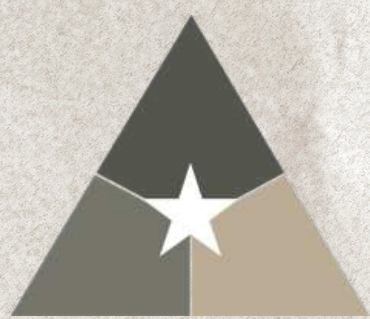
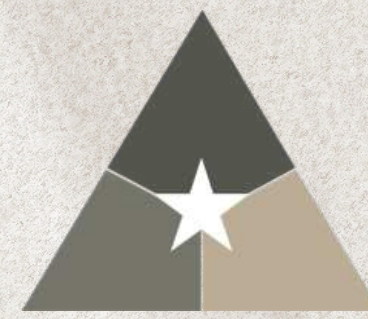




THE QUARTERLY DISPATCH



GIs of the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, launch into a rock session while surrounded by symbols of the war: wooden bunkers, helicopter and sandbags, in July 1970. The soldiers were dug in at Firebase Kathryn on a hill south of the DMZ.

Photograph: Giancarlo Meyer/AP

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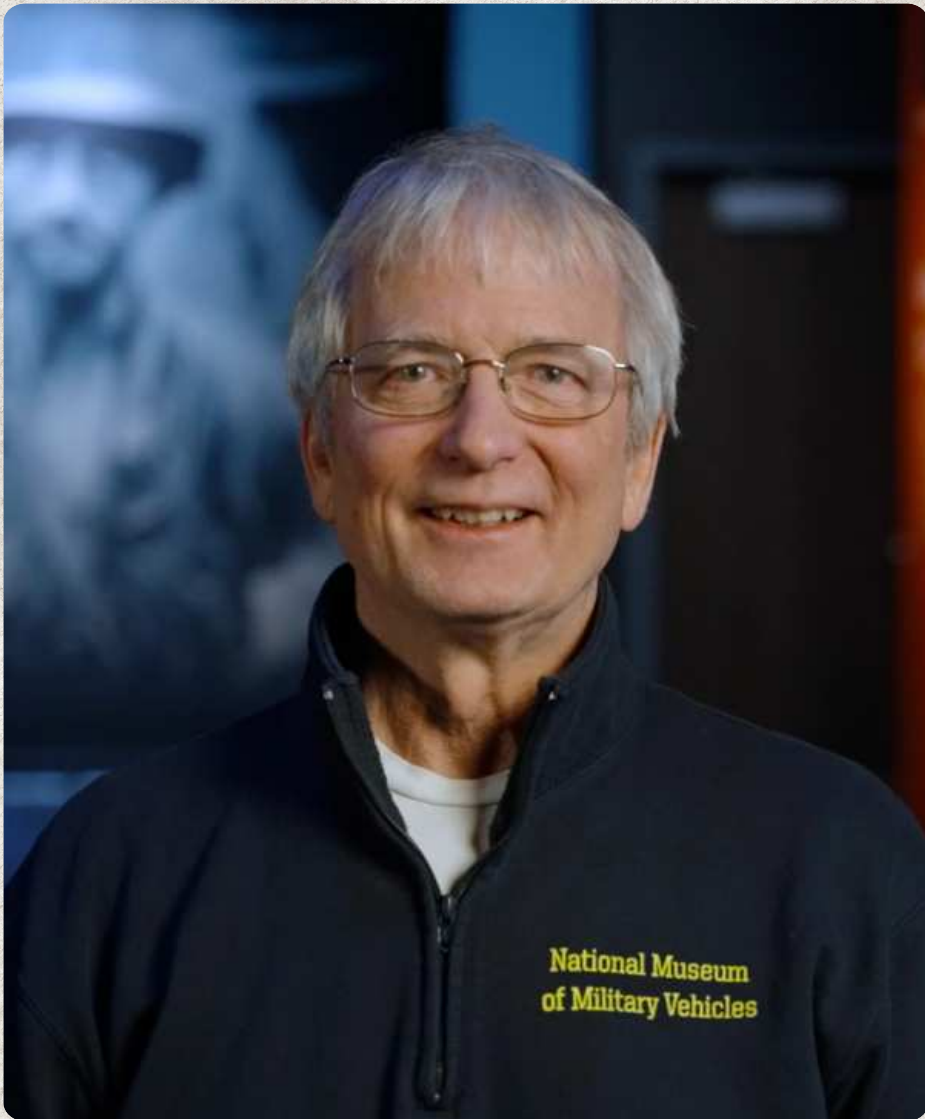
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A WORD FROM OUR FOUNDER



Dan Starks, Founder of National Museum of Military Vehicles

A lot has happened at the museum since our last newsletter. We held a successful third annual Veterans Talking to Veterans Fair May 23 – 24. We conducted our first in-house equine therapy program for veterans and family members June 8 – 14 under the tutelage of Anna Twinney, founder of Reach Out to Horses. We hosted other veterans, military, and family members for retreats in line with our Wilderness Healing Project.

We entered 25 military vehicles - ranging from the U.S. M60 and the British Chieftain main battle tanks to a variety of WWII vehicles – in the Dubois 4th of July parade. Successful, even though we got hammered by a severe rainstorm toward the end.

We conducted our first Iwo Jima Day immediately following the 4th of July parade on July 5. Historian and past Executive Director of the Iwo Jima association Shayne Jarosz gave a two hour lecture that some of our

attendees said was the best lecture they ever attended. Our own local Iwo Jima veteran Tom Guthrie met with Shayne during the day.

Those of you who have already visited the museum know that we have had an M88 armored recovery vehicle and a one-of-a-kind CCVL (close combat vehicle light) prototype M8 posted as monuments by the entrance to our Poolaw Building. The CCVL is still there, but our restoration shop confiscated our M88 to aid restoration projects. Don't worry though, we replaced the M88 with a stunning M110 203mm or 8" self-propelled howitzer. The M110 was the largest self-propelled howitzer in the U.S. military prior to its retirement in 1994 and was capable of firing nuclear projectiles.

One of our most important recent events was celebrated August 20 with a press conference hosted and conducted at the museum by Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder. The first lesson plans for middle school and high school teachers (as well as home schoolers) created by the museum in partnership with the University of Wyoming and Wyoming educators have been completed and posted on the state's Canvas learning platform.

These are available to the public online. These lesson plans are just the beginning. We will continue to expand our educational material for public use going forward to further our mission of educating next generations on the history of American freedom.

A WORD FROM OUR FOUNDER

What is next?

The 24th anniversary of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center is 9/11/25. Once again, a patriot and benefactor who insists on remaining anonymous made a donation to provide free admission to the museum for all on 9/11/25. The museum celebrates freedom, patriotism, honor, the fallen, and our military and veteran community all day every day. There is no better place to commemorate 9/11 and express appreciation for our military that responded to that attack than at the museum, courtesy of this anonymous patriot.

Construction of our on-site motel "Liberty Lodge of Wyoming" is well underway and on track for completion before the end of 2026. This 70 room motel will be a game changer for the museum in 2027 and beyond. Tour companies will begin to include the museum on their tour schedules. We will be able to conduct multi-day professional development programs for educators and others on-site. We will be a better venue for larger groups as well as for groups who do not want attendees to have to drive home at night after dinner. The Liberty Lodge's target audience will be educators, students, veterans groups, and those on fixed incomes, as well as other price sensitive guests.

We recently added resources to help us produce more YouTube videos to expand the reach of the museum. If you have not already done so, please check out our YouTube channel (@NMMV_USA). As of this writing we already have posted 94 long form videos and numerous shorts for you to scroll through. Three of our shorts already have more than 1 million views each. One of the posted long form videos that deserves more attention than the YouTube algorithm generates is our video regarding the connection between U.S. manufacturing and U.S. military capability, which can be viewed on our channel. Please, check it out and share it with others to help spread the word about the role U.S. manufacturing plays in helping preserve American freedom.

Last but not least, we are revising our Patton Gallery to expand our interpretation of WWI along with other improvements. We expect to have these improvements in place in time for the summer of 2026 and the U.S. 250th Birthday.

If you like this Newsletter, please encourage family and friends to sign up to receive it. We want to reach as many people as possible to fulfill our mission to (1) honor the service and sacrifice of veterans and their families and (2) educate next generations on the history of American freedom.

Dan Starks, Founder of National Museum of Military Vehicles

CURATORIAL DEPARTMENT UPDATE



Rae Whitley, Curator

The curatorial department had another very productive and busy summer season.

Our team was joined this past summer by two interns, college students from Washington and Utah. During their time at NMMV, the interns became proficient as tour guides and historical researchers. We are extremely appreciative of their contributions this summer and wish them well in their future endeavors!

The curatorial department worked with the museum's education department to create lesson plans in collaboration with the University of Wyoming's Malcolm Wallop Civic Engagement Program and the Wyoming Department of Education.

Four educators from around Wyoming visited NMMV to participate in this project. Three lesson plans were developed, covering World War II, The Korean War, and The Vietnam War, each of which is a major conflict on display within NMMV. These lesson plans were designed to be taught independently, using NMMV-produced educational videos, or with an educational tour of NMMV.

We also welcomed History Jackson Hole and their Museum's Junior Curator Camp for a very special project, in which they were able to learn the process of developing an exhibit, peek into our archives, and experience the art of telling stories through artifacts.

The museum has received quite a few donations in the last few months for which we are tremendously grateful. As we are processing those collections, we look forward to sharing the artifacts and stories with you.

In front of the Lt. Pascal Poolaw building, a new piece of equipment was installed...an 8-Inch Self Propelled Howitzer M110.

Additionally, we installed a display of a full scale and accurate replica of the atomic bomb "Little Boy" in the Museum's General Marshall Gallery. This replica was installed on August 6, 2025, the 80th anniversary of the day the uranium based bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan.

Looking ahead to this coming winter, the curatorial team will be facilitating a few exhibit changes in the museum. I could tell you what they are, but that would ruin the surprise now wouldn't it?

Many new and exciting things are happening, and we look forward to sharing them with you during your next visit.

Rae Whitley, Curator



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

As part of our ongoing commitment to delivering impactful educational resources, we partnered with the University of Wyoming's Malcolm Wallop Civic Engagement Program and the Wyoming Department of Education to create standards-aligned lesson plans for secondary schools. This initiative included collaboration between NMMV and four dedicated educators from across Wyoming who visited the museum over the summer to help shape and develop the curriculum. Their insights and expertise ensured our historical materials were meaningfully woven into classrooms statewide, deepening students' understanding of military history and civic responsibility.



Erica Harris, Director of Education

On August 20, 2025, the National Museum of Military Vehicles hosted an event with the Wyoming Department of Education and the University of Wyoming's Malcolm Wallop Civil Engagement that showcased these new resources and celebrated the incredible teachers who brought this vision to life. We could not have been more excited to highlight their contributions and share what's been created with the broader education community.

We also had the pleasure of partnering with History Jackson Hole and their Museum's Junior Curator Camp. We welcomed their students for an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour led by our curator. Together, the students explored the fundamentals of exhibit development, peeked into our archives, and shared what goes into telling stories through artifacts. Inspired by their experience, the students returned to their museum. They curated a mini exhibit as part of their camp week, bringing their fresh perspectives and curiosity into the profession of museum work.

Looking ahead, we're thrilled to welcome schools from across Wyoming and neighboring states during the upcoming academic year. Each visit offers a unique opportunity to spark curiosity, deepen historical understanding, and foster civic engagement among students. With new resources in place and inspiring partnerships behind us, we look forward to seeing the impact unfold in classrooms and the museum alike.

Erica Harris, Director of Education

FEATURED ARTICLE

EIGHTY YEARS SINCE SURRENDER: V-J DAY AND WHAT IT MEANS TODAY

By Libby Andrews



Surrender of Japan, Tokyo Bay, September 2, 1945: Representatives of the Empire of Japan on board USS Missouri (BB-63) during the surrender ceremonies.

September 2, 2025, is the 80th anniversary of Victory over Japan Day, or V-J Day, as celebrated by the United States. While this date represents the end of World War II, a closer look reveals that there is more to this day than the signing of a surrender. For instance, did you know that not every country celebrated V-J Day on the same date? Australia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom acknowledged V-J Day on August 15th, the day that Emperor Hirohito announced Japan's surrender. The Philippines celebrated September 3rd as V-J Day, as this is the date that Japanese General Tomoyuki Yamashita surrendered. Additionally, many may not realize that not all combat immediately ended following Japan's surrender, as some Japanese units were unaware of or refused to acknowledge this surrender.

This reflection on Victory over Japan Day explores several dimensions of V-J Day such as

the surrender ceremony aboard the USS Missouri, United States occupation of Japan, and how this controversial victory is remembered today.

The USS *Missouri* Surrender Ceremony

The ceremony took place on September 2, 1945, in Tokyo Bay aboard the USS *Missouri*, which was said to have been chosen due to the fact that Missouri was President Truman's home state. This decision was much to the dismay of many crew members on other battleships with more distinguished combat records.

General Douglas MacArthur initially suggested the surrender take place at the United States embassy, however, President Truman ultimately decided that Tokyo Bay was more appropriate since this was a surrender to the combined Allied forces. This ceremony was brief, and in less than thirty minutes, Japan had officially surrendered.



U.S. F4U and F6F planes fly in formation during surrender ceremonies aboard the USS Missouri, off Japan, Sept. 2, 1945. (U.S. National Archives/via Reuters)

FEATURED ARTICLE CONT.

The Final Surrender

For many of the U.S. troops who were preparing for Operation Downfall, the announcement of Japan's surrender brought overwhelming relief. Some were even in disbelief and feared the announcement could have been a trap. For many Japanese, this unprecedented surrender was both shocking and difficult to accept.

Although the surrender ceremony officially concluded the war, for some the conflict continued. Japanese holdouts, soldiers who either never received the news of Japan's surrender or simply refused to accept it, continued guerrilla warfare for years after the surrender was announced.

The last Japanese soldier to formally surrender was Lieutenant Hiroo Onoda, who remained in the Philippine jungle and continued operations for nearly twenty-nine years after World War II ended. In interviews and writings after his return to Japan, Lt. Onoda spoke of being unable to accept that Japan had surrendered. He had sworn to never surrender and could not believe that his country would not do the same.



Onoda surrendering his sword to Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos on March 11, 1974.



A correspondent stands in the rubble in Hiroshima on Sept. 8, 1945, a month after the first atomic bomb ever used in warfare was dropped by the U.S.

The Cost of Conflict

The end of World War II brought relief and liberation from a ruthless enemy as well as conflicting thoughts about the method through which this victory was achieved.

Many struggled with the moral complexities of the war's end, which was induced by the devastation that resulted from the atomic bombs, Little Boy and Fat Man, dropped by the United States on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

An estimated 250,000 Japanese died as a result of the atomic bombings, both immediately and later from radiation sickness, meaning that this victory was associated with death and suffering of civilians.

Occupation of Japan

Beginning on August 28, 1945, the United States led the Allied occupation of Japan, under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, who served as Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, to dismantle the Japanese military, provide reconstruction, and pave the way for a peaceful alliance.

FEATURED ARTICLE CONT.

On December 31, 1946, U.S. President Harry S. Truman signed Proclamation 2714, which officially declared the end of all hostilities of World War II and began steps toward the eventual withdrawal of occupational troops from Japan.

Although V-J Day is often viewed as the end of World War II, the formal end to the war was not until April 28, 1952, when the Treaty of San Francisco, which had been signed on September 8, 1951, by 48 countries, went into effect. This treaty officially stripped Japan of its imperial power, granted reparations for those who suffered in Japan during World War II, and ended the Allied post-war occupation of Japan. The accompanying U.S.-Japan Mutual Security Treaty of 1951, allowed U.S. forces to remain in Japan and maintain military bases in Japan such as Okinawa.



Shortly after his arrival in Japan, General Douglas MacArthur taking questions from reporters.

Rebranded Victory and a Lasting Alliance

As we commemorate V-J Day's 80th anniversary, it is worth acknowledging how the perception of this victory has evolved since Japan's surrender was signed.

To reflect the reconciliation between Japan and the United States, President Truman attempted to make V-J Day more palatable, issuing a proclamation in 1946 that renamed it "Victory Day", but this was not widely adopted. Rhode Island observes May 8th as Victory Day, and is the only U.S. state that honors the end of World War II with a legal holiday, as V-J Day, or Victory Day, was never a federalized holiday.

On January 19, 1960, the 1960 Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security was signed by the U.S. and Japan. This replaced the 1951 Security Treaty, and created a long-term military alliance between the two countries that is still in effect today.



Marines with 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 1st Marine Division and Western Army Infantry Regiment, Japan Ground Self Defense Force stand in formation as part of the Exercise Iron Fist 2018 opening ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 12, 2018. (U.S. Marine Corps photo)

What Does V-J Day Mean Today?

Now, eighty years later, V-J Day is observed not only as a celebration of victory achieved by the United States along with its Allies, but also as an important reminder of the immense human cost of World War II. This day brought mixed feelings of relief, grief, and hope as it ended the war. V-J Day is not only a testament to human resilience in the wake of horrific suffering, but also of peace found through reconciliation with a former enemy.

The anniversary is not only a time to reflect on the ceremony held on the USS *Missouri*, but also an opportunity to honor the sacrifice of the many service members who made this victory possible and remember the lessons learned from the deadliest conflict in world history.

FEATURED ARTICLE

CW2 LOUIS RICHARD ROCCO, VIETNAM WAR MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

By Rae Whitley and Jessica O'Rourke



Chief Warrant Officer Two Louis Richard Rocco.

Louis Robert Rocco enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1955. After his basic training at Fort Ord, California, he then trained at the medical school at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Following his medical training, Rocco became a medic, first with the 82nd Airborne Division and then the 11th Airborne Division.

His first overseas assignment was in West Germany, from May 1965 to October 1965, where he received his high school equivalency diploma.

From November 1965 through November 1966, Rocco served in the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) with the Army of the Republic of Vietnam's 7th Infantry Division. Rocco, at this time, attended the Advanced Medical Specialist Course.

After his first tour to Vietnam, Rocco attended the Medical Specialist Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Course in 1967, then returned to Germany from September 1968 to September 1969.

In November 1969, Rocco began his second tour to the Republic of Vietnam. During this tour, Rocco served with MACV Advisory Team 162.

The Red Hats

MACV Advisory Team 162, nicknamed the "Red Hats," was the longest-serving U.S. advisory team in the Vietnam conflict, arriving in 1962 and finally departing in 1973. The "Red Hats" were a result of President Kennedy's expansion of American military support to the South Vietnamese government of President Ngo Dinh Diem.



SSGT Rocco, MACV with Nung fighter.

FEATURED ARTICLE CONT.



"Red Hats" of Team 162. Members were made up of U.S. Army advisors and ARVN airborne personnel.

Before the helicopter could land, it began to draw intense enemy fire.

The Huey crash-landed in an open field between the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) and ARVN forces.

Rocco fired back, but the helicopter soon erupted into flames. He remembered the horrific scene, stating, "The aircraft caught fire. One of the pilots had...received an AK round through his leg. Another, the other pilot had his arm ripped off. It was hanging. The medic had his back and hip broken, and his jaw completely ripped off. And one gunner was trapped in the chopper. The other one was in shock."



During an oral history interview, Rocco stated that the AH-1 Huey Cobras, which provided cover fire, were what saved them.

Approximately 1,200 soldiers were assigned to Team 162 during their 11 years of service, which made them the largest U.S. advisory effort of the Vietnam War. Airborne experience was a prerequisite for assignment. Most team members had served with the 11th, 82nd, or 101st Airborne Divisions.

Crash Landing and Chaos

On May 24, 1970, then Sergeant First Class Rocco volunteered to "catch a ride" on one of the UH-1C Huey helicopters of the 1st Cavalry Division for a medical evacuation mission to extract eight wounded soldiers of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN).



Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery dedicated to the U.S. MACV advisors and the ARVN airborne personnel who made up Team 162.

On the second day, two American helicopters were shot down attempting to evacuate Rocco and his fellow soldiers. It was not until the third attempt, when Cobra helicopters flew in, that the soldiers were evacuated to a hospital in Saigon. Rocco prioritized his fellow soldiers' lives before his own, saving the lives of his comrades.

FEATURED ARTICLE CONT.



Louis R. Rocco Receives Medal from President Ford
Former Albuquerque Resident Recipient of High Honor

Former Resident of City Receives Medal of Honor

From the Journal's
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Acting Warrant Officer Louis R. Rocco, a former Albuquerque resident, was presented the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam four years ago by President Ford at White House ceremonies Thursday afternoon.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis V. Rocco of Hemet, Calif., for many years residents of Albuquerque.

critically wounded South Vietnamese soldiers from an area receiving intense enemy fire.

The helicopter carrying Rocco and the rest of the evacuation team came under heavy enemy fire and was forced to crash land. Rocco suffered a fractured wrist and hip and a severely bruised back.

"IGNORING HIS injuries, he extracted the survivors from the burning wreckage, sustaining burns to his own body," the citation reads. "Despite intense enemy fire,

Rocco's First Medal: The Medal of Honor

For his actions on May 24, 1970, President Gerald R. Ford awarded WO1 Rocco the Medal of Honor on December 12, 1974.

Rocco stated, "The president told me it was the first live medal he had placed on any soldier. I told him that it was the first medal I had ever got."



Continued Service

Rocco made a career in the Army and earned an associate degree. He was a member of the United States Army Physician Assistant Program, class number one in 1972.

After 22 years of military service, Rocco retired in 1978 as Chief Warrant Officer Two (CW2). Returning to New Mexico, Rocco was named director of New Mexico's Veterans Service Commission. During his tenure, he established the Vietnam Veterans of New Mexico organization, opened a Veterans' Center which provided peer counseling to Vietnam veterans, started a shelter for the homeless and a nursing home for veterans, and persuaded New Mexico legislators and voters to waive tuition for all veterans at state colleges.

In 1991, Rocco again volunteered for active duty during Operation Desert Storm and trained medics at Fort Sam Houston.

In 2002, he passed away after a battle with lung cancer attributed to Agent Orange exposure. Rocco is buried in the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas.



ARTIFACT HIGHLIGHT

JAPANESE TROPICAL UNIFORM TUNIC

By Rae Whitley



This Japanese Tropical Uniform Tunic was taken from 2nd Lt. Matsui when he surrendered to U.S. forces after the Battle of Okinawa.



The Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) tropical tunic was unlined, made of cotton fabric, and features under-arm ventilation flaps as well as interior pockets.

ARTIFACT HIGHLIGHT CONT.

The multiple wear-repairs and use of wooden buttons, rather than the prescribed Bakelite buttons, are evidence of the limited materials available for the IJA.



Matsui's 2nd Lt Rank insignia is sewn above the left chest pocket.

ARTIFACT HIGHLIGHT

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT LOUIS RICHARD ROCCO'S ARMY UNIFORM COAT

By Rae Whitley and Jessica O'Rourke



Here at the National Museum of Military Vehicles, we are honored to have in our collection one of the Class A uniforms of CW2 Rocco. Below are detailed photos and descriptions of the awards found on this example of CW2 Rocco's military service.

Rocco's uniform coat in the museum's collection is a Class A in shade AG (Army Green) 44. It is made of 100% wool and has the Defense Supply Agency numbers DSA-100-2743, which indicate a manufacture year of 1966.



The top badge is a U.S. Army Combat Medical Badge.

Service ribbons as displayed from top to bottom row, left to right:
First row: Medal of Honor.
Second row: Bronze Star Medal with a bronze oak leaf cluster, and a Purple Heart.
Third row: Army Good Conduct Medal with a bronze clasp device and three loops, National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

Fourth row: Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with two bronze service stars, Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60- device.

Below Rocco's service ribbons is his U.S. Army Parachutist Badge.

ARTIFACT HIGHLIGHT CONT.

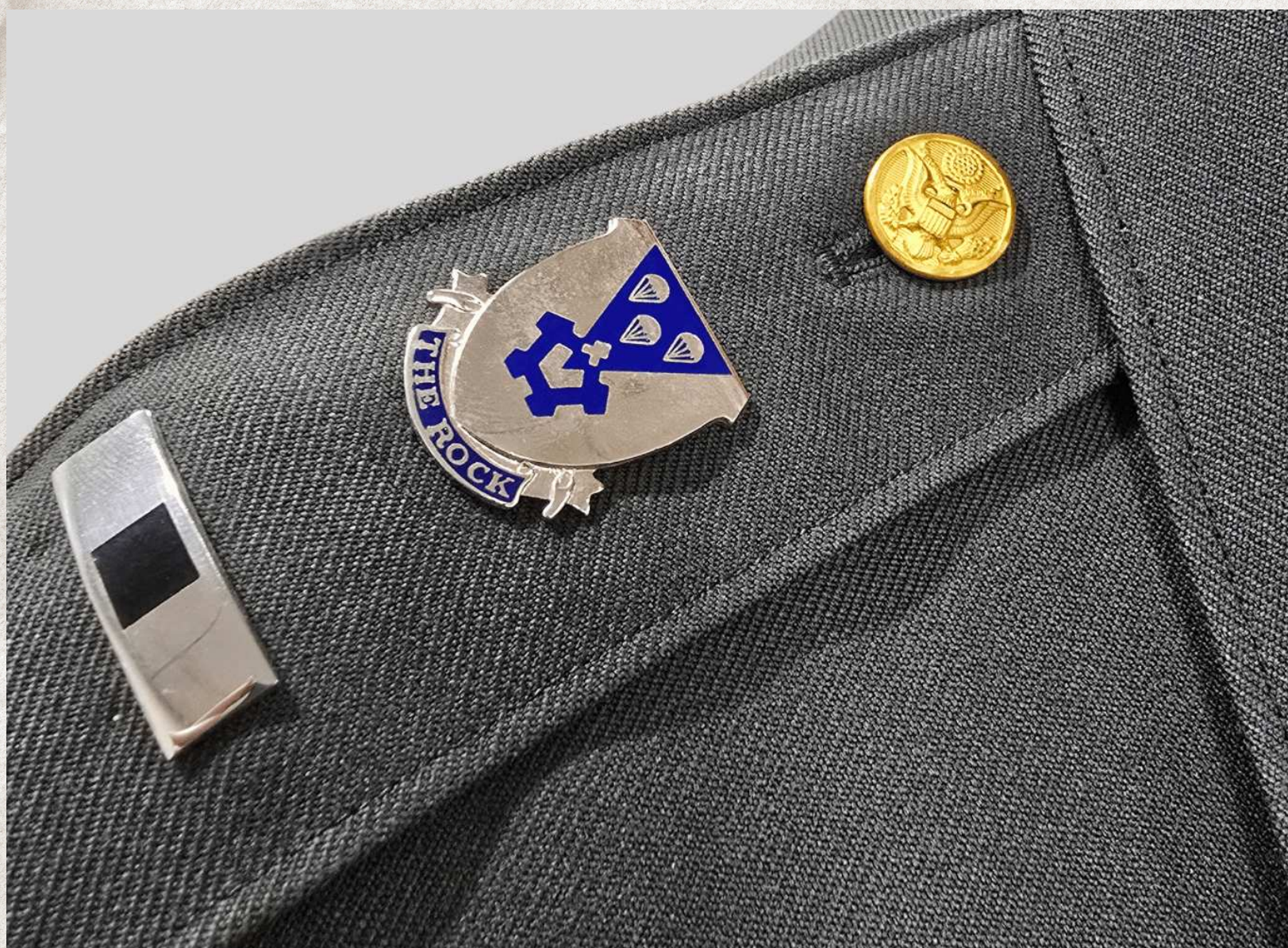


The top badge is a Republic of Vietnam Parachutist Badge. Rocco received two separate unit awards.

They are the following: the Army Meritorious Unit Commendation with two oak leaf clusters (left) and the Vietnam Civil Action First Class Ribbon with palm device (right).



Rocco's Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) Shoulder Sleeve Insignia (SSI), located on his left shoulder sleeve.



Rocco's Warrant Officer 1 rank is denoted on the shoulders by the black bar surrounded by silver.

His Distinctive Unit Insignia (DUI) on this coat represents his time with the U.S. Army's 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment.

TANK RESTORATION FACILITY UPDATE

Our M48A2 AVLB chassis is nearly done with repairs and sand blasting. Next it's moving to the paint booth for a special paint scheme. The two halves of the bridge (stored outside) will occupy the blast boot next. The paint color will be Gray Desert, which incorporates a mix of colors like Sand and Field Drab taking up 90% of the canvas, and Earth Yellow with Black covering the last 10%. It will be in the paint booth next with the tedious task of taping what will not be painted as well as chalking the patterns for colors.

In May, the shop supported the Veterans Fair sponsored by NMMV with two Leopard I Tanks, two Half-tracks, two Dodge Command Cars, and one M135 6x6 truck for display and rides for the public.

This 4th of July we drove 24 tracked and wheeled military vehicles through the crowd lined streets of Dubois. We entered 25 vehicles but one decided at the last minute it wasn't ready for prime time and had to be pulled. It was a very successful show of the team's hard work over the winter/spring months.

We've made significant progress on the M4A2 Sherman project with the installation of various components inside the hull and turret. Great work was done on the driver's instrument panel install as well as the wet storage ammo racks. And in the turret, we have the radios and most electrical components mocked in for identification of wires and cabling that will need repaired or rebuilt.

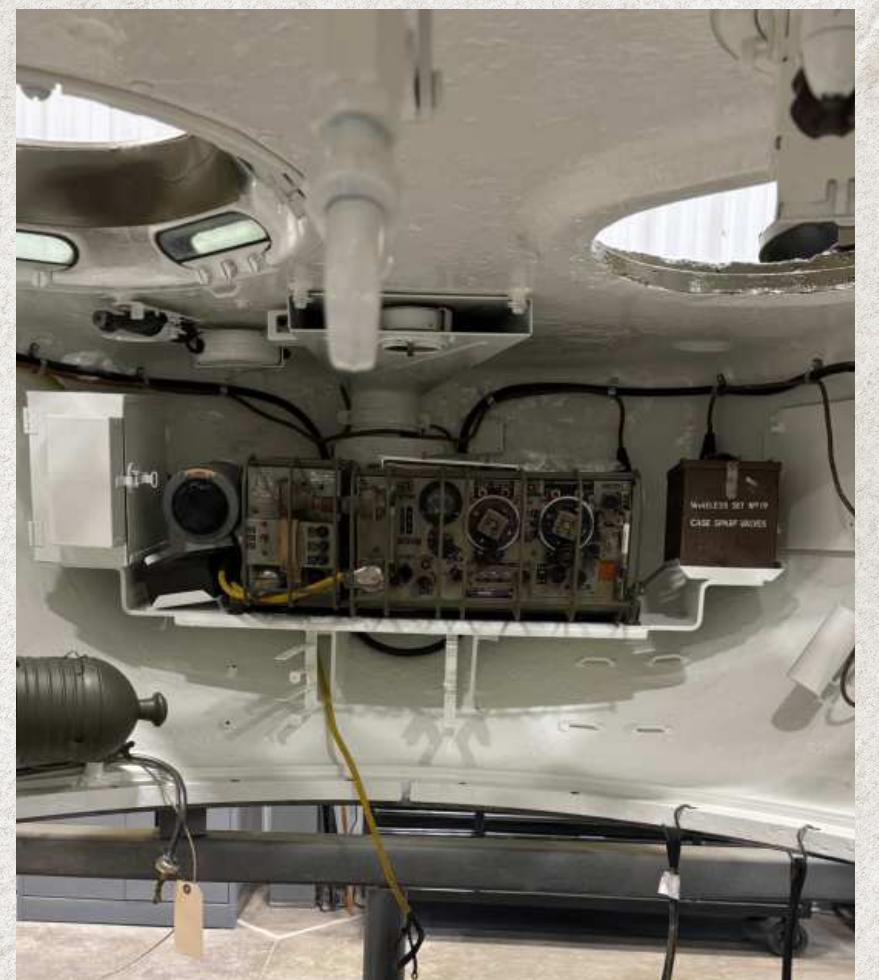
Mike Lamb, Tank Restoration Facility



The M48A2 AVLB chassis in the paint booth.



Mike Lamb, Tank Restoration Facility Supervisor



Interior of the M4A2 Sherman hull showing the driver's instrument panel.

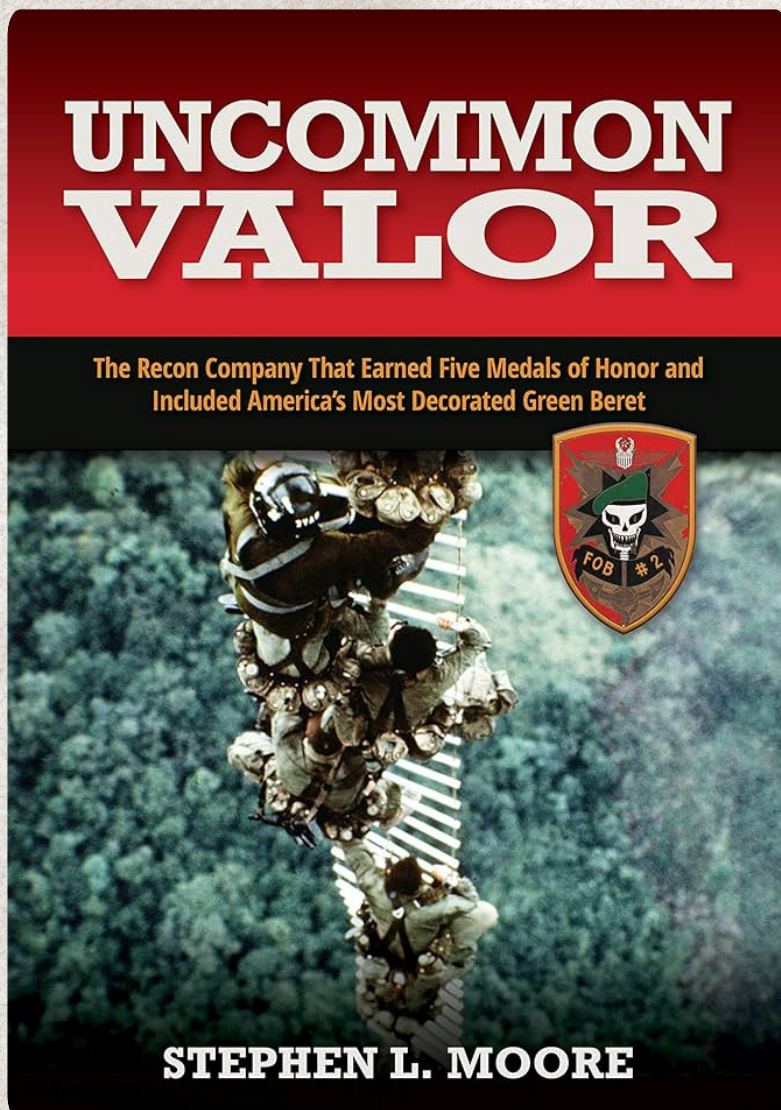


Interior of the M4A2 Sherman hull showing the wet storage ammo racks.

BOOK REVIEW

UNCOMMON VALOR: THE RECON COMPANY THAT EARNED FIVE MEDALS OF HONOR AND INCLUDED AMERICA'S MOST DECORATED GREEN BERET

BY STEPHEN L. MOORE



Stephen L. Moore's *Uncommon Valor* is a gripping and meticulously researched account of one of the most elite and secretive American military units of the Vietnam War: the men of Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV)-Studies and Observations Group (SOG) who were stationed at Forward Operating Base 2 (FOB-2) in Kontum, South Vietnam, during what became known as the "secret war."

Drawing from interviews, after-action reports, declassified documents, and personal letters, Moore tells not only accounts of the battles, but also stories of brotherhood, sacrifice, and the relentless dangers faced by SOG teams infiltrating Laos and Cambodia. This small recon company of handpicked Special Forces operatives volunteered for some of the most dangerous

and classified missions of the war, deep behind enemy lines, earning five Medals of Honor and producing some of the most decorated Special Forces soldiers in American military history.

The "Kontum Thirty-Three"

Operating out of FOB-2 in Kontum, South Vietnam, a few dozen American Green Berets, who called themselves the "Kontum thirty-three," formed recon teams of six to ten men and would insert into dense jungle, far behind enemy lines, to conduct reconnaissance, install wiretaps, sabotage enemy supplies, rescue POWs, and call in airstrikes. Ordered to remove all insignia from their uniforms, such as Special Forces patches, name tapes, rank chevrons, and qualification badges, all of their cross-border gear was exchanged for items of Asian origin.



Gunship over MACV-SOG base FOB-2, Kontum, 1967 (Photo by Lloyd Adams, Athens AL).

If captured, they were to state that they had mistakenly crossed into Laos while searching for a downed aircraft. It was made clear to these volunteers that they were crossing into enemy territory on missions explicitly denied by the United States.

These missions, which routinely resulted in intense firefights, heroic rescues, and heartbreaking losses, were not officially acknowledged for decades, as the U.S. denied any involvement in Laos and Cambodia during the Vietnam conflict. Moore tells the accounts of the extraordinary men who risked their lives for these covert operations and faced staggering odds in the deep jungles littered with North Vietnamese Army (NVA) troops. The book includes harrowing stories of these men evading enemy trackers for days, desperate firefights, and daring extractions under overwhelming fire.

BOOK REVIEW CONT.



President Nixon pinning the Medal of Honor on Robert Lewis "Bob" Howard.

Uncommon Valor begins with the creation of FOB-2 in 1966 and the first volunteers who laid the foundation for what would become one of the most decorated companies in the history of Special Forces. Moore describes the backgrounds, personalities, and stories of men such as Robert L. Howard, one of the most decorated soldiers in U.S. history, who earned his Medal of Honor by saving his team while severely wounded. He also writes of Jon R. Cavaiani, who held enemy forces so others could escape, sacrificed his own safety, and later endured captivity in North Vietnam.

Moore does not dramatize these stories, but rather tells them with a deep respect for the soldiers' words, using a combination of first-person interviews, military records, and declassified reports. He confronts the cost of these operations and does not shy away from the consequences of this "secret war." Many missions resulted in tragedy, and dozens of Green Berets were killed or wounded. Moore walks readers through periods when recon teams were hunted for days, suffered extreme casualties, or were forced to fight to the death rather than be captured. These passages are a sobering tribute to the ultimate price paid by these brave men.

Uncommon Valor in Vivid Detail

Each chapter recounts specific missions in vivid detail as Moore walks the reader through the planning stages, combat situations, and high-risk extractions. He also details the organization of command, support units such as helicopter crews, and the coordination of air assets in these hostile territories. While this book contains plenty of tactical and technical detail, the true emphasis is always on humanity, so that readers are not only educated, but deeply moved by the courage, fear, loyalty, and sacrifice of these men.

The title Uncommon Valor is no exaggeration. This unit earned 5 Medals of Honor, 8 Distinguished Service Crosses, and over 2,000 other valor awards. The perilous missions of this unique group of warriors were classified for decades, and through this book, Moore gives recognition to these brave men who are now honored as some of the most courageous soldiers in U.S. history. For those seeking to understand the courage and sacrifice of MACV-SOG, unwavering brotherhood, and the cost of the Vietnam War's most dangerous missions, this thoroughly researched and authentic account told through declassified documents, firsthand interviews, and letters is an essential read. Uncommon Valor is recommended for military historians, students, and anyone interested in Special Operations Forces or Vietnam War history.



Spike team loading up on 119th slicks, FOB-2, Kontum, 1967 (Photo by Gordon Denniston, Daphne AL).

DID YOU KNOW?

SURPRISING AND LESSER KNOWN FACTS OF MILITARY HISTORY



*Brigadier General
Roosevelt.*

Theodore Roosevelt Jr. was the oldest U.S. serviceman to make the D-Day landing in Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944.

Brigadier General Roosevelt was 56 years old when he went in on the first wave of the Allied invasion on Utah Beach. Roosevelt was not only the oldest soldier to make the D-Day landing at 56 years old, but was also the only U.S. General to do so. If that wasn't enough, Roosevelt's son Quentin also landed with the first wave on Omaha Beach, making them the only father-son duo to make the first wave of the Normandy Invasion.

The Dutch freighter SS *Abosso* was transformed into a floating island to evade Japanese aircraft.

In 1942, after being spotted in the Java Sea, the crew of the SS *Abosso* camouflaged the ship to resemble a small tropical island by painting its decks green, rigging foliage over the superstructure, and even disguising the smokestack as a rock formation.

Japanese pilots flew overhead without realizing it was a ship, allowing the vessel to slip away and survive the war.



The SS Abosso, disguised as an island in 1942.



*U.S. Navy Seaman First
Class Calvin Graham.*

The youngest U.S. servicemen of World War II was just 12 years old.

Calvin Graham, a 7th grader from Crockett, Texas, lied about his age to join the U.S. Navy after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

For his actions during the Battle of Guadalcanal, Graham was awarded the Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. However, when his mother revealed his age, he was dishonorably discharged, and his awards were revoked.

DID YOU KNOW? CONT.



M4A1 Sherman on display in the Museum's Rotunda of American Combat Vehicles.

The M4A1 was both the first, and last Sherman to ever be produced.

The first Sherman tank produced in February of 1942 was the M4A1. The M4A1 was also the last Sherman tank produced for WW2, in July of 1945.

In total, over 9,500 M4A1 Shermans (and their variants) would be produced, accounting for roughly 1/5 of all Shermans ever made.



Joseph "Jumpin' Joe" Beyrle.

U.S. Army paratrooper Joe Beyrle is the only known American soldier to serve in combat with both the United States and the Soviet Union during World War II.

After being captured by the Germans following D-Day, Joe Beyrle escaped a POW camp and joined a Soviet tank battalion, continuing the fight against Nazi Germany.

On the 50th anniversary of D-Day, U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin honored Beyrle in a joint ceremony in Washington, D.C., where he was awarded medals from both countries, including the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.



M36 Jackson on display in the Museum's Marshall Gallery

An M36 "Jackson" took the longest tank destroyer kill of World War II, at 4,600 yards.

On December 1st, 1944, while "experimenting" with the controls of an M36 "Jackson", Lt. Alfred Francis Rose achieved the longest tank destroyer kill of World War II, and one of the longest direct fire tank kills of all time, at 4,600 yards, roughly 2.6 miles.

GUESTS SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS



In the Patton Gallery, you have the opportunity to Share Your Thoughts.

Guests often reflect on their visit to the Museum, Veterans' service and sacrifice, and the price of American freedom.

Reflection

What thoughts or feelings did your visit today inspire?

"I loved it. The tour was very informative and well presented. I think every American should visit this museum, especially the younger generation. Thank you for everything you are doing to preserve our history."

-AT1 (AW/SW) John P. G.

Honor

Who would you like to honor today, and why?

"I want to honor my father who fought in Vietnam. Throughout my childhood I could not understand why he didn't tell us about it— Why wasn't he "proud"? As an adult & after seeing this— I understand. He is & always will be a hero!"

-An Idaho Veteran's Daughter

Patriotism

What does Patriotism mean to you?

Loving your country and serving you country in any capacity. Thank you so much for this beautiful museum. We brought our 7 & 8 year olds here and it prompted conversation on freedom, service, and loyalty. God bless the USA.

-Serafina M.

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**ORIGINAL CONTENT CREATED AND PRODUCED BY
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MILITARY VEHICLES**



**"WWII SHOWED HOW
STRONG AMERICAN
MANUFACTURING IS THE
FOUNDATION OF
AMERICAN FREEDOM"**



**"M36 TANK DESTROYER:
THE FORGOTTEN GIANT
OF WWII"**

**OUR VIDEOS DIVE DEEP INTO THE HISTORY AND USES OF
OUR MILITARY'S VEHICLES AND THE UNIQUE STORIES
THAT ACCOMPANY THEM**

**VIDEOS INCLUDE DYNAMIC CONTENT FROM WITHIN THE
MUSEUM AND BEHIND-THE-SCENES FOOTAGE FROM OUR
TANK RESTORATION FACILITY**

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SUBMISSIONS AND COMMENTS

We accept and appreciate your feedback and submissions regarding *The Quarterly Dispatch*. Suggestions and submissions should be sent to the editors, Libby Andrews and Rae Whitley, at rae@nmmv.org.

Donate to NMMV

If you or your family has a historic artifact for which you are seeking a permanent home, the National Museum of Military Vehicles accepts a limited number of appropriate artifacts for donation.

Please fill out the form on our website, and the correct staff member may contact you directly. This is required so the curatorial department may review your potential donation.

We are grateful to be considered for your donation and appreciate your support!

OUR MISSION

TO HONOR THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF OUR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN FREEDOM.

TO PRESERVE AND SHARE HISTORIC MILITARY VEHICLES.

The National Museum of Military Vehicles is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MILITARY VEHICLES

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SUMMER HOURS

May 26 - Oct. 1, 2025
Open Daily
Museum Galleries:
9:30 AM – 5 PM

REGULAR HOURS

Wednesday – Sunday
Museum Galleries:
9:30 AM – 5 PM

CANTEEN HOURS

Monday–Thursday,
11am–5pm.
Friday–Sunday,
9am–5pm.

CANTEEN WINTER HOURS

Effective October 1.
Wednesday–Sunday,
11am–5pm.
Monday–Tuesday,
CLOSED