

FIGHTING FALCON MILITARY MUSEUM

Spring 2019 Newsletter

Volume 19 Issue 1

Have you registered for the Bill Delp Honorary Golf Outing at Glenkerry Golf Course on June 29?

The Fighting Falcon is sponsoring this fundraiser in honor of founding member Bill Delp who is the oldest living WWII vet in the area. 18 holes with cart, games like "skins," Mulligans and a hole-in-one prize of \$10,000, as well as many door prizes and a buffet luncheon promise to make this morning fun, fun, FUN! Only \$60 per golfer! Your support will be used for much needed museum building repairs. A registration form is on page 3 of this newsletter. Questions? Call 616-258-1274



Homeschool Students visit Museum

A group of homeschooled students and their families toured the Fighting Falcon Museum one cold day last March. The docents commented on their knowledge as well as their polite behavior. We always welcome school students to schedule a visit: just call, please!

Museum Officers

President: Bob Christensen
Vice President: Bill Garlick
Secretary: Barbara Christensen
Treasurer: Jerry Krick
Directors: Al Wheeler, Terry Main
And Scott DeKorte

Committee Chairs

Building & Grounds: Bill Garlick and Terry Main
Displays: Jerry Krick, Barbara Christensen and Scott DeKorte
Fundraising: Bob Christensen and Bill Delp
PR: Al and Pam Wheeler

SOS...Mayday, Mayday...SOS

The Fighting Falcon Military Museum needs your help!

The FFMM was created as a way to honor local military veterans. Ways the museum tries to honor the local men and women who have served our nation include:

- Displays of veterans' mementos and information on their military service.
- Creating a flight simulator so visitors can experience the challenges glider pilots faced.
- Offering programs to explain military events or individual's experiences.
- Displays of military materials that were used defending our nation, especially the Fighting Falcon Glider.

The Fighting Falcon Military Museum needs your help now! The museum's active membership is near an all-time low. To honor our local heroes takes time, money and donations.

Time from members to create displays and serve as docents.

Money to pay for building upkeep, utilities and insurance.

Donations to honor your family's military service. We need your donations of money as well as mementos and information on your veteran's military service.

Your support is crucial to continue the mission of the museum. Talk to your friends about becoming an active member. Make annual monetary donations to the museum. Annual donors' names will be posted in the museum office. Although any donations are always appreciated, levels of annual giving will be

- "Glider Infantryman:" \$100 to \$250
- "Tow Plane Pilot:" \$250 to \$500
- "Glider Co-Pilot:" \$500 to \$750
- "Glider Pilot:" \$750 to \$1000

Thank you for your consideration of the museum's urgent needs. Find a donation form on the back page of the newsletter.

Remembering the Fighting Falcon on D-Day 75 years ago...

Greenville's Fighting Falcon CG-4A Glider played an important role on that momentous day in June: it supported the 101st Airborne paratroopers by carrying supplies and medical personnel! The Fighting Falcon was designated as glider #1 of the 52 in the "Chicago" mission, but it wasn't actually the Greenville glider purchased by students. (That's a story for another day!) The Fighting Falcon was piloted by Lt. Colonel Mike Murphy with co-pilot Lt. John Butler by his side. The glider carried General Donald Pratt and his aide Lt. John May. The general was seated in his Jeep that was loaded with supplies and radio equipment. Murphy was unable to stop the glider when landing due primarily to wet grass and crashed into a wooded fencerow. Pratt and Butler were killed instantly. Murphy survived severe injuries thanks to medical staff on the following gliders. May, seated behind the general's Jeep on the far aft jump-seat, was able to walk away under his own power. What a day that must have been!

Well, duh...Someone you probably know just figured out why trench coats are called trench coats. Do you know where the phrase "chew the fat" comes from? In years past, people who could acquire pork would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and they would all sit around and "chew the fat." Now you know!

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

June 29: FFMM Golf Outing Fundraiser

Honoring Bill Delp. See page 3 for details, please.

July 30: "Hardtack and Coffee" by Bob Myers

Actor/Author/Historian will portray Corporal Martin Stafford in a one-man show about the American Civil War. The common soldier's view of the conflict comes to life in this presentation based on the experiences of a veteran from Niles, Michigan. Stafford served in the 2nd Michigan Infantry from the First Battle of Bull Run to the Wilderness Campaign. Bob Myers is the Director of Education for the Historical Society of Michigan. You don't want to miss this program!

August 16, 17, 18: Museum Open for Danish Festival

October: Program To Be Announced

Fighting Falcon Wish List:

- Lots of golfers for June 29 Golf Outing
- M1 Garand, U.S. Rifle
- More members, maybe you?
- Lighted glass display cases
- Women's uniforms
- Money for a new sign
- Doughnuts for the Golf Outing
- Surprise us!



WALMART WORKERS VOLUNTEER AGAIN!!!

Thanks to the great Walmart team who volunteered to help stain the FFMM handicap ramp and to Jerry's Paint Store who donated the stain.

You folks are the BEST!

Humor in Uniform by Bill Delp

While in Basic Training at Camp Roberts, one Saturday morning we had what was called a "Full Field Inspection," in which all of the items in ones foot locker were to be removed and placed on the bed where our Battery Commander and First Sergeant could inspect every item and "GIG" you of things that were not OK. There were to be no photos displayed on the inside of your footlocker lid. As I stood at attention next to my empty footlocker, the Captain bent over and asked who the photos were that I had posted on the lid. "Sir, that's my wife and little girl." He replied, "Beautiful family soldier. Carry on!" Bill's footlocker in the museum still has those pictures in the lid! Still a "beautiful family!"

Fighting Falcon Military Museum GOLF OUTING

**Honoring Founding Member
William "Bill" Delp**

You're invited...Please join us!



REGISTRATION FORM

June 29, 2019: Sign-in begins at 8am, play begins at 9am. In case of rain, golfers will receive a gift certificate for 18 holes of golf with cart at Glenkerry, be served donuts and lunch, and may participate in door prizes. Must be present at Glenkerry on June 29 to receive these items.

Registration includes: 18 holes of golf with cart, hole in one prize of \$10,00, on-course games, donuts at the turn, burger bar with all the fixings at lunch, prizes, and more surprises!

Use the form below to avoid standing in line. Please mail with your check to: Fighting Falcon Military Museum, 516 W. Cass Street, Greenville, MI 48838. **Questions? Call 616-258-1274**

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION: \$60 per golfer

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____
Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

TEAM REGISTRATION: \$240 per team/foursome

Company Name/Group Name _____

Team Members: please include name, address, phone and email address.

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Help to preserve Greenville Area Military History by making an annual donation! Although any size donations are always greatly appreciated, levels of giving will be:

- **Glider Infantryman: \$100 to \$250**
- **Tow Plane Pilot: \$250 to \$500**
- **Glider Co-Pilot: \$500 to \$750**
- **Glider Pilot: \$750 to \$1000**

Your donation will help meet urgent museum needs, especially building maintenance and materials for creating new displays. Annual donor names will be prominently displayed in the museum office.

www.thefightingfalcon.com

I/We wish to make a donation this year to the Fighting Falcon Military Museum of \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Thank you for your consideration of the museum's urgent needs. We recently had roof leaks to repair, right over the glider of course. There are many bricks that need replacement due to deterioration. These things are in addition to the general maintenance you would expect on a historic building over 100 years old. We need your help! Please seriously consider making an annual donation.