

PHOTOGRAPH VETERANS MEMORIAL

WWII NEWS CLIPS AUGUST 2015
RE: NEW EXHIBIT CCHS MRL

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JAMES F. FRETHER CENTER
 PHOTOGRAPH. VETERANS MEMORIAL
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WWII NEWS CLIPS AUGUST 2015
 RE: NEW EXHIBIT CCHS MRL
 "WWII MEMORIES PRESERVED"

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WWII memories preserved

By ABBY ANDREWS
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DENIM — A new exhibit at the Museum of Rural Life in Denton offers a look at Caroline County residents' lives during World War II, both on the front lines overseas and at home.

The exhibit, the culmination of years of research by local historians, features artifacts donated by service members and their families and is separated into four sections exploring personal recollections of service, letters written home from overseas, romance during the war and the 61 Caroline County lives lost.

It is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday, or by appointment by calling 410-479-1750, at the museum, located at 16 N. Second St., Denton.

"We honor veterans by listening to their story and telling it," said Caroline County Historical Society President J.O.K. Walsh.

"This is creating a legacy to pass on to future generations," WWII veterans who still live in Caroline County attended a special opening just for them and their families Wednesday, Sept. 2. The exhibit opened to the public Saturday, Sept. 5.

Clarence Kibler, 97, served in England as a weatherman with the U.S. Army. He was among

Two Caroline County World War II veterans sit in the "Lost Lives" section of the exhibit during the veterans-only opening Wednesday, Sept. 2.



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(8) the veterans who attended the opening. "It looks real," Kibler said, looking at a display of service-worn uniforms donated by local veterans. "This brings back a lot of memories."

The "Letters Home" section features a video recording of local actors reading real letters sent home during the war by Caroline County service members, as well as laminated copies of the handwritten letters. "Recollections" includes service uniforms, German army artifacts collected by Walsh's father while fighting in France in 1914 and a video of veterans recalling their experiences in the war.

"Even I was flabbergasted by some of the combat stories," Walsh said. Those interviews are being edited for a second video, which will debut in the exhibit soon.

Since the historical society began filming the interviews in 2000, many of the veterans who appear in the video have passed away.

"The last time we had a major event here to remember WWII, in 2005, we had 60 veterans from Caroline County in attendance," Walsh said. "Today we have seven."

In the "Lost Lives" section, the 60 men and one woman from Caroline County who died during the war are memorialized with photos and short biographies, lining the walls around the room.

Cpl. David Singer served in the 29th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. He landed on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day in June 1944, but was killed later that year. He was the first U.S. soldier interred in Memorial in Margraten, Netherlands.

Singer's family donated several effects from his service to the exhibit, many of which were sent back home after his death.

His nephew, Bob Singer, and Bob's oldest son, David, named in honor of the fallen corporal, attended the exhibit opening.

"It's quite a nice feeling to see my uncle honored like this," Bob Singer said.

The final section of the exhibit, "Romance," features wedding dresses used during the war, and a recreation of a photo of Walsh's mother, Mary Ann Knotts Walsh, cutting the cake on her wedding day in June 1943, before her new husband, Lt. Cmdr. Quentin Walsh, was sent to England. She also sat for a video interview of her experience as a wartime bride.

"We tried to tell the stories of women here in Caroline County by being creative, using wedding dresses found in the attic," said Caroline County Office of Tourism Director Kathy Mackel.

Mackel said while Mary Ann Walsh wore a traditional white wedding dress, it was the same one that had been worn by her sister two years earlier. Some of the other dresses in the exhibit are even older, perhaps first worn by the bride's mother or grandmother and pulled out for a hasty wedding.

"People didn't have a lot of time," Mackel said. "The men were shipping out."

Walsh said the historical society is still looking for artifacts and interviews with other Caroline County WWII veterans and widows. He said the exhibit, which will run for about a year, will rotate displayed items from time to time.

Walsh said the Caroline County Historical Society and Museum of Rural Life received grant money from the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area to develop the exhibit, and help from the Federalburg Historical Society, which also donated several artifacts.

16 MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2015

Caroline WWII museum exhibit to open Sept. 2

DENTON — The Caroline County Historical Society invites all World War II veterans and surviving spouses to attend the opening of a major exhibit in the Museum of Rural Life in Denton titled "World War II Stories," which celebrates the legacy of Caroline County in World War II.

The exhibit opening will run from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2, the 70th anniversary of the official end of World War II, the signing of the peace agreement in Tokyo Harbor. Veterans or their spouses planning to attend are asked to call Carol Stockley 410-479-1750.

"The society believes that if you really want to honor a World War II veteran, you let the veteran tell their story, you listen to the story, and you learn from it," said Caroline County Tourism Director Kathy Mackel.

"World War II Stories" uses first-person accounts of Caroline County combat veterans that the society had professionally videotaped between 2002 and 2005, plus recently recorded audio tapes of local actors reading the wartime letters of men in combat.

etaped between 2002 and 2005, plus recently recorded audio tapes of local actors reading the wartime letters of men in combat, most of whom were killed in action.

Another section of the exhibit separately honors each of the 60 men and one woman in the military from Caroline County who died in World War II. A fourth section titled "Wartime Bride" explores romance and marriage amid the chaos and separations caused by the war.

Every town in the county is represented in the exhibit. "World War II Stories" opens to the general public at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 5.



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