## **ARMY HERITAGE CENTER FOUNDATION**





SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

#### From the President & CEO, AHCF

Dear Friend of the Foundation,

#### **Our Great Ones**

Winter still had its firm grip on Central Pennsylvania when one March day, my colleague Amanda Neal informed me that artist, veteran, and Silver Star recipient **Bill Beck** had passed away. He and his wife Jennifer lived a few miles down the road from the Army Heritage Center Foundation. In 2017, we awarded him our Living Legend award for a few very important reasons.

Beck was an assistant machine gunner assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment (1/7 Cav), 1st Cavalry Division on November 14, 1965, when the unit airlifted into the Ia Drang Valley. It was America's first large-scale battle of the Vietnam War, and the subject of a book authored by **Joseph Galloway** and **Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore** (Ret) titled *We Were Soldiers Once..and Young* (1992). Later, the book became the movie "We Were Soldiers" (2002).



(5) NVA THEOUS A CONCUSSION GREANDE. IT EXPLODES
DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF ME (1-2 YARDS). I'M NOT HURT AND

Beck's sketches of his time in Vietnam hang in the offices of our Army Heritage Center Foundation. They are visual retellings of the Battle of Ia Drang Valley, etched in long lines of greens and tans--earthy, unsettling, and deeply emotive. The faces of Beck's fellow soldiers and friends show confusion, exhaustion, determination, and, occasionally, pain.

His death came just a few days after fellow veteran and Foundation supporter **J.B. Hudson**, who served on our board for a number of years, passed away. At the end of a long and impactful career in government service, Hudson served for eight years as Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. He was an instrumental figure in our most successful fundraising initiatives. He was also a strong, ethical leader who infused our meetings with both stability and joy. He received the Foundation's Brigadier General Joseph McCarthy Leadership Award in 2022.

In late 2024, historian, author, and veteran **Dr. Lewis "Bob" Sorley**, a graduate of West Point and a resident of Carlisle, PA, left us.

I've just been reading Sorley's book A Better War: The Unexamined Victories and Final Tragedy of America's Last Years in Vietnam. Sorley argued that while many great books had been written about the early years of the war, the later years did not receive the same consideration. Of the military leaders during those final years in Vietnam, Sorley wrote that they were a different breed of leaders than their predecessors. They "brought different values to their tasks, operated from a different understanding of the nature of war, and applied different measures of merit and different tactics...They went about that task with sincerity, intelligence, decency, and absolute professionalism, and in the process came very close to achieving the elusive goal of a viable nation and lasting peace."



Dr. Lewis "Bob" Sorley

I've reached a point in my life where the leaders I looked up to all my life are no longer with me. My best friend and I have told each other far too often lately that we've started to grow tired of losing "our Great Ones"-- the men and women whose strength was carved by decades of sacrifice, who held the roof of the world up around us, and gave us a sense of certainty and identity.

The term "Greatest Generation" has been used to describe the generation of Americans alive during World War II. They certainly were great, and they certainly changed the institutions of our nation and its role in the world. However, my Great Ones are those of the Vietnam generation.

Carl von Clausewitz coined the metaphor "fog of war" to describe the difficulty leaders have in making decisions in the complex environment of war. Grief is also a heavy fog. It covers everything and sinks into your bones. I get lost in it easily.

Who are we once we lose our Great Ones?

#### **Legacy Building**

Growing up in an Army family, the concept of legacy was something my dad (who is one of my "great ones" and who continues to hold the roof of the world up above me) always emphasized. Many of you know my origin story: I grew up in an Army family, and when my dad, William Barko, was stationed at Carlisle Barracks, I fell in love with the Army War College. Today, as an adult, I have the honor of leading the Army Heritage Center

Foundation.



William Barko

We are a community of members, patrons, and donors who support the development and expansion of the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC) and its programs, and sustain and enhance the Center's and the Foundation's ability to inform and educate the American public on contributions by Soldiers and the U.S. Army to our nation's history.

As each of you know, our Foundation is a private, non-federal entity that is not affiliated with the Department of Defense and has no governmental status.

That's why, when I describe who we are to people who don't know us very well, I like to say that we're the nonprofit support group (we sometimes call ourselves the "friends group") of the USAHEC.

Our Foundation was "born" in 1999 (we're 26 years old), when we were incorporated to build an Army museum in Carlisle, PA. Our first challenge: build the museum from literally the ground up, transferring 56 acres of land (the ground, in this metaphor) adjacent to Carlisle Barracks from Cumberland County, PA to the U.S. Army. From there, we went on to raise funds for the master planning and utility infrastructure of the Center and continue to help build USAHEC into the campus that it is today.



Major General Robert Scales

We're here because of the Great Ones and their legacies--Brigadier General Joseph McCarthy, Major General Robert Scales, historian and author Dr. Dick Sommers-and the Great Ones who are still with us, like Marty Andresen, Brigadier General Hal Nelson, and Brigadier General Dick Potter. And those I had the privilege of serving with at the Foundation, like Major General Robert Diamond, and, of course, retired Foundation president Mike Perry.



Major General Robert Diamond

Brigadier General Dick Potter

It is through the example of these Great Ones that my colleagues at our Foundation have built an organizational culture that values the following characteristics:

- 1. Emotional intelligence
- 2. Community-building
- 3. Ability to fail well
- 4.Discernment
- 5. Member / donor / patron experience.

We incorporate these values into our decision-making framework--much like the U.S. Army and its seven core values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage--so that when we make choices, we know exactly why we made those choices.

We evaluate the way we accomplish our successes, hire new team members, mentor current team members, and review the performance of both our organization as a whole and its individual members based on those five core values.

Another way to put this operational philosophy is "Be kind. Help your community thrive. Take risks and learn from failures. Grow in wisdom. Take care of those around you." All lessons we've learned from our Great Ones

#### **Shared Wisdom**

Last week, a few days after the annual commemoration of the War in Vietnam, we spent the day wandering around a different battlefield further back in American history. We invited some of the Foundation's closest friends, donors, and Great Ones to Gettysburg to introduce them to the Foundation's recently endowed ROTC Staff Ride program. The weather was bleak that day. Icy wind and hail whipped us and froze our hands and noses. But it didn't matter. Two of our living legends--Dr. Carol Reardon and Colonel Tom Vossler-captivated our entire group as they outlined the decision-making challenges facing General Officers trapped in the fog of war from July 1 to July 3, 1863.





People like Colonel Vin Tedesco and his wife Suzann. Tedesco was an artilleryman in Vietnam, where he earned a Silver Star for valor. Part of his legacy is the creation of an endowed scholarship for Penn State Army ROTC Cadets. He was inducted into the ROTC Hall of Fame in 2023.



Bob and Nancy Gessner also joined us. Nancy Gessner grew up in an Army family like mine. Her father, Colonel Donald Esper, was an ROTC cadet at Xavier University before having an incredibly impactful career that culminated in a tour of duty as Garrison Commander at Carlisle Barracks. He passed away in 2023. The Gessners' generosity led to the creation of our Colonel Don Esper Endowment and ROTC Staff Ride program.



The Esper Endowment allows the Foundation to fund national program expansion and development, veteran retraining in current Army doctrine of certified battlefield guides, and scholarship funds for travel and lodging for ROTC cadets. It has already helped us connect hundreds of cadets to the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center and the value it brings to the U.S. Army and the American public.

Vietnam veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Joe Marm and his wife Deborah brought two of their grandsons, Gabe and Ty, on our trip. Marm has joined the Foundation for multiple events focused on his role in the Battle of Ia Drang Valley. I'll never forget getting to see Little Round Top through the eyes of his grandsons.



Gabe and Ty asked so many insightful questions as they grappled thoughtfully with the concepts of war and decision-making. It was the concept of legacy in action that I alluded to earlier.



To return to historian Bob Sorley, he wrote that the leaders who served our nation in Vietnam

"by their actions defined stewardship-doing the best you can with what you have to work with, and doing it with selflessness, dignity, and integrity...the vast majority of American men and women who served in Vietnam exhibited the same admirable traits..."

Those are our Great Ones, and our Army Heritage Center Foundation grapples with the best ways to preserve and tell those stories. I hope you will continue to support their legacies and the legacies yet to come.

In service,
Julie Germany
President
Army Heritage Center Foundation



Thank you to our 2025 Corporate Sponsors

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Diane McNaughton, Media and Marketing Consultant

#### 2025 Calendar of Events

May 16th, 2025 Army Heritage Trail Clean-up

> June 14, 2025 Army Birthday Dinner

> > June 28, 2025 Used Book Sale

October 2, 2025 Huntsville, AL AUSA Battle of Mogadishu

October 25, 2025
18th Annual Membership and
Recognition Dinner

December 6, 2025 Sergeant Santa

Produced and paid for by the Army Heritage Center Foundation (armyheritage.org), a charitable organization separate from the U.S.

Army Heritage and Education Center.

## PHOTOGRAPHS AND MEMORIES: THANK YOU FOR THE PRICELESS OPPORTUNITY!

Every time I set foot on the tranquil campus of USAHEC, I feel drawn to three places.

The first is the *Soldier Experience Gallery*, where I notice some fascinating new detail in a different time-honored photo every time I slowly zigzag through the collection. Those faces and places are truly gifts that keep on giving.

Second, I can't resist a brisk duck-in to the Museum Store, where my news-and-political-junkie soul is drawn to books on U.S. presidents and the press through the years. As a born memory-keeper, I could just keep on studying (and spending!).

And finally, and perhaps most poignantly, I always try to take time to watch our wonderful visitors from afar. The emotion their visit often evokes is usually palpable.

Especially for members of the "greatest generation," I can't help but imagine what their war experiences were like, how their mothers explained the day-to-day impacts of international conflicts to them, and what they tell their own children and grandchildren.

One of the photographs in the gallery stands out to me in particular. It's soldier after soldier crowded together in rows, all dressed alike, yet each so different. It reminds me that every soldier is an enigma to be unraveled, and a complex person filled with patriotism, strength, and dreams who deserves to have their Army story told.

Joining the Foundation as a part-time communications specialist is an exciting and impactful opportunity for me to help uncover and individualize the unique experiences of these Army veterans and service members. I am exceedingly grateful.

Like all of you, this work is personal for me. My son-in-law served in the Army in Iraq; my other son-in-law just returned from an 11-month deployment in Africa. I see their sacrifices every day, and those of my daughters and young grandchildren.

This journey also reminds me of my father, a man of few words and even fewer displays of emotion.

Fortunately, when this stoic Army veteran surrendered to cancer in 2018, I had a fleeting window into his Army experience and the 84 years of his life. These are fragments of memories I hold onto.

I know my family members' reluctance to share the details of their military experiences is all too common. I am extraordinarily honored to have veterans entrust me with their stories, and help us all find healing as individuals, families, a community, and a nation

My career has been driven by storytelling. I worked as a print journalist, press secretary, and public relations adviser, writing for elected officials, newspapers, magazines, nonprofits, and businesses.

Serving as Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee in the 2010s with Senator Lisa Baker, I had the exceedingly rewarding experience to work with legislators to advance the legislative and budgetary goals of veterans and current service members. Supplementing nearly 20 years in the Senate and 10 for Dauphin County, I also wrote for numerous publications, where personality profiles were my stock in trade. I also am the Communications Director for the nonprofit Veterans Outreach of PA.

While I am here part-time to lend support to the full-time staff, please know that I am always available to connect. I welcome you to email me at

<u>dianemmcnaughton@outlook.com</u> with story ideas, feedback, anything.

Until then, I thank you for this priceless opportunity. I will continue to drink in the rich meaning of those multi-dimensional photographs, read nonfiction books that stir my mind, and join all those treasured visitors who walk out of the shadows of USAHEC into the blinding sunlight with a changed heart.

Diane McNaughton Media and Marketing Consultant

### **Operations Update**

The Operations team has been busy and is expanding. From leading ROTC staff rides, participating in outreach events, Army 250th birthday dinner planning, conducting used book sales, coordinating corporate volunteers, working on a construction project, and welcoming new members of our group, the pace is full speed ahead. And that's just the past three months!

New team members of the Foundation include Emily Hughes, who provides enormous assistance with administrative and communications tasks. She manages our expanding social media and helps with program logistics. Diane McNaughton is assisting us with media outreach and marketing, and Garrett Hale joins us as the program lead for ROTC and other tour group visits.

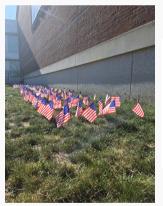




Speaking of ROTC, we are honored to have established the COL Donald Esper ROTC Staff Ride Endowment with Bob and Nancy Gessner who have so generously provided support for our ROTC Staff Ride program for many years to come. With the assistance of Dr. Carol Reardon, we are facilitating over 20 ROTC programs this spring from as far away as Indiana, Michigan, and Tennessee. That is our largest number to date. Plus, we already have three groups scheduled for this fall!



During the past few years, we have sold commemorative flags in honor of Soldiers and Veterans for Memorial Day and Veterans Day. The flags are placed outside of USAHEC, and we are continuing that tradition this year. If you are interested in purchasing a flag, please visit https://www.armyheritage.org /events/memorial-day-flag-campaign/ or scan the QR Code below.





In addition to USAHEC's Army 250th programs and exhibit, we are planning our own celebration on June 14 in honor of the occasion. Joining us for a concert that day will be the 28th Infantry Division Band. We have been planning this event for many months and are excited to share the evening with you. In addition to the band, LTG James Dubik, USA (Ret.) will be our guest speaker. Tickets to the event can be purchased on our website (under "Events").

## **Operations Update**

Also, don't forget to mark your calendars for our fall Membership and Recognition Dinner on October 25, here at USAHEC.

In anticipation of the Army's and Nation's 250th anniversary, we received a grant from America250PA to advertise USAHEC's upcoming exhibit on 250 years of Army history, bringing more visitors to USAHEC. I am also a member of Cumberland County's America250 planning group, as a member of the Programs Committee with other likeminded local organizations and individuals.



We held our first used book sale of the year on March 8 and are already working on the next one on June 28. As always, we will have available a wide variety of new items. While the bulk of the material is military-related, we will have some non-military books for sale as well. We hope to see you there.

In coordination with USAHEC, we will be having a clean-up day on the Army Heritage Trail on May 16. If you would like to participate, please contact our office.



We hope to break ground later this year on our event pavilion enhancement project. We've worked with members of USAHEC, our project manager, and architect to create a landscape that is inviting to all visitors.

As always, we continue to provide margin of excellence support to USAHEC's visitor experience in our Museum Store, researcher for hire program, and support to veterans, their families, and veterans' associations. Our Museum Store Staff is working diligently to upgrade our point-of-sale system in coordination with Shopify, so be on the lookout for a new online store with new merchandise for the 250th celebrations.

## Amanda Neal Vice President of Operations



## **USAHEC Director's Update**

It is my pleasure to introduce myself as the Director of the United States Army Heritage and Education Center. My background is both academic and practical, with a dual PhD in American Art History and American Studies

from Indiana



Dr. Kate Lemay

University, Bloomington; many publications about the intersection of military history and art; and nine years' service as a historian and curator at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. My last exhibition, "1898: U.S. Imperial Visions and Revisions" (2024) was described by the *Washington Post* as "the best and most engaging work that the National Portrait Gallery has done in over a decade." I am thrilled to offer my experiences and leadership to the outstanding community at the United States Army War College.

I come to the United States Army Heritage and Education Center at a pivotal time. First, I am building on the momentum that the talented staff has already achieved. Just recently, the United States Army Heritage and Education Center was named by Newsweek's "Reader's Choice Poll" as one of the top ten free museums in the nation. This is so exciting for the United States Army War College and the local community, particularly because the study of the military is one of the best methods of inquiry into the American experience. Yet the history of the United States Army is often misunderstood as only tactical military history. Frankly, Army history is commonly taken for granted within the research, archival, and museum communities. The good news is, we have an

incredible opportunity at hand. Because once people know of the rich collections at the United States Army Heritage and Education Center, including the oral histories, unit histories, archival resources, library holdings, and object collections, we will be a clear destination for lifelong learners, as well as academics and the military. One of the challenges the United States Army Heritage and Education Center faces is that it is a layered institution, with different functions (museum, archives, and library) within its operations. Despite the different specialties characterizing the United States Army Heritage and Education Center, the guiding mission for all is simple: Army history is American history.

As you will see in the following Department notes, the United States Army Heritage and Education Center has great energy right now, and we are capitalizing on our successes. I am proud of the team's burgeoning coordination with the War College's student curricula and research needs; our robust schedule of public engagement; and our fostering both established and emerging scholars through our fabulous collections. We know that United States Army Heritage and Education Center is the singular resource for understanding strategic landpower and current events through the study of the Army's past, one that distinguishes the U.S. Army War College from any other professional military education program. Like I said—I'm thrilled to be here. Go, ARMY!

# USAHEC Education and Exhibits Department

The Education and Exhibits Department is excited to announce our forthcoming exhibition, *This We'll Defend: 250 Years of Army History*, which will open on June 14. This staff-curated exhibit will showcase the scope and breadth of Army's history and mission. Featuring over 90 pieces drawn from across the USAHEC collections, *This We'll Defend* will include objects and archival material from the earliest days of the nation through modern operations and will demonstrate that Army history is American history. On the occasion of the Army's Birthday (June 14), USAHEC will host a variety of special exhibit tours and behind-the-scenes events.



Exhibit team member Darren Miller working on construction of the *This We'll Defend* exhibit.

In addition to *This We'll Defend*, USAHEC is revitalizing the exhibition in Carlisle Barracks' historic Hessian Powder Magazine. Constructed in 1777 possibly by Hessian prisoners of war, the powder magazine is one of the oldest buildings in the Army inventory and has served a multitude of uses since its construction. As part of the Army's 250th birthday celebration, this exhibit tells the story of the building and traces the evolution of Carlisle Barracks over the last three centuries. It opens to the public on June 14.

USAHEC's celebration of Army 250th kicked off in January with the lecture "British Soldiers, American War" by Don Hagist and has

continued with this year's Perspectives
Lecture Series addressing several American
Revolution-related topics. On June 4, we
will feature the noted historian Rick
Atkinson who will lecture on the second
book of his Revolutionary War trilogy, *The*Fate of the Day: The War for America,
Ticonderoga to Charleston, 1777-1780. This
lecture is free and open to the public.

Planning for our fan-favorite event, Army Expo 2025, is well underway in planning. We seek to build on the success of the 2024 event, when more than 7,000 guests were able to experience Army history, including Golden Knights parachuting into USAHEC. As part of the event, over 300 reenactors filled the Army Heritage Trail and were joined by a wide array of active duty, Army Reserve, and Pennsylvania Army National Guard assets. Army Expo 2025 is scheduled for September 13 and 14 and promises to be bigger and better than ever.



Army Expo 24 visitors explore a Pennsylvania Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk.

Throughout the year, the USAHEC Education and Information team conducts engagements with numerous USAWC, Department of Defense, and international partners and other groups. These engagements allow USAHEC to support USAWC efforts and other educational programs as well as provide an opportunity to highlight our collections and services.

In recent months, USAHEC conducted programs in direct support of several USAWC student seminar groups with a focus on historical domain integration and defense sustainment. Additionally, USAHEC supported the U.S. Army Monuments Officer Training Basic Course and hosted groups of international officers from Brazil and Canada. These efforts enable critical interactions between our staff and patrons and provide a better understanding of USAHEC's vast resources.



USAHEC staff conduct an engagement with Susan Eisenhower and students from Gettysburg College.

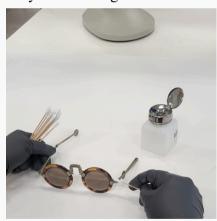
# USAHEC Collections Department Update

The Collections Department has made significant progress in the USAHEC digitization project. With a more selective and refocused scanning effort, the team established criteria to identify items with the most relevance to the curricular efforts of the U.S. Army War College, are historically significant, or are in need of scanning to preserve the original.

As we seek to improve the efficiency of the digitization process, the Processing Branch is refining the metadata to provide more contextual information that will improve searchability.

Additionally, our team is currently working on acquiring a content management hosting system that will better meet the needs of researchers and other patrons. Our plan for the system is to separate the collections by media type which will improve the search results. We expect that a new system will be in place by Fall 2025.

Our Collections Management Branch recently acquired the papers of General Charles Flynn. These papers relate to his time as commander of the U.S. Army Pacific Command and the current events in the Pacific region. As this area of operations is critical to international security, it is a valuable addition to the collection. From this collection, the library received digital copies of materials related to current Army activities in the Pacific for utilization by the staff and faculty of the U.S. Army War College.



Objects Conservator Cynthia Blechl preparing a pair of sunglasses for the Army 250th Exhibit. See the object and learn its history in the Army 250th Exhibit.

USAHEC's conservators are reviewing and preparing items for display as a part of USAHEC Army 250th exhibit This We'll Defend: 250 Years of Army History. This is a challenging project as we are going to display objects from nearly every part of the collection.

Our conservators are performing treatments on historical materials including books, manuscripts, photographs, and artifacts for inclusion in this exhibit.

Finally, the entire USAHEC team congratulates a valued, long-time staff member Beth Shaffer upon her retirement from government service. Beth spent 29 of her 42 years of government service as a USAHEC employee, working first in the Oral Histories Branch, then as a member of Acquisitions, and ending her career in the Classified Holding Branch. Thank you, Beth, for your years of dedicated service. We wish you the best in your retirement.

### USAHEC Academic Library Department

The Academic Library Department has been hard at work supporting the USAWC and other researchers. We have reenergized our support to student seminars from the School of Strategic Landpower, including not only the use of USAHEC spaces, but also behind the scenes tours of our operations and selected items from the collection relevant to the seminar's studies, including items from General Bradley and the D-Day invasion.

We also supported a number of external scholar visits, including Susan Eisenhower and her students from Gettysburg College in preparation for a scheduled trip to Normandy.

The focus of the visit was to show the students how senior leaders communicated and planned in the days before modern computing. USAHEC staff pulled items from the collections related to the D-Day invasion and from the recently declassified Spofford collection

Of particular interest were memos to General Eisenhower naming him Supreme Allied Commander and directing him to carry out the invasion of Europe.

More recently, 12 students from the Command and General Staff College's Art of War Scholars program at Fort Leavenworth, KS visited USAHEC on February 14 for in-depth research on commander-personalities assigned individually to them for the German Ardennes Offensive. Teammates from our Ridgway Library Branch provided indepth research support to each student and pulled materials so the students could maximize their time in Ridgway Hall.



CGSC Art of War Scholars 12 Art of War Scholars doing in-depth research in the Ridgway Hall library.

As the USAWC students worked to find relevant sources for their Strategic Research Requirement (SRR), the library team conducted 180 appointments with resident, blended education, and distance students to aid in their research efforts. This is an increase from last year's 160 SSR appointments.

USAWC faculty and students benefited from our tutorial series entitled "Digital Access & Research Tutorials" or DART. The DART sessions included finding journals, managing citations, research tools and artificial intelligence, historic mindedness, how to use and read datasets, and media bias.

Coordinating with the Department of Military Strategy, Planning, and Operations, our team launched a new Combatant Command LibGuide. Each tab of the guide provides a jumping off point for researchers to study the different commands and their respective regions of responsibility.

On October 21, GEN Randy A. George, CSA, recognized USAHEC librarian, Duane Miller for his extensive research of previous iterations of the Army Doctrine Publication (ADP) 100-1, including its original document as FM 100-1. Duane worked diligently studying USAHEC's collection that covered the evolution of FM 100-1 which provided an in-depth understanding of the historical background for the current rewrite of this important document.

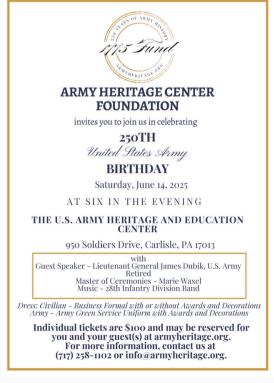
General Randy George presenting Mr. Duane Miller with his CSA Coin.







When you see a QR code like the one above, it can help you access information more quickly. Open up the camera on your phone and scan the code for a yellow link to take you straight to our Army 250th Birthday Dinner rsvp/purchase page.





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