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Senior military leaders oversaw the opening of the Army museum at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, on Wednesday. (NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY/DUANE LEMPKE)

National Army museum opens to public

After years of hard work and a pandemic-induced delay, the National Museum of the United States Army is now open to the public.

Senior Army leaders, including Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston, helped celebrate the museum's opening during a ceremony Wednesday afternoon.

Acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Gen. Mark Milley also were on hand to mark the occasion.

"There have been thousands of hands who have worked tirelessly over the course of years to bring this

dream into reality," McCarthy said.

Because of their "dogged determination, this American treasure now lives," he said.

The museum's opening is a homecoming of sorts, McCarthy said.

"Under one roof, we have the Army story, safeguarded and preserved for our children's children and generations to follow," he said. "In doing so, we have our nation's story captured as well, as they are inextricably linked."

The Veterans Day opening of the museum at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, came after a five-month delay because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The opening ceremony was livestreamed and closed to the public because of health and safety concerns.

The museum, which has been in the works for years, is the first and only museum to showcase the entire history of the U.S. Army since its establishment in 1775.

It also brings to life the "inspirational stories of service and sacrifice" of American soldiers, McConville said. "Every soldier has a story, and the Army museum is the home of those stories."

The museum is a joint effort between the Army, which owns and manages the museum, and the Army Historical Foundation, which led a \$200 million privately funded campaign to build the museum.

The Association of the U.S. Army is

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Centennial approaches for Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Planning is underway to mark the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a sacred and iconic site at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

The centennial commemoration, directed by the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, will be observed on Nov. 11, 2021.

Its objective is “to honor America’s commitment to never forget or forsake those who served and sacrificed for our country, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, and to thank and honor the families of these veterans,” according to the NDAA.

There will be a national salute at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, 2021, Veterans Day, when churches, fire stations and other buildings across the country will ring their bells 21 times followed by a moment of silence.

On Nov. 9–10, 2021, visitors will have the opportunity to approach the Tomb and place a single carnation as a sign of honor and respect.

Other planned projects include a U.S. Postal Service stamp, a new merit badge for the Boy and Girl Scouts of America, and a commemorative coin and lapel pin, according to the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Centennial Committee.



A Tomb Sentinel from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) keeps watch over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

On March 4, 1921, Congress approved the burial of an unidentified American soldier from World War I in the plaza of Arlington National Cemetery, according to the cemetery’s website.

In September, the journey of the World War I unknown began in France, when four American bodies were exhumed from unmarked battlefield graves. Sgt. Edward Younger, a World War I veteran who was wounded in combat, chose the Unknown Soldier from among four identical caskets.

The casket began its journey to the Washington, D.C., area, while the other remains were interred in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France, according to the Arlington National Cemetery website.

The Unknown Soldier lay in state at the U.S. Capitol before being interred in the Tomb on Nov. 11, 1921.

The Tomb has since come to symbolize the sacrifices of all U.S. service members. Its white marble sarcophagus depicts three carved Greek figures representing peace, victory and valor. Inscribed on the back of the Tomb are the words: “Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God.”

To the west of the sarcophagus are the crypts for an Unknown Soldier from World War II and the Korean War. A crypt designated for the Vietnam Unknown was dedicated in 1999.

In 1926, Congress established a military guard to protect the Tomb, and since July 2, 1937, the Army has maintained a 24-hour guard over the Tomb. Sentinels from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), assumed those duties on April 6, 1948, and have maintained a constant vigil ever since.



Body bearers carry the Unknown Soldier from the USS Olympia to a horse-drawn caisson that transported the body to the U.S. Capitol on Nov. 9, 1921. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Exclusive AUSA collection tells stories of Medal of Honor recipients

The Association of the U.S. Army is releasing an exclusive Medal of Honor compendium featuring all four graphic novels produced this year as part of a series honoring recipients of the nation's highest award for valor.

This year, AUSA released graphic novels on Dr. Mary Walker, a Civil War surgeon and the only woman to receive the Medal of Honor; Sgt. Henry Johnson, a member of the famed "Harlem Hellfighters" from World War I; 2nd Lt. Daniel Inouye, a World War II hero who later became a U.S. senator; and Cpl. Tibor Rubin, a Holocaust survivor who fought in Korea.

The newly released paperback collection is available for free. You can request a copy by clicking here.

"I am excited to have the Medal of Honor collection in time for Veterans Day," said Joseph Craig, AUSA's Book Program director. "Reading these stories is a great way to celebrate the achievements of these remarkable heroes."

AUSA's graphic novels were created by a team of professionals from the comic book industry.

They include artists Karl Moline, whose previous work includes *X-Men*, *Deadpool* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*; PJ Holden, who worked on *Judge Dredd*, *World of Tanks* and *Battlefields*; Christopher Ivy, whose work includes *G.I. Joe*, *Avengers* and *Flash*; and Le Beau Underwood, who has worked on *Justice League*, *Suicide Squad* and *Hulk*.

Chuck Dixon, who has worked on *Batman*, *The Punisher* and *The 'Nam*, provided the scripts; Peter



Pantazis, a veteran of *Black Panther*, *Superman* and *Wolverine*, colored the works; and Troy Peteri, whose work includes *Spider-Man*, *Iron Man* and *X-Men*, handled the lettering.

Artwork for the cover of the four-novel collection was created by John Higgins, who is known for his colors on *Watchmen*.

AUSA launched its Medal of Honor graphic novel series in October 2018, producing four issues and a paperback collection.

Those graphic novels featured Sgt. Alvin York and his heroic deeds in France during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive of World War I; Maj. Audie Murphy, the most highly decorated soldier in American history; Green Beret legend and Vietnam War hero Staff Sgt. Roy Benavidez; and Spc. Sal Giunta, who served in Afghanistan and was the first living recipient of the Medal of Honor since Vietnam.

For more information or to download any of the graphic novels, click here.

“Reading these stories is a great way to celebrate the achievements of these remarkable heroes.”

AUSAExtra

Voice for the Army –
Support For the Soldier

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AUSA works with Top Resume to provide you a review by a professional resume writer, at no cost to you. They will evaluate format, content, keywords and skills and will run it through the same Applicant Tracking System that 93% of hiring managers use to filter candidates. To get started, visit www.ausa.org/jobscentral and click the "Resume Review" button on the right.

Army museum

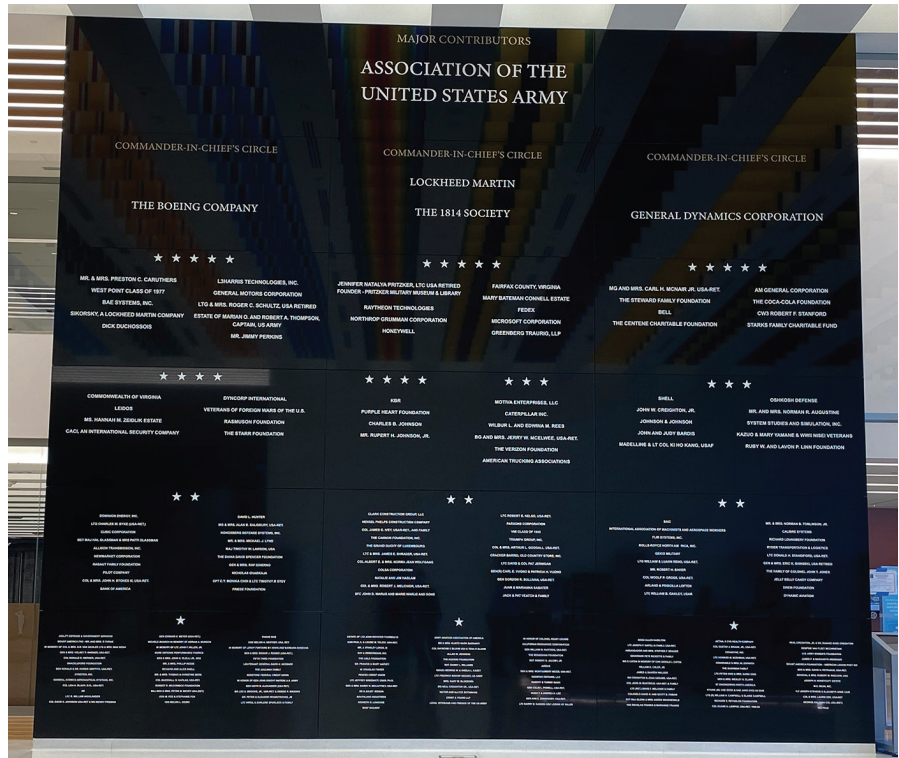
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the single-largest museum donor, contributing \$42.5 million to the project. A third of AUSA's chapters have also donated money.

"I am very proud of the essential role that AUSA has played in building the Army museum," said retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO. "We should take great pride in the fact that AUSA is, by far, the single-largest donor to the museum, and the fact that so many of our chapters and individual members have also contributed to this worthwhile endeavor."

Tickets are now available for those who would like to visit the museum. They are available on the museum website here, and they must be reserved online ahead of time. Walk-up tickets will not be available.

For more information on the museum, click here.



AUSA's name is atop the list of major museum contributors. (ARMY HISTORICAL FOUNDATION PHOTO)

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Soldiers, Army veteran selected as White House Fellows

Two active-duty soldiers and an Army veteran have been appointed to the 2020–2021 class of White House Fellows, a highly competitive program that places professionals from diverse backgrounds in various roles throughout government.

Maj. Lindsey Gerheim will spend the year at the Department of Commerce, while Lt. Col. Brian Kitching is placed at the White House Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management.

Army veteran Daniel Kurtenbach will serve in the Small Business Administration.

According to the White House, fellows gain “first-hand, high-level experience” in national affairs while expanding their knowledge in areas such as policymaking, leadership and current issues.

Kitching has spent more than 50



Fellows gain ‘first-hand, high-level experience’ in national affairs through the program. (COURTESY/THE WHITE HOUSE)

months deployed to combat since 2002.

A recipient of the Silver Star, the nation’s third-highest valor award, and two Bronze Stars for Valor, Kitching also has served as a General Wayne Downing Scholar at the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point.

He most recently was a special assistant to the Army chief of staff.

Gerheim, a West Point graduate, is a military police officer who has deployed and led combat missions in Iraq.

She previously served as the aide-de-camp to the deputy commander of Army Central, where she worked with U.S. ambassadors and host nation military leaders in support of security initiatives across 20 countries.

Kurtenbach, a West Point graduate, previously served as a Special Forces officer, leading the team responsible for conducting humanitarian and rescue operations after the 2015 earthquake in Nepal.

After the Army, he was a program manager for new product introduction at Apple, where he worked on some of the company’s flagship products.

Click here for more on the fellowship application process, which opened Nov. 2 for the 2021-2022 program.

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Army focuses attention on enlisted talent management

By Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey,
U.S. Army retired

The Army's top leaders have made clear that the service must remain ready as the world's premier combat force—and that readiness depends on people.

Capabilities such as resiliency, critical thinking, comfort with ambiguity, and the ability to accept prudent risk and adjust rapidly, all define the Army profession. That's why the Army created a strategy focusing on people, its most important resource.

The Army People Strategy describes how the service will shift from simply "distributing personnel" to more deliberately managing the talents of its soldiers and civilians.

To achieve these goals, the Army created the Talent Management Task Force, which has been hard at work

NCO & Soldier Programs

reforming the Army's three officer personnel systems across the total force. Many new initiatives specifically designed to enhance talent assessment capabilities have been set in motion.

With the officer management programs well on their way, the Army is now taking lessons learned and focusing attention on talent management across the NCO corps.

The Association of the U.S. Army's NCO and Soldier Programs directorate recently talked to two members of the enlisted talent management task force to learn what the Army is doing.

Sgt. Maj. Robert Haynie and Maj. Jed Hudson, who are spearheading the Army's efforts to modernize enlisted talent management, outlined three new programs that will begin before the end of 2020.

The first initiative, which launched Armywide Nov. 1, is the Assignment Satisfaction Key-Enlisted Module.

According to Army Human Resources Command, ASK-EM is modeled after the Army's Assignment Interactive Module for officers and designed to enhance interaction between NCOs



Several new initiatives are being launched in an effort to enhance how the Army assigns and promotes NCOs. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. NAHJIER WILLIAMS)

and HRC talent managers.

Through ASK-EM, eligible NCOs will be able to see all available jobs matching their MOS and grade.

NCOs can then rank their desired assignments in an automated marketplace-type interface, giving them more input into where they want to be assigned based on their knowledge, skills and preferences.

HRC will employ the market for NCOs for the 21-01 enlisted manning cycle.

Two other management tools the Army plans to pilot this year are the First Sergeant Talent Alignment Assessment and the Sergeants Major Assessment Program.

The First Sergeant Talent Alignment Assessment is a tool that leaders at the installation and division levels can use to assess the talents of their senior NCOs.

It includes an Army Physical Fitness Test, peer and subordinate feedback, a series of assessments called the First Sergeant Assessment Battery, and an interview with a panel of senior sergeants major and officers.

Meanwhile, units will have filled out a worksheet identifying the talents they're seeking for upcoming vacancies. A talent alignment panel will then compare the job requirements with the information gained from the assessment.

"The First Sergeant Talent Alignment Assessment is very unique as it is the first talent management initiative that incorporates objective assessments to enable talent alignment—actual job placement," Haynie said.

The Sergeants Major Assessment Program is similar to the Battalion Commander Assessment Program, which was first implemented by the Army last year and works to determine the officers best suited and ready for command.

This month, 32 sergeants major will attend BCAP in a non-binding prototype for SMAP.

As with the BCAP, the sergeants major will take a series of assessments including an interview with a psychologist, self, peer and subordinate feedback, and cognitive and non-cognitive assessments.

For more information on the Army's efforts to reform officer and enlisted talent management, click here.

To hear the full discussion with the enlisted talent management task force, check out AUSA's "Army Matters" podcast series on Nov. 18.

For more information, click here.

Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey is AUSA's vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs and was the 15th sergeant major of the Army.

Members deliver comfort food to returning soldiers

Members of the Association of the U.S. Army's Braxton Bragg chapter continued their efforts to boost troop morale by welcoming home from deployment 200 soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division to Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Andrew McFowler, the chapter president, and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmie Spencer, chapter executive vice president, delivered comfort food to the returning soldiers on Oct. 11.

Braxton Bragg

"We consider ourselves the bridge between the military community and the civilian community," Spencer said. "It's important that we have high quality of life in the greater Fayetteville area. We want to make an assignment to Fayetteville for our



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Andrew McFowler, right, the chapter president, and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmie Spencer, second from left, chapter executive vice president, deliver comfort food to returning soldiers at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. (AUSA PHOTO)

soldiers to be a 'Class A' event and an assignment of choice. That's what we're after."

Community Partners involved with this chapter project included McDonalds, Walk-Ons, Papa John's, Hot

Sugar Pop and Jersey Mikes.

"Thank you to our participating Community Partners for providing the services and discounted rates to make this mission successful," the chapter said in a Facebook post.

Chapter helps honor Korean War pilot, Vietnam POW

A portrait of the late U.S. Rep. Samuel Johnson was unveiled Monday at the Russell A. Steindam Courts Building in McKinney, Texas, thanks in part to efforts by the Association of the U.S. Army's North Texas-Audie Murphy chapter.

The portrait, by local artist and Air Force veteran Colin Kimball, is part of an ongoing project to honor fallen service members and those who sacrificed in service to the nation.

Johnson, an Air Force colonel who served in Korea and Vietnam, was the last Korean War veteran to serve in Congress.

North Texas-Audie Murphy

He died in May after serving more than two decades in the House of Representatives.

As an F-86 fighter pilot in Korea, he was credited with shooting down one MiG-15 and damaging another, according to the portrait plaque.

During the second of Johnson's two tours in Vietnam, his plane was shot



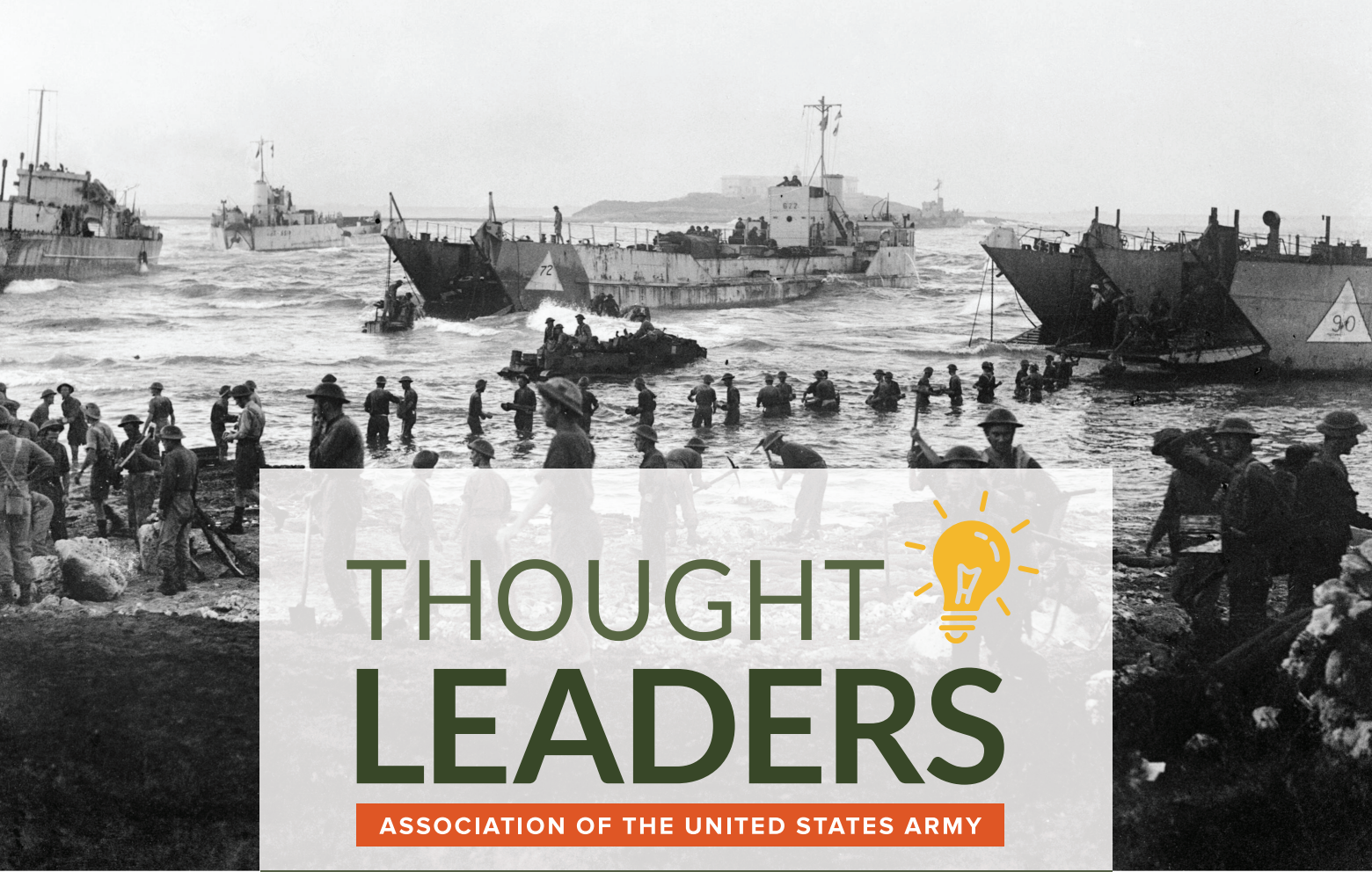
The portrait of the late U.S. Rep. Samuel Johnson. (COURTESY PHOTO)

down. "He became a Prisoner of War and was placed in solitary confinement for 42 months, shackled nightly in leg irons in a windowless 3-by-9-foot cell with a single incandescent light that remained on 24 hours a day," the plaque says.

It continues, "Johnson was one of 11 POWs known as the Alcatraz Gang for their fierce and stubborn resistance that were singled out and subjected to some of the harshest treatment by their captors. His faith in God allowed him to endure unimaginable inhumane treatment, and he returned home with honor as one of the 591 POWs that were liberated in February 1973."

Although Johnson's right hand was permanently disabled, he remained in the Air Force and regained flight status as a fighter pilot before retiring in 1979.

Other organizations that helped make the portrait presentation possible include the Seidel chapter of the Air Force Association, the Dallas and North Texas chapters of the Military Order of World Wars, the Dallas council of the Navy League, the Honor Guard of Plano American Legion Post 32, and the Collin County Freedom Fighters.



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