



PASS IN REVIEW

“Shedding Light On Idaho’s Military History”

4th Quarter

December 2009

MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTIONS

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Idaho Military Historical Society was held on 21 October 2009. At the meeting, the Annual election was held for three members of the Board of Directors.

Elected were *Bill Beck, Bill Miller and Bob Lytle.*

The new Board then met and reorganized by electing its new officers for the coming year. Those officers are:

- President – Russ Trebby*
- Vice-President – Rick Johnson*
- Secretary – Gayle Alvarez*
- Treasurer – Gary Donnelly*

Congratulations to all! ☆

5TH ANNUAL NIGHT FIRE

The 5th Annual Veterans Day Night Fire was held on 7 November 2009 at the Museum. Guests included the Civil War Reenactors, WWII Reenactors, the Idaho Automatic Weapons Collectors Assn and members of BSUs ROTC.



BSU ROTC Cadets

As darkness fell, the guns and their crews gave our guests the show they had come for.



1857 Napoleon cannon, often used during the Civil War



Ken Swanson models a Civil War uniform



75mm Pack Howitzer, often used during WWII



Russ Trebby models a German WWII uniform



M1897A4 75mm Field Gun. This gun was standard U.S. Army Direct Support Artillery until replaced by the 105mm Towed Howitzer in the late 1930s.



Visitors tour the Museum exhibits and visit the booths of the Idaho Automatic Weapons Collectors Association and the Idaho Army National Guard.



Gayle Alvarez models her vintage women’s uniform. This was standard issue to army female personnel in the late 1970’s. ☆

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**NAVY RESERVE
HOLDS PEARL
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COMMEMORATION
AND CHANGE OF
COMMAND AT
MUSEUM**

The Navy Operational Support Center, Boise, (NOSC) held its 2nd Annual Pearl Harbor Commemoration at the Museum on 12 December 2009.



Following CAPT Dixon's remarks, members of the NOSC placed a wreath next to the Pearl Harbor exhibit and rendered honors.

After the wreath laying, members of the USMC firing detail fired a salute and EO1(SCW)Lower played Taps. It was a very moving tribute.

Following the Commemoration, CAPT Dixon presented awards to members of the NOSC to include a Meritorious Service Medal to LCDR Fryberger. LCDR Fryberger then transferred the command of the Navy Operational Support Center, Boise, to LCDR Anderson.



LCDR Fryberger and CAPT Dixon pose for a farewell photo with members of the NOSC

LCDR Fryberger is transferring to Phoenix, Arizona. We wish you fair winds and flowing seas; it has been a pleasure working with you Sir. ★

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

Here are some of the events we currently have scheduled; more details will be posted on the webpage as invitations are confirmed and more information becomes available.

 **23 March 2010** - Larry Gebert hosts his morning weather program at the Museum to announce our 25 March National Medal of Honor Day Open House.

 **25 March 2010** - National Medal of Honor Day Open House.

 **3 April 2010** – 'In Memory Of' Marker Dedication for Oscar V. Peterson in Richfield, Idaho (See Page 6 for details)

 **31 May 2010** - Larry Gebert hosts his morning weather program at the Museum to announce our 5 June 2010 D-Day Re-enactment Battle

 **31 May 2010** - Memorial Day Retreat Ceremony and Flag Disposal Service (Also a 21 gun salute at the State Veterans Cemetery)

 **5 June 2010** - D-Day Re-enactment Battle ★



The Navy Arrives



ETC(SS) Curry at podium; L to R, CSM Downing, Chaplain Tish, LCDR Fryberger, CAPT Dixon, Brig Gen Saylor.

ETC(SS) Curry described the attack at Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941 and CAPT Dixon provided background information on events leading up to the attack.



LCDR Anderson takes command of the NOSC from LCDR Fryberger. ETC(SW) Brown, Senior Enlisted Leader, stands at attention.



LCDR Anderson addresses those gathered

NEW MEMBERS

Special Welcome to:

★ Michael L. Shanafelt
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who have so generously given their time and talents to the Museum this year.

We would not be able to accomplish what we do without their valuable support. Our regular cadre of docents and collection workers includes **Dean Jackson, Don McNaire, Terry Curtis, Sharon Murray, and Rick Deisher. Ray Wallace, Randy Bain, Fran King, Doug Doehle, and Mel Adamson.**

We have been fortunate to have had two interns from the Boise State History Department this last year, **Will Jones and Jeff Renon.** They have put in hundreds of hours working with the collections and docenting, especially taking the Saturday shifts. Now that they are gone, we could certainly use some Saturday docent help. Also, don't forget that the Museum is a great place to bring your visiting houseguests. *-Ken Swanson★*

ENDOWMENT UPDATE

Our Endowment balance currently stands at **\$46,500.00**

Recent Endowment Donors include:

**Lei Lonnie Wood
Howard Moore**
(in memory of Robert Johnson)

With 2009 coming to a close, now is an excellent time to make a financial donation to the IMHS. Your help will assure continued expansion of the exhibits, education projects, and programs that are educating young people and citizens on the military's role in our society. When was the last time you visited our Museum? Stop by

and you will be pleasantly impressed by our progress.

Also, **the next time you purchase something on line, the Museum can receive a commission on your purchase. The only 'catch' is that you have to access the retailer through this website:** Look for this image/link on our webpage to take you directly there.



I tried it. IT REALLY WORKS!! There are no extra charges or inconveniences!!!

They also keep a running balance of money raised on the webpage.

Thank you for your support of the Society and the Idaho Military History Museum!★

RECENT DONATIONS

Many people donated a wide range of artifacts and memorabilia to the Idaho Military History Museum this past year. All of the donations help us tell the stories of those who have served their country, in war and peace. A few of the donations that stand out are:

Irene Trent Baver donated her father's memorabilia and equipment from his time as the supervisor of the parachute shop at Gowen Field during WWII. Included in the collection were catalogs of WWII parachutes and related equipment, rare photos of Gowen Field during WWII, and a Caterpillar Club plaque honoring Mr. Bauer for the lives of the men he saved by the parachutes he had packed.

Pete and Charly Blockhan donated a unique collection of World War II memorabilia that belonged to Adrian Hoover U.S.N. Mr. Hoover kept a very

complete and interesting scrapbook from his time in the service. The collection includes his draft notices, draft cards, Navy enlistment papers, Camp Farragut boot camp items, service school photos and orders, and many items from his ship board service.

Jo Eddy donated her father's WWII Navy uniforms, ribbons, dog tag, and memorabilia. Her father, Calvin Howard Eddy was a graduate of the WWII Farragut Naval Training Station.★

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATES

Don't forget, it is now time to renew your membership! Check the label on your newsletter if you aren't certain you have renewed. It will give you the date your renewal is due.

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, send Gayle your e-mail address. With another postage rate increase in the mill, every little bit helps.

<u>Annual renewals are:</u>	
General Membership:	\$25
Senior (60+):	\$15
Associate (Spouse):	\$10
Student:	\$10
Lifetime Membership is	\$375

Lifetime payment may be spread out over a one-year period.

In addition, as the year begins drawing to a close, many people contemplate their charitable contributions for the year.

The Idaho State Tax Commission offers a tax credit for contributions to Idaho Educational Entities which include "An Idaho public or private nonprofit museum." The Idaho Military Historical Society is such an organization and **donations to the Society qualify for this credit.** Please remember the Museum as you plan your donations for the year.

Thank you for your support. ★

CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Speaking of e-mail, when you have a change of address or e-mail address, please don't forget to include the IMHS on your notification e-mail.

Several e-mails bounced when we sent out the update on the Pearl Harbor event. ☆

IDAHO FILE INTO HISTORY

**DAVID VICKERS
CIVIL WAR VETERAN
ADJUTANT GENERAL 1903-1908**

David Vickers was born 21 December 1840 in Camden New Jersey. We have no record of his youth but we do know that he entered the service from New Jersey. He received the rank of First Lieutenant in the Third New Jersey infantry on 25 May 1861 and was promoted to Captain just 6 days later on 31 May 1861.¹ We also know that he attended Delaware Military Academy in Wilmington, Delaware.²

He served continuously in active service in the field for nearly two years and five months as a company officer of the Third New Jersey infantry; he was commissioned major of the Fourth New Jersey infantry 18 October 1863. This regiment saw a lot of service.³

"Major Vickers was promoted lieutenant-colonel 29 September 1863,

and was commissioned colonel 21 March 1865. He served with his regiment in the campaigns and battles in which it was engaged after his appointment as major."⁴

He served in numerous Civil War battles, some of the more recognizable names are: Rappahannock station, Mine Run, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North and South Ann River, Hanover court house, Tolopotomy creek, Cold Harbor, Weldon railroad, Snickers Gap, Strasburg, Winchester, Charlestown, Va., Opoquon, Fishers hill, New Market, Mount Jackson, Cedar creek, Middleton, Hatchers Run, Fort Steadman, capture of Petersburg, Sailors creek, and Appomattox.

Vickers received a brevet promotion to Brigadier-General of Volunteers on 31 May 1865 for "faithful and meritorious services" and was honorably mustered out in May 1865.⁵ (There are two different dates recorded, those being 15 and 18 May.)⁶

"He was appointed United States commissioner at Chile in 1875 and later served as United States consul at Matanzas, Cuba, receiving later the appointment from [President] Garfield. Twenty-two years of his life were spent at Chile and Matanzas. He was relieved by [President] Cleveland, who asked him to remain in the position long enough to instruct his successor."⁷

He became the Major Inspector General, Volunteers on 3 June 1898; and was honorably discharged 30 November 1898.

The 1900 Census recorded that Vickers married a lady named Helen from Pennsylvania but their date of marriage is not presently known. The record does not indicate that they had any children.

After being relieved from his consulship, the Vickers moved to Boise, Idaho sometime around 1896 and he was made Adjutant General of the state under Governor Morrison.⁸

General David Vickers, Adjutant General of Idaho, died suddenly on the evening of 27 June 1908 at his home on Franklin and Thirteenth streets, of cardiac dropsy. He had been ill for the past five years and became confined to his bed in November of 1907.

His obituary reported that, "For the last two months he had seemed to be in better health than usual and he even contemplated riding in the parade with the old veterans last week, but was dissuaded from doing so by his physician who feared the excitement would be too much for him. The end came at about 9:30 o'clock. He leaves a wife who was his faithful nurse through his long illness."⁹

The 1907-1908 Report of the Adjutant General recorded the following tribute and a request for compensation for his widow by Vickers successor, Acting Adjutant General C.A. Elmer.

"General Vickers was a veteran of two great wars - the war of the Rebellion and the war with Spain. He entered the Union army early in 1861, as a private soldier, while still a boy, and during the succeeding four years of conflict served his country with distinguished honor and fidelity, earning and holding commissions in every grade from Second Lieutenant to Brigadier General.

"There has probably never been a soldier except himself during the past century in any army who was so often under fire, or participated actively in so many engagements as the late General David Vickers. When war with Spain was declared, although then past the meridian of life, he again tendered his services to his country, and served as Inspector General at rendezvous of troops in the Southern States. There contracting the disease which made the last five years of his life one long agony, and caused him to view the coming of the Dark Angel as a happy release from sorrow and pain.

"He twice offered to lay his life a sacrifice upon the altar of duty to his

country, at times when the perfume of life was sweetest to his senses, and died after long suffering, as a result of his patriotic service.

“During these years of distress the husbanded resources were spent, and his devoted wife gave herself unreservedly in loving care of him. Her long continued and unremitting toll at his bedside has left Mrs. Vickers sadly broken in health.

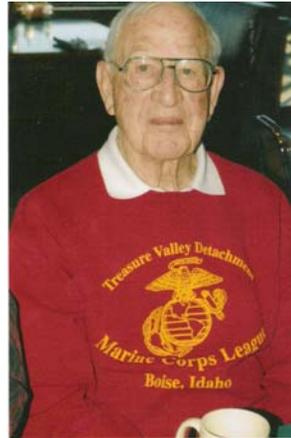
“His long continued sickness, with its attendant necessary heavy outlay, has entirely depleted her resources, leaving her burdened with debt, and practically destitute. Considering the great and unpayable debt of this nation to General Vickers, I feel there should be no hesitancy in appropriating the amount of the unexpended balance of the Adjutant General’s salary for her relief.

“I have served without salary, and that there now remains of the original appropriation for the salary of the Adjutant General, for the years 1907-08, an unexpended balance of \$900 which will revert to the general fund. I wish to earnestly recommend that the sum of \$900 be appropriated for the benefit of Mrs. David Vickers.”



General Vickers is buried in the Pioneer (Masonic) Cemetery in Boise, Idaho in Section 3, Block 51, Lot 6.¹⁰ ★

MEET WALTER STONEBRAKER



**WALTER STONEBRAKER
WWII USMC FIGHTER PILOT
MEMBER OF IDAHO AIR NATIONAL
GUARD**

I met a real patriot at the mall the other day. His name is Walter Stonebraker. He is 87 years old and had a fantastic story to share with me about his WWII combat flying experience, his commercial airline flying career, and his flying time in the Idaho Air National Guard.

He was born in Lewiston, Idaho in 1922, but grew up in Cascade, Idaho. He graduated from Cascade High School in 1940. From Cascade he went to the University of Montana in Missoula and also started flight training in the Civil Pilot Training program. When WWII broke out, he decided to enlist in the Navy and was accepted for pilot training.

He entered on active duty in September 1942 and was assigned to primary flight training at Pasco, Washington. From there he went to pilot training at Corpus Christi, Texas where he flew the Navy SNJ aircraft. He graduated in the top 10% of his class and had the option of staying as a naval aviator or flying for the marines.

He opted for the Marine Corp and flying fighters. He attended fighter aircraft training at Opa Locka, Florida and then was assigned to the Glenview Naval Air Station at Lake Michigan for

aircraft carrier qualification. From there he went to Miramar Naval Air Station in El Toro, California where he was checked out in the F-4F “Wildcat.”

From there he was assigned to the Santa Barbara Marine Corp Base where he qualified in the F-4U “Corsair.” In December of 1943 he boarded the aircraft carrier *Bennington* in San Diego as a fully qualified carrier pilot in the F-4U and entered combat almost immediately.



Walter in the cockpit of the F-4U Corsair aircraft he flew in the Pacific during WWII

During the next two years he flew 120 combat missions in the pacific. He stated that about 70% of the missions were in ground support of marines and soldiers on Japanese held islands including Iwo Jima and Okinawa. The other 30% of his missions were flown against Japan itself where they flew bombing raids and attacked targets of opportunity flying to and from the carrier. On one of these missions he was the flight leader of four F-4U’s when they found a large Japanese troop carrier headed toward Okinawa.



Walter and three of his flight members; Walter is the 3rd from the left. The two men on his right were killed in combat and the man on his left was shot down and picked up by a US Submarine.

Walter and his flight sank the ship and later heard there may have been as many as 10,000 Japanese troops on board.

Walter reported that the Navy had a rule regarding returning aircraft. If the plane was so badly shot up that it could not be repaired within 24 hours, they would salvage all of the material they could and then push the aircraft overboard. During his 120 missions he had five of his aircraft pushed overboard. They were shot up by mostly anti aircraft fire.

He received the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) and 5 Air Medals during his 120 combat missions. Walter left the Marines in August 1945 and for a couple years he was a fixed base operator (FBO) at the airport in Kalispell, Montana where he taught others to fly and also flew charter flights.

In 1949 he went to work for Empire Airlines as a pilot and for the next 33 years he was a commercial airline pilot for that company who over the years changed their name to West Coast, Air West, Hughes Air West, Republic, Northwest, and eventually Delta.

He also flew with the Idaho Air National Guard from 1952 to 1966. He flew the P-51 aircraft up to and including the F-102. When he was required to retire from the airlines at age 60, he had a total of 38,000 flying hours in an array of different piston driven and jet powered aircraft.

Walter lives in Boise and has been married to his wife for 65 years. They have three children. As a side note I learned he has just purchased a new motorcycle and rides it to coffee every Wednesday at the mall. That is where I met him.

**Semper Fi Walter Stonebraker
and thank you!!!**

- Roger Perkins ☆

GOVERNOR OTTER PROCLAIMS VERNON J. BAKER DAY IN IDAHO



Vernon J. Baker, the only living African-American to receive a Medal of Honor for WWII Action

Idaho Gov.

Butch Otter proclaimed Thursday, December 17, 2009 as "Vernon J. Baker Day," in honor of the St. Maries resident who is the only living African-American Medal of Honor recipient from World War II.

"I encourage Idahoans to honor this courageous citizen who is the embodiment of the true American hero and who ensures and reminds us of all that is wonderful about Idaho and this great country," Otter wrote in the official proclamation, signed Dec. 8.

Baker turned 90 on December 17th. He was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1997 and also served for eight years on the state's Human Rights Commission. When he learned of the proclamation Tuesday, Baker said, *"Oh my lord, thank you. I appreciate that very, very much. The only thing I can do about it is sit here and cry."*

Baker received the Medal of Honor for leading a two-day assault in 1945 against an Italian mountain stronghold occupied by German soldiers, and securing it for American forces. The Medal of Honor was awarded more than 50 years later.

Baker also is the last survivor of the Buffalo Soldiers unit, the segregated 370th Regiment of the 92nd Infantry Division, the first all-black unit to see combat in WWII, according to a news release from the commission. Baker holds numerous other medals, including a Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Distinguished Service Cross.

In a personal letter, Otter told Baker that his valor and sacrifice *"helped preserve the freedoms we cherish as Americans. You are an example to all of us, and Idaho is grateful for your service and humbled by your civic virtue."*

The proclamation was a great way to honor Baker, said Pamela Parks, director of the Human Rights Commission, the state agency that enforces anti-discrimination laws. *"He added a great deal to the deliberations here ... and was much admired,"* she said.

Source, Dec 16, 2009 - Alison Boggs - *Spokesman Review* [Editors note, for an in depth story on Baker's actions, see our December 2000 newsletter.] ☆

UPCOMING MEDAL OF HONOR MARKER DEDICATION



Oscar V. Peterson was awarded a posthumous Medal of Honor for his action during the WWII Battle of the Coral

Sea. Shortly after his untimely death and burial at sea, his widow Lola moved her and their two sons to Richfield, Idaho.

The family tried repeatedly to obtain an 'In Memory of Marker' for him but for reasons unknown were unsuccessful. When Lola passed in 1991, Oscar's name was engraved on her headstone but as the family did not have his records or death certificate, the date of his death was incorrectly engraved.

I learned of all of this earlier this year and after visiting the cemetery began the process to order a proper marker. I then learned that Oscar and Lola have a son living in Idaho.

The marker was ordered and has arrived. The Twin Falls VFW will handle the mounting so the family won't have to pay a roughly \$200 mounting fee. The dedication will take place **3 April 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the Richfield Cemetery.**

On a side note, while working with my co-author on the recent book *Farragut Naval Training Station*, we discovered that the reason one of the training camps at the Station was named Camp Peterson was because those at the Station believed that Oscar was originally from Richfield, Idaho.

Additionally, the one known photo of Oscar, pictured above, came about because of the naming of Camp Peterson. Those at the Station asked his widow for a photograph of him as they were unable to locate one.

- Gayle Alvarez ☆

NAMPA POST OFFICE NAMED FOR KOREAN WAR MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT



Herbert A Littleton's Actual Medal of Honor

On Saturday, 5 December 2009, the Post Office in Nampa, Idaho was renamed the *Herbert A Littleton Postal Station* in honor of Pfc. Herbert A Littleton, a Korean War Medal of Honor Recipient and former Nampa resident.

Littleton, who was profiled in our March 2002 newsletter, moved to Nampa with his family in 1950 and accepted a job at Mountain States

Telephone & Telegraph as a lineman but re-enlisted as a U.S. Marine when the Korean War broke out.

On 22 April 1951, at Chungchon, Korea, Littleton, 20 years old at the time, hurled himself without hesitation on an enemy hand grenade thus saving the lives of his fellow Charlie Company soldiers.

While at Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph, he met and befriended Caldwell resident and fellow veteran Leo Holmes. Holmes later made it his mission to honor his friend and the naming of the Nampa Post Office was the culmination of that effort.

Attendees at the dedication included Idaho Congressman Walt Minnick, Tom Dale, Mayor of Nampa, General Saylor, Acting Adjutant General, Idaho National Guard, other senior members of the Idaho Army and Air National Guard, representatives of Idaho State Veterans Services, members of Littleton's family from South Dakota and Wyoming, Ken McArthur, U.S. Postal Service Salt Lake City District Manager, other U.S. Postal Service Representatives, Tony Davila, (OIC) Postmaster, Gayle Alvarez of the Idaho Military History Museum, members of the Marine Corps League, Idaho America Veterans, American Legion, and Disabled Veterans of American.

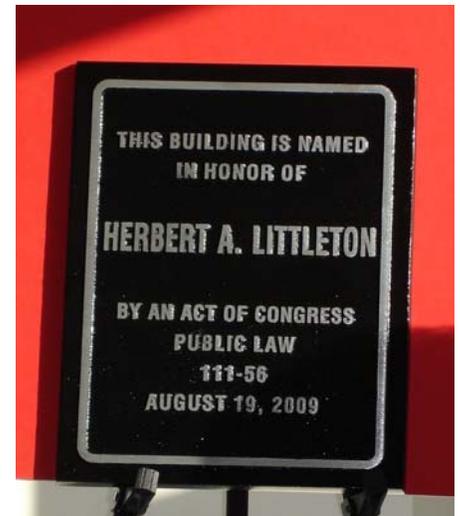


Congressman Minnick and Sisters-in-Law Patricia Duncan (Left) and Donna Littleton (Right) performed the unveiling.



The program lasted about an hour and several of those named above spoke. After the program, Herbert's nephew Scott Littleton commented, "It's good to see so many people, there is still a lot of patriotism and people really care."

Idaho Congressmen Walt Minnick and Mike Simpson helped pass the required federal legislation naming the Nampa Post Office building, located at 123 11th Ave. S., in Littleton's honor.



The Plaque



Mayor Dale, Littleton Family Members and Congressman Minnick pose with the plaque and legislation signed by President Obama. ☆

FROM ALL OF US
AT the Idaho Military
Historical Society and Museum -
a very

Merry Christmas
And Happy New Year!

Produced by The Idaho Military Historical Society
Feature Stories, Editor & Production: Gayle Alvarez
Photo Credits: Steve Bonde, Sharon Murray and Gayle Alvarez unless otherwise noted
Comments or article suggestions are welcome, contact us at 272-4841 or visit our web site at: http://museum.mil.idaho.gov

Footnotes:
1,5,6 Historical Register And Dictionary Of The United States Army From Its Organization, September 29, 1789 To March 2, 1903, Washington Heitman, Francis B., , GPO, Vol 1, 1903, p. 987.
2 Brevet Brigadier Generals In Blue, Hunt, Roger D., Brown, Jack R., Olde Soldier Books, Inc, Gaithersburg, MD, 20879, 1990, p. 634.
3,4,7,9 Idaho Statesman June 28, 1908, Obituary.
8 Report of Adjutant General [1907-1908], pp. 16-18, IMHS Archives.
10 Photograph courtesy of Gayle Alvarez Collection.

JUST IN CASE - Have you sent in your renewal for 2010? Don't forget, donations are tax deductible. If you aren't sure what your renewal date is, check the address label on your newsletter, it lists the month and year your renewal is due.

IDAHO MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
4040 W. Guard Street,
Boise, Idaho 83705-5004
Donation/Membership Application/Renewal Form
YES! Please enter my tax-deductible membership application/renewal in the category checked below. I have enclosed a check or money order in the amount indicated. I understand my donation is tax-deductible and am pleased to accept my canceled check as my receipt. Please find enclosed my donation for the amount indicated. (The IMHS is a 501(c)(3) Organization.)
INDIVIDUAL:
\$ 25 [] General \$ 375 [] Lifetime \$ 10 [] Student
\$ 10 [] Associate (Members Spouse) \$ 15 [] Senior (60+)
ORGANIZATIONAL:
\$ 500 [] Platinum \$ 100 [] Silver
\$ 250 [] Gold \$ 50 [] Bronze
OTHER: (Endowment, Contributions, etc.)
\$ FOR: TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$
Name: Phone:
Address: (City, State, Zip)
Interests: (Volunteering, Research, Displays, etc.) E-Mail Address:



Heroic Past...Proud Future