



January, February,
and March 2024

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Look What’s Happening at the Museum

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ **January 1, 2024 - CLOSED for the holiday!**
- ◆ January 15, 2024 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - CLOSED
- ◆ **February 12, 2024 - MOVIE NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM! (see pg. 2)**
- ◆ February 19, 2024 - Presidents’ Day - CLOSED
- ◆ **March 16, 2024 - Author Linda McCann (see pg. 3)**

WINTER HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 am—2:00 pm

Sunday - Monday *Closed*

Welcome Ben Elliott to the Museum Staff



The museum is proud to welcome Ben Elliott as our new Museum Guide/Volunteer Coordinator.

Ben has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Art History from the University of Iowa. Ben is originally from Cedar Rapids and moved to Des Moines with his wife in 2020. Ben stated that Des Moines has become our home and we love it here.

When asked why did Ben choose the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum to begin his career in the museum world, he states that he was drawn to the Gold Star Military Museum because of its dedicated staff and volunteers. “It’s been a pleasure meeting everyone and I look forward to contributing to the museum’s mission.”

Ben replaces Conrad Wiser who has moved on to other career opportunities.



Iowa Gold Star Military Museum
7105 Northwest 70th Avenue
Johnston, Iowa 50131
Phone: (515) 252-4531

MUSEUM STAFF

- State Quartermaster..... Colonel Michael Harris
- Museum Director Sherrie Colbert
- Museum Curator Michael W. Vogt
- Volunteer Coordinator..... Ben Elliott

Check out more events and event information at our website:

<https://goldstarmuseum.iowa.gov/>

AROUND THE MUSEUM

MOVIE NIGHT AT THE MUSUEUM

Monday, 12 February 2024 movie:
"Stalingrad" 2021

Monday, 11 March 2024 movie:
"All Quiet on the Western Front" 2022

Movies will begin at 6:00 pm.



Cookies with Santa!



Iowa National Guard - Child and Youth Programs
Museum Volunteer: *Michael Golightly*

Do you have a story that you would like recorded about your military service?

We would like for you to be a part of our
Veteran Oral History Stories.

Please contact Sara Robinson at 515-710-9869 or
by email sararobinsonvideo@yahoo.com

Scan the QR
code to start
your museum
aerial tour!

Iowa Gold Star
Military Museum

Aerial Tour



AROUND TOWN

Museum Volunteer, Larry Wright, gave an outstanding presentation at Wesley Life in Des Moines regarding his military service during the Vietnam War. There were over 70 residents in attendance.

Would you like the museum to present to your group? We would love to share the museum or a veteran's story with you.

Please contact Sherrie Colbert at 515-2252-4531 or sherrie.colbert@iowa.gov to arrange a visit.





THE IOWA GOLD STAR MILITARY MUSEUM PRESENTS:

IOWA AUTHOR LINDA MCCANN

SATURDAY, MARCH 16TH, 2024 AT 11:00 AM

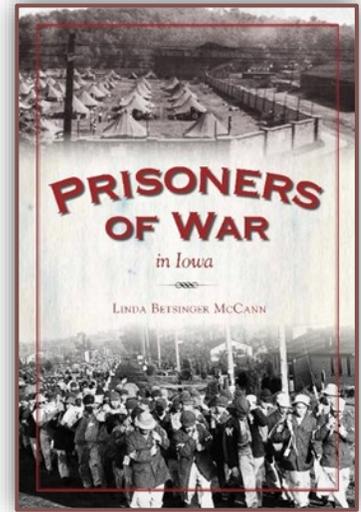
The AUTHOR'S INFO was composed by Linda's 19-year-old granddaughter, PJ. She loves to write too, and wants to write fiction. This is PJ's first published writing, and as you can imagine, her Grandma is very proud of her!

Linda Betsinger McCann has lived in Iowa her entire life. Her ancestors settled in Iowa by sometime in the 1850s, and Linda very much enjoys researching the genealogy of her family. When her first granddaughter, Patricia, was born Linda decided she needed to put her research and findings into readable form for her

granddaughter and for all the future grandchildren. Linda McCann is known by many people for her research, speaking engagements, and her books, but I know her as Grandma. Almost every author has been asked why he or she writes. For my Grandma, the answer is simple. She writes for me. She writes for my sister, my brother, and my cousin; all her grandchildren. She truly wants her grandchildren to be proud Iowans just like she is, and to know the history of where they came from.

My grandma also writes to preserve this history, that might otherwise be lost, just like some of the towns she writes about. All of us grandchildren love hearing about her adventures to other towns and the interesting people she meets during the process of writing each book. We have also

become more interested in our family background and the history of the area immediately around us.



This is my Grandma's 36th book overall, and the tenth book published by The Iowan Books. Along with her writing, she also enjoys speaking to groups and at libraries about her books.

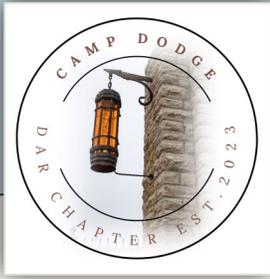
Pictures like this one can be seen at the museum!

Tour information found on our website:
<https://goldstarmuseum.iowa.gov/visit>

COME CHECK US OUT!



A photo of women working during WWII part of the Iowa Rosie the Riveter lecture by Linda McCann.



Daughters of the American Revolution



Did you ever wonder about

Gettysburg Address and the Apostles' Creed used in most Christian churches.

DAR, Registrar – Sharleen Newton at twinbabya@mchsi.com .

the Daughters of the American Revolution – who they are? what they do? why they exist? Here's one little bit of interesting information. At every DAR meeting the daughters recite "The American's Creed". The words of the creed have profound meaning.

It was written by Mr. William Tyler Page in 1917 as a submission to a nationwide patriotic contest inspired by the beginning of the American entry into the First World War. The goal was to have a concise but complete statement of American political faith. Mr. Page worked his whole life at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. His submission was chosen over 3,000 other entries and accepted in 1918 by the U.S. House of Representatives and placed in the "Congressional Record", No. 102, April 13, 1918. He was awarded \$1,000 and he used the money to purchase Liberty Bonds for the war effort. Mr. Page said he was inspired by the U.S. Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, Abraham Lincoln's

The American's Creed is not an expression of individual opinion. It is a summary of the fundamental principles as set forth in its greatest documents, its worthiest traditions and by its greatest leaders. Today The American's Creed is often part of and recited at many patriotic organizations – including the Daughters of the American Revolution.

To find out more about the Daughters of the American Revolution and their mission of education, historic preservation and patriotism, please go to the national website: dar.org.

If you are interested in DAR membership, please contact the Camp Dodge Chapter,

Please view our chapter's website at: <https://isdar.org/chapters/campdodge/>

The Camp Dodge Chapter, DAR, is grateful for the opportunity to meet frequently at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum at Camp Dodge – where we proudly recite The American's Creed.



Chapter Regent Karla Wright is shown here ringing the bell at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum to commemorate Constitution Day.

The American's Creed

by William Tyler Page

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

History - Celebration of Women

The museum celebrates both Black and Women's History Months. These are some of impressive and impactful individuals who will be highlighted this coming February and March on our website.

<https://goldstarmuseum.iowa.gov/>



Cheney M. Spaulding

From Fort Dodge, Iowa.
Enlisted in September 2015 as a
Survey Meteorological
Crewmember.



Dakota A. Doocy

From Lone Rock, Iowa
Enlisted in October 2015 as a
Field Artillery Firefinder Radar
Operator



**Lieutenant General
Michelle D. Johnson**



Colonel Sonya L. Morrison



**Second Lieutenant
Marjorie Gertrude
Morrow**



**Women's Army Corps Major Charity Adams 6888th Central
Postal Directory Battalion commander and Army Capt.
Abbie Noel Campbell, 6888th executive officer.**



Hazel Dixon Payne (center)

History - Celebration of Black History Month



Dr. James Bowman



Simon Estes

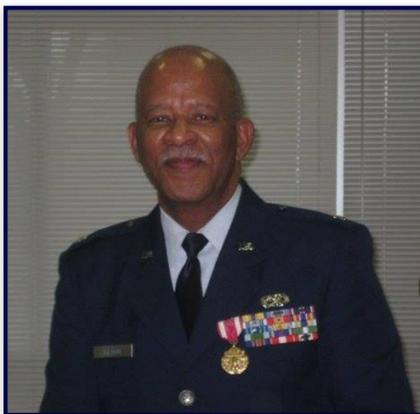


Karlos Kirby



Caesar Smith

Learn more about these lowans and other exciting content about freedom, coming to the museum's website in February.



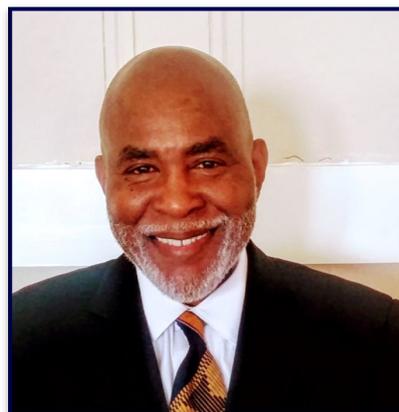
Tony Wilson



Dr. Dau Jok



Dr. Vincent Lewis



Arnold Woods

Iowa Tuskegee Airmen

William V. Bibb - Ottumwa

James E. Bowman - Des Moines

Russell L. Collins - Cedar Rapids

Maurice V. Esters - Webster City

Joseph P. Gomer - Iowa Falls

Robert L. Martin - Dubuque

George R. Miller - Des Moines

Clarence A. Oliphant - Council Bluffs

Robert M. Parkey - Des Moines

Luther H. Smith - Des Moines

Thurman E. Spriggs - Des Moines

Robert W. Williams - Ottumwa

Snapshot of History

Rufus B. Jackson

WWI Veteran from Iowa

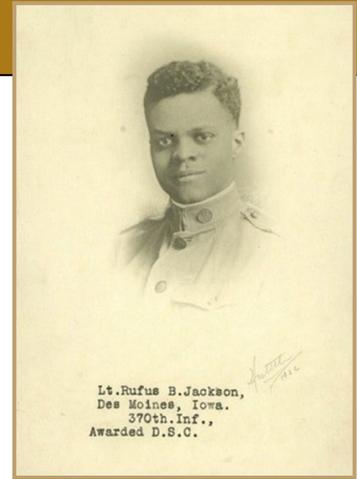
Sherrie Colbert, Museum Director

Rufus B. Jackson, a 1914 graduate of East High School and student at Iowa State College, (now Iowa State University), enlisted in the army in June of 1917 forgoing his senior year. He was promoted to second lieutenant less than a year later and received the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action near Farm La Folie, France, on Sept. 28, 1918. The award states that having been ordered to use his Stokes mortars in wiping out machine gun nests that had been resisting the advance of his company, Lt. Jackson made a personal reconnaissance by crawling to the enemy's lines to locate the nests. Accomplishing his purpose, he returned and directed the fire, silencing the guns and saving the lives of hundreds of soldiers.

So why didn't Rufus B. Jackson receive the Medal of Honor? During WWI there were several officers, including Colonel Thomas A. Roberts, a white officer placed above Jackson's unit, that did not believe the Black American soldiers should be in military service.

There is a great article by Courtney Crowder, Des Moines Register, April 3, 2022, that I encourage you to look up and read, that gives a great account of Mr. Jackson's service and valor on that day and more about his life in Des Moines and his accolades as a great debater at Des Moines East High School and Iowa State College (now University).

The article also features a senior military analyst at the George S. Robb Centre, Josh Weston, who conducts valor medal reviews to identify World



War I service members who may not have received a Medal of Honor because they were part of a minority group. With the work of people like Josh Weston, I believe that Rufus B. Jackson will finally receive his Medal of Honor 100+ years after his heroic actions.

A few of Jackson's letters home from the battlefield can be found in the State Historical Society of Iowa's copies of *The Iowa Bystander* newspaper.

Curator Corner

U.S. Marine Corps

M1 Helmet and Liner

Richard H. Shipley, Museum Intern, Johnston High School

Adopted in 1941 to replace the M1917A1 helmet, the M1 helmet became an icon of the U.S. Military and saw service during WWII, the Korean and the Vietnam Wars until phased out in the late 1980s.

A unique two-piece design used an outer steel shell and an inner fiber liner. A reversible cloth helmet cover provided additional camouflage. The cover was stretched around the helmet with its flaps folded inside of the steel shell and held in place by inserting the liner. An elastic band was

added around the helmet during the Vietnam War. The liner sweatband could be adjusted for size.

Many helmets from WWII were updated and reissued to troops during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The helmet shown here exemplifies a reissued updated helmet. A heat batch number on the helmet interior indicates that the steel shell was produced sometime between March and May of 1944. The liner's Westinghouse Electric manufacturer mark dates it to no later than 1945 when their contract was canceled. The steel shell has a stainless-steel rim around the edge

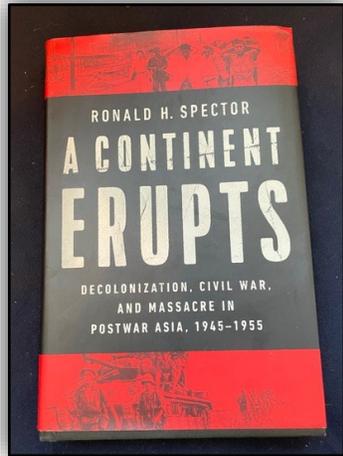


that is seamed in the front. This detail was changed to a manganese steel rim seamed in the rear of the helmet on all steel helmets produced after November of 1944. The leather sweatband inside the liner is a different, darker shade of olive drab compared to the rest of the suspension. The dark OD #7 sweatband is dated 1951 while the lighter OD #3 cloth portions date to WWII.

A Continent Erupts by Ronald H. Spector

Reviewed by Bill Fanter

I was born in September of 1944. World War II was a couple of months away from the definitive Battle of the Bulge and there were months of hard fighting ahead in Europe. The tide had just begun to turn in the Pacific with difficult island hopping ahead in the Spring and Summer of 1945. As I have looked back at the condition of the world at the time of my birth, I realized there was a huge gap in my education of world history which omitted the immediate post war years in Asia in particular. This book released by Ronald Spector in 2022 provided a welcome, albeit, tardy education.



The United States, indeed, the world in general was war-weary in 1945. We were focused with how to return to non-wartime normalcy and concerned with the emerging Cold War and the changes occurring behind the Soviet "Iron Curtain", the term first proclaimed by Winston Churchill in his visit to America in 1946. Our Allies who had suffered so much in occupied Western Europe during the war had greater problems of their own. These Allies were involved in rebuilding both infrastructure and their domestic economy as well as their families which had been torn apart by the conflict. Everyone had problems of their own which seemed insurmountable. The Marshal Plan represented one attempt to curb the appetite of the Soviets in this post-war era.

Half a world away the fighting never really stopped. By early 1947 full scale wars were raging in China, Indonesia, and Vietnam with glowing embers of more conflict in Korea and Malaya. Within a decade after the Japanese surrender almost all of the countries of South, East, and Southeast Asia that had formerly been occupied by the Japanese or been colonies of the European powers of Britain, France, and The Netherlands experienced wars and conflicts that

resulted in the deaths of at least 2.5 million combatants. Wars for independence are savage wars. One commentator estimates the number of civilians who died at sixteen million in China, five million in the Korean War, and 300,000 in the Indonesian War of Independence. The stability which had been fostered by a ruthless Japanese presence dissolved like spring snow.

The third world countries of Asia were hungry for independence after WW II and, with the sudden defeat of the Japanese colonial power which had long been dominant, a power vacuum beckoned activists to

assert their claims to independence. Consider that FDR had spoken clearly about condemning colonialism and imperialism and had, indeed, advocated for independence and democratic governance. Moreover, he had fashioned the model of the Philippine independence in 1945 facilitating Nationalism to flourish. But Nationalism without democracy would not fit the FDR model. The sponsors of Communism saw the opportunity just as did the sponsors of Democracy. The competing forces rushing to fill the Japanese void would lead to decolonization, civil war, and massacre in postwar Asia, 1945-1955.

The Southeast Asia mainland and archipelago island nations were rich in oil, rubber, and agricultural products. Malaysia was colonized by Britain but civil wars seeking independence occurred during WWII and China pressed hard to establish a Communist government. The Netherlands presence was quickly swept away when they could not resist the press for independence arising within Indonesia (Netherlands Indies). Vietnam was occupied by Japan and Ho Chi Minh led a revolution which began in the 1940s to separate from the colonial control by France. Like Britain and the

Netherlands, France was both fatigued and impoverished from WWII but it stubbornly resisted independence trying to retain its tarnished international prestige. By 1954 the siege of Dien Bien Phu finished the French presence in Vietnam.

China involved a huge conflict of its own making. The efforts by Chaing Kai-shek to establish a nationalist power were met by the Communist PLO of Mao Zedong and a huge war dragged out over seven years. It extended throughout China after the Japanese were forced out with their surrender and involved much fighting in Manchuria. Eventually Chaing retreated to Taiwan setting the stage for internal instability within China for the next 70 years.

China exerted influence in Korea to foster communism eventually stimulating the need for United Nations intervention by 1950. It remains the primary armorer of North Korea along with the Soviets.

During the decade following the Japanese surrender almost all of the countries of South, East, and Southeast Asia that formerly had been colonies of the European powers or conquests of the Japanese became independent nations. Remarkably, the great upheaval in the world to our east would become a legacy left to the west filled with little known, but decisive events. They were not mere offshoots of the Cold War but independent earthquakes all along the Pacific rim. In the course of their emancipation, the peoples of the former colonies and foreign-dominated areas split into rival factions and movements, all with claims to leadership and legitimacy in their new nations.

This book fills a huge area of underreported history following WW II which has had a profound impact on the post-war era of the world. The decade from 1945-1955 scattered seeds of disruption which grew to major conflicts during my life.

Asia is complicated. This book helps us see the past and imagine the future more clearly. It's a great read...especially in these times.