

Parade

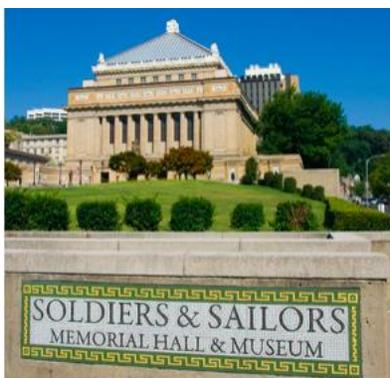
6 Museums and Memorials to Honor Veterans All Year

November 3, 2017



To understand where we're going, we first need to understand where we've been. When it comes to war and military history, there are many museums and memorials in this country that help us do just that by honoring those who fought and giving us a place to stop and honor their sacrifices. Many of these museums also have programs that connect and support veterans while telling their stories for our benefit and the benefit of future generations. This Veterans Day, remember to thank veterans for their service, and take an afternoon to visit a place made to honor them.

Pittsburgh-veterans-day
Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum | Pittsburgh



The historic building of the Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum opened in 1910 to honor veterans from the Keystone State. The transformation of uniforms from the Civil War through today is on display along with personal mementos from soldiers like signed equipment, diaries and letters, telegrams and company banners. There's a special exhibited dedicated to the role of women during times of conflict and a "Cartoons Go to War" display that explores propaganda techniques used to boost support of war. The hall also has a concert auditorium for special events like the annual Patriotic Holiday Concert. Fun fact: The infamous cage scene from *The Silence of the Lambs* starring Anthony Hopkins was filmed in the museum's ballroom. Near Halloween, the museum screens the film and recreates the classic scene. Visit <http://soldiersandsailorshall.org> for more information.

U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum | Huntsville, Alabama



Get a sense of what it felt like to be a United States Army Air Forces pilot being briefed during WWII at the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum. Highlights include the museum's Eighth Air Force Briefing Room exhibit, a scaled replica of the briefing room of the 385th Bomb Group, which flew missions from Great Ashfield in England during World War II. (On special occasions, Bill Varnedoe, who served as a lieutenant and B-17 navigator, briefs guests in person.) Military memorabilia going back to the Revolutionary War is on display along with more than 30 military vehicles, including a Ford Pygmy, a forerunner of the jeep. Visit <http://www.memorialmuseum.org/displays> for more information.

Georgia Veterans State Park Military Museum | Cordele, Georgia



Georgia Veterans State Park, in which sits the picturesque Lake Blackshear Resort & Golf Club, is also home to an indoor-outdoor military museum that honors veterans from the Revolutionary War to today. Outdoor displays include a B-29A Superfortress (a heavy bomber), jets, tanks, a helicopter and more. You can even stay on-site in one of the park's campgrounds and take a ride on the SAM Shortline excursion train in 1949 vintage cars—don't worry, they're air-conditioned—through the park and over Lake Blackshear, stopping at several scenic locations. Visit <http://www.lakeblackshearresort.com/ga-veterans-park/military-museum/> for more information.

Military Veterans Museum & Education Center | Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Three blocks west of Lake Winnebago, the Military Veterans Museum was started by five World War II veterans from Neenah, Wis. Representing all five branches of the military, the museum has tons of donated artifacts, with a large section dedicated to uniform displays ranging from the Spanish-American War to conflicts of today. The star attraction is the John E. Kuenzl Motor Pool, which includes a Russian T-34 tank manufactured in May 1945 and used during WWII. The tank had a cameo in Marvel's Ant-Man in 2015. There's also the Wisconsin Medal of Honor Wall of Honor, recognizing Wisconsin veterans who received the award. Visit <http://mvmwisconsin.com/#carousel-example-generic> for more information.

Heroes Hall in OC Fair & Event Center | Costa Mesa, California



Heroes Hall opened in February of this year in a renovated 1942 Santa Ana Army Air Base barracks building at the OC Fair & Event Center. The museum aims to bring stories of heroism and sacrifice to life, and the hall's two-story exhibition space focuses on the personal stories of veterans. Veterans and their family members can visit the veterans story booth to record and share their experiences, then take a walk through the Medal of Honor Courtyard and garden. Visit <http://www.ocheroeshall.org> for more information.

Indiana World War Memorial
Indiana War Memorial Museum | Indianapolis



In the heart of downtown Indianapolis, the sprawling grounds of the Indiana War Memorial Plaza Historic District hold three parks and 24 monument-filled acres, plus the Indiana War Memorial Museum. Pay your respects to veterans in the 110-foot-tall Shrine Room, which is known for its symbolic architecture punctuated with towering Vermont marble red pillars that represent the blood shed during World War I. In the center of the room, a United States flag hangs above an altar, a fitting place to remember fallen soldiers. The USS Indianapolis (CA-35) Gallery in the building's museum section honors the heavy cruiser sunk by a Japanese submarine on July 30, 1945, and the crew members—only 317 out of nearly 1,200 survived—with a large-scale model and artifacts from the ship; the wreckage was just recently found in August of this year in the Philippine Sea, 18,000 feet below the surface. Visit <https://www.in.gov/iwm/2333.htm> for more information.

Mark your calendar for these museums to come:

National Veterans Memorial & Museum | Columbus, Ohio



The new memorial and museum has a grand opening date planned for summer 2018. Visit <http://www.nationalvmm.org>.

Soldiers Memorial Military Museum | St. Louis



The downtown St. Louis landmark will reopen in 2018 with upgrades and new exhibitions. Visit <http://mohistory.org/soldiersmemorial>.

National Medal of Honor Museum | Mount Pleasant, South Carolina



The only museum dedicated solely to the nation's highest military honor will open in late 2020 or early 2021 on the eastern shore of Charleston Harbor at Patriots Point. Visit <http://www.mohmuseum.org>.