ward, Jr.'s long and remarkable life closed on November 23, 2020.



2LT Ward – 1943



5th Infantry "Red Diamond" Division
shoulder sleeve insignia

Editor: When Mr. Ward brought his library to the MHC in 2013, (through the efforts of his friend, Steve Olsen), I had the privilege of visiting with him about some of his World War II experiences.



2021-2022

Memorial Day Banner Project

2021-2022 Application

All applications must be returned to the Military History Center at Main ST and College in Broken Arrow, OK, by May 10, 2021. The Memorial Day banner will hang in downtown Broken Arrow in the Rose District, for a period of approximately two weeks in conjunction with Memorial Day for two years. Upon completion of the two-year term, we will contact you for renewal. After the two-year term is complete, the banner is yours to keep or renew for another two years. Veteran must be deceased. If you have questions, please call the MHC at the telephone number at the bottom of the application.

NAME OF APPLICANT _____
APPLICANT ADDRESS _____
APPLICANT PHONE _____ APPLICANT EMAIL _____
SUBJECT'S NAME _____
SUBJECT'S RANK _____
YEARS OF SERVICE/OR THEATRE _____

SUBJECT'S BRANCH (circle) U.S. ARMY U.S. NAVY U.S.M.C. U.S. AIR FORCE U.S.C.G.
U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES MERCHANT MARINES

Pictures of the deceased in uniform are required to be turned in with your application and payment of \$200, which covers the applicant for two-years. A high-resolution digital copy is preferred. If you do not have a digital copy you must submit a photo to be digitized when you turn in your application and payment. We will return the photo to you within an appropriate time frame. Email your photo to be digitized to Brad.Heath@vype.com. Banner locations will be selected at random.

Please return the application and payment to

Military History Center
112 North Main Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
918-794-2712

Credit cards are accepted.

Oklahoma's Fallen Heroes of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars



Daniel Lee Galvan

Daniel Lee Galvan was born at Mercedes, Texas, on August 10, 1974. His family later relocated to Moore, Oklahoma, where he graduated from Moore High School. Galvan joined the Army in 1996. He was trained as a helicopter mechanic.

Galvan was deployed to Afghanistan with 2nd Battalion (Assault), 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Light Infantry Division. On August 12, 2004, he was a passenger in a Blackhawk helicopter that developed mechanical problems and crashed in Khost Province, Afghanistan. He died at Camp Salerno in Afghanistan on the same day.

SGT Daniel Lee Galvan was laid to rest in Resthaven Memorial Park at Lubbock, Texas.



Doyle Wayne Bollinger, Jr.

Doyle Wayne Bollinger, Jr. was born at Poteau, Oklahoma, on April 4, 1982. He joined the Navy shortly after graduation from Poteau High School. He was trained for construction, after which he was assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 (Seabees) at Gulfport, Mississippi. He was killed in Iraq after a piece of unexploded ordnance accidentally detonated in the area, where he was working on June 6, 2003.

Petty Officer Third Class Doyle Wayne Bollinger, Jr. was laid to rest in Oakland Cemetery at Poteau.



1LT Damon Thomas Leehan

Damon Thomas Leehan was born at Oklahoma City on September 11, 1980. He graduated from Edmond North High School, Edmond, Oklahoma, in 1998. He joined the Oklahoma National Guard at age seventeen while still in school. He later attended the University of Oklahoma. Leehan began working as an X-ray technician at Integris Southwest Medical Center in Oklahoma City in 2001.

Leehan's first deployment to Afghanistan was in 2003, where he served as a medic. In 2008, he completed Officer Candidate School and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. He was assigned to an infantry unit at the Stillwater Armory. Leehan again deployed to Afghanistan in 2011. He was now a 1st Lieutenant and platoon leader in A Co., 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. 1LT Leehan died of wounds received, when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in Laghman Province, Afghanistan, on August 14, 2011. Three other soldiers were wounded in the incident.

About 1,500 people attended his funeral at Henderson Hills Baptist Church in Edmond. He was eulogized as a loving family man and an exceptional soldier. Major Bill Phillips said of 1LT Leehan, "I've known a lot of soldiers, and he was at the top. He was goal-oriented. He didn't seek the limelight, but it found him." Major General Myles Deering, Adjutant General of Oklahoma, said, "Oklahoma has lost an outstanding citizen-soldier, who was committed to defending our nation and protecting our way of life. LT Leehan served our nation and our state with great honor and distinction for more than a decade. His sacrifice will never be forgotten."

1LT Damon Thomas Leehan was laid to rest in Resthaven Gardens Cemetery in Oklahoma City. His decorations include Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Editor: Two versions of the August 2020 newsletter were inadvertently distributed. Some readers received the newsletter with the articles at the left, while others received the newsletter with the above article. This reprint will enable all readers to learn the stories of these three exceptional Oklahoma heroes.

45th Infantry Division Hero



1LT Clarence Elton Coggins – ca. 1944-45

Clarence Elton Coggins was born in Lee County, Mississippi, on July 3, 1920. At some point in his childhood, his family moved to Poteau, Oklahoma, where he graduated from Poteau High School in 1937. After high school, Coggins enrolled in Oklahoma A&M College (now Oklahoma State University) and was active in the ROTC program. He joined the Oklahoma National Guard in September 1941. By October 1942 he was a 1st Lieutenant in E Company, 2nd Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. Before he could be deployed overseas, a medical evaluation found he was completely deaf in one ear, so he was forced to stay behind. After multiple appeals, he was able to re-join his unit. We don't know the exact date he rejoined the 45th ID, but he was there in time for Operation Dragoon, the landing in southern France on August 15, 1944.

On August 23, he was on a reconnaissance patrol behind enemy lines northeast of Grenoble, when he was captured. He convinced a German Major, commander of an engineer battalion of 942 soldiers and seventeen officers, that his best option was to surrender. The German thought it over for a while, and then told Coggins that if he could surrender to an officer of equal or higher rank, he would do it. Coggins was put into a car with a French resistance fighter and passed through German lines under a white flag. He told his battalion commander the German's offer, and the battalion commander agreed. Coggins returned to the German Major and informed him of the agreement. After he brought in the prisoners, Coggins was immediately promoted to Captain.

On January 7, 1945, Coggins and his company were trapped in a church in Wingen-sur-Moder in the Alsace region of France. The village was under heavy artillery fire, so the men came up with a plan to get out. When they were ready, Coggins would send up a signal flare, and the other American forces in the area would cease fire until Coggins and his men were safely out of the

church. They would then renew their efforts to drive the Germans from the area. Coggins set off the flare, and his men began their escape. He waited until the last man was out before making a dash through the church doorway. German gunfire caught him on the church steps, where he was killed.



The German prisoners, whom 1LT Coggins persuaded to surrender.

CPT Clarence Elton Coggins' body was returned home and laid to rest in Oakland Cemetery in Poteau. He was the holder of two Silver Stars, five Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts, suggesting he was possibly involved in combat much earlier than Operation Dragoon.



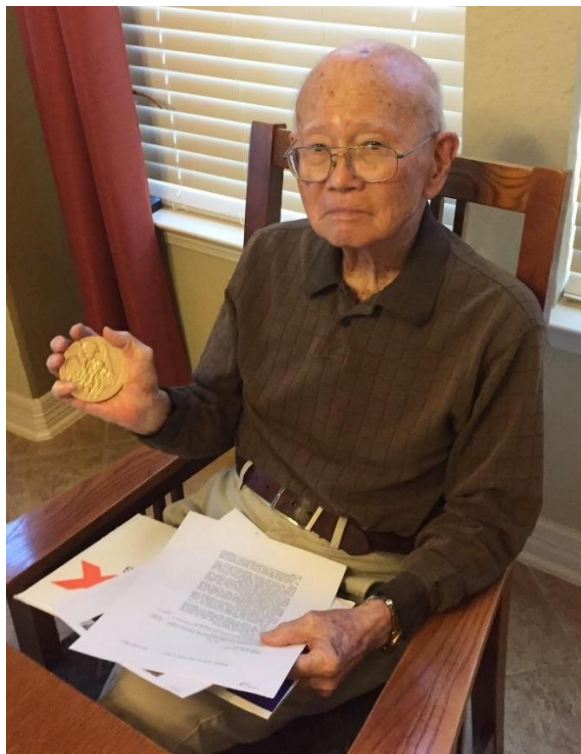
Captain Coggins' grave in Oakland Cemetery, Poteau, Oklahoma



Crest of the 179th Infantry Regiment
"Prepared in all things"

A Special Christmas Gift

Peter Plank



Nubuo Matsuda (COL, U.S. Army, Ret.)

What a very special Christmas present in December for my Uncle, Colonel Nobuo Matsuda, upon receiving the Nisei Soldiers of World War II Congressional Gold Medal. This award was approved by Congress and presented to the Japanese-American soldiers of the U.S. Army's 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. Uncle Nobuo went on to make a successful career in the U.S. Army and retired as Deputy Commander of IX Corps, "Pride of the Pacific". Congratulations to my uncle, whom I admire and love dearly!



Crest of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team
"Go for Broke"

This Month's Featured Exhibit



World War II China-Burma-India Theater Exhibit

The China-Burma-India (CBI) theater is often called the forgotten theater of World War II. Except in China, it was a British commanded theater. The principal land combat area was Burma. The small American land fighting force in Burma was the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) commonly called Merrill's Marauders. It was a long-range penetration, special operations jungle warfare unit modelled on the British commanded Chindits. The Marauders advanced 750 miles through Burma in some of the harshest jungle terrain and climate in the world, fought in five major engagements and engaged in combat with the Japanese Army on thirty-two separate occasions. The Marauders' last battle was Myitkyina (pronounced *mitch chin a*), after which they were reduced by casualties to about 200 effective men. They were disbanded on August 10, 1944. (See the May 2017 Newsletter for a fuller description of Merrill's Marauders.)

At the top, center of the exhibit is a copy of a portrait of British Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, who, from August 1943, was Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia Command (SEAC) of which, the CBI was a part. On the middle left is a framed original AP press photo of BG Frank Merrill, commander of the Marauders. Below that are the framed artifacts of SGT Norman Hixenbaugh, a combat medic serving with the Marauders. A wartime photo of him is to the right of the Merrill photo. His Minor Surgery Instrument Kit is in the display case. All the artifacts named above were donated by Frances Hixenbaugh, SGT Hixenbaugh's widow.

The uniforms displayed are Army and Army Air Force uniforms of men who served in the CBI. The CBI shoulder sleeve insignia is visible on the shoulder of the nearest uniform. A framed silk map of Burma is mounted on the side of the right display case.

Korean War – Ridgway Takes Command

Upon learning of the death of LTG Walton Walker on December 23 (See below.), MacArthur notified the JCS and requested LTG Matthew Bunker Ridgway as Walker's replacement. At the time, Ridgway was serving as Deputy Chief of Staff for Administration and Operations. It already had been planned that if something should happen to Walker, Ridgway would be his successor.



LTG Ridgway – 1951

When Ridgway arrived in Korea on December 26, 1950 (local time), he brought with him his stellar World War II combat record. What he found in Korea greatly disturbed him. No American army had retreated from a battlefield since the Civil War. Even then, the retreats, for the most part, had been orderly; whereas, Eighth Army had been routed. Ridgway found an army dispirited from bottom to top.

During the second and third days after arriving in Korea, Ridgway visited every corps and division CP and several regiment and battalion CPs. He talked with soldiers of all ranks and discovered Eighth Army morale generally at rock bottom among all ranks. One of his first actions was to unite X Corps with Eighth Army and remove the 1st Marine Division from X Corps control. He made several immediate command changes by rotating some senior officers out of Korea as quickly as he reasonably could. He ordered winter clothing immediately issued to every man who didn't have it, and there were many who did not. He ordered that at least two hot meals were to be served every day, three if practical. He made note of the unnecessary destruction of supplies and ammunition and the frequent abandonment of crew served weapons during withdrawals. He made the practices court martial offenses and ordered commanders to enforce them. He also took note of the inadequate use of artillery, the lack of proper patrolling, the ignorance of commanders as to the terrain in their fronts and most importantly lack of contact with the enemy. He issued orders to correct these and many other deficiencies he discovered. He was most disturbed by the lack of aggressiveness among senior officers that had filtered down the ranks of both officers and enlisted men. He attended as many corps, division and regimental briefings as possible and informed the briefers that he did not want hear their defensive plans. He was only interested in their attack plans. By the end

of January, Ridgway had made good progress in turning around Eighth Army. There was no more talk of abandoning Korea.

In the meantime, the CCF and the reconstituted NKPA launched their Third Phase Offensive on New Year's Eve 1950. Their favorite tactic was to locate the boundary between UN units and drive deep between them. This they did with two regiments of the ROK 6th Division and created a gap eight miles deep on the right flank of the American 25th ID. This exposed the American positions north of Seoul and forced their retreat. The CCF entered Seoul on January 4. The UN retreat continued to a line near Suwon, about fifty miles south of Seoul, that ran north-east to Wonju in what was called the central corridor and on to Samcheok on the east coast. The front stabilized there and held. It's important to understand that the fighting in January was undertaken during the worst Korean winter in memory with temperatures often falling as low as thirty degrees below zero at night and only a little above zero during daylight, with as much as a foot of snow on the ground. Frostbite cases afflicted many, and some men even froze to death in their foxholes at night.

About that time, Mao Tse-tung caught MacArthur's disease. He believed the UN (that is, United States) forces were on the ropes and could easily be pushed out of Korea. On January 8, he issued orders regarding tasks during rest and reorganization and outlining Chinese war goals. The orders read: "the central issue is for the whole party and army to overcome difficulties ... to improve tactics and skills. When the next campaign starts ... we will annihilate all enemies and liberate all Korea." In his telegram of January 14 to Peng Dehuai, commander of Chinese forces in Korea, Mao stressed the importance of preparing for "the last battle" in the spring in order to "fundamentally resolve the [Korean] issue". Mao, like MacArthur, not only underestimated the enemy army, but the shortcomings of his own forces. They had outrun their supply base in Manchuria and were short of everything but people. Almost everything the CCF needed to conduct warfare was carried on the backs of the soldiers, on bicycles or on pack horses and camels, and then only in the hours of darkness. Most of their heavy weapons and vehicles were those that had been abandoned by retreating UN forces, particularly, but not exclusively, by the ROKs. In the end, the CCF was not able to press south of Seoul. They established their battle line along the Han River and sent only screening forces and large patrols south of the river. During the Third Phase Offensive, NKPA forces penetrated deep into the rear of ROK forces with the objective of operating as guerillas to disrupt UN supply lines.

In late January, upon finding that the CCF had abandoned their battle lines, General Ridgway ordered a reconnaissance-in-force on January 25, which became Operation Thunderbolt. The successful operation was followed by a general advance that fully exploited the UN's air and heavy weapons superiority. Ridgway ordered units to advance over every inch of terrain to make sure that no enemy soldiers were left behind. The advance ended with UN forces reaching the Han River and recapturing the important crossroads town of Wonju, or what was left of it.

Source:

Appleman, Roy E., *Ridgway Duels for Korea*, Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas, 1990

“To Remember is to Honor”



LTG Walton Harris Walker – 1948

Walton Harris Walker was born at Belton, Texas, on December 3, 1889. He was a graduate of the United States Military Academy, Class of 1912. During World War I, Walker served in the 13th Machine Gun Company, 5th Machine Gun Battalion, 5th Infantry Division. He was awarded two Silver Stars for gallantry in action. By World War II, his expertise had become armor. He was one of Patton's Third Army corps commanders during the war and was awarded a third Silver Star and a Distinguished Service Cross. He was made commander of Eighth Army in September 1948. Upon the outbreak of the Korean War, LTG Walker commanded Eighth Army in Korea. He was killed in a traffic accident on December 23, 1950, near Uijeongbu, South Korea, when his fast-moving, north-bound command Jeep collided with a South Korean south-bound weapons carrier that had swung out of its lane on the icy road. Walton was awarded a second Distinguished Service Cross for his service in Korea. LTG Walton Harris Walker was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. Unfortunately, he is remembered more for the disaster that befell Eighth Army in December 1950 than his remarkable defense of the Pusan Perimeter that saved Eighth Army in July and August 1950 and his exemplary combat record in two world wars.

Freedom is not free.

