



OREGON MILITARY MUSEUM

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NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the first of a series of Newsletters that will provide news and updates on the Oregon Military Museum. So much has happened in the last 24 months that we want to share with our friends and benefactors.

First, we want to thank all of you who have donated to the Oregon Military Museum, whether with your dollars or with your time. To date, we have invested **\$10.6 million** in the renovation of the Museum and exhibits. This has been possible through a combination of federal, state and private dollars. Here is a list of the major milestones we have achieved to date:

- The main Museum building has been renovated with new exterior finishes, a new enlarged lobby, a new addition for the Hall of Valor, relocated and updated restrooms, a gallery for temporary exhibits, a new, large library space, breakroom and kitchen, new fire suppression, and updated HVAC systems and controls. There are also major improvements to the Main Exhibit Hall with stripped floor paint, new wall and ceiling paint, and track lighting. Outdoor improvements include grading, parking lots, lighting, and landscaping.



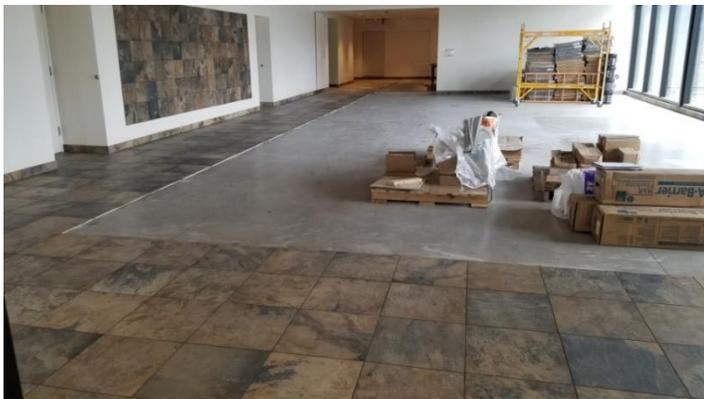
- The circa 1911 Quartermaster Storehouse has been completely renovated while retaining much of the architectural detail of that time period. Additionally, restrooms were added to accommodate visitors touring the Historical Park. Educational exhibits totaling \$250,000 have been completed and installed throughout the Park and its historic buildings.



- The Battery A Field Artillery Horse Barn of the same era now features educational exhibits showcasing Oregon’s artillery history from horse drawn to modern, with numerous artillery pieces from the Museum collection. A turn-of-the-century equipment shop includes a portable blacksmith’s forge.

- Both of these historic buildings were rescued from demolition and relocated to the Historic Park.

- The last major renovation project for the main Museum building is the Education Wing. Situated on the south side, the Wing features a large Classroom and administrative spaces. The Classroom will facilitate one of our key goals: educating both students as well as the general public on the military history of Oregon.
- In addition, a Museum store will be completed to provide additional fundraising through our non-profit organization, the Oregon Military Museum Project (OMMP). Concurrent with the Education Wing being finished, the Lobby and the Hall of Valor spaces are also being completed.



With the generosity of the Withycombe family, the Thomas E. Withycombe Library is also coming to fruition, complete with a Reading Room, Reference Desk, and Rare Book Room. The adjacent Library stacks area will house all Library and Archives materials, to include 30,000 volumes and hundreds of cubic feet of documents. We are excited for the final design to be completed and renovation to begin. We expect this to be completed this fall.

Of course, no Museum is complete without exhibits. The completion of the final design for content, layout and construction of the Main Exhibit Hall is the final pillar to opening the entire Museum. Currently we are held for funding on this last major milestone. While there are some funds available, the exact amount is unknown and therefore we cannot proceed with the final design and construction pending the final amount available.



While all of this renovation has been occurring, Curator/Director Tracy Thoennes has unpacked, archivally housed and accounted for over 14,000 artifacts - from insignia and grenades to aircraft, artillery, and tracked vehicles. Included in this was the consolidation of weapons into a single vault built during the main building renovation. This was done with the help of many volunteers and well over a thousand donated hours. Once the Withycombe Library and Reading Room construction is complete, the library and archives can be unpacked, catalogued into our inventory, and made accessible once again.

This is an exciting time for the Oregon Military Museum as we near the completion of many years of hard work and

dedication. We sincerely appreciate all that you have done to assist along the way and look forward to your continued support as we move forward to educate and preserve our military heritage. We will continue regular updates on our progress.

