



NEWSLETTER

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Our mission is to support and sustain the Oregon Military Museum through partnership, education, procurement, and preservation of military history and resources, OMMP celebrates the stories of Oregon's veterans.

The Oregon Military Museum Mission is:

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

Much is happening at the **Oregon Military Museum (OMM)** that we want to share with all of you. While the landscape of our daily lives has changed significantly with the onset of the COVID-19



pandemic, progress has remained constant at the Museum. In addition to experiencing changes both to our non-profit organization, *Oregon Military Museum Project (OMMP)*, and Museum staff, work has continued forward on exhibits and the upcoming grand reopening. We look forward to sharing this great news with you, our Museum patrons!

Curator and Museum Director, Tracy Thoennes, retired in March of this past year. Her amazing legacy will forever remain with

the Museum. We were incredibly fortunate, however, to find her replacement at the *Oregon Historical Society*. Kathleen Sligar, a former employee of the OMM until 2014, was hired to take over the Museum. Her leadership and expertise in a museum environment has been evident from Day 1 and we feel very fortunate to have her.

In addition, we were extremely fortunate to receive authorization to hire an additional person to support Kathleen late last year. As Director of Programs & Services, Katrina O'Brien will oversee the volunteer, outreach, education, and research programs for the Museum. Katrina brings with her extensive museum experience from working several years at the recently closed *World of Speed* museum. She has hit the road running, already making strides with upcoming events and plans for reopening. She'd love to hear from you if you're interested in volunteering at the Museum.

Several restored macro artifacts from a Pre-WW1 siege gun to a WW2 Indian motorcycle were temporarily positioned in the main exhibit hall pending the completion of the final exhibit design. Installation is slated for later this year!

The center piece is the now fully assembled F-86 Sabre fighter jet. Outside, changes have also occurred with the construction of the tracked vehicle pad, now serving as a home for four of our tanks. A fifth and final tank, the very large M1 Abrams, will be positioned there later this year. Kudos to our awesome volunteers, plus support from corporate entities, for relocating these massive artifacts.



The most significant progress, however, has been in moving forward with the completion of the Museum's first generation of exhibits. In 2019, the Oregon State legislature authorized \$2 million towards their completion. Funding was structured such that it would not become available until 2021. Additionally, thanks to generous private donors, the OMMP transferred a significant sum to the Oregon Military Department to support exhibits featuring the Korean War, *Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix* in Afghanistan, and *Operation Katrina* in Louisiana.



Last year, a bid process was completed with several design/fabrication firms competing for the contract. The award was made to Virginia-based team Color-Ad, Inc. and Riggs Ward Design LC. The initial kickoff meetings have been held and a formal charrette process is forthcoming. The end product will be professionally designed exhibits, complete with interactive displays, showcasing artifacts and images from the Museum's collection that bring to life Oregon's military heritage and legacy. The rough target for completion is early 2023. We intend to conduct 'soft openings' and other special events prior to the grand opening.

The Museum is excited to be able to host events in its new spaces, with its first in late April. The first event will be a volunteer workshop hosted by the Oregon Military Department's Family Readiness Group, utilizing the remodeled classroom in our Education Wing. The same weekend, the Oregon National Guard Association's annual conference will host a social get-together at the Museum following its business and training sessions at the Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) on Camp Withycombe.

OMMP continues to support the Museum while recently having its own changes in leadership. Victor Lam, our Treasurer, resigned from the Board in 2021 as part of a planned departure. We added Dave Kingsella, an executive with a national radio/media company. Our Executive Director, Amy Maxwell, resigned last summer to devote more time to her business which was regaining traction after lockdown. She continues to provide assistance as we transition. Dan O'Hollaren remains as President.



Fundraising efforts were held around Memorial Day 2021. In addition to a raffled spa weekend at the *Stephanie Inn* in Cannon Beach, OR, *Stickmen Brewery* hosted an all-day fundraiser. OMMP promoted the Museum and received a

percentage of Stickmen’s total sales that day. Approximately \$3500 was raised during these two fundraising events.

The completed **Museum Store** has now received an initial inventory of items highlighting OMM’s logo. T-shirts, coffee mugs, pint glasses, hats, and key chains are now available for sale. The Store will provide a revenue stream to our non-profit organization, OMMP, allowing us to provide direct support to the Museum. One example of this now being funded by OMMP is installation of a public Wi-Fi system covering the Education Wing, Museum Store, and Lobby areas. Our plan is to extend this coverage throughout the building, to include the Thomas E. Withycombe Library.



As a reminder, OMMP is registered with AmazonSmile. For those who utilize Amazon, please consider adding OMMP as your charity of choice. For qualified purchases, \$0.5% will be directed to us! To join, access: www.smile.amazon.com and log in using your Amazon account information. When prompted, enter “Oregon Military Museum Project” into the search bar and follow instructions from there. Its fast, easy, and another way to support our mission.

The Oregon Military Museum is entering a very exciting time – moving forward to a full opening in 2023. As patrons, veterans, 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, honor veterans, and preserve our military heritage.