

THE BATTERY

FALL 2015

p2 from the desk of the president

OPEN HOUSE SET FOR OCT. 10

7 DEFENSE GROUP VISITS LEWES

8 WORK CONTINUES ON RAIL SYSTEM

GETTING GOOD INK, LOTS OF ATTENTION

George Ward, Publicity Chair



FMHA has had numerous Fort Miles articles published in *The Cape Gazette, Sussex County Post, Coastal Press* and other local papers since the last newsletter. *The News Journal* gave us splashy play in late August with a section-front refer to an inside article on the

fall tour schedule. The newspaper used a great photo of Battery 519 that we sent, on the front and inside.

The annual Delaware Goes to War event in late April was widely covered. The re-enactment of the surrender of the crew of U858 in particular received wide coverage.

Our photos of workers sandblasting and primer-coating the large parts for the 16-inch gun, and the visit of Coastal Defense Study Group in early May, received good local play.

We plan to send a release that details the autumn open house Oct. 10 and the Veterans Day celebration Nov. 14.

I expect extensive coverage on the construction of the gun park. The photo opportunities of that project will be plentiful.



Bob and Ellen Wheatley volunteer at the gift shop.

Gratifying gift shop sales

With the invaluable help of Ann Ward, Kae Johnson and a number of volunteers, the expansion of the gift shop in the Orientation Building is going extremely well. We have added to the number of days we are open and have added merchandise. Water at \$1 is a great seller as are playing cards with WWII airplanes on them. Purses for little girls that Etta Kosaveach and Ann have knitted are popular. Thanks also to Irv Eberhart for making the popular tower nightlights.

FMHA switched to a fiscal year to match the state of Delaware's. For the year ending June 30, we had sales of more than \$9,000 and donations of nearly \$1,300. For the month of July, the first of this fiscal year, we tallied more than \$3,200 in net sales and donations. That money goes to Fort Miles restoration efforts.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

DR. GARY WRAY

FMHA is going great guns

These are exciting times for Fort Miles Historical Association and Cape Henlopen State Park: We will start moving dirt in the fall for our new artillery park. This is also the 12th year of FMHA, started in August 2003, underneath Tower 3 in Dewey Beach by four very interested local people: Bob Frederick (current FMHA vice president); David Main of Dewey Beach; Lee Jennings (the late Delaware State Park historian); and me. At that public meeting, we stated the vision of Fort Miles and now, a dozen years later, we are putting our vision into action by pouring concrete pads in the new gun park overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. (More on that later.)

The Fort Miles team

None of our progress since 2003 could have been accomplished without the assistance of our partners in Delaware State Parks. No one could be more supportive than Parks Director Ray Bivens, who has given his key advice time and again. His team members -- Matt Chesser, Cindy Todd, Paul Nicholson (now retired), Matt Ritter, Jim Hall, Eric Dawson, Kevin Rychlicki, Jonathan Wickert and many others -- have worked tirelessly to help make the Fort Miles Historic Area and Museum a reality. At Cape Henlopen State Park, Superintendent Paul Faircloth and area chief Pat Cooper have worked with our team to make our Fort Miles story more powerful. Credit also is due Fort Miles Interpreter Shawn Heacock and his staff.

FMHA, led by its board, works closely with DSP. The board has changed much since 2003 but several members, such as Bev Dalecki and Joe Kosoveach, have been with co-founder Bob Frederick and me a long time. So have Joe Johnson (assistant treasurer), Merlin Beil, John Roberts (Bunker Busters) and Dan Lyons. Newer members are Cliff Giesler, Larry Boyer (treasurer), George Ward (publicity and FMHA store) and Mike Dunkes (secretary and membership). We recently welcomed Jim Pierce, who joined the board last month and brings us a wealth of experience. Jim has been getting up to speed on important issues and is playing a main role on our fundraising committee.

We have a good blend of talent on our board, which has been vital to all our success during the past dozen years and for implementing our vision. Each board member dedicates a significant amount of time each month to FMHA efforts, such as tour guide, our store, fundraising, Lewes, Dewey Beach and Rehoboth antiques and craft shows, and many other meetings and events. Each month our FMHA team, including the Bunker Busters led by John Roberts, volunteer more than 1,000 hours to Fort Miles. That's dedication.

Artillery park and Missouri gun display

Bids were opened July 28 at DSP offices in Dover for moving dirt in our artillery park, starting this fall. Each of our guns will be placed on a concrete pad, working up the dune to the soon-to-be northwest glass entrance to the museum (2017).

Becker Morgan Architects in Dover has led the planning for the past three years.

The first pad to be poured will be the huge one for the Missouri gun, which will be in front of the "to-be" northwest entrance to the museum. That pad will have to support more than 350 tons so it will have to be built very carefully. A wooden path (built by our Bunker Busters) will link each of the pads up the hill to the museum.

The Fort Miles Artillery Park will be dedicated at our big April 23, 2016, event. That is the 90th anniversary of the Cape Henlopen lighthouse falling into the Atlantic Ocean. Now April 23 will mark the beginning of a new great Delaware seacoast landmark. Check this newsletter for a map of the new artillery park and other improvements. Very exciting.

FMHA fundraising committee

This important FMHA committee, with Mike Rawl and Mark Chura of Horizon Philanthropic in Lewes, has been working diligently for several months to put a plan together to help raise the necessary funds for Fort Miles.

We have divided the effort into phases. The first phase includes the new northeast entrance fronting on the Atlantic Ocean; the north gun room; and the hall to the northwest entrance that will overlook the new artillery park. This area will be multifunctional to make it available for events, such as weddings, overlooking the best view on the Delaware seacoast.

Continued on page 5

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Dr. Gary Wray

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Larry Boyer

Assistant Treasurer

Joe Johnson

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Bev Dalecki

Cliff Geisler

Joe Kosaveach

Dan Lyons

Jim Pierce

John Roberts

George Ward

MISSION

The Fort Miles Historical Association is a nonprofit group that has its mission to preserve, protect and defend all aspects of Fort Miles working with community and state stakeholders and other interested parties. The FMHA also has its goal to work as an active partner with the State of Delaware to develop the historical potential of Fort Miles.

To learn more, visit www.fortmilesha.org

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY — MIKE DUNKES Answering the call from Fort Miles



I asked for volunteers in our spring newsletter and you responded. We expanded our gift shop sales force. We added new Bunker Buster volunteers for those tough and sometimes dirty jobs.

The prize winner, however, is Carry Lingo, who is determined to pull us into the 21st century by persuading high school senior Sarah Koon to become FMHA's first intern. Sarah is responsible for our entry into social media.

Planning for next year is under way, including expanding the days and hours the gift shop will be open. We hope to increase the number of scheduled guided tours. Docent training will continue into the fall with a pause for winter, then restart next spring.

We need you. Help preserve history

We're thrilled that so many of you have stepped up to help. Your contributions are invaluable. But we still need volunteers. Send me an email or call and we will find a spot that fits your interests. (mdunkes@verizon.net or 302-381-8800)

See for yourself at our Oct. 10 open house

Visit us for our fall open house Oct. 10. See the restoration of the 16-inch gun and improvements inside Battery 519. I'm proud of what our volunteers have accomplished.

That is tangible progress. We also are making headway on things you can't see.

A can't-see item is new software that will enable FMHA to better manage membership. Beginning in the first quarter of 2016, membership will be renewed annually and renewals will be managed quarterly. If you renew your membership in the first quarter, you will receive a renewal request in the first quarter of the next year. The same will hold for the second, third and fourth quarters.

Special visits from extraordinary veterans

We hosted visitors recently who warmed our hearts. We welcomed them on a Thursday in late August, while our Bunker Busters were welding, sanding and restoring gun parts. A veteran named Tony Gungui, whose family purchased a Wall of Honor paver for him, was so touched that he wanted to share the Fort Miles experience with veterans from Elsmere and Milford facilities.

Two handicap buses brought about 15 vets and their aides to Fort Miles. Several Bunker Busters stopped what they were doing and helped these special visitors tour Battery 519. This type of experience makes our efforts worthwhile.

TOUR PROGRAM AND ATTENDANCE GROW

Shawn Heacock, Park Interpreter

The summer of 2015 is booming at Fort Miles. We expanded our tour program and attendance numbers have grown to match. Many days the Battery 519 tours were fully booked and occasionally required a second tour for the day.

Our education program is really gaining steam. An excellent education program, of course, cannot run without good staff and volunteers. This year, we had two great employees, two topnotch interns and a host of enthusiastic volunteers to ensure that our guests learned the Fort Miles story. I don't have numbers (summer isn't over), but I believe this will be our best summer.

New gun park brings new waysides

Changes are on tap at Fort Miles this fall and winter. The new artillery park will be a great addition. I won't go over the big details that have been covered, but small additions deserve notice. A new gun park brings new waysides. I'm designing signs to explain the guns that were at Fort Miles and tidbits about the display pieces we have. I'm also working to bring in additional artillery pieces. I'll update everyone if the negotiations work out.

The new bathroom will be welcome. The Fort Miles staff has been using a portable toilet for 10 years. We call it an authentic World War II experience but we'll happily trade the latrine for 21st century plumbing.

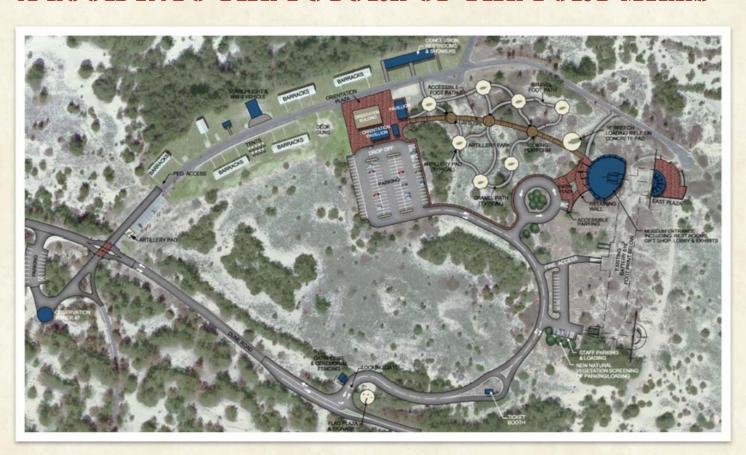
A new coat at the barrack buildings and guns

All the barrack buildings and guns will be painted this fall and winter. Paint is a constant maintenance chore in a beach area. Salt water and sand really take their toll so a fresh coat of paint is necessary every six or seven years. That will help bring together the new artillery park and new bathroom building.

It's too soon to tell if areas of the fort will be closed because of construction but it's likely sites will be off limits to the public for safety. We will do our best to keep everyone informed as we make great progress developing the site.

Finally, the education program is on hiatus and the Orientation Building will be closed during cold winter months (December to March). When we return in the spring, we will share Fort Miles history in a new and improved locale.

A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE OF THE FORT MILES



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

(... Continued from page 2)

During this phase, we will build a metered parking lot and a road leading to the museum. We envision a value-added tour of our museum as part of the parking fee. All revenues from rental of the northeast entrance and the new parking lot will go to the state Fort Miles account/budget.

It will be the fundraising committee's job to raise the private share of funds to make our Fort Miles vision of the best WWII museum inside a WWII facility a reality. We are well on our way because, in the past several years, we have raised more than \$1.5 million through public and private donations, and with great assistance from Delaware State Parks and the Delaware Legislature. We will need at least three times that to make our vision a reality.

Coast Defense Study Group visits Fort Miles

FMHA and Delaware State Parks hosted the premier coast defense group in the nation for its annual national conference in early May. Thanks to the dedication of DSP, Cape Henlopen staff and FMHA Bunker Busters, all parts of Fort Miles were opened for CDSG inspection, many of which had been closed for more than 40 years.

For the first time, the evening of May 2, 2015, CDSG held its annual conference inside a coast defense battery in the old motor generator room of Battery 519 (which is now the board/meeting room of FMHA).

The conference was made all the more successful with the help of Sam Burke and his family, who graciously allowed CDSG members to tour Fort Saulsbury. FMHA supplied a bus for CDSG members to travel around Fort Miles and hosted a wonderful luncheon for them May 2 inside the museum.

It was a very successful conference and our honor and pleasure to work with our friends of CDSG to make it such a success. CDSG has been with us for years, supporting our efforts at Fort Miles with advice and funds. CDSG was a great help in bringing the Missouri gun barrel and its parts to Delaware in the past three years.

Fort Miles and Dover Air Force Base, 1940-2015

I recently gave a talk at DAFB and asked the audience (including several high-ranking officers) if they knew why DAFB is located in Dover, Del. No one had an answer. When I told them that the base and Fort Miles were established for the same reason: to protect the Delaware estuary, including Maryland and New Jersey, from our soon-to-be German enemies, they were surprised. Seventy-five years later, DAFB and Fort Miles are together again, this time to preserve our history.

During the past year, the shop team at DAFB has been working with our Fort Miles Bunker Busters to restore the overhead rail system. The overhead rail system in Battery 519 delivered 12-inch shells from the south shell room to the breech of the 12-inch gun in the gunroom.

Almost all the aluminum brackets holding the rail were made in the DAFB shop, saving us considerable money and time.

Several weeks ago, the Fort Miles team invited the folks from DAFB (led by Mike Workman) to our museum for a pizza lunch and a tour, showing them what their hard work has produced.

We envision continuing to work closely with DAFB staff and the staff of the excellent Air Mobility Museum in Dover, sharing advice and information on how best to maintain metal objects (in our case, big guns in our new artillery park) exposed to the outdoors, including salt spray. We have to maintain our metal guns just as Air Mobility Museum has to care for its outdoor plane exhibits.

DAFB and Fort Miles work together years after WWII to save Delaware history and help bring it to life for visitors.

Oct. 10 event, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We are holding an open house from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, offering tours of Battery 519 for \$3 a person. We will have our full complement of guides, including our new intern, Sarah Koon of Lewes, who will be at the sand table of Fort Miles. At 3 p.m., we will hold our Wall of Honor presentations for those who have purchased pavers. Join us for the day.

Fort Miles "loo" will be installed soon

For those who are familiar with the British term "loo," you know that pertains to what we call "restrooms." Our Fort Miles Historic Area now only has "Johnny on the Spot" restrooms.

Using a grant from the Longwood Foundation, we have on order a modular restroom that will be installed this fall, with landscape work done by our Bunker Busters.

Our Bunker Busters have been toiling to convert a barrack into a mess hall, which will be furnished with picnic tables built by the Indian River School District Eagle Scout troop. Look for that at our big April 23, 2016, get together.

That covers events since spring. Our volunteer Fort Miles Historic Association team has been hard at work to propel the mission. Follow the local news as we start moving dirt to develop our artillery park. Hope to see you all at our Oct. 10 event.

Thanks for all your support in the past 12 years.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF DOLLARS AND CENTS

Larry Boyer, Treasurer



This is how FMHA's "back office" operations work. Back office commonly refers to work behind the scenes in finance, accounting and human resources. It's not as glamorous as the work that people see, such as renovating the bunker, moving the big gun or taking tours but it is work that must be done to

meet organizational and governmental requirements. It ensures that the money and time donated for memberships, events, tours, Bunker Busting, board management and miscellaneous contributions are accounted and reported accurately and properly. We have many of the same obligations as for-profit businesses, such as filing tax returns and reporting our financial position internally and to our Delaware State Parks partners. We want all of our members, partners and supporters to know that we are good stewards of our financial, physical and human assets.

I provide a snapshot of our bank account balance and outstanding commitments once a month at the FMHA board meetings. This report is entered into the minutes and becomes part of our permanent records. We have a checking account and an account managed by the Greater Lewes Foundation. The GLF invests any large grants we receive to maximize our return until we spend the grant money. This is how we managed our grant to move the Missouri barrel from Dahlgren, Va., to Fort Miles. We apply for grants to help in two areas: 1) operational grants that we receive from the state of Delaware, and 2) larger grants to help us move toward our goal of building a world- class World War II museum on a World War II site, such as building parts of the museum. (More on this later.)

Transparency is key

In the past year, FMHA has moved its financial accounting and reporting from paper to a computerized system. This provides more timely and "on-demand" reporting capability that is required as we continue to grow. Growth, through fundraising, increased membership, store sales and other revenue-producing opportunities, mandates that our financial position be well-documented and available. Transparency in all of our accounting transactions and financial reporting is key when building and retaining relationships with our constituencies. Reporting to them in an accurate manner about how we used their generous gifts is one way to keep their support.

We can use the new computer software to track members, vendors, etc. You will read in Mike Dunkes' article that we are moving toward an annual renewal for our members using this software. We can maintain a much more robust member profile. Stay tuned for more.

Mission statement guides day-to-day work

The mantra, "Create a world-class WWII museum on a WWII site in the United States" is more than just a slogan, IT IS OUR MISSION.

Moving guns, conducting battery tours, renovation of the site and bunker are all-important steps that have provided us with many passionate and dedicated supporters and we are grateful. These steps have taken thousands of hours of hard work, tireless support from our state parks partners and financial support from our legislators and people such as you. This has led us here, to start the big push to the finish line – the museum.

Raising funds to reach the finish line

We have begun an effort with Horizon Philanthropic and Delaware State Parks to launch a major capital campaign to get us to the finish line. You will hear more about this, but I wanted to provide a short overview. We don't have all the final designs and dollar costs ironed out but we know enough to have started high-level planning.

The gun park (the last of our steps mentioned above), which will host the 16-inch Missouri gun and all other guns now on site, will be complete by our April 2016 open house.

We need to fund the next three phases:

- Glass-enclose and modify the northeast entrance and interior (uppermost view to the ocean and future site of weddings) of the bunker:
- Provide adequate roads and parking for the bunker; and
- 3. Glass-in and modify the northwest bunker entrance and complete the museum interior. This is a multiyear effort and will require substantial dollars.

We cannot complete the final steps the way we completed the beginning steps. The capital campaign will be designed to raise the money for the finished product as fast as possible so we can begin sharing the magnificent history of this fort in a museum setting.

Thank you for your continuing and unwavering support.

MEMORABLE FORT MILES MOMENTS













FMHA and Delaware State Parks hosted the premier Coast Defense Group for its annual national conference in early May. Thanks to the hard efforts of DSP and Cape Henlopen staff and the Bunker Busters of FMHA, all parts of Fort Miles were opened for CDSG inspection, many of which had not be opened for more than 40 years!

Photo credit: Coast Defense Group

WORKING ON THE RAIL SYSTEM AND MORE

John Roberts



Our Bunker Busters have been hard at work over the past several months on many projects. One Buster wondered how we would stay busy during the winter. That was never a problem.

The 12-inch ammunition rail service

Thanks to Fred and the rest of the crew, we have made significant progress on the rail system. All the I-beams are in house, including the curved sections. We have all the studs in the ceiling repaired, the support brackets fabricated and installed, and several sections are in place. As we get the rail support clamps fabricated (we're grateful to the

Metals Technology Group at Dover Air Force Base), we are getting more sections installed. This includes bolting the sections together and aligning the system to follow the original plans. We have about 100 feet of the circuit in place and have about 150 feet to go. With much of the fabrication work completed, we'll have the rest in place within the next few months. Excellent work for all involved.

The shot cart has more features now. The snubber and brakes are in place.

Our machine shop in Battery Smith

Having our shop out of Battery 519 has been a huge benefit. We can make as much noise as we want and not disrupt tours. We often have the entire crew in our shop and no one in Battery 519. With our milling machine in operation, our capabilities have increased. We have a ventilated area where we can clean parts, paint and do other work that produces fumes and dust.

We're working toward getting all of Battery Smith climate controlled. After we installed HVAC in Battery 519, we took our old dehumidifiers and started drying out the rest of Smith. Delaware State Parks helped by buying four new units. Now, the entire building has at least a non-condensing atmosphere, and most of it is quite dry. The motor pool in the south gun room has fairly dry air, even with rain water on the floor. This has eliminated all the shorts and ground faults in Battery Smith. That's a job well done.

The 16-inch Missouri gun project

We began planning this gun's restoration after the remaining parts arrived from U.S. Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division in Virginia. Right after Memorial Day, Cassidy Painting from Newport, Del., sandblasted the girder, slide and yoke for this exhibit. After two coats of primer, these nasty-looking parts look brand new. Additional work will be needed on the bottom of these parts, once the gun is assembled.

Our crew has been very busy preparing all the pieces for assembly, most likely this fall. We have the back end of the barrel prepared to receive the yoke and locking ring. This meant removing all the keys and rings. These parts look small in comparison but their total weight is more than 300 pounds. Everything on this gun is big. The slide is being prepared to receive the barrel, and the crew has been working on all the trunnion bearings and other parts in Battery Smith. Interestingly, Battery Smith is where our 16-inch guns were originally installed.

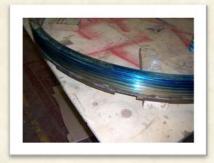
We will have all these parts prepared well in advance of the gun assembly.

Battery 519 infrastructure projects

We are getting the engineering design work completed to finish our HVAC system in the north end of Battery 519. Once we get quotes, we will go for the grant money to finish this.













JOIN THE FORT MILES HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Help us preserve, restore and protect this remarkable site.

Become a member of the Fort Miles Historical Association by filling out the form below and mailing it with your check to the address listed.

Name:	PLEASE CHECK ONE
Address:	☐ General level, (life member) \$1,000.
	□ Colonel level, \$500.
City:, State Zip:	□ Major level, \$250.
Phone: ()	□ Captain level, \$100.
Email:	☐ Small Business \$75.
Enclosed is my check in the amount of: \$	□ Dual/Family \$20.
Make checks payable to:	□ Individual \$15.
Fort Miles Historical Association	□ Student \$10.
Dr. Gary Wray, President	- Stadent 910.
120 E. Wild Rabbit Run	
Lewes, DE 19958	



WORKING ON THE RAIL SYSTEM AND MORE

(...continued from page 8)

Beyond the original design submitted four years ago, we also will design the systems for the north gun block and the entry building to be built onto the northeast entrance of the battery. Included are improved dehumidification, allowing simultaneous heating and drying, improved fresh-air control and more efficient operation. Even though we will be heating more of the building, the prediction is that energy consumption will be reduced.

Included in this is the addition of a glass wall, similar to the south end, on the ocean side of the north gun block.

Period-correct mess hall tables

We thank Don Hattier and the Boy Scouts for building the periodcorrect mess hall tables. These were a great help during our April event. We are converting T604 into our permanent mess hall. We hope to have this running by April. Friends of Cape Henlopen, who operate this during our events, took part in the design.

Preparing for an important visit

We prepared these structures to be visited by the Coast Defense Study Group. We unearthed the entrances and made them fairly safe to tour for CDSG members who visited Fort Miles for their annual meeting. This event was a huge success. In return, CDSG gave us a donation to help secure these structures, which have been vandalized and deteriorating for decades. We have all of these structures temporarily secured. This fall, we will build steel doors as a more permanent solution, working to allow tours of these often undiscovered structures.

Tower models night lights

Irv Eberhart and Don Martz have been producing the tower model night lights sold at the Fort Miles gift shop and at our events. They're crafting the models in our Battery Smith shop.



Thank you ...

... to Tom Anderson, who has been invaluable locating services such as concrete demolition and restoration, and the sandblasting and painting of the 16-inch gun assemblies, at very reasonable costs. He's saved us a lot of our hard-earned money.

... to Fred Noll and Jack Bolin for their incredible mechanical skills. They are the leaders for our machine shop and the rail system.

... to Jeff DiBella for keeping our shop running smoothly.

... to Jack Hliva, Bob Wheatley, Pat Bragdon, Charlie Baummer, Irv Eberhart, Don Martz, Greg Thomson, Rich Ross, Bill McCurdy, Dan Brown, Don Macauley, Don Taylor, Ed Hiebsch, Harry Winn, Mike Boteler, Mike Workman, Tim Phillips, Don Hattier and many others for all they've done for us. If I missed your name, please forgive me. Our numbers are growing, and keeping track of everyone sometimes requires superhuman effort.

... to the contractors who helped us this year: Cassidy Painting for the prep and painting of our gun parts, and AP Croll for the concrete demolition and restoration inside Battery 519.

Thanks to Friends of Cape Henlopen for helping us with the food offered at our events. And, of course, a huge thanks to our partners, Delaware State Parks.

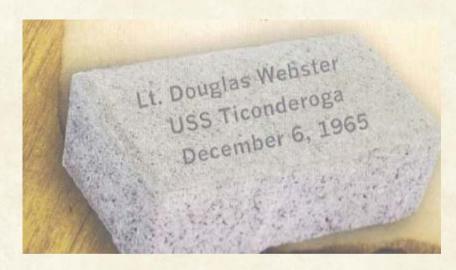




ORDER YOUR ENGRAVED PAVER

for the Wall of Honor at the Fort Miles museum

Now you can support the new Fort Miles museum, receive a tax deduction and see your name or that of a loved one honored on a handsome brick paver. Each engraved paver will be prominently displayed in Battery 519, America's first WWII museum at an actual military site. More than 10,000 visitors each year will see your paver, and we will send a tribute card to whoever you designate, telling them of this special honor. The tax-deductible cost for each paver is just \$200, including delivery and installation in a well-lighted entrance area. This first phase of the "Wall of Honor" will accommodate just 500 pavers and orders are being accepted on a first-come basis. Reserve your paver now by returning the form below.



Engraving Instructions

street state zip email	city	Send ord Fort Miles Histori Dr. Gary Wray 120 E. Wild F Lewes, DE	cal Association y, President Rabbit Run
name	phor	ne	
YES, I want to purchase a paver at the I All donations are tax deductible. Enclosed payable to the Fort Miles Historical Associ	d is my check made	\$ for	paver/s.
line 1 line 2 line 3			
line 2 line 3			
line 1			

Fort Miles Historical Association 120 East Wild Rabbit Run Lewes, DE 19958

