

For Children

In addition to the third annual "Remembering Our Heroes" event on Saturday, Oct. 13, the 6th Cavalry Museum is offering a special event geared toward school-age children on Friday, Oct. 12.

The event is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with area schools invited to take part of a discounted price of \$2 per student. The tour includes living history and World War II vehicle displays as well as a weapon demonstration and a tour of the 6th Cavalry Museum. Teachers and chaperones receive complimentary admission.

The Saturday event will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the opening ceremony to begin at 11 a.m. The day's events will include an address by Gen. Patton portrayed by Denny Hair and battle re-enactments at 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. The cook-off contest will begin at noon. The event will be held rain or shine. All proceeds benefit the 6th Cavalry Museum.

For more information, contact museum curator Chris McKeever at (706) 861-2860. The museum is in Fort Oglethorpe at 6 Bombard Circle, one block north of the Chickamauga National Military Park. Visit www.6thcavalrymuseum.org, www.wvheroes.net and www.pattonthidemy.com for additional event news.



Above left, German re-enactor Owen Suits. Above right, cook-off winner Odis Hickman representing VFW Post 3679 and museum volunteer Ron Davis.

volunteer re-enactor in Civil War events has been rewarding, but his passion lies in performing as a German soldier for WWII re-enactments.

"I was raised in a family who all performed as Civil War re-enactors, so it was natural for me to continue re-enacting," said Suits. "In high school, I was a member of the ROTC and became interested in WWII movies and memorabilia, and eventually I met some re-enactors online who performed in events that needed German soldiers."

Suits said his desire to perform as an enemy soldier stemmed from his thought of "you can't play cowboys and Indians without Indians." In addition, he wants to enlighten others about the realities of being a German soldier. "Most people think that all Germans were Nazis,

About the 6th Cavalry Museum

The 6th Cavalry Museum preserves the rich military history of the "Fighting Sixth" Cavalry, stationed at The Post at Fort Oglethorpe (1919-1942). On the post's original parade ground/polo field, the area is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, surrounded by officers' homes and other post buildings. The museum houses artifacts, uniforms, weapons, accouterments, photos, a Patton Tank and a Cobra Gunship Helicopter. For more information, visit www.6thcavalrymuseum.org.

but that was not the case at all, and I hope to change that perception," he said.

Hair, the Patton portrayed, said his portrayals of the general have been his passion for 30 years.

"For me, portraying Patton has meant studying this person and portraying him as accurately as I can," he said. "Learning specific mannerisms and speech of a historical figure is the difference between being a re-enactor and being a living historian."

Hair is writing a book about the experiences at Patton's war headquarters in Europe between 1943 and 1945.

"I've been asked to perform all over the world, and one event I remember well is that of the 64th anniversary of his death when I traveled to Heidelberg, Germany, to perform at the hospital where he died, but even with all of my experiences, the friendliest and nicest people I have ever worked with are in Fort Oglethorpe," said Hair.



At the Bastogne memorial in Belgium.

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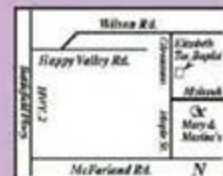


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McKeever. "When I started with the museum in 2005, I knew we had to have a fundraiser to keep the museum going and growing, so with the help of some key volunteers, 'Remembering Our Heroes' was created."

Each year, McKeever and museum volunteers work to bring something new to event spectators. "For the first event in 2010, we brought two German Tiger tanks that were used in the movie 'Saving Private Ryan' to offer a realistic element to the battle re-enactments," McKeever said. "This year, we'll still have the battles, and we're also bringing back a special living historian to portray Gen. George S. Patton,

McKeever said Denny Hair, from Houston, is a world-renowned living historian who specializes in portraying Patton. "As a scholar of Gen. Patton, Denny, along with portrayers of Patton's Third Army, will recreate a real-life setting showing the general in his war briefing tent," she said. "It's very important to be historically accurate in these events, and the portrayers help take people back in time, especially veterans who may have experienced this under Patton's command."

The new element to this year's show, said McKeever, is the addition of a re-enacted United Service Organizations (USO) show. "In addition to the portrayal of Patton, we'll also put together a show of singing and dancing, with re-enactors for both the performers and audience members."

McKeever said one of the highlights of the event is a presentation of commemorative pins to the area's men and women who served in World War II. "Last year, we asked all of the World War II veterans to come and sit up front to be presented with a special veteran's pin, and we had re-enactors who portrayed the personalities of Rita Hayworth and Lana Turner to present the pins," she said. "The veterans felt so proud to be honored and remembered."

McKeever noted the event will once again feature war vehicle displays as well as a cook-off contest featuring cooks who will represent each of the four branches of the military by preparing period food.

Volunteer re-enactors are key to event success

As an active member of the museum's board, event coordinator and volunteer Chris Lane was instrumental in the incep-



Top, a World War II veteran receiving his commemorative pin from Jenelle Gilreath as Lana Turner. Above, Denny Hair portraying Gen. George Patton, with "Willie."

tion of "Remembering Our Heroes"

"When Chris McKeever and I started brainstorming about various fundraisers for the museum, we knew that we needed to have an event that would draw interest and raise money for the museum, but more importantly, we wanted to make sure our veterans were honored," said Lane.

A major component to the success of any event of this kind, said Lane, is the quality of re-enactors, all of whom are volunteers who travel to events like the one hosted by the museum.

"Re-enactors do not get paid for their time or their work," he said. "They simply

love portraying history, and they see it as a way to honor the men and women who came before them to defend the freedoms we know in this country."

A re-enactor himself, Lane said his work to support the museum and re-enacting is his way of giving back and preserving history.

"My dad was a Civil War re-enactor, and both of my grandfathers fought in WWII, so it's really important for me to relate these stories to the younger generation, and I can do this through re-enactments," he said.

Twenty-year-old Owen Suits of LaFayette claims that his time spent as a