Veterans Day weekend was a busy one for the Foundation this year. In addition to our traditional Veterans Day Ceremony on Sunday, November 11, this year the first ever Red, White and Bourbon fundraising event took place at Garrison Brothers Distillery in Hye, Texas on Saturday, November 10. As if that wasn’t enough, our Company K living history regiment and Foundation staff found time to ride in the Fredericksburg Veterans Day parade on Sunday. Read on for highlights of all events and programs.

The weekend kicked off Saturday morning down the road in Hye, Texas at Garrison Brothers Distillery with a flag raising ceremony and Garrison Brothers’ Mike Walsh playing Reveille. Throughout the day, the crowds enjoyed craft beer from Family Business Beer Co., hamburgers from Fischer & Wieser, tacos from Tubby’s Ice House, popcorn from Chase Bank, and a variety of red and white wines
from William Chris Vineyards, Grape Creek Vineyards, Horn Winery, Cicada Cellars and Hye Meadow Winery. There was even a S’mores station at one of the fire pits; the perfect way to warm up on a chilly November day!

When they weren’t sampling bourbon or the other delicious offerings, guests were able to tour the distillery, dance to live music, and partake in a mobile cigar bar from Habana Cowboy. One of the highlights of the day, was the chance for guests to dip their own special red, white, and blue wax bourbon bottles. These red, white, and blue wax dip bottles are unique in that this is the first time Garrison Brothers has used more than one color of wax on their bourbon bottles. The Garrison Brothers team had to develop a special process for the triple-dip and they were kind enough to let some of our Foundation Members help package and pre-dip the blue and white wax layers a couple of weeks before the event. The red dip was added by guests during the event.

When Marketing Director Brandon Vineyard first began talking with Dan Garrison about a collaboration between the Foundation and Garrison Brothers, Dan said he only wanted to do something, “if we did something big.” Red, White and Bourbon was born out of that desire to think big.

The Foundation is thrilled by the partnership with the Garrison Brothers family. In addition to the company’s amazing history of philanthropy, through the 501(c)3 “Good Bourbon for a Good Cause”, the Garrison family has a personal connection to World War II. Dan Garrison’s grandfather Admiral Malcolm Everett “Gary” Garrison was a submarine captain during the war. Stephen Garrison – Admiral Garrison’s son and Dan’s father – shared stories of his father with the crowd during the day, reminding us why we observe Veterans Day.

On Sunday, November 11, the Museum’s annual Veterans Day Ceremony started at 11:00 a.m. to the sound of church bells filling the air as area churches took part in Bells of Peace, a national tolling of bells in remembrance of those who served and sacrificed. Following an invocation by Captain Roger Spencer, USN (Ret), and a welcome by Foundation CEO General Mike Hagee, USMC (Ret), keynote speaker Major General Robert Parker, USAF (Ret) addressed the crowd. General Parker acknowledged the sacrifices made by military families, asking the families of veterans and active duty military to stand alongside their servicemen and women to be recognized. Ambleside School of Fredericksburg performed the National Anthem and a musical selection. The Fredericksburg High School NJROTC participated in the posting of the colors, Pledge of Allegiance and wreath presentation.

After the ceremony, visitors were invited to the Grand Ballroom in the historic Nimitz Hotel to make poppies to wear or share. The poppy has long been associated with Veterans (or Armistice) Day. Tradition holds that it was the first flower to grow in the churned-up earth of soldiers’ graves in Flanders, Belgium following World War I, inspiring the poem “In Flanders Field.”

This year, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, the city of Fredericksburg held its first ever Veterans Day Parade down Main Street. The parade kicked off at 2:00 pm and members of our Company K living history regiment, including active duty servicemembers and veterans, participated in the parade, waving to the crowd from one of our vehicles.
Archives Staff Grows: Meet Helen Stevens-Martin

As many of you already know, our archives and curatorial team has been making headlines in 2018. Thanks to several generous donations, the Nimitz Education and Research Center (NERC) has added a number of important collections this year. Artifacts from the NERC have also been highlighted in a number of documentaries and international television specials. To keep up with the work, we have added a new Associate Archivist, Helen Stevens-Martin, to our Foundation staff.

Helen began working at the Foundation as an archival intern in summer 2018 before transitioning to full-time. Originally from Colorado Springs, Colorado, Helen holds a B.A. in Film Production from the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs and a M.A. in Museum Studies with a graduate certificate in Digital Curation from The Johns Hopkins University. Prior to joining the Foundation, Helen was completing her graduate work and volunteering in the Special Collections at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Helen lives in San Antonio with her husband Christopher, who is active duty in the U.S. Army, and their two sons. Helen said that she was particularly attracted to working at the Museum because it is important to her as a military spouse to preserve the stories of American servicemen and women. “My favorite part of my job is working with the photos in the NERC’s collection and seeing the personal stories behind the photos,” Helen told us. She also has a personal connection to World War II as her grandfather flew over Italy and her grandfather-in-law served in China during the war.

Behind the Tweets: Meet Dani Ice

If you follow the museum on Facebook or Instagram, you might wonder who is behind the posts. Since September, that job has belonged to Dani Ice, the Foundation’s new Social Media Coordinator. Dani came to us from Oklahoma City where she previously worked as a freelance filmmaker, producing and directing movies, commercials, and YouTube content.

Dani has a B.S. in Mass Communications with an emphasis in Creative Media from Oklahoma Christian University. “I was drawn to the job with the Foundation because of the impact it allows me to have. There’s more purpose than with the film work I was doing” she told us. Check out Dani’s creative media skills and follow the National Museum of the Pacific War on social media.

Originally from McKinney, Texas, Dani is thrilled to be back in her home state. Dani and her husband Talon and their two cats – Stella and Guinness – recently made the move to Fredericksburg. Dani and Talon both love to watch curling and are looking for a league in the area. Dani is also an avid photographer, so say hi to her if you see her snapping photos at Foundation events and expect to see her work featured in upcoming issues of the Nimitz News Dispatch!
A long-standing goal of the NMPW and the Admiral Nimitz Foundation has been to acquire a vehicle that could be used to take educational and living history programs on the road. In 2018 that goal became a reality with the purchase of a new mobile education center.

This custom 18-foot long dual-axel trailer was built for the Foundation by Advantage Trailer located in Illinois. The curb side section of the trailer opens up into a stage that can be covered by an awning. The rear ramp means the trailer is handicapped accessible and we can even drive one of our jeeps inside the trailer for transport to off-site events. The front compartment contains plenty of storage for equipment and other items needed for educational programs in our mobile museum.

The trailer also serves as a rolling advertisement for the museum! The artwork on the trailer depicts the Battle of Peleliu and was produced by acclaimed hill country artist Matt Hall. When our education department contacted Mr. Hall for permission to use his artwork on the trailer, Mr. Hall said that he would be “honored to have his work on the trailer as a way to promote education about WWII in the Pacific.”

The trailer has already been on the road to the Dallas air show and the Lytle Middle School outdoor history fair, where it has been a big hit with kids and adults. Look to see the trailer in action at events around the state in 2019.

Leadership Seminar Gets Extreme in 2019

Are you ready for something extreme? Something dangerous? Then join the Admiral Nimitz Foundation for our Annual Leadership Seminar on Friday April 26, 2019 from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm at the Barons Creek Conference Center located at Fredericksburg Inn & Suites.

This year we are honored to welcome Retired Brigadier General Tom Kolditz as our keynote speaker. General Kolditz is the founding Director of the Ann and John Doerr Institute for New Leaders at Rice University in Houston, Texas. He previously led the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership at West Point, served as a leadership and human resources policy analyst in the Pentagon, as a concept developer in the Center for Army Leadership, and was the founding director of the West Point Leadership Center.

During his one hour presentation, General Kolditz will weave his personal experiences and abilities as a soldier, skydiver, and scholar into a first-hand study, analysis, and practice of leadership in dangerous circumstances - in extreme leadership - and how such leadership can inform the practice of leading in more ordinary settings.

Following the keynote presentation, Tammy Pack, Team Founder & Associate Broker of Absolute Charm Real Estate Group and owner of Absolute Charm B&B + Vacation Rentals will give a presentation about leadership for small business owners. Mrs. Pack is an attorney, entrepreneur, broker, and speaker with a special interest in social media marketing.

Tickets can be reserved online at a cost of $25 per person or by contacting Barbara Ford at bford@nimitzfoundation.org. Business Members should contact Amelia White at awhite@nimitzfoundation.org to RSVP.
You’re Invited!

Celebrate the one-year anniversary of the opening of the Oveta Culp Hobby Center and meet Dr. David Shields, the Foundation’s new Education Director at our 2019 Education Department Open House. Tour the Foundation’s new mobile education center, kick the tires on some of the vehicles in our living history fleet, and see our new distance learning technology in action during this come and go event for Foundation members and supporters. Cookies, coffee and cocoa will be served and there will also be a special craft activity for kids.

Saturday, January 12, 2019
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Oveta Culp Hobby Education Center
Parking available at
Pacific Combat Zone

Museum to Hold First Day of Remembrance

February 19th is a significant date for the Japanese American community. On this day in 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which gave the U.S. Army the authority to remove civilians from the military zones established in Washington, Oregon, and California during WWII. This led to the forced removal and incarceration of some 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast, who were sent to one of ten internment camps scattered in desolate, remote regions of the country.

Join us on Saturday, February 23, for our first ever National Day of Remembrance. This program will not only commemorate a difficult time in American history but will also be a celebration of Japanese American contributions during WWII and beyond. Activities include origami making, Japanese food, and screenings of the films “Honor & Sacrifice: The Roy Matsumoto Story” and “Proof of Loyalty: Kazu Yamane and the Nisei Soldiers of Hawaii”. Karen Matsumoto, granddaughter of Roy and the producer of both films, will be present and speak before the screenings about her grandfather’s life and his experience as one of Merrill’s Marauders.

For more details and a full schedule, visit our website at www.pacificwarmuseum.org or contact Barbara Ford at bford@nimitzfoundation.org or 830-997-8600 x225.

Keep Warm this Winter with Gear from our Museum Store

Adult Polar Fleece Jacket - $28
Ladies Sapphire Polar Fleece Jacket - $36
Adult Victory Hooded Sweatshirt - $32

TO ORDER: Call 830-997-8600, x252
ON-LINE: https://store.pacificwarmuseum.org
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Foundation Members Receive a 15% Discount Everyday! Use code MEMBER15
Dear Members,

All of us at the Foundation and National Museum of the Pacific War wish you and your families a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a wonderful 2019.

With your support and the work of our superb staff and volunteers, we experienced another successful year in 2018.

Our Education Department continues to expand its offerings. We recently acquired a new reconfigurable trailer that allows us to take a part of the Museum to schools and other venues across the state. Our Education Director, Bryan Degner, recently decided to transition from full- to part-time and focus his time on improving our school outreach program. Bryan has done a superb job and we were supportive of this move. We have hired a new Education Director, Dr. David Shields. He joins us on 2 January 2019. David was the Historical/Heritage Interpreter and Program Developer at Pilgrim Memorial State Park in Plymouth, Massachusetts. We look forward to him joining the team.

Our Collections Department has recently acquired two significant collections to add to the archives: the George Robert (Bob) Caron Archive (tail gunner on the Enola Gay), and the Captain Roger Pineau USN, Ret. papers (Captain Pineau was a Japanese linguist during WW-II and worked with Professor Morison on his monumental 15-volume history of the U.S. Naval operations in WW-II).

Many thanks to all of you who have already responded to our end-of-year Fund Drive request. If you have not had a chance to respond to this request, I urge you to do so. We have set up a special link on our website to make such a contribution easy. This end-of-year appeal is important in helping us accomplish our overall education mission.

Finally, we look forward to starting the renovation of the Nimitz Gallery located in the old Nimitz Hotel next year. We will provide more information on this effort in next year’s newsletters.

Many thanks for your continued support of the Museum and our important education mission.

Best wishes and Happy New Year,
Mike Hagee

In October, the Navy Junior ROTC classroom of the Fredericksburg High School was dedicated to the memory of Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz. Speakers at the event included General Michael Hagee (USMC, Ret), and Capt. George Fadok (USN, Ret). Also attending were Fredericksburg Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Jeff Brasher, State Representative Kyle Biedermann and Mayor Linda Langerhans. The Cadet Choir provided the music. As part of the ceremony, Jordan Nimitz and Clayton Ellebracht helped to cut the ribbon, and a Texas flag, which had flown over the capital in Austin, was presented by State Representative Biedermann to decorate the classroom.
Nimitz Junior Corps Expands in 2019

Through fun games, exhibit exploration, art, and science the Nimitz Junior Corps aims to create the next generation of history enthusiasts, museum stewards, and good citizens. This popular program has traditionally been held once a quarter, but will be offered monthly in 2019. Read the descriptions below to find out what’s in store for 2019.

Nimitz Jr. Corps is open free of charge to children ages 8-12 and runs from 1:00pm-3:00pm. Participation is limited to the first 15 registrants each session. Contact Barbara Ford at 830-997-8700 ext. 225 or bford@nimitz-foundation.org for more information.

Texans Pitch In: Texas during WWII
January 19, 2019 & February 16, 2019
Learn how Texans of all ages helped win the war.

V for Victory!: Gardens
March 16, 2019 & April 20, 2019
Experience one delicious way American citizens contributed to the war effort and learn about rationing required during WWII and then plant your own Table Top Victory Garden to take home!

Where in the World?: Geography of WWII
May 18, 2019 & June 15, 2019
Have you ever wondered where Pearl Harbor or Iwo Jima are located? Here is your chance to find out. We will use our scale model map and other resources to explore the high seas of the Pacific! Corps members will also learn about typhoons and what kind of creatures lurk in those waters.

East Meets West: The Japanese During WWII
July 20, 2019 & August 17, 2019
Learn about what life was like for Japanese and Japanese Americans during WWII. Create origami, learn a few Japanese words, and find out what it was like to grow up in a Japanese internment camp.

Mystery of the Museum: Behind the Scenes
October 19, 2019
Learn what really makes the museum tick with a behind the scene look at how exhibits are made, where educators do their research, and how we keep the Japanese Garden growing. They will also meet the hard-working museum staff which makes this a great opportunity for a student who wants to learn more about working in a museum!

Your Very Own USO Show!
November 16 & December 21
The United Service Organization was created in 1941 as a way to keep military service members connected to family, home, and country during WWII. Watch the likes of Bob Hope and Lucille Ball give their best to the troops before trying your hand at designing a set, preparing costumes, and performing for your friends and family.

New Exhibit Looks at Wartime Music

A new temporary exhibit, Songs of the Patriot: American Sheet Music from the First and Second World Wars, opens in the Temporary Gallery on Friday, February 1 and runs through July 28, 2019. Songs of the Patriot takes viewers back in time to the American wartime fronts at home and abroad through the cover art and lyrics of popular sheet music from 1940 to 1945. The exhibit explores how music publishers, songwriters and cover artists expressed a range of American wartime feelings from anti-war statements to rallying support for troops overseas. It also explores the booming sheet music industry, printing and chromolithography, and the significance of piano playing as a form of home entertainment.

This exhibit is curated by Hollingsworth Fine Arts and its exhibition at the museum was made possible in part by a generous grant from Humanities Texas.

Foundation members are invited to an exclusive exhibit opening on Thursday, January 31, 2019. Keep an eye on your email and our website for details!
Thank You To Our Members

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation wishes to recognize members of our Fleet Admiral Nimitz Legacy Society, our Business Members and those individuals who belong to the three highest levels of Membership:

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Heroes are Standing By: The Pacific Medals of Honor

“THE PRICE OF FREEDOM” AT TARAWA: STAFF SERGEANT WILLIAM J. BORDELON, USMC
By Kent Knudson

By November 1943, the United States and her allies had strategically prevailed in its military initiatives and responses in the southwest and southern Pacific. It had also limited the northern and eastern limits of Japanese expansion. The stage was set for Admiral Chester Nimitz and his forces to go on the offensive. The “island-hopping” Central Pacific Drive by way of the Marshall, Caroline, and Mariana island groups, Okinawa, and Iwo Jima would lead to Tokyo.

Initially, planning was underway for operations in the Marshall Islands. However, difficulties in that strategy led Nimitz to favor a limited objective to allow testing of the amphibious doctrine that had been developed by the Marines in the decade before the war. It was decided that the potential threat of the Japanese airfield and garrison poised on the island of Betio, part of Tarawa Atoll in the Gilbert Islands, should be neutralized. The first American offensive in the Central Pacific would be given the working title of Operation GALVANIC.

Betio, an island only two miles long and 800 yards wide, had been heavily fortified over the previous year and manned with 4,500 Japanese defenders. The Marines were to deploy 18,600. Nimitz told his staff his intent: “Get the hell in and get the hell out.” The 76-hour battle, unlike other previous landings, would be a truly opposed landing. It would be a costly and difficult experience.

Staff Sergeant William J. Bordelon had enlisted in the Marine Corps three days after the attack on Pearl Harbor and was sent to San Diego for boot camp. Bordelon was born on Christmas Day, 1920, in San Antonio, TX, the son of William and Carmen Bordelon. He graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1938 where he was the top-ranking cadet and the battalion major his senior year in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Assigned to the 2nd Engineer Battalion within the 2nd Marine Division in San Diego, he rapidly climbed the ranks. He deployed in October 1942 from San Diego to New Zealand for additional training work-ups and fought on Guadalcanal from January-February 1943 before being sent back to New Zealand. Although he was assigned as a combat engineer to Assault Engineer Platoon, 1st Battalion, 18th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, he would tactically deploy for Tarawa attached to the 2nd Battalion.

As part of the D-day assault wave on 20 November, Bordelon and his fellow Marines were heading towards the landing beach in an LVT from the USS Zeilin (APA-3). As the tractor approached the shore, designated “Red Beach 2,” it landed fifteen yards from onshore weaponry that provided sustained enemy fire that killed all but four of the men in the LVT.

Leaving the craft and finding cover behind a Japanese defensive seawall, Bordelon hurriedly made demolition charges. One of the first Marines to cross the seawall, he personally put the two nearest pill boxes out of action with these charges. He was destroying a third distant machine-gun bunker with another when he was hit by enemy fire, detonating a charge that exploded in his hand. Although seriously injured, he continued the fight. He obtained a rifle and provided covering fire for a group of Marines attempting to scale the seawall. Bordelon rescued one of his wounded demolition men who was calling for help in the water as well as another Marine who had been wounded attempting to rescue the Marine in the surf. Refusing medical aid for himself, Bordelon obtained a grenade launcher and was single-handedly assaulting a fourth Japanese machine-gun position when he was killed by enemy fire as he destroyed the bunker. The 22-year-old’s valor and inspiring example during those fifteen minutes of action secured a limited beachhead so reinforcements could follow during a key phase of the landing, directly contributing to the island’s occupation by the Marines.

Historian Joseph Alexander wrote that “few battles have ever matched Tarawa’s concentrated violence at point-blank range in such a compressed period” and stated that the battle’s legitimacy would be to validate the largely—until then—untested amphibious doctrine under the absolute worst possible conditions. He noted “if amphibious doctrine worked there, it could work anywhere.” The Japanese outer defense perimeter had been breached. Admiral Nimitz and his staff would apply the brutal lessons learned during the Battle of Tarawa to future Central Pacific island campaigns.

SSGT Bordelon was buried initially in the Lone Palm Cemetery on Tarawa and later reinterred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu after the war. At the request of his siblings, his remains were reburied on November 20, 1995 at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, fifty-two years after his death. The evening before, his flag-draped casket attended by a Marine Corps honor guard lay in state at the Alamo for public remembrance. He was the fifth person honored in this manner. His Medal of Honor—presented to his parents at a June 1944 ceremony at San Antonio’s Alamo Stadium—is displayed here at the National Museum of the Pacific War along with Carmen Bordelon’s Gold Star Mothers pin, courtesy of his family. Both are within an exhibit appropriately titled “The Price of Freedom.”
Upcoming Events

January 12  Education Department Open House
January 19  Nimitz Jr. Corps
January 31  Songs of the Patriot Exhibit Opening
February 16  Nimitz Jr. Corps
February 18  Battle of Iwo Jima Lecture
February 23  Day of Remembrance
February 24  Admiral Nimitz Birthday Program
March 9 & 10  Pacific Combat Program
March 16  Nimitz Jr. Corps

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Our Partnership with the Texas Historical Commission: Working together by agreement as a state agency and a non-profit organization, the THC and Admiral Nimitz Foundation formed a new public/private partnership created to preserve the historic resources of the National Museum of the Pacific War and guide the expansion of the Museum. It is the only institution in the continental United States dedicated exclusively to telling the story of the Pacific Theater battles of World War II.

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation is a 501(c) 3 non-profit foundation eligible for corporate matching grants. Foundation members may forward any forms for matching gift programs with their membership contributions.

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On Wednesday, December 5, the Museum held a ceremony honoring the life of President George H.W. Bush next to his plaque in the Presidential Plaza. President and CEO of the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, Mike Hagee, General, USMC (Ret), made the following statement upon: “It was with a great sadness that we learned of President George H.W. Bush’s passing. From his service in World War II until the very end, he epitomized the ideal public servant and statesman, always thoughtful, generous and considerate. I enjoyed knowing him and learning from him. We will all miss him. We are proud to have our main gallery at the Museum named in his honor. We send our deepest and most sincere condolences to his entire family.”