POSTLEADERS TALK HOUSING

THURSDAY MARCH 27, 2025

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EMPLOYEES

School Math Night helps solve problems

By LORRAINE EMORY

Pierce Terrace Elementary School

Pierce Terrace Elementary School buzzed with excitement March 20 as students and their families gathered for the school's first Math Night in more than four years.

The event brought numbers to life through games, problem-solving, and interactive learning —transforming classrooms into hubs of mathematical exploration.

Dedicated PTES staff stayed after hours to create a welcoming and enriching environment, hosting six hands-on activity stations spread throughout the school.

The evening kicked off at the Estimation Jar station, where students guessed the number of colorful balls in a jar, earning the first stamp on their event cards. The three students who guessed the closest estimation received a prize the next day.

Other stations included:

■ Number Bingo – Reinforcing number recognition and counting in a classic game format.

Pattern Parade – Allowing students to explore patterns and sequences by designing beaded bracelets.

Build a Shape House – A creative challenge using geometric shapes to

construct miniature houses.

Roll and Add – A dice game focused on boosting quick mental addition skills.

Beach Ball Don't Let It Fall – A movement-based math challenge encouraging students to count consecutive taps as they kept an object airborne.

Once students visited all six stations and filled their event cards with stamps, they were rewarded by kindergarten teacher Erica Olson with a special-colored Dragon Dollar.

These tokens are part of PTES's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Program, allowing students to shop at the Dragon Store—a monthly opportunity sponsored by the PTES PTA that rewards positive behavior and academic effort.

"Math Night is designed to inspire a love for math and encourage early learning through engaging, hands-on activities," Olson said. "The stations introduced young children to foundational math concepts, such as addition, number recognition, shapes, estimation, and patterns, in a fun, interactive way—helping them develop essential skills that will support their academic success. By making math exciting and accessible, Math Night fosters a positive attitude toward learning and supports parents in engaging with their children's education."

FORT JACKSON LEADER

DOD to cut \$580 million in spending

By MATTHEW OLAY DOD News

As part of the Defense Department's ongoing effort to cut wasteful spending, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth signed a memo March 20 directing the termination of more than \$580 million in programs, contracts and grants.

The memo, "Continuing Elimination of Wasteful Spending at the Department of Defense," orders an end to various spending identified by the Department of Government Efficiency that does not match the priorities of President Donald J. Trump or the Defense Department, Hegseth said during prerecorded remarks.

"In other words, (the expenditures) are not a good use of taxpayer dollars; (and), ultimately, that's who funds us," Hegseth said.

"We owe (taxpayers) transparency and making sure we're using (the money) well," he added.

The top contract being cut is a software development program for the Defense Civilian Human Resources Management System, which was intended to streamline a significant portion of DOD's legacy human resources program.

The program started in 2018 and was supposed to take one year to develop at a cost of \$36 million. However, Hegseth said it is now nearly eight years behind schedule and \$280 million over budget.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth delivers remarks from a chair while holding a

notebook by a desk.

"So, that's 780% over budget; we're not doing that anymore," he added.

The Pentagon is also cutting contracts for external consulting services, including \$30 million allotted to one company that purchased several unused licenses, Hegseth said.

In addition to contracts, DOD is also cutting \$360 million in grants.

Included are a \$6 million grant to decarbonize emissions from Navy ships, a \$5.2 million grant to diversify the Navy and a \$9 million university grant for developing "equitable AI and machine learning models," Hegseth said.

"I need lethal machine learning models, not equitable machine learning models," he added.

A man in a business suit is sitting in a chair in an office. He is holding a folder on his lap while signing a document contained inside it.

Hegseth said the \$580 million of cuts announced in today's memo brings the total money saved to \$800 million since his Feb. 20, 2025, announcement on future DOD cuts.

He said that the money saved would ensure warfighters have what they need thanks to the cutting of fraud, waste and abuse.

"(The warfighters are) working hard, we're working hard with them, we appreciate the work that they're doing, and we have a lot more coming," Hegseth said.

"So, stay tuned ... We're going to keep going for you guys," he concluded.

ON THE COVER

Sgt. 1st Class Shaka-Mikel Webber, military housing liasion with the Installation Housing Office, welcomes attendees to the Housing Town Hall, held March 19.



See Page 3 Photo by ROBERT

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander, speaks during a housing town hall meeting held March 19 at Victory Hall. Col. Timothy Hickman, garrison commander, watches Hood speak. The two commanders participated in the event to get feedback from residents.

Post leaders talk on-post housing at town hall

Story, photo by ROBERT TIMMONS Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Fort Jackson officials held a housing town hall meeting at Victory Hall, March 19, to hear from residents about their experiences living on post.

Attendees heard about Army programs; what opportunities there are on post and an overview from Fort Jackson Family Homes.

They were also able to speak to Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander and Col. Timothy Hickman, garrison commander, and representatives from Fort Jackson Family Homes and the Installation Housing Office.

Fort Jackson has held housing town halls in multiple formats including a formal town hall, a mix and mingle at Fort Jackson Family Homes resident center and walking town halls where leaders met residents on their doorsteps.

"We have done the walking town hall format, and we've picked different housing areas, and we walked them," Hickman said. Walking town halls are a way to meet people who aren't "comfortable coming

out of their homes."

In fact, in one walking town hall in the Howie Village area of on-post housing had to be "cut off because there were so many people."

The mix and mingle format was made to make the meetings less formal.

"Not everybody likes to ask questions in front of a group," Hickman said. This format allowed residents to speak one-onone with the housing officials in a relaxing atmosphere.

Hood also spoke about getting feedback from residents at the town halls. "We're trying to hear from the people," he said responding to a question about the town hall format.

"As a commanding general, I welcome you and anyone else that want to try and make it better," he added after noting how he likes to see feedback including that from the Tenant Satisfaction Survey being held until May 1.

The completely confidential survey will be emailed from ArmyHousingSurvey@ celassociates.com. OMB Control Number: 0704-0553. OMB Expiration date: 05/31/2025

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Water Outage

The Directorate of Public Works advises there will be a Medium Temperature Water outage from noon Monday to 2 p.m. Tuesday in order to change gaskets on boiler valves. The areas most affected are the Single Soldier Complex, Advanced Individual Training and 32XX barracks. For more information, call (803) 751-3823

Street Closures

Cowpens and Mekong Delta streets will be closed between Jackson Boulevard and Marion Avenue from 5-8 a.m. today and April 7 for E3B testing. Drivers are asked to take caution and use alternate routes.

Birthday Ball Tickets on Sale

Tickets for the 250th Army Birthday Ball are on sale now. Join us

in celebrating the 250th Birthday of the U.S. Army at the Army Birthday Ball. The ball takes place at 5 p.m. June 14 at the 1917 Club, 5700



Liberty Division Road. Lt. Gen. Milford "Beags" Beagle, commander, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center, will be the guest speaker. Scan the QR code for more information and to purchase tickets.

Tenant Satisfaction Survey

Your opinion matters. The Army wants to heard from you. Your feedback can make a big difference in the quality of life for Soldiers. The Army is investing significantly in barracks and unaccompanied housing improvements and survey feedback will be guide the Army's efforts to provide quality, safe and secure housing. The completely confidential survey will be emailed from *ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com.* OMB Control Number: 0704-0553. OMB Expiration date: 05/31/2025

Pharmacy updates

Beginning on May 1, the Moncrief Main Pharmacy and the PX Refill Distribution Center will change schedules. The new hours will be Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed on the weekends and federal holidays, and closed after 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TODAY

Citizenship and Immigration Training

5:30-6:30 p.m., MS Teams. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigratin Services is holding "virtual" training for families. They will answer all questions regarding How to apply for lawful Permanent Residency (Green Card) or Naturalization/Citizenship; how to replace lost or misplaced permanent residency and/or citizenship documentations; how to complete application forms and all supporting documents needed to complete the application; and more. Participants are invited to ask questions, except for case-specific questions. For more information, call (803) 751-5256, option 3.

Arm Wrestling Competition

5:30 - 7 p.m., Vanguard Gym. Come out and try your hand, or arm, in the Sports and Fitness Arm Wrestling Competition. For more information, call (803) 751-4256. **APRIL 5**

Youth Golf Fun

9 a.m. to noon, Fort Jackson Golf Club. Youth golfers will go through three stations available (Putting, Chipping & Driving range). Please bring clubs (not required to participate). Pre-registration March 31. For more information and to register call (803) 751-4344.

APRIL 9

ABLE Kids of South Carolina

10-11 a.m., MS Teams. Army Community Service Exceptional Family Member Program hosts an ABLE kids of South Carolina presention to Provide information and resources to families of children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.For more information, call (803) 751-5256, Option 3.

APRIL 10

Prevention Fair

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 1917 Club. Come join Army Community Service, SHARP and the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program for a day of discoveries in and connecting with programs and services designed to promote healthy and strong military families. For more information, call (803) 751-5256, Option 3.

APRIL 12 Fort Jackson 5K

8 a.m., Hilton Field Sports Complex. Come join this 5K fun run. Register by March 28. Register at any gym, or call (803) 751-3700.

APRIL 13 Passover Seder

6 p.m., Main Post Chapel. The Passover Seder will be held April 13 and is open to all. RSVPs are required. To RSVP email

SEND ALL SUBMISSIONS TO usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@ army.mil Deadline for events to be included in the Community Updates is one week before publication. Include the time, date and place the event will occur, as well as other necessary information.

If you submit an article on an event that already has taken place, please send it as soon as possible. Tuesday is the last day we will we be able to accept an article for publication the following Thursday. Include the date and place of the event, as well as a description of what took place. Please include quotations, if possible.

With any photo you submit, include IDs — rank, unit, and first and last names. All submissions will be edited and published using Associated Press Style.

Questions? Call (803) 751-3615.

Fort Jackson Movie Schedule ^{3319 Jackson Blvd.}

Phone: 751-7488

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

No Showing

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

No Showing

- Ticket sales open 30 minutes before each movie.
- Movie times and schedule are subject to change without notice.

dovid.egert.mil@army.mil.

APRIL 15 EFMP Playgroup

10-11:30 a.m., 9810 Liberty Division Road. Army Community Services hosts an Exceptional FAmily Member Program Playgroup to provide parents and children with special needs (under 5 years old) time to socialize, interact with peers, and learn about EFMP Family support services and resources at Fort Jackson and the surrounding community. or more information, call (803) 751-5256, Option 3.

APRIL 18

Youth Archery Class

10 a.m. to noon. This class shows youths ages 8-17 the proper form and technique to safely shoot. Register at Marion Street

See **EVENTS:** Page 10



Illustration courtesy of the National Guard Bureau

Continental soldiers open fire on British troops during the Battle of Long Island in this National Guard Bureau illustration by Domenick D'Andrea.

The Continental Soldier: Answering the call to freedom

By HENRY HOWE Director, Fort Jackson Museum Community

(Editor's note: This article is part of a recurring column honoring the Army during the service's 250th birthday)

When the American Revolution began on April 19, 1775, the col-

onies relied on local militias to defend their homes. However, as the war intensified, it became clear that an organized, centralized army was necessary to challenge the British.

In response, the Second Continental Congress established the Continen-



tal Army on June 14, 1775, appointing General George Washington as its commander. Men from all walks of life answered the call, united by their commitment to American independence.

The typical Continental soldier was an ordinary citi-

zen, farmers, tradesmen, and laborers, who set aside their livelihoods to serve. Many had little formal military training and faced immense hardships, including shortages of ammunition, inadequate supplies, and extreme weather conditions.

Despite these challenges, their deter-

mination and resilience allowed them to stand against the highly trained and well-equipped British forces.

A defining moment for the Continental Army came on Dec. 26, 1776, when Washington led his troops across the ice-filled Delaware River during a fierce storm.

This surprise attack resulted in a crucial victory over Hessian mercenaries at the Battle of Trenton, reinvigorating the army and shifting momentum in the war. Though issues of discipline and supply shortages persisted, the unwavering spirit of the Continental soldier became a cornerstone in the fight for American independence.

Military gets enhanced border mission

Service members assigned to Joint Task Force Southern Border have a new directive: conduct patrols.

Until now, the U.S. military mission at the southern border has been static. Service members have been engaged mostly in stationary detection and monitoring activities. But no longer.

On March 20, 2025, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth gave an order allowing service members involved in the mission to do more and conduct their mission on foot or on board Stryker armored vehicles.

"Conducting patrols, either on foot or mounted, creates a more proactive and adaptable posture compared to static posts," said Army Maj. Jennifer L. Staton, a Defense Department spokesperson. "The dynamic approach of patrolling allows service members to cover a larger area of the border, affording them dynamic observation across multiple angles and distances."

Being mobile, Staton said, also adds an element of unpredictability for those considering illegal entry into the country. Knowing soldiers are on the move makes it harder to plan movements or cross locations.

Two people wearing camouflage uniforms stand alongside a large military vehicle with a mountain range in the background.

Staton said while troops involved in the border mission will now be more effective with monitoring and detection, they are still not participating in law enforcement activities.



Going Tactical

By Staff Sgt. Dana Clark

The U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy's 6th Platoon, "IM-MORTALS," Class 006-25, held their Individual Tactical Training classes March 18.

The ITTs involve drill sergeant candidates reviewing the task, conditions, and standards before teaching their classmates different tactical skills, such as how to camouflage themselves and their equipment; tactical combat casualty care; and building a hasty fighting position.

The Drill Sergeant Academy is responsible for training Army drill sergeants and also trains soldiers from other countries such as the Republic of Korea and Brazil.









Border Continued from Page 5

"Service members will not detain or apprehend individuals attempting illegal entry," she said. "Instead, they will relay all observations of illegal crossings directly to (U.S. Customs and Border Protection) for response and enforcement."

Earlier this month, the Pentagon deployed a Stryker brigade combat team and a general support aviation battalion to the border. About 6,600 active-duty personnel are operating as part of JTF-SB, including 4,400 from the SBCT, 650 with the GSAB, and about 1,600 Marines and soldiers who deployed to the border in January 2025.

"Their deployment underscores the department's unwavering dedication to working alongside the Department of Homeland Security to secure our southern border and maintain the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of the United States under President (Donald J.) Trump's leadership," Chief Pentagon Spokesman Sean Parnell said earlier this month.



Together against sexual assault

Fort Jackson leaders pose after signing the 2025 Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month proclamation, March 26. Fort Jackson and the Department of Defense focuses on creating an appropriate environment to eliminate sexual assault and requiring a personal committment to all service members.

Rare collection: New Medal of Honor museum brings heroism to life

By KATIE LANGE DOD News

Imagine seeing the pin, screw and rod-riddled X-rays of Marine Corps Cpl. Kyle Carpenter's injuries from a grenade blast in Afghanistan; reading the small inscription on the lighter used by Air Force Brig. Gen. George "Bud" Day during the Vietnam War; or viewing the curled corners of Navy Rear Adm. Bruce McCandless' copy of "A History of Sea Power" that survived the World War II Battle of Guadalcanal.

Most people would never expect to see such artifacts from decorated warriors of different eras and conflicts in one place. But thanks to the one thing they all have in common — the Medal of Honor — that's now possible.

The National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, Texas, held its grand opening ceremony March 22, calling in the Army's 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Georgia, to unfurl the U.S. flag for the first time as 33 of the nation's 61 living Medal of Honor recipients watch.

The museum opened its doors to the public March 25, to coincide with National Medal of Honor Day.

"When we located the museum here in 2019, we had zero Medals of Honor in our collection. When we open, we'll have 50," said retired Air Force Col. Mike Caldwell, the museum's assistant vice president of communications and veteran engagement. Included in that collection is the first Medal of Honor ever presented, which went to Army 1st Lt. Jacob Parrott, who served in the Civil War.

In one square acre, museum visitors can see courage and patriotism on display. The museum boasts an impressive collection of artifacts, from battle and dress uniforms of recipients to flags, dog tags, family photos and firearms dating back to World War I.

"We do go all the way back to the Civil War, but our focus has been post-World War I," explained Alexandra Rhue, senior vice president of museum engagement and strategic initiatives. "Our modern population - their grandparents — probably that's their first lived memory of history. So, we want to have that personal connection where you knew someone who could have served in that conflict."

A formal military uniform and three medals on ribbons are displayed in a glass case in front of a U.S. flag.

From Ordinary to Inspiring

While the museum tells tales of war, its creators wanted to make clear that it's not just another war museum - it's a biography museum focused on shared values highlighted through stories of courage, sacrifice, commitment, integrity, citizenship and patriotism.

"We don't need to tell the World War II story or the Boxer Rebellion story. Other museums can do that," Caldwell said. "All of the Medal of Honor recipients — if you look into their life stories ... you realize they're ordinary people who, in a moment of time, courage meant circumstance, and they did something extraordinary."

Instead of grouping the recipients by conflict, their stories are interspersed throughout the museum.

"We want (visitors) to think - what connects me to these recipients and what connects them to each other? It's the values of the Medal of Honor that connect each of them, no matter when in time they served," Rhue said. "We want people to feel like they see themselves reflected in these stories."

Interactive Features Offer Perspective

Several interactive exhibits have technological features that bring many of the recipients to life.

Two of the museum's corners have 50-foot projection screens, which showcase war landscapes from the jungles of Guadalcanal to the frozen mountaintops of Korea. Each scene includes portals visitors can enter to learn more about various recipients from those eras.

Off the main gallery, visitors can gain perspective by

Jackson officer named TRADOC safety officer of the year

Leader Staff Reports

Fort Jackson received another high mark in safety as Capt. Dennis A. Scannell from Company A, 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, was honored for his efforts in safety March 19.

Scannell was named the Fiscal Year 2024 Training and Doctrine Command's Safety Officer of the Year.

He received an award from Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander, at the Safety and Occupational Health Council Meeting.

Hood was "particularly impressed" with Scannell's ability to manage multiple duties and still produce award-winning results in all areas.

"He worked diligently to reduce training hazards and implemented controls to reduce risk," he wrote endorsing Scannell for the award. "Specifically, he led the company safety efforts and conducted after action reviews of each incident, ensuring leaders at all levels improved safety awareness and mission execution. Additionally, his safety products, including his hazardous communications standard operating procedures and his motorcycle safety program, were shared throughout the 165th Infantry Brigade as a "best practice" template for improving other units' safety programs."

Scannell, executive officer for Company A, was lauded by his battalion commander, Lt.



Courtesy photo

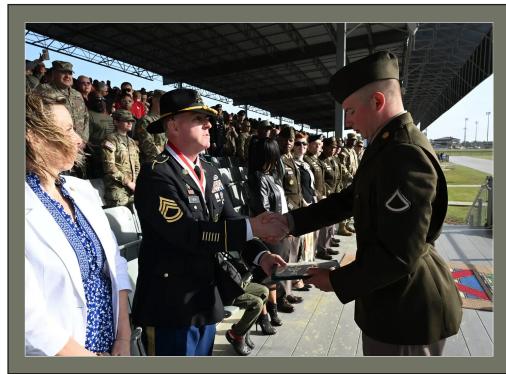
Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander, recognizes Capt. Dennis Scannell as TRADOC's Safety Officer of the Year.

Col. Timothy Burton.

Scannell's "ability to learn, adapt and apply new knowledge to make our battalion operate better is extremely valuable to our growth," Burton wrote in recommending the officer for the award.

Among his achievements included coach-

ing and mentoring six battalion safety officers and seven company safety offices; working with the unit medical team to ensure proper care for trainees; and built a safety program guide and battalion safety standard operating procedure that used as a template to strengthen those across post.



We Salute Your Service

Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Kyle R. Behr, Leader Training Brigade, shakes the hand of Pfc. Zackary Danek, a Soldier of the Cycle for 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, during the battalion's Basic Combat Training graduation, March 20. Behr retired after 22 years of service.

SALUTING THIS CYCLE'S HONOREES

4th Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment

DRILL SERGEANT OF THE CYCLE Sgt. 1st Class John Hylander

ALPHA COMPANY SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE Spc. Matthew Adams

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE Spc. Krystel Hendrickson

BRAVO COMPANY SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE Pvt. Mason Pack Wood

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE Pfc. Benjamin Folks

CHARLIE COMPANY SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE Spc. Fariah Shah

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE Pvt. Cyrus Vaughn

DELTA COMPANY SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE Spc Auria Agrinzoni

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE Spc. Terrance Dixon



Events

Continued from Page 4 Station, or call (803) 751-3484.

APRIL 19 Easter Egg Hunt

10 a.m. to noon, Twin Lakes Park. Join Fort Jackson for an exciting Easter weekend with an egg hunt for kids with more than 2,000 eggs,. There will be inflatables at the event. Can you find the golden ticket? Participants must bring their own basket or bag. For more information, call (803) 751-3484

APRIL 25

CYS Family Fun Fair

4:30-6:30 p.m., Patriots Park. Come and join the fun for the whole family. There will be food trucks, games, rides and more. For more information, call (803) 751-4824.

APRIL 26

Drug Take Back Day

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., The Exchange. Fort Jackson's Directorate of Emergency Services is holding a drug take back dayto continue to enhancing the safety of our neighborhoods by building, strengthening, and reinforcing positive relationships with the community and first responders.

Youth Fishing Derby

8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Heise Pond. Join Outdoor Recreation for the annual youth fishing derby. The event is for youths 5-16 years old. Enjoy some food, fish and fun at the event. There is a five pound fish limit. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

APRIL 29 Maude Leadership Forum

1 p.m., Solomon Center. Maj. Gen. Hope C. Rampy, commander of U.S. Army Human Resources Command will be the guest speaker for the Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Maude Leadership Forum, hosted by the Adjutant General School. For more information, call (803) 751-8440.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Catholic:

April 13: 9:30 a.m. - Palm Sunday April 15-16: Noon-Daily Mass April 17: 6 p.m. - Mass of the Lord's Supper April 18: 3 p.m. - Celebration of the Passion of the Lord April 19: 8:30 p.m. - Easter Vigil Mass April 20: 9:30 a.m. - East Sunday

Protestant:

April 17: 6p.m. - Maundy Thursday Service - Main Post Chapel April 18: 6 p.m. - Good Friday Service

April 20: 6:30 a.m. - Sunrise Service - Family Life Center

Jewish:

April 13: 6 p.m. - Passover Seder - Main Post Chapel

DID YOU KNOW: All Army safety accidents or injuries should be reported to Army Training Center and Garrison Safety offices?

	FAITH GROUP	DAY	TIME	PLACE
WORSHIP SCHEDULE	CATHOLIC MASS CATHOLIC MASS GOSPEL SERVICE GENERAL PROTESTANT REVIVE SERVICE JEWISH SHABBOS SERVICE INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING CATHOLIC MASS PROTESTANT CONSOLIDATED SERVICE CHURCH OF CHRIST HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE ANGLICAN ISLAMIC SERVICE JEWISH SERVICE THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS HEATHEN/PAGAN	SUNDAY TUE-FRI SUNDAY SUNDAY SUNDAY FRIDAY DAY SUNDAY SUNDAY SUNDAY SUNDAY SUNDAY SUNDAY SUNDAY SUNDAY SUNDAY	9:30-10:30 A.M. NOON 10:30 A.M. 11 A.M. TO NOON 5 P.M. 6-7 P.M. TIME 8-9 A.M. 9:30-10:30 A.M. 10:30-11:30 A.M. 8:30-10 A.M. 8-9 A.M. 8-9 A.M. 10:15-11:30 A.M.	MAIN POST CHAPEL MAIN POST CHAPEL KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL MAIN POST CHAPEL LIGHTNING CHAPEL LIGHTNING CHAPEL PLACE SOLOMON CENTER SOLOMON CENTER SOLOMON CENTER SOLOMON CENTER SOLOMON CENTER SOLOMON CENTER KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL 120TH AG BN (for trainees in 120th only) WASHINGTON ROAD CHAPEL

Museum

Continued from Page 8

stepping into the world of the Vietnam-era "Dustoff" — rapid helicopter medical evacuation missions during the war.

"You can put on a headset, and you can jump into the seat of a 1968 UH-1H Iroquois Huey helicopter," Rhue explained. "You'll be able to make rapid-fire decisions to either bring people home safely to base or potentially have a hard landing in the jungle ... to bring you into those really difficult decision-making experiences."

There's also the interactive theater, where AI technology allows recipients to talk virtually with visitors. The recipients chosen for the project recorded more than 700 responses to potential questions, from their favorite ice cream to what it was like growing up to their combat experience and what they want their legacy to be.

"(There are) some really deep, as well as some really accessible, entry points for our visitors to have conversations," Rhue said.

Thanks to cutting-edge audiovisual technology, visitors can physically step into time to hear Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Novosel Sr. and others tell their stories. Just steps away, visitors can get a close-up look at the prominently displayed "Nancy Lee," a Huey helicopter that Army Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady used to rescue soldiers in Vietnam in 1968. The helicopter is named in honor of his late wife.

The museum worked closely with the Defense Department to bring the exhibits to life.

"We have displayed Medals of Honor that they have donated to us," Caldwell said of DOD. "They have been very helpful in the research ... providing us with documentation, photographs and things like that."

Difficult Decisions

The names of all 3,528 Medal of Honor recipients adorn the foyer ceiling on the museum's first floor. While the museum boasts 40,000 square feet of space, that's not nearly enough to tell all of their stories. Who the museum chose to highlight came down to the values each story reflected, as well as what artifacts were available to help tell the stories.

"I wish we could tell 3,500-plus stories.



Photo by EJ HERSOM

A UH-1H Iroquois Huey helicopter flown by retired Army Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady, a Medal of Honor recipient, is on display at the National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, Texas, March 6, 2025. Brady named the helicopter after his late wife, Nancy Lee.

There's no way we can," said museum CEO Chris Cassidy, a retired Navy SEAL and former NASA astronaut. "It's a hard process because there's no story that's more spectacular than another."

"Those are some very difficult decisions," he added.

To highlight as many recipients as possible, the displays will rotate over the years as new recipients are awarded, more artifacts are collected and others on loan are returned.

Getting It Right

The museum came together with the help of several veterans, including five Medal of Honor recipients who served on its board. They all understood that the smallest details mattered, from the language to the uniforms.

"We worked really hard on making sure we could get those little things right so our audience — who we expect to be a lot of active-duty military and veterans coming in here — can say, 'Yeah, that's accurately portrayed," Caldwell said.

For example, the curation team called Army Staff Sgt. Clinton Romesha, who received the Medal of Honor for his 2009 actions in Afghanistan, to ensure they knew how to correctly attach the straps to his battle vest.

"We talk to the (living) recipients all the time," Caldwell said. "They've been integral in how we tell their stories."

Rhue added that the living recipients have been an incredible resource, sharing their memories and perspectives on what they want their legacy to be, and what they think the Medal of Honor represents.

Just as much effort has gone into the artifacts given to the museum by families of recipients who are no longer living. "These are precious items to the families. It's a very hard and emotional decision to say, 'I'm going to turn this over to you," Caldwell said. "We have to earn their trust."

As the museum prepares to open, Caldwell said he's witnessed the burden that being the living representation of the Medal of Honor's values has taken on many of the recipients and their families. He said the museum is a chance for the country to give them a vault to house their legacies.

"We really want people to be inspired by what they see here more than anything else," Rhue said.

A wing of the museum is also home to the Griffin Institute, a nonprofit talent and technology accelerator for DOD. The institute has created a curriculum for K-12 students and leadership programs for professionals based on the values embodied by the Medal of Honor.

VICTORY.



A Soldier clears his protective mask during training for the upcoming E3B testing. Candidates began training up for the event March 24.

Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE