



MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM

HAPPENINGS & HIGHLIGHTS

900 West Marion Ave • Punta Gorda • FL 33950 • 941-575-9002 • MilitaryHeritageMuseum.org





VETERANS

VIETNAM VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

March 29, 2023

Military Heritage Museum

A Tribute and Thank You to All Who Serve or Have Served

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 9:30-10:00 | APPRECIATION CEREMONY will take place in the Gulf Theater
A Tribute and Appreciation to Vietnam Veterans
Tribute Video |
| 10:00-4:00 | FREE Museum Admissions for Vietnam-Era Veterans- must check in to
get wristband and flight times if desired. (Does not include concerts.)

Special Exhibit in the Lobby: African Americans and Women in Vietnam |
| 11:00 | First Showing of Documentary "Vietnam: Stories from the Wall"
(46 minutes) Documentary is shown in the Library with introduction and
follow-up by Ron Suci |
| 11:00 - 1:00 | LUNCH is available for purchase in the P-51 Club. |
| 11:00 - 1:00 | HUEY COCKPIT TOURS |
| 1:00 | Second Showing of Documentary "Vietnam: Stories from the Wall"
(46 minutes) Documentary is shown in the Library with introduction and
follow-up by Ron Suci |
| 3:00 | MATINEE - BAD MOON RISING: A Tribute to Creedance Clearwater
Purchase tickets from the Gulf Theater |
| 7:00 | EVENING - BAD MOON RISING: A Tribute to Creedance Clearwater
Purchase tickets from the Gulf Theater |

V I E T N A M

V E T E R A N S

900 West Marion Avenue | Punta Gorda, FL 33950 | 941.575.9002 | militaryheritagemuseum.org



Charlotte County & the State of Florida,
in cooperation with William R. Gaines Jr.
Veterans Memorial Fund & The Military
Heritage Museum

Invites you to attend the

BEIRUT PEACEKEEPERS MEMORIAL TOWER GROUNDBREAKING SERVICE

10-11 AM Wednesday, March 15, 2023

William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park
20499 Edgewater Drive, Port Charlotte, FL



William R Gaines Jr.
VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK



The tower design is intended to be an educational experience to inspire visitors to climb or ride the elevator to each of the three levels to learn the full history of the role the Beirut Peacekeepers played in Lebanon.

More than 10,000 American veterans served in Beirut over a three-year period from 1982 to 1984 as part of a multinational peacekeeping force that included French, Italian, and British troops. They were there to provide stability in Lebanon after a series of factional conflicts. The peacekeepers suffered multiple attacks and casualties leading up to the two suicide bombings that killed 241 Americans and 55 French service members.

The groundbreaking will include speakers who will share the personal, historical, and national significance of the Beirut Peacekeepers and their story. Many Beirut veterans and Gold Star families will be attending and all are invited.

The tower is being funded as part of a public and private partnership. For information about the park, visit <https://wrgainesjr.org>.

Military Heritage Museum Exhibit

HEROIC TALES:

The Contributions of Women and Black Service Members During the Vietnam War



On July 29, 1948, US President Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9981, establishing equality of treatment and opportunity in the Armed Services. At the start of the Korean War integration had begun; sixteen months after the war ended, the US Army reported it was fully integrated. The Vietnam War would then see the first time in US history that service men of all races would serve together on equal terms. But how equal was it really? Did equal on the battlefield also mean equal at home? Black Americans served in every US military conflict, yet their contributions in the Vietnam War are marginalized and they have even had their patriotism questioned. Black service members have taken immense pride in serving their country at war, but racism was still prevalent even in the war zone of Vietnam.



What about the 11,000 women who served in Vietnam during the war? The nurses and other female military members serving in this era are often referred to as the "Forgotten Veterans of Vietnam." While women were not serving in combat or on the frontlines, they were put in dangerous situations and could not be protected from the brutality of the conflict. Eight female service members lost their lives in the line of duty, and their names are forever inscribed beside their brothers on the Vietnam Wall Memorial in Washington DC. But what about recognition for the remaining female veterans? It took the women veterans from the Vietnam War over 10 years of petitioning and fighting to receive their own memorial in 1993. Why was it so hard for these women to receive recognition for their service in war?



During the months of February and March the Military Heritage Museum offers a special exhibit in the museum's atrium titled "Heroic Tales: The Contributions of Black and Women Service Members During the Vietnam War", which seeks to show the story of the first racially integrated US military serving in war together and the accomplishments of Black servicemen throughout the two decades of fighting in the hostile terrain of Vietnam. The exhibit will also highlight the important roles US women filled during the Vietnam War. Without the nurses and the female service members working hard in Vietnam throughout the conflict, even more male service members would have never made it home. And we cannot overlook the roles of the morale boosting civilian women who volunteered to be sent into the warzone by the Red Cross Supplemental Recreational Activities Overseas (SRAO) program. The part these "Donut Dollies" filled was invaluable to the men serving on the front lines.



"HONORING ALL WHO SERVED"

Through artifacts and videos "Heroic Tales" will show how the service of Black American men and women veterans of all races affected the Vietnam War. See and hear the stories of the Vietnam era Black American soldiers and the women Vietnam veterans at the Military Heritage Museum. The true impact of these two groups during the Vietnam War cannot be overlooked or ignored.

DOCUMENTARIES

Military Heritage Museum

These features are included in the Museum's One-Day All Access Pass.

MARCH 7 thru MARCH 11 | 1:00 P.M.

WOMEN COMBAT PILOTS: THE RIGHT STUFF

After almost a century of bravery, skill, and determination, women finally earned the right to become official US military combat pilots in 1993. In this eye-opening documentary, learn the rich history that surrounds women in flight – from the contributions of Katharine Wright (Orville and Wilbur's sister) to the extraordinary sacrifices made by the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs) during WWII to the admirable feats exhibited by the highly respected female fighter jet pilots of today.



MARCH 14 thru MARCH 18 | 1:00 P.M.

VIETNAM SOLDIER'S STORY: WOMEN AT WAR

Women serving in Vietnam faced similar trauma and danger as their male counterparts but were told to hide their emotions. This documentary gives insight to the lives of the females serving in different roles during the Vietnam War, told in their own words and seen through their eyes.



MARCH 21 thru MARCH 25 | 1:00 P.M.

GRUNTS OF VIETNAM

Most Americans in Vietnam served as support troops and saw little combat, but "grunts"—the infantrymen on the ground—faced difficult conditions. In this special edition from the American Honor series, you will hear first-hand accounts from the men serving in combat during the Vietnam War.



MARCH 25 | 1:00 P.M.

AMERICA THE STORY OF US: REVOLUTION

America The Story of Us is an epic 12-hour television event that tells the extraordinary story of how America was invented. In Episode 2, Revolution, the colonies declare independence, taking on the might of the British Empire. As Washington's army nears defeat, new weapons and battle tactics turn the tide, forging a new nation through revolution.



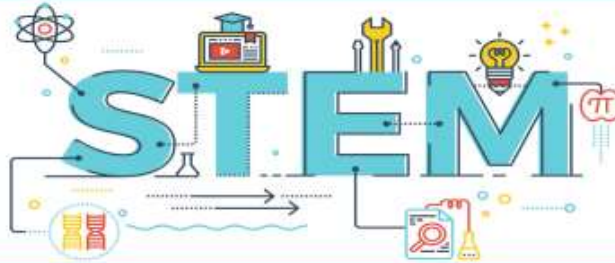
MARCH 28 thru APRIL 1 | 1:00 P.M.

VIETNAM: STORIES FROM the WALL

In this episode learn the stories behind the names of some of the more than 58,000 soldiers who lost their lives during the Vietnam War. The names on the wall at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial are more than just names – they were soldiers who sacrificed everything in service to their country. See their stories remembered through their friends, their family, and their brothers in arms.



MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM



SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | MATH

INNOVATE ■ CREATE ■ HAVE FUN

SATURDAYS AT THE MUSEUM MINI CAMPS | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

Designed for 4th thru 8th graders!

Join us at the Military Heritage Museum for fun and engaging activities. STEM-themed curriculum created and led by certified educators. Activities are aligned to Florida Education Standards.

- Learn about the many great STEM inventions found throughout U.S. military history
- Explore the evolution of aviation from the Wright Brothers to Space Force
- Discover the many exciting STEM career opportunities

EXPERIENCES

- Flight Simulators
- Virtual Reality
- Creative STEM Projects
- Interactions with U.S. Military Veterans

SESSIONS AVAILABLE



November 19
February 25
March 25
April 22



PLAN AHEAD SUMMER 2023 - STEM DAY CAMP
DETAILS COMING SOON



SPACE IS LIMITED!
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Cost is \$20 per Mini Camp
\$15 if registered for at least 3 Mini Camps.
Register at: www.history-academy.org
Contact info@history-academy.org
or call Deb at 941.655.8315.

900 West Marion Avenue | Punta Gorda, Florida 33950 | www.militaryheritagemuseum.org | 941.575.9002

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)





Daily Interactive Activities



Join us at the Military Heritage Museum for some fun and engaging activities. U.S. History-themed curriculum created and led by certified educators. Activities are aligned to Florida Education Standards.

- Flight Simulators
- Virtual Reality
- Historical Reenactments
- Creative Multi-Media Projects
- Interactions with U.S. Military Veterans
- Local Field Trips



Military Heritage Museum HISTORY SUMMER CAMPS

Where History Comes Alive!

WEEKLY DAY CAMPS 2023

Designed for 4th thru 8th Graders



4 Weeks of Different Themes. Register for one or more!

June 26-30: Monday through Friday
Don't Tread on Me!

July 3 & 5-7: Monday & Wednesday through Friday
Give Me Liberty, or Give Me Death

July 10-14: Monday through Friday
For Liberty & Justice for All

July 17-21: Monday through Friday
Let Freedom Ring!

Dropoff after 8:00 a.m. , Pickup before 4:00 p.m.

Supported by



**AmeriCorp
Seniors**

SPACE IS LIMITED! REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Cost is \$210 per 5-day Camp

Cost is \$175 for 4-day Camp July 3 & 5-7

Early Bird Deadline is May 1 for \$10 Discount Per Week

Scholarship applications are available based on financial need.

Maximum 32 participants per week

Grades entering 4th-9th, fall of 2023

REGISTER at: www.history-academy.org

Contact info@history-academy.org or call Deb at 941.655.83

900 West Marion Ave. | Punta Gorda, FL 33950 |
www.militaryheritagemuseum.org | 941.575.9002

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

The Military Heritage Museum needs volunteers. The experience and vitality of our volunteers make the mission of the Museum come alive for its visitors and members. By giving of your time and talents, volunteers make an important contribution toward the preservation of military heritage for future generations.

We are in need of volunteers in all areas of the Museum. Contact Derek Knuffke at 941.205.8547 or email dknuffke@militaryheritagemuseum.org for further information. If you are interested in other available positions, please [click here](#).

Lunches are now available at the Museum
Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday at the P-51 Club.
Below is the menu for the week of March 7. The menu may change
weekly.

Are you Hungry?



Join us at the
lunch counter
in the P-51 Club
Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
CASH ONLY

SOUP OF THE DAY: Lobster Bisque - \$6.00

BBQ PULL PORK SANDWICH with COLE SLAW - \$8.00

CLUB WRAP: Basil Wrap, Mayo, Lettuce, Tomato, Red Onion, Cheddar Cheese, Ham and Turkey - \$8.00

CLUB SANDWICH: Choice of White or Wheat Bread, Mayo, Lettuce, Tomato, Red Onion, Cheddar Cheese, Ham and Turkey - \$8.00

CHICKEN SALAD: Choice of White/ Wheat Bread/ Wrap, Lettuce, Tomato - \$5

ALL SANDWICHES and WRAPS ADD CHIPS and DRINK - \$2.00

CHIPS: \$1.00

BOTTLED WATER: \$1.00

BOTTLED DRINKS: Coke, Diet Coke and Sprite - \$2.00



**The Museum Celebrated the Huey with a Ribbon Cutting
sponsored by the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce**

More than 100 guests celebrated the ribbon cutting for the Bell UH-1 Iroquois - known by its military nickname "Huey" - at the Military Heritage Museum in Punta Gorda. The Huey was donated to the museum by Gus and Pat Hawkins. While at the museum, thousands of visitors have been introduced to the Huey legacy through self-guided tours and cockpit tours led by Vietnam veterans who served on Hueys during the war.



Our Wish List

The Military Heritage Museum would sincerely appreciate help in the following areas.

- Sponsor for each of our 7 flag poles – to cover the cost of replacing either a military branch flag or United States Flag (typically once a year)
- Someone with carpentry skills to assist with several of our exhibits
- Artist to create military themed wall murals and upgrade faces on mannequins
- Writer to assist curator in research and preparing narratives for artifacts and exhibits

Contact gbutler@militaryheritagemuseum.org for further information.



Nautical Charts
3-DAY CLASS
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.



Flotilla 98 Charlotte Harbor **BASIC NAVIGATION COURSE** of CHARLOTTE HARBOR

APRIL 17, 18, 19 | AUGUST 21, 22, 23 | OCTOBER 16, 17, 18

BEGINNER COURSE | \$75.00 Single or Couples

BASIC NAVIGATION COURSE

This is a beginner course for basic skills in reading and interpreting a Nautical Chart (you will be provided with a waterproof Charlotte Harbor Chart), what the symbols on your chart mean, and the rules of the road in navigation coastal areas. You will learn the difference between True Course, Magnetic Variation and Compass Deviation and how to plot a course, Dead Reckoning, and how to get a fix. There is also a segment about GPS and how the system works.



To REGISTER for this 3-DAY CLASS visit <https://tinyurl.com/543tp2pj> or call Deb Nutting 941.655.8315. If you prefer, you can send a check to Military Heritage Museum at 900 West Marine Avenue, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950.

**Register for this Class \$75 for Single or a Couple - Click
Here**

MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM

ENGAGE

THE LEARNING CENTER

BOAT CLASS

8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

\$40 PER PERSON



Flotilla 98 Charlotte Harbor

BOAT AMERICA

February 11, March 11, April 8, May 27

June 24, August 26, October 28, November 18

BOAT SAFETY COURSE

BOAT AMERICA (Boating Safety Course) This course is required by law for anyone born on or after January 1, 1988, to operate a powerboat or PWC. This is a seven to eight hour course from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Upon completion of the class instruction there will be a sixty question examination, and upon successful completion of the examination in approximately two and half weeks you will receive a permanent lifetime plastic card from Florida Fish and Wildlife. The course is an introduction to safe boating, boating laws and regulations, personal safety and the safety of your passengers, the type and use of safety equipment, trailering, storing of your boat, protecting your boat, recreational usage, ability to identify the Aids to Navigation (ATON) and the rules of the road and proper techniques of anchoring and securing your boat at the dock. If you own a boat, take the plastic card or certificate to your boat insurance agent for a possible discount on your boat insurance.



Classes are held at the Military Heritage Museum, 900 West Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, Florida, in the Museum Library. Parking is in the lot under the building, take the elevator to the second floor, turn right and right again to the library. For those who are attending a Boat America class you should bring lunch and eat it in the outside dining area or on the first-floor cafe area. All drinks must be covered. You will be given a 45-minute lunch break.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/3azj2mav> to register or call **Deb Nutting** at 941.655.8315 or send check to the Military Heritage Museum at 900 West Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, FL 33950.

[Register for this Class - CLICK HERE](#)



VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM

Create a Memory



The United States Congress created the Veterans History Project (VHP) in 2000 as part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. VHP collects, preserves and makes accessible the firsthand remembrances of military veterans from World War I through the more recent conflicts.

Deceased Veterans

Next of kin of deceased veterans may donate original photographs, letters, diaries and unpublished memoirs of a deceased veteran, and must submit the Biographical Data Form and a Veteran's Release form on behalf of the deceased veteran. The collection must meet the minimum collection standards.



Gold Star Families

Under the Gold Star Families Voices Act (Public Law 114-246), VHP accepts oral histories by immediate family members (parent, spouse, sibling or child) of members of the Armed Forces who died as a result of their service during a period of war. Due to the sensitive nature of the Gold Star oral histories, the Veterans History Project requires a minimum age of 18 for both the interviewers and interviewees.



Group Participants

In addition to individual volunteers, the Veterans History Project accepts collections from organizations around the country interested in participating in a grassroots community project. They include high school, university and college classrooms; libraries; veterans service organizations; places of worship; retirement communities; Scout troops; local businesses; and professional associations.

Please contact **Lance Poulsen** at 941.236.6654 or email poulsen654@gmail.com for further information or to schedule an appointment. The Military Heritage Museum partners with Charlotte County T.V. and the Office of Congressman Steube for the Veterans History Project.

900 West Marion Avenue | Punta Gorda, FL 33950 | 941.575.9002 | militaryheritagemuseum.org



GULF THEATER SEASON 4

Tickets are available

Season ticket packages are available. You won't want to miss any of these great shows. They are so much fun, camaraderie and certainly good times had by all.

Every dollar spent in ticket sales goes towards the Military Heritage Museum and all of its many programs, ranging from History Camp for local children to offsetting complimentary theater rentals for veteran's organizations or organizations that support our cherished local veterans!

We are offering two different season ticket packages.
[Click here](#) for a preview of shows and to purchase tickets.

2022-2023 *Season*



900 West Marion Avenue
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950

Gulf Theater

Season 4

MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM

TICKETS: www.gulftheater.org FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: 941.205.8545

November 4, 2022
7:00 p.m.

History of Rock'n' Roll
The Johnny Rogers Show
Admission: \$35 | \$40



November 11, 2022
7:00 p.m.



Veterans Day Tribute
Admission: \$35 | \$40

November 18, 2022
7:00 p.m.

The Brooklyn Boys: A
Tribute to Barry Manilow
and Neil Diamond
Admission: \$35 | \$40



December 2, 2022
3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.



Bob Hope's Crooners
Christmas Show
Admission: \$35 | \$40

December 9, 2022
7:00 p.m.

Admission: \$35 | \$40
Rockin' Blue Christmas



December 16, 2022
7:00 p.m.



Ditchfield Family
Christmas
Admission: \$35 | \$40

January 13, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Meet Loaf: The
Ultimate Tribute
Admission: \$35 | \$40



January 20, 2023
7:00 p.m.



Fire Lakes:
A Tribute to Bob Seger
Admission: \$35 | \$40

January 28, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Rocky Mountain
Memories: A Tribute to
John Denver
Admission: \$35 | \$40



February 3, 2023
7:00 p.m.



The Boxers: A Tribute
to Simon & Garfunkel
Admission: \$35 | \$40

February 10, 2023
7:00 p.m.

The Destiny of Rock
Show: A Tribute to
Styx & Boston
Admission: \$35 | \$40



February 17, 2023
7:00 p.m.



The Ultimate Garth
Brooks Tribute with
Special Guest Shania
Admission: \$35 | \$40

February 24, 2023
7:00 p.m.

A Tribute to Cher with
Tributes to KC Sunshine Band
and Huey Lewis & the News
Admission: \$35 | \$40



March 3, 2023
4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.



Almost Abba:
A Tribute to Abba
Admission: \$35 | \$40

March 10, 2023
7:00 p.m.



The Beach Boys:
A Tribute to the
Beach Boys
Admission: \$35 | \$40

March 17, 2023
3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.



Jimmy Stowe & the
Stowaways: A Tribute to
Jimmy Buffett
Admission: \$35 | \$40

March 22, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Alter Eagles: A
Tribute to the Eagles
Admission: \$35 | \$40



March 24, 2023
7:00 p.m.



Memories: A Tribute to
Barbara Streisand
Admission: \$35 | \$40

March 29, 2023
3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Bad Moon Rising: A
Tribute to Creedence
Clearwater
Admission: \$35 | \$40



March 31, 2023
7:00 p.m.



US Stones: A Tribute
to the Rolling Stones
Admission: \$35 | \$40

April 5, 2023
7:00 p.m.

The US Bee Gees: A
Tribute to the Bee Gees
Admission: \$35 | \$40



April 12, 2023
7:00 p.m.



Chicago Rewired: A
Tribute to Chicago
Admission: \$35 | \$40

April 14, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Southern Cross: A
Tribute to Crosby, Stills,
Nash and Young
Admission: \$35 | \$40



TICKET INFORMATION

Box Office Information

May 1-October 31

By phone: Wednesday and Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
In person: Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

November 1-April 14

By phone: Wednesday and Friday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
In person: Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

WEEKLY INFORMATIVE LECTURES

Weekly lectures are presented by the Military Heritage Museum's history speakers. Lectures are held in the Museum Library on the second floor. The monthly lectures include various historical emphases as well as personal military experiences and other topics of interest.



BECOME A MEMBER

Join today and take advantage of **member benefits**! Annual Adult Membership Passes are available for any person 15 years old and older. The pass provides several **great** benefits.

[Click here](#) for further details.



COCKPIT TOURS of the Bell UH-1H Huey

Hosted by the
Military Heritage Museum

“As an icon of the Vietnam War and an angel of mercy for American troops who fought there, the Bell UH-1 Iroquois, affectionately known as the “Huey,” has gone on to become the most recognizable helicopter in the world. Fifty years after its birth, the Huey remains the only aircraft to be used by all branches of the United States military, including the Coast Guard. To American troops who were exposed to constant enemy fire, the Huey and those who flew them were angels from on high....” *Why UH-1 Iroquois “Huey” Helicopter Is Such an Icon of the Vietnam War*

Tours:

Saturdays Only from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM



A benefit for the
Military Heritage Museum



**SALUTE TO VETERANS
 GOLF SCRAMBLE**



ST. ANDREWS SOUTH GOLF CLUB

1901 Deborah Drive, Punta Gorda

MAY 6, 2023

**Veterans and Non-Veterans of all abilities
 are encouraged to come and play!**

Limited to 112 players

Register by May 1, 2023

\$80 Per Player—\$320 per team

Includes: Greens Fees and Cart,
 Continental Breakfast and Lunch

Great prizes for closest to the Pin, Closest to the Line,
 Longest Drive and Winning Teams
 Hole-In-One for a grand prize!

Hole In One sponsored by
Downtown Gatorz and Dough Bar

7:30 AM: Registration/Continental Breakfast

8:30AM: Shotgun Start

Buffet Lunch & Awards following completion of round

Save money! Pre-purchase with your entry, a
 Mulligan Package, and get a bonus Mulligan for your team!

Please complete one form per team, or list names of individual without a team.

	Names:	Email:	Phone:
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____

_____ I have included \$20 for the pre-purchased mulligan package (foursomes only) and _____ for Two Handy Sandys (\$5) Per Player

Name of Foursome contact Person: _____

Please make checks payable to: **Military Heritage Museum**

Mail or deliver form and check to:

Military Heritage Museum ATT: Golf Scramble

900 West Marion Ave., Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Forms and checks may also be dropped off at the St. Andrews South Golf Club.

Or register on-line at www.militaryheritagemuseum.org/find-upcoming-events/

For more information, contact: llinet@militaryheritagemuseum.org 941-205-8546

Sponsorships

_____ Hole Sponsor: \$100

_____ Program Sponsor: \$300

_____ Event Sponsor: \$500

_____ Lunch Sponsor: \$300

_____ Breakfast Sponsor: \$300

[CLICK HERE to REGISTER](#)



[Our Company](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)



Military
Heritage
Museum

Military Heritage Museum | 900 West Marion, Punta Gorda, FL 33950