



OREGON MILITARY MUSEUM

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NEWSLETTER

January 20, 2020
Edition 20-1

Museum Mission:

*To inspire and educate visitors about Oregon's military heritage to include the National Guard,
the state's early militia and all branches of the armed forces,
And to meet its professional stewardship obligations for the historical artifacts and archives entrusted to its care.*

Welcome to the second of a series of Newsletters of news and updates about the Oregon Military Museum. Significant progress has been made since our first letter. The Museum is beginning to transform into a beautiful venue that will display and honor our military heritage.

Construction in the main building's Lobby, Hall of Valor, Education Wing, and Museum Store is complete, thanks to the Oregon Military Department's Installations Division. Visitors will enter the Museum through a new main entrance into the new Lobby.



The extensive Lobby renovations include quadrupling its size, attractive lighting, carpeting and tile flooring. A designated area on the north wall will provide major donor recognition, and ceiling baffles provide noise attenuation.

Immediately off the Lobby is the Hall of Valor. This space will permanently recognize those exceptional Oregonians who have displayed extraordinary valor in combat. It is also a wonderful space for future meetings or small receptions.



The Museum Store's construction is now complete. The Store will provide a revenue stream to our non-profit organization, the **Oregon Military Museum Project (OMMP)**. Visitors will be able to purchase military history related products and museum themed merchandise, such as books, clothing and souvenirs.



Just past the Museum Store is the entrance to the newly renovated Education Wing. This area of the Museum will augment our mission to inspire and educate the public on Oregon's military heritage. Included in the Wing are the Learning Center (a large general purpose classroom), a conference room, and administrative spaces for staff, the OMMP and Museum Store.



The last major renovation project underway is the Thomas E. Withycombe Library. Situated on the north side of the Museum, the well-appointed Reading Room will provide researchers, students, scholars and authors access to the Museum's treasure trove of Library and Archives collections. These materials consist of some 30,000 books and technical manuals as well as thousands of documents, ephemera, records, reports, and photographs. February 2020 is the target date for construction completion, after which unpacking can begin in the adjacent stacks areas.



Exhibit planning is underway for the Main Exhibit Hall. One focal point will be our Korean War era fighter, the North American F-86F Sabre Jet. Over the past nine years, it remained in its disassembled state and was relocated several times. We are excited that re-assembly is now scheduled to take place in February. As the largest of all of the artifacts chosen to be displayed, once it is



positioned in the Exhibit Hall, the remaining macro artifacts currently stored there can also be placed in their display positions. This will provide us the opportunity for interim Museum tours prior to a Grand Opening. The bulk of the final exhibit design, fabrication and installation will occur in 2021 when a portion of the funding of the total estimated exhibit budget of \$4.25M will become available.

Oversight and advocacy for the Museum continues to rest with the Military Museum Support Council (MMSC), an advisory board authorized by and reporting to the Adjutant General. A change was made near the end of last year when Colonel (Ret.) Matt Schuster was appointed as Chair.

The supporting foundation OMMP has undergone some changes as well, with new members on its Board of Directors. Major General (Ret.) Dan O'Hollaren, formerly the MMSC Chair, has been elected as President. Vicki Fisher, a longtime volunteer at the Museum with an extensive military background, was added to the board and is the new Secretary. Also, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Gary Clark has been elected to the board. Remaining on the board are Jim Thayer and Don Stastny. Amy Maxwell has agreed to remain as the Executive Director with a lesser commitment. Focus areas for 2020 will be bringing a contract grant writer on board in the first quarter. A social event for civic and military leaders as well as past donors is planned at the Museum in the first half of 2020 to showcase the new building and our exhibit plan.

The tireless efforts of our volunteers and curator/director Tracy Thoennes cannot be overstated. Over the course of several months, nearly \$100,000 worth of new classroom, lobby and library furnishings, including 348 linear feet of new library shelving, 30 map cases and 60 file cabinets were received, assembled and installed. Prior to the beginning of construction in the adjacent Reading Room, the Library stacks area was set up in preparation for unpacking the remaining 45 pallets worth of library materials.



The Oregon Military Museum is moving forward to a full opening at an increasing rate. For you, the stakeholders and benefactors, your support has brought us to this point. We look forward to your continued participation and partnership as we move forward to educate visitors, commemorate veterans, and preserve our military heritage.