



Armed Forces Heritage Museum

Post Office Box 324, Wrightstown, New Jersey 08562
A new mobile and virtual military museum for New Jersey and the surrounding region.
www.afhmus.org

December 26, 2018

SUBJECT: End of Year Report

TO: Members and friends of the Armed Forces Heritage Museum

As the year draws to an end I want to share some thoughts regarding the Armed Forces Heritage Museum. 2018 has been an eventful year of progress; however, it was not without some disappointments.

- The museum received two prestigious awards for imaginative historical presentation. The concept of taking a mobile museum to the people in lieu of the public coming to a museum has been recognized and applauded.
- This year produced a major breakthrough for the mobile museum. The good news is that the unit was well received and invited to many community events. The shortfall was that we had to decline some meaningful celebrations for lack of personnel to staff the unit.
- The board voted to push back development work on the projected large Tractor Trailer Museum for another year. It was felt that we needed additional time to focus on the current trailer to gain necessary experience before expanding the operation to the larger tractor-trailer mobile museum.
- The museum received, via a long term loan, a restored Air Force 1979 Dodge truck that had been utilized for flight line aircraft maintenance. This historic vehicle can augment the current mobile museum at community and school events. Additionally, the truck will represent the museum in parades and vintage automobile and truck shows.
- One of the shortfalls of the year was the videoing of veteran's interviews. Only one veteran interview was issued! The upcoming year will be marked with a renewed effort to preserve the experiences of "ordinary Americans who did extraordinary things" in defense of the nation. Filming of a major documentary was completed. It depicts the success of the National Guard's Youth Challenge Program at the Joint Base. Footage is now at the editor and a final cut will be released this spring. Preparatory work has been accomplished on a second documentary that will address veteran's mental health issues dealing with post-traumatic stress. Veteran interviews to support this documentary will start in January.
- Work continued with the Hunterdon County School system to develop a program of veteran recognition and the community based teaching of military history.
- We attended the Small Museum Association's annual meeting and learned of the need for small museums to partner with other museums. During the year our museum has strived to partner with other organizations. A major success with the Burlington County Historical Society (BCHS) has produced a "Lunch and Learn" speakers program. Additionally, this interface has created an opportunity where the Armed Forces Heritage Museum will utilize the historic James Lawrence House in Burlington as a base of operations.

As we look forward to 2019 I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to make the passing year successful. If for some reason you were unable to participate, I recommend that you consider attending the monthly meetings on the third Friday of every month to learn how you might utilize your talents to advance the museum's mission to communicate the military history of the region. Also, it's never too late for a tax deductible donation to the museum to help accomplish these tasks!

Respectfully,

Bob

Robert F. von Bargaen
Colonel USAF Retired
Armed Forces Heritage Museum
President

Attach "AFHM 2018 - A Year in Review"

AFHM Mission: The mission of the Armed Forces Heritage Museum is to Preserve, Honor, and Educate all on the military history of New Jersey and the surrounding regions.

Email us at: info@AFHMUS.org - Like us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ArmedForcesHeritageMuseum>

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The Armed Forces Heritage Museum is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered in the State of New Jersey.

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