THE BUGLE

WINTER 2012/13
VOLUME 18:4

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF **THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM**

IN THIS ISSUE

The Story of a Marine Corps Scout Sniper from Wisconsin

First Sergeant Timothy C. La Sage

First Sergeant Timothy C. La Sage pictured below is waiting to be picked up by a Helo after a raid on a compound.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

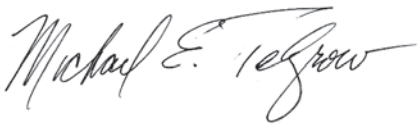
REMEMBERING

For the better part of two years, The Bugle has focused on America's past wars. Over that time our readers have become acquainted with the Thompson brothers of the Civil War period, WWII aviators Fritz Wolf, the Des Jardins brothers, and WWI naval quartermaster John Isermann, among others. In this issue we break ranks from that approach to take a close look at recent stories of servicemen who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The feature story chronicles the experience of First Sergeant Timothy C. La Sage – a Marine scout sniper from Wisconsin. You will also hear from Gunnery Sgt. Michael Gillitzer of the Wounded Warriors Regiment. From the collections you will be afforded a look at recently acquired tactical gear from Master Sergeant Brian Buechner, 1st Bn, 10th Special Forces Group. La Sage's gripping story of a Marine scout sniper, Gillitzer's account of helping wounded service members and Buechner's gear provide an intimate look at the lives of today's combat soldiers and marines.

The wars in which these individuals served are much different than their historical counterparts. The Thompson brothers may have dealt with the unpredictability of Rebel raiders, but they never experienced the devastating effects of an improvised explosive device. On the other hand, Jackson Thompson, the incurable letter writer, could never have imagined the technological advancements that would allow current service members the luxury of instant communications with loved ones at home. It's that sort of immediacy that has changed the face of battle. Wounded soldiers during the Civil War sometimes waited for days before receiving aid. Today, battlefield casualties are afforded rapid assistance that was technologically impossible in previous wars. The differences are stark, but the essential nature of war remains the same. The challenge for the Wisconsin Veterans Museum is to put recent military service into context that provides more than just superficial insight into the veterans' experience.

The great German philosopher Georg Hegel once opined, "Only when dusk starts to fall does the owl of Minerva spread its wings and fly." What Hegel meant by his reference to the Roman goddess of Wisdom was that we can only know the true meaning of an event after the passage of significant time. So it is with Iraq and Afghanistan. It will be sometime before the true impact of these conflicts is understood. Meanwhile, we will gather their stories and artifacts so that we can ensure that future generations are able to come to an understanding of the meaning of our nation's longest war.

Finally, as we move into 2013, I want to thank all of you for your continued support. Your membership in the Wisconsin Veterans Museum provides essential financial assistance for our programs, exhibits and conservation efforts. You understand the value of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and your efforts ensure that we will continue to meet our mission of acknowledging, affirming and commemorating the role of Wisconsin's veterans in shaping this nation's history.



WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM SPECIAL PROJECTS

Your membership supports the mission of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. In 2013, we have a number of special projects you may be interested in giving to:

★ ACQUISITIONS

- Help WVM acquire significant objects and archival materials.

★ 2013 CIVIL WAR EXHIBIT

- Support the final exhibit installment of the Museum's 150th Anniversary of the Civil War.

★ AUGMENTED REALITY

- Give to the Museum's newest interactive technology-Augmented Reality. AR provides visitors with multiple ways to interact with current exhibits using their smartphones or iPads.

REMEMBER, YOUR GIFT MAKES *YOUR* MUSEUM STRONGER!

FROM THE ARCHIVES

IRAQ'S CHILDREN

Army veteran Charles Schellpeper enjoys downtime with some friendly children during a key leader engagement with local sheikhs on the outskirts of Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq, in 2008.

GUNNERY SERGEANT MICHAEL GILLITZER
GUEST AUTHOR

OPERATION M.I.C.K.

"MEN ARE HAUNTED BY THE VASTNESS OF ETERNITY. AND SO WE ASK OURSELVES: WILL OUR ACTIONS ECHO ACROSS THE CENTURIES? WILL STRANGERS HEAR OUR NAMES LONG AFTER WE ARE GONE, AND WONDER WHO WE WERE, HOW BRAVELY WE FOUGHT, HOW FIERCELY WE LOVED?" -ODYSSEUS

No other branch of the armed services exemplifies the camaraderie and esprit de corps like the United States Marine Corps. Throughout the Marine Corps illustrious history Wisconsin Marines of all generations and walks of life have served honorably in times of conflict answering the nation's call to arms. A small number of these Marines who joined the Corps from villages, towns, and cities across the state have contributed to the Marine Corps robust tradition. In an attempt to capture the legacy of Wisconsin's Marines the Wisconsin Veterans Museum along with a representative of the Marine Corp's Wounded Warrior Regiment have joined together in order to provide an opportunity for Marines of the past and present to voice their story.

Rick Berry interviewing First Sergeant Timothy C. La Sage.

The purpose of Operation M.I.C.K. is to preserve a historical record of the men and women who have honorably served in the Marine Corps from Wisconsin. The acronym M.I.C.K. stands for Marine Interviews Capturing Knowledge. Operation M.I.C.K. will enable a visitor to experience first person interviews of Wisconsin's Marine veterans. The captured oral histories, photographs, and videos of the Marines will provide valuable insight on the real life trials and tribulations that defines life as a Marine. The program is also an excellent opportunity for visitors to witness the Marine Corps journey through the experiences of the Marine veterans themselves.

The Marine Corps' greatest assets are the Marines themselves; as such taking care of the wounded, ill, and injured (WII) and their families is a responsibility that the Corps takes seriously. The Wounded Warrior Regiment is a Marine Corps Unit established to provide and facilitate assistance to WII Marines, Corpsman, attached to or in support of Marine Units, and their family members, throughout the phases or recovery.

Wisconsin Veterans Museum Oral Historian Molly Graham along with the help of several key volunteers has taken the initiative by collecting countless hours of Marine veteran interviews. Wisconsin Marines from all eras are encouraged to contribute their story for future generations. In order to qualify for Operation M.I.C.K. the Marine must have entered service in the State of Wisconsin and have proof of honorable service. For more information, please contact The Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

For more than 100 years the Wisconsin Veterans Museum has preserved the legacies and stories of our state's veterans. Collecting and sharing these compelling stories continues to uphold the Museum's unwavering commitment to acknowledge, commemorate, and affirm the role of Wisconsin citizens in American military history, past and present.

GREGORY KRUEGER
CURATOR OF HISTORY

FIELD GEAR

Brian Buechner wore this uniform and body armor in Afghanistan in 2007 and again recently in 2012.

Recently, The Wisconsin Veterans Museum acquired an important collection from Master Sergeant Brian Buechner, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, representing field-used gear in Afghanistan.

Brian L Buechner was born in Wisconsin and raised on his family's farm near Forestville in the southern part of Door County. He graduated from Southern Door High School in 1985 and within a year joined the Army.

Four years later he found himself in the Persian Gulf region where he served in Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield. Shortly thereafter, Buechner completed three tours in Bosnia. In 1996, he entered the Army's Special Forces qualification course and graduated an 18B (Weapons Sergeant) one year later.

As a Green Beret, Buechner completed two tours in Iraq and another two in Afghanistan. He is currently assigned to Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Abn) in Stuttgart, Germany. He has been on several short and "no notice" deployments to Bosnia and Africa and other training missions to Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Most of his time with the Special Forces has been assigned to the Commander's in Extremis Force (CIF) for EUCOM (recently referred to by the media describing the Libya situation).

Major schooling includes:

- Special Forces qualification course (Green Berets)
- Static line jumpmaster
- Military Free Fall Jump Master
- Special Forces Sniper
- Special Forces Advanced Reconnaissance and Target Exploitation Course
- (SFARATEC) essentially a high end Close Quarters and Urban Combat course

C42 was Buechner's call sign while he served as Team Sergeant for ODA 034, C Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WVM COLLECTIONS AT WWW.WISVETSMUSEUM.COM/COLLECTIONS

JENNIFER CARLSON
MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

THE STORY OF A MARINE CORPS COMBAT SCOUT SNIPER FROM WISCONSIN
FIRST SERGEANT TIMOTHY CHARLES LA SAGE

A native of Milwaukee, Timothy Charles La Sage enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1992, and quickly became part of an elite security and anti-terrorism unit called FAST Company (Fleet Antiterrorism Security Teams), tasked with guarding or re-capturing US Embassies that are in distress. A Marine Scout Sniper, First Sergeant La Sage has logged multiple combat deployments, earning two Purple Hearts, three Navy Commendation medals (two for valor) and two Navy Marine Corps Achievement medals for life saving actions. In 2004, he was severely wounded while on mission in Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

This is the first in a two part series of his story – the life of a combat Scout Sniper.

~Jennifer Carlson

Ar Ramadi, Iraq

In 2004, I was deployed to Ramadi (the largest city in Iraq). Ramadi was rated the most dangerous city. If you look at Ramadi on a map, you have never seen anything like this compared to the bases and camps that you've seen in other military installations in Iraq. Our living compound was four or five building tops, not bigger than a city block here. Trying to gain entry into that area while somebody with an eager trigger finger is waiting for anything to happen gives you a high level of anxiety. I was eager to get to work, but at the same time I was very nervous at the place we were living.

Combat Outpost

The first day I arrived in country we shuttled up to a main camp west of Baghdad. After a day my unit convoyed out to one of Saddam's palaces where we were to take over from the 2nd Battalion 4th Marines, who had a rough deployment. My Scout Sniper Platoon and one infantry company were to be sent to Combat Outpost, which was on the other side of the city from the palace. During the prior unit's deployment a Scout Sniper team was killed. We were told going into it that we were going into a "wild, wild west" situation. At first it was myself and two others that went into the Combat Outpost and we left everybody else in the palace. The others were in a more controlled area, where someone would have to shoot in from a distance, which would happen daily. We took a convoy; which was a large production due to the daily threat, and went over to the outpost where the unit we were replacing was at and conducted our Relief In Place (RIP). First thing I noticed was when my platoon commander, my right hand man and I, entered the Combat Outpost there was nobody outside. It was strange. The palace was always busy. There are people physically training and running around the interior walls, some playing cards, or doing whatever. But at the outpost it looked like it was abandoned. The Combat Outpost had been overrun before where the enemy stormed the buildings and small perimeter wall. At one point the army that once occupied the space abandoned the

area and relocated. So everyone is hunkered down here and instantly you get it…you know what level you need to be at when you come into this place. On day 2, we took our first attack as RPGs came in. Everybody's hunkered down, ballistic blankets, which protect you from fragments, are over the doorways and everyone is waiting for the shelling to subside. The attack finishes and everyone then goes to the small building that served chow. You begin to get used to the fact that this is how you are going to live for the next year.

Planning and Executing Missions

If we were not out in the city, we were constantly planning missions. When the command had come up with a type of large mission for the unit, we would already have locations picked out that we preferred to work from. There was constant communication. This helped relieve some of the tension of what we would be doing. As far as inner feelings go, you definitely have to put aside egos. We all had a brotherhood that goes beyond a normal office and we all lived together in a compound outside of our unit's protection on the edge of town. We were already mixed into town so security was intense at all times. We would take mortar fire, rocket propelled grenade attacks, and small arms fire in our compound since there was nothing separating us from the city.

For my team of fourteen, we took over this building that had tile up to the ceiling and drains in the center of the floors. There were anchors where hooks were in the ceiling. You immediately realize what this room was used for. That is where we ended up living. Nobody bothered us, they let us work all day and all night. Sleeping was a mystery at times due to our continuous work. When it was game time we'd all wake up whether it would be hours prior to a mission, or when a patrol got attacked out in town. We had a radio in our room so we could hear if a quick reaction force (QRF) was called up. They would race out there and engage the enemy and recover any wounded. It was like being an EMT or firefighter waiting for the bell, but also having your own missions going on. It was never-ending. Adrenaline and brotherhood was the only way that we would be able to stay awake at times.

First Sergeant Timothy C. La Sage with fellow Marines in Baghdad.

On a mission, you would never go out in a small force. For snipers in general you traditionally go out in twos. You have your spotter and sniper. Our unit would go out in groups of eight to twelve. Being in an urban area we didn't usually have to don our ghillie suits. A ghillie suit is a type of camouflage clothing designed to resemble heavy foliage. Scout Snipers can blend into their surroundings and conceal themselves from enemies or targets. However, some missions did call for it even if it was to place ourselves in the local city park.

At least two Scout Snipers would be security watching the downstairs of a building. The other guys would engage from upstairs. Bringing extra Marines allowed for us to have more fire power. However, a rest plan team was necessary to allow the team to take their eyes off the threat area. So working in larger groups gives you more security and reduces fatigue in the Marines.

There is a main route, basically one highway where you can cut through the city out to Fallujiah and off to Baghdad. The highway was Madmax. It was getting bombed everyday from IEDs and convoys were coming to and fro. They were just getting blown up and there was no one holding anybody accountable. An infantry platoon would be placed in a high-rise building and a hotel (one in each end of those locations), which is separated by a mile just to keep eyes on that road. In the city if you are not looking directly at someone they are going to get away with placing explosives or sending in an ambush. In that mile between posts, anything could happen and without a watchful eye it could

(continued on page 13)

RUSS HORTON
REFERENCE ARCHIVIST

FROM PAPER TO DIGITAL

During its 110 year history, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum has accepted thousands of paper-based items into its archives: Civil War carte de visite images, World War I postcards, World War II V-mails, letters from Korea, and photographs from Vietnam. Typically, a veteran or family member will bring in a box of papers and photographs that help tell the story of their military service, and WVM staff draw upon established archival practices to organize and preserve those materials so that future generations can learn from them. Donors are comfortable with this because archives have traditionally been institutions that preserve original paper-based materials, like letters, diaries, and photographs.

Reference Archivist Russ Horton speaks with a current mliitary veteran who served in Iraq.

Veterans of the current conflicts, though, do not produce the same types of materials as veterans of past conflicts. Rather than the letters, diaries, and photographs, the men and women of America's armed forces in the twenty-first century create emails, online blogs, and digital photographs. Instead of visiting the WVM to donate a box full of papers, Iraq and Afghanistan veterans bring in discs and external hard drives full of electronic documents. These born-digital items can present unique problems that are not readily apparent.

WVM staff were invited to participate in an event in Oshkosh that sought to address some unique problems presented by born-digital items and empower veterans to make informed decisions about their materials. The Memory Corps Information Fair, held on the UW-Oshkosh campus as part of their Veterans Week, assembled professional archivists from several institutions to talk to veterans about preserving their materials.

One of the major goals was to combat the perception that emails and digital photographs will last forever. In many ways, they are less stable than the paper-based documents produced by veterans generations ago. Generally speaking, as long as paper and photographs are kept in the proper environment, they will last for a very long time and can be used by anyone who can see and read them. Born-digital materials, on the other hand, rely upon software and hardware for use. If the hardware fails, or the software become obsolete, the material can no longer be viewed by anyone. In addition, the files themselves can deteriorate over time if left untended.

This means that today's veterans cannot just put their discs and hard drives in the basement or attic until they are ready to donate them; they have to actively maintain them to ensure they last. One of the best things they can do is to keep more than one copy of born-digital materials in more than one format and in more than one location. So, for example, veterans can save emails on their computer but also print off copies onto acid-free paper and store them at the house of a family member. This ensures that, should one of the formats go obsolete, they'll still have a copy of them; similarly, if a fire or flood destroys the copy at their house, the second location will still have a copy.

While current conflict veterans might not feel ready to part with their things yet, they should be sure to maintain their materials until they do feel ready. When that time comes, the best way to preserve their born-digital materials is to donate them to an archives, where archivists have the expertise and equipment needed to properly care for them for the long-term. The WVM archives actively preserves the stories of thousands of Wisconsin veterans, from the Civil War to the present, for veterans, their families, and the public and can readily care for paper-based and born-digital materials.

CONTACT US AT REFERENCE.DESK@DVA.WISCONSIN.GOV OR CALL 608.267.1790 TO DISCUSS THE DONATION OF ARCHIVAL MATERIALS.

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2013

HYATT REGENCY
DOWNTOWN MILWAUKEE

FACES OF FREEDOM

A YEAR OF THE VETERAN CELEBRATION

Hosted by the First Lady of Wisconsin

THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION

FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL
JENNIFER CARLSON, 608.264.6086

LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE
BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY
WWW.WVMFOUNDATION.COM

Your support of this event will help the Wisconsin Veterans Museum continue its mission to connect the past to the present through the powerful stories associated with their collections. For more than one hundred years, the Museum has made those stories accessible to the public through programs and exhibits, and is now able to share these rich, up-close and compelling accounts of Wisconsin's veterans through ***www.WisVetStories.com.*** *Individuals are even able to submit their own stories to share with friends and family!*

6:00PM – 8:00PM HORS D'OEUVRES & COCKTAIL RECEPTION

8:00PM – 9:00PM PROGRAM FEATURING FRED KLETT COMEDIAN WWW.FREDKLETT.COM

9:00PM – 12:00AM DANCING

HELP US HONOR THE LEGACY OF WISCONSIN VETERANS AND CAPTURE THEIR UNIQUE STORIES BY SUPPORTING THIS EVENT.

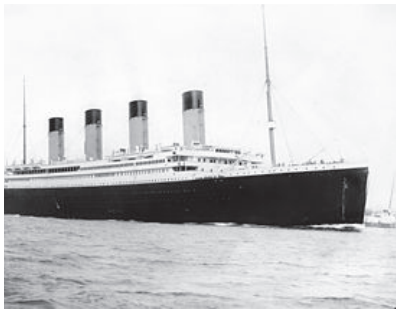
WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM

2013 SPRING EVENTS

MADISON NAVY LEAGUE PRESENTS MARITIME HISTORY & EDUCATION LEARN OVER LUNCH SERIES- RMS TITANIC DISASTER: 100 YEARS OF MARITIME HISTORY

Thursday, February 7 at Noon
Hank Whipple
Lecture and discussion

With the tragic loss of life in April of 1912 with the sinking of the RMS Titanic, the world's maritime community has since learned and applied the lessons taught during the subsequent 100 years contributing greatly to maritime safety and the preservation of life at sea. Hank Whipple will discuss this story of maritime safety and how it has improved since that fateful day in the icy waters of the North Atlantic.



THE 86TH ARCOM DIVISION

Thursday, Febuary 14 at Noon
Ward Zischke
Lecture and discussion

The Organized Reserve, later renamed the Army Reserve in 1952, has been a major contributor of soldiers to the United States Army in time of war or national emergency since its creation in 1908. For example, 240,000 Organized Reserve Corps/Army Reserve Corps soldiers were called up for the Korean War and 60,000 Army Reserve Soldiers were called up for the Berlin Crisis of 1961-1962.

During the Vietnam War, however, the United States Army Reserve (USAR) was not called up until after the Tet Offensive in 1968. These Army Reserve units served from 1968-1969 and consisted of about 5,000 soldiers belonging to logistics and maintenance units. Ward Zischke will talk about the transformation of the USAR and logistics in the 1960's and focus on the call up of the 826th Ordnance Col (Ammo) (DS/GS) (-) from Madison and Baraboo, WI, and 377th Light Maintenance Co. (DS) from Manitowoc, WI.

VETERAN VOICES: ORAL HISTORY AT THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM

Thursday, Febuary 22 at Noon
Molly Graham and Rick Berry
Panel Discussion

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum presents, *Veteran Voices: Oral History at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum*, a panel presentation at noon on February 22nd. This presentation discusses the museum's oral history program, its history, collection and ongoing efforts to collect and preserve veteran stories and experiences, recorded in their own voices. The panelists include Molly Graham, the museum's oral historian, Rick Berry, a volunteer interviewer and two veterans who have recorded their own oral history interviews with the museum. Each panelist will share their different roles and perspectives on oral history and the interview process. Please join us at Noon on February 22nd to learn more about oral history and its important role in preserving history through the recording and collection of veteran voices and experiences.

THIS WICKED REBELLION: WISCONSIN CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS WRITE HOME

Thursday, Febuary 28 at 7pm
Michael Edmonds and John Zimm
Lecture and Book Signing

Over one hundred fifty years after it began, the Civil War still fascinates us - the vast armies marching to war, iconic leaders like Abraham Lincoln and Robert E. Lee, the drama of a nation divided. But the Civil War was also about individuals, the hundreds of thousands of ordinary men and boys who fought and died on either side and the families and friends left at home. *This Wicked Rebellion: Wisconsin Civil War Soldiers Write Home* tells this other side of the story. Drawing from more than 11,000 letters in the Wisconsin Historical Society's Civil War collection, it gives a unique and intimate glimpse of the men and women who took part in the War for the Union. From impressions of army life and the South to the hardships of disease and battle, these letters tell the story of the war through the eyes and pens of those who fought in it. *This Wicked Rebellion* brings to life the heroism and heartache, mayhem and misery of the Civil War and the powerful role Wisconsin played in it.

THE WEHRMACHT RETREATS: FIGHTING A LOSING WAR IN 1943

Thursday, March 7th at 7pm
Rob Citino, University of North Texas Professor and Author
Lecture

Throughout 1943, the German army, heirs to a military tradition that demanded and perfected relentless offensive operations, succumbed to the realities of its own overreach and the demands of twentieth-century industrialized warfare. In his new study, prizewinning author Robert Citino chronicles this weakening Wehrmacht, now fighting desperately on the defensive but still remarkably dangerous and lethal.

MORE THAN FREEDOM: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE MEANING OF THE CIVIL WAR

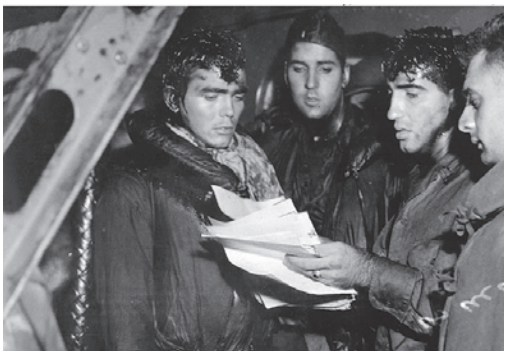
Thursday, March 14 at 7pm
Steve Kantrowitz, UW-Madison Professor and Author

Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation is generally understood as the moment African Americans became free, and Reconstruction as the ultimately unsuccessful effort to extend that victory by establishing equal citizenship. In *More Than Freedom*, award-winning historian Stephen Kantrowitz boldly redefines our understanding of this entire era by showing that the fight to abolish slavery was always part of a much broader campaign to establish full citizenship for African Americans and find a place to belong in a white republic. Bringing a bold new perspective to one of our nation's defining moments, *More Than Freedom* helps to explain the extent and the limits of the so-called freedom achieved in 1865 and the legacy that endures today.

SUNK IN KULA GULF: THE FINAL VOYAGE OF THE U.S.S. HELENA AND THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF HER SURVIVORS IN WORLD WAR II

Thursday, April 26 at Noon
John Domagalski, Author

Sunk in Kula Gulf tells the epic story of the Helena's survivors. Two destroyers plucked more than seven hundred from the sea in a night rescue operation as the battle continued to rage. A second group of eighty-eight sailors — clustered into three lifeboats—made it to a nearby island and was rescued the next day. A third group of survivors, spread over a wide area, was missed entirely. Clinging to life rafts or debris, the weary men were pushed away from the area of the sinking by a strong current. After enduring days at sea under the hot tropical sun, they finally found land. It was, however, the Japanese-held island of Vella Lavella and deep behind the front lines. The survivors organized and disappeared into the island's interior jungle. Living a meager existence, the group evaded the Japanese for eight days until the Marines and U.S. Navy evacuated the shipwrecked sailors in a daring rescue operation. Using a wide variety of sources, including previously unpublished firsthand accounts, John J. Domagalski brings to life this amazing, little-known story from World War II.



A SPECIAL EVENING WITH
PROFESSOR AND AUTHOR
VICTOR DAVIS HANSEN
2013 GALA GUEST SPEAKER

"Victor Hanson is a national treasure. No one has written with such great prescience about the present war or more accurately predicted the course of events, on the fighting front, at home, and around the world. His wisdom arises from a deep knowledge and understanding of history, ancient and modern." Donald Kagan – author of On the Origins of War and the Preservation of Peace

Victor Davis Hanson is the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow in Residence in Classics and Military History at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, a professor of Classics Emeritus at California State University, Fresno, and a nationally syndicated columnist for Tribune Media Services. He is also the Wayne & Marcia Buske Distinguished Fellow in History, Hillsdale College, where he teaches fall semester courses in military history and classical culture. He received his Ph.D. from Stanford in 1980.

An unrivaled military historian, Victor Davis Hanson is known for his superbly researched and provocative accounts of wars ranging from classical antiquity to the twenty-first century. Hanson is perhaps best recognized for his *New York Times* bestseller, *Carnage and Culture*. Other works include *Ripples of Battle: How Wars Fought Long Ago Still Determine How We Fight, How We Live, and How We Think; Between War and Peace: Lessons from Afghanistan* and *The Father of Us All: War and History*.

The recipient of numerous awards, including the National Humanities Medal (2007) and the Bradley Prize (2008), Hanson was also the visiting Shifrin Professor of Military History at the U. S. Naval Academy (2002-3). He has written hundreds of articles for such publications as the *New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, National Review, Weekly Standard, Daily Telegraph,* and has been interviewed on PBS News Hour, Fox News, CNN, and National Public Radio, among others.

Join us on May 2, 2013 as The Wisconsin Veterans Museum welcomes Victor Davis Hansen.

SAVE THE DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2013

WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION

ANNUAL GALA

FEATURING PROFESSOR AND AUTHOR
VICTOR DAVIS HANSEN

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is honored to host Victor Davis Hansen as guest speaker at this year's annual gala event on Thursday, May 2, 2013. Mark your calendars for an evening with the award-winning author!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5:00-6:30PM VIP RECEPTION AT THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM – $175 PER PERSON (INCLUDES DINNER)
Private reception with Victor Davis Hansen and VIP guests. Complimentary drinks and hors d' oeuvres included.

6:00-7:00PM RECEPTION AT THE MADISON CONCOURSE HOTEL – $125 PER PERSON
Cash bar and hors d'oeuvres will be provided

7:15-9:00PM MADISON CONCOURSE HOTEL
Victor Davis Hansen's keynote address and dinner

TICKET INFORMATION/QUESTIONS?

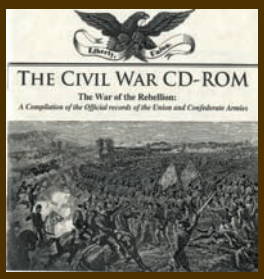
Tickets will go on sale March 14, 2013. For more information, contact Jennifer Carlson at 608.264.6086 or email *jennifer.carlson@dva.wisconsin.gov*

100% of the proceeds support the development of educational programs and exhibits at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

FROM THE MUSEUM STORE
SIGNATURE ITEMS

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum 2013 Wall Calendar features unique images of our collection and is highlighted with daily historical entries corresponding to 1863, a pivotal year in the American Civil War.

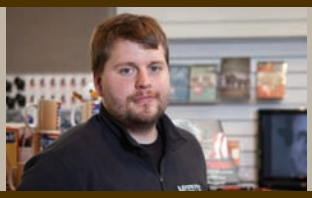
Now only $14.95



The War of the Rebellion, a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Quite possibly the most popular Civil War research tool on the market. CD-ROM, for Windows PCs.

Now only $69.95

GREG LAWSON
STORE MANAGER



2013 brings some big changes to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Gift Shop as we work on changing the appearance of the store and the items carried. We will be expanding the offering of W. Britain lines offered both in-store and online to include selections of the World Wars and the W. Britain Elite Forces Line. We are also working to carry models reflecting the items inside the Museum Galleries, allowing you to take a memory of the visit home with you.

To learn more about these products and other selections, start shopping at **store.wisvetsmuseum.com**.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum accepts all major forms of payment, including cash (U.S. currency only), check, Visa, Mastercard and American Express. Checks should be made payable to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and include a valid Driver's License Number and phone number. All items purchased in the State of Wisconsin are subject to sales tax.

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NEW CURATOR OF HISTORY
GREGORY KRUEGER

Hello, my name is Gregory R. Krueger and I am the new Curator of History at The Wisconsin Veterans Museum. I was born and raised in southeastern Wisconsin, studied United States history as an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, and Public History / Museum Studies as a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. I worked at several Wisconsin museums including the Milwaukee Public Museum and the Paine Art Center and Gardens before moving to Virginia eight years ago. Now, I am happy to be back in my home state.

Finally, I can once again use the phrase "Civil War" without being corrected by southern friends who routinely referred to it as the "War of Northern Aggression," the "War Between the States," or perhaps my favorite, the "War for Southern Independence." All of which are being remembered, if not celebrated lately in Virginia for the 150th anniversary. I traveled much the same route as many Wisconsin Civil War veterans did leaving the outskirts of Appomattox, or the "surrender grounds" as it is known by many Virginians, and returning to Wisconsin. Crossing over the Blue Ridge Mountains heading north west, I had everything I needed to survive on my back, or behind me as was the case for me as I drove a rented moving truck loaded with odds and ends.

I am excited to be working with Wisconsin military history again. My father joined the 82nd All-American division in 1960. He was aboard a C-130 outside of Miami with the props turning in April, 1961 before their involvement with the Bay of Pigs invasion was called-off. Growing up, I heard numerous stories like this about his time in the Army. I would have joined myself if it were not for numerous knee surgeries. Instead, I resigned myself to be the family historian.

Moving forward, I am excited about developing the final Civil War Sesquicentennial exhibit for June 2013 and working with my co-workers at WVM to provide meaningful connections to Wisconsin's military past and present.

(continued from page 7)

First Sergeant Timothy C. La Sage with troops at a graveyard on the east side of Ramadi. Back row, left to right: Timothy C. La Sage, Doc. Morales, Grady Kurpasi, Alex Borrow, Franciso Martinez. Front row: Dustin Mckenzie

happen in front of you. We would start from those positions then disappear into the alleys when it was dark. We would break into someone's house and work out of it for a day or two. All the fears or levels of anticipation or the nervousness; all that is there. Everything is working, everything is jiving, all the proper maintenance is there, but you are still about to climb over somebody's wall and slip into their window while they are sleeping and work out of their house for the next few days while they are detained in the house. So there is definitely some anxiety there. That tactic was working so much better than sitting in the known position where somebody can just peek from around a building and take shots at you and then disappear without you even seeing them. There are so many buildings and angles so we would protect those built up areas by dropping back four or five blocks and watching the enemy plan and then move up to a covered position to execute their plan. It worked out well for us. And with mission planning, as well when we were not on mission, we were a bunch of highly professional guys, but you have to have a sense of humor. You have to have a cool head and you have to be able to think under pressure.

NEXT ISSUE: LA SAGE IS SEVERELY WOUNDED BY AN IED IN THE RUN-UP TO THE BATTLE FOR FALLUJAH.

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-Bo Ryan

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