



OHIO VALLEY MILITARY SOCIETY, INC.

# THE MILITARY HISTORIAN

*Preserving our nation's history by collecting military artifacts*

AUGUST 2019

VOLUME XLI NO. 2

**Our Next Show . . .**

## **THE MAX SHOW**

**September 18-22, 2019**

Monroeville Convention Center, Monroeville, PA



### **MAX SHOW HOURS**

**WEDNESDAY:** Exhibitor Drop-Off Only (3-6 p.m.)

**THURSDAY:** Exhibitor Move-In: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Members: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**FRIDAY:** Exhibitor: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Members & Public: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**SATURDAY:** Exhibitor: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Members & Public: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**SUNDAY:** Exhibitor & Members only: 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Exhibitors only after noon.

### **FUTURE SHOW DATES**

**2019 November Roberts Centre**

Nov. 15-16, 2019

**2020 Show of Shows**

February 19-23, 2020

**2020 June Roberts Centre**

June 19-20, 2020

## A message from President Brian Coates

How about this year's Show of Shows! What a great show. I hope everyone was as happy with the show as we were. We were up in both general admissions and new memberships! I believe the set up and packet pickup was reasonably smooth this time. I know the dealer drive in was a success. We will try to do this again next time. Hopefully the KEC will invite us to use Hall B next year if their schedule allows it. Let's keep our fingers crossed. I also want to thank everyone who made the show a success. The table set-up crew and other volunteers, the scouts, the KY National Guard and our ladies at the front desk are the foundation of a good show! I've just been sorting next year's table applications and can say we will have a sell-out very soon. Don't delay on getting you're table reservations sent in.

We did apprehend a thief this year. He was a member who spent a lot of money at the show, but he had sticky fingers. I observed him stealing and he was apprehended. His membership he was revoked, and he was banned from our shows for life. I want to give a big shout-out to our security and the loyal dealers for their assistance in this apprehension.

One last piece of SOS information, don't believe the rumors you may hear. The SOS is NOT moving. We will be in Louisville at the KEC for the foreseeable future, and that's the way we like it!

There is a lot of buzz about the MAX Show. WE ARE STILL IN Monroeville for this year's 2019 MAX. But let's talk about the move to York, Pennsylvania, for the 2020 MAX. Many of you have read the official release concerning the move. We believe we will be very successful in York. We visited the site and area before committing and it really impressed us. If you only go to the SOS, you are missing many east coast dealers and their fresh merchandise. The York fairground is very OVMS friendly. I was pleased with the building and parking accommodations for the show. We will all be in one big open room with a (FREE) ground level parking lot and plenty of room to move in and out! On top of everything else, they are big supporters of the veterans' groups in the area. I am very excited

and can't wait for our first MAX Show in York.

Don't forget our shows in Wilmington, Ohio. The two Wilmington shows are smaller than the SOS and MAX, it's true, but they don't have to stay that way. The Roberts Centre can easily expand to the size of the MAX Show. Just imagine it, three or maybe four big militaria shows a year! All we need to grow is the support of our members and dealers. You can make it happen. Visit our web site for more information and to print off table reservations for our upcoming (and bigger?) Wilmington shows.

Finally, we need you to update any new addresses or emails you have before the next membership renewals go out in the mail later this year. We get far too many renewals and newsletters returned as undeliverable in our mail and it's simply a waste of club funds. Please, keep your contact information current.

I look forward to seeing you at the next show

Brian Coates, President, OVMS

## Breaking Club News: The MAX Show is Moving in 2020

The MAX show is moving in 2020. Here's the official story.

The rumor mills have been buzzing with the news that the MAX show is moving from Monroeville to York, PA. Is this true? Well, yes, but fear not and please carefully read the following.

First of all, relax, nothing will change this year. The 2019 MAX Show will be held in Monroeville just as before. Your tables, hotel reservations and travel plans do not need to change. You will be able to enjoy all your favorite hotels, restaurants, and the fine facilities of the Monroeville Convention Center one more time.

So, where are we moving and why are we going? The "where" is the York Expo Center at the York County Fairgrounds in York, PA. The "why" takes a little longer to explain.

When the Ohio Valley Military Society purchased the MAX Show back in 2015, we knew that Monroeville was

not going to be our first choice for a show location. The society made no secret among the membership that we were looking for a suitable venue closer to the east coast where there is a very large collecting community concentrated in New England and the Mid-Atlantic regions along the I-95 corridor between New York City and Washington, DC. Many of these collectors feel they are just a bit too far from Louisville to affordably attend the Show of Shows. Bringing that particular group of collectors into the OVMS family with the nation's second largest brand name militaria show was one of the main reasons why we had bought the MAX in the first place. Initially we were locked into a three year contract with Monroeville, so moving right away was not possible. It took us a few more years to find a place that could meet all the needs that are vital to ensure a successful show. We have found that place at the York Expo Center.

What makes York so much better? Each year at the MAX we hear a number of legitimate complaints about the Monroeville venue from dealers, members, and guests alike. These can be summarized into problems that York easily fixes. Let's look at them as bullet points.

1. As we all know, Monroeville is divided into three rooms, making some dealers feel like they are missing out on sales if they are not in the biggest room. By contrast, the York Expo Center is one, big room with no dividing walls or pillars. That gives us 74,000 square feet of open exhibit space! No one will feel like they are stuck in the "little room of death."
2. At Monroeville most of the tables are only 6 ft. long. All the aisle tables at York will be 8 ft. long, just like we use at the Show of Shows.
3. The "easiest?" way to load into Monroeville is to push your carts up a steep ramp at the large overhead door. This is becoming something of a problem (and dangerous) as we all grow older. The large 16 ft. x 16 ft. overhead door at York is on level ground leading from what will be the special dealer's only



# Society News

parking lot.

4. Speaking of parking, there has never been enough near-by parking available at Monroeville. At York there will be more than enough close-in public parking plus the above mentioned special dealer's lot. Not only is the parking ample and on level ground, it's also FREE! Don't we all wish we could get that for the SOS?

5. In theory, the Pittsburgh International Airport is a 45 minute drive to Monroeville. That may be true at two in the morning with no traffic or road construction. In reality, the ride can be much longer. York is serviced by at least three international airports. The largest close-by airport is Baltimore-Washington International which is just an hour away. Smaller but closer is Harrisburg International with only a 35 minute direct drive. The airport that may offer the most direct flights would be Philadelphia International. While it is about a 2 hour drive, it may be the better option for some of our International guests. Those flying from anywhere in the world should have no trouble getting to York.

6. Like Monroeville, York offers a multitude of both fine and budget hotels. In addition, all your favorite restaurants, as well as some unexplored local spots, are there, too. The OVMS staff has already laid claim to a top notch BBQ joint. All are located just a couple of miles away along the Route 30 corridor. No matter what your taste or the size of your wallet, you'll find what you're looking for in York. We will be publishing a list of hotels with special MAX Show rates later this summer.

7. York is located in the very middle of one of the finest and most diverse tourist regions in America. If you like American history, you are just a short drive from Gettysburg, Valley Forge, Philadelphia, the Northern Virginia Civil War battlefields, historic Baltimore, the sights and museums of Washington, DC, and much more. Do you like motorcycles? Then take the tour of the Harley-Davidson Factory. In addition, Lancaster and the Amish country are literally right next door! Now is the time to plan your 2020 family vacation around the MAX Show.

These are just a few of the possible benefits that York affords us. We are making some very exciting plans for future MAX Shows. The York venue

The Military Historian, August 2019

allows the possibility of adding some new features to the show. Throughout this year, as new things come on line, we will keep the membership up-to-date. Keep your eye on the OVMS website for the latest news.

One of the not-so-nice rumors that we must put to an end is the false claim that we are running away from Monroeville because of the tragic shootings that occurred last year at the Tree of Life Synagogue in neighboring Squirrel Hill. This is simply not true. The move to York was already in the works a full two months before the day of that criminal attack. It is also not true that we are leaving because of the treatment we received at Monroeville. On the contrary, the management and staff of the Monroeville Convention Center and the Doubletree Hotel have been the most wonderful folks to work with. They are dedicated and hard working. We wish we could take them with us.

However, it is important that this long-planned move be made in 2020. All the needed factors: location, dates, facility, and amenities have all come together at this time in York, PA. From the time that the OVMS first took over the reins of the MAX Show, the officers and directors have known that a move to the east was necessary for the success and growth of the show, the society, and the militaria collecting hobby overall. That time is now!

So join us for one last fantastic MAX Show in Monroeville on Sept. 18-22, 2019. Then we will turn east and face the rising sun of a new chapter in MAX Show history on Sept. 16-20, 2020.

## **A Bigger Wilmington Show? It's All Up to You!**

With the MAX Show moving to York, PA, in 2020, improving and growing the Wilmington shows has become an OVMS priority in order to continue serving our membership in the Ohio valley region. Those attending this year's June show will have noticed the beginnings of an expanding show. Table sales were at capacity for the two rooms we currently rent. If this trend continues, and we sincerely hope that it does, we will need to seriously consider looking into renting more space. Luckily, the Roberts Centre can provide the space we need to grow.

What they cannot provide is the extra dealers that would be required to fill the additional 200 plus tables that renting just one more hall would bring us. That's right; just one more hall would bring our beloved "Cornfield Show" up to just over 600 tables. That alone would make it the third largest all-militaria show in the country, just behind the Show of Shows with over 1960 tables and the MAX with over 990. And that's only the one extra hall. There are two halls available!

If you are a MAX show dealer that thinks that York is just too far for you to travel, then commit to coming to Wilmington. Expanding that show is the way to insure that a major militaria show stays in the Midwest.

The table reservation form for both the November 2019 and June 2020 Wilmington shows can be printed from our website. The November form can also be found at the back of this newsletter.

Reserve your tables now and help the OVMS keep our hobby strong in the Midwest while we expand to service new audiences in the East.

## **Our Future Shows . . .**

### **MAX Show News Sept. 18-22, 2019**

The 2019 MAX Show is just around the corner. We are finalizing all the last minute details to make sure your MAX Show experience is the best one possible. Our table holders will be receiving their table confirmations in the mail in about two weeks. This will be our last show at Monroeville and all indications tell us that it will be a great send-off. Table sales have been brisk. As this newsletter goes to press, we have less than 75 tables still available with new requests coming in daily. Please get your reservations in now to avoid disappointment. A table reservation form can be found on page 5 or you can print one off from the OVMS website. The show schedule is printed on the front cover if you need to check times and dates.

We look forward to seeing all of you soon for a week of renewing old friendships, making new ones, and adding that long sought after treasure to our collections.

## The 2019 MAX Show Seminar

We are pleased to announce that author and OVMS member Kenneth Alford will present a talk on his latest book, *Jim Atwood: Army Officer, Charmer, Entrepreneur, Collector, Risk-Taker, Rogue, & Con-Artist*. Always a controversial figure, Jim Atwood was one of the early collectors of Third Reich daggers. In addition, he lived a full and colorful life "in the real world." Mr. Alford will cover all of this, focusing on his influence, for better or worse, on the militaria hobby. The program will be held at the Doubletree Hotel on Friday evening, September 20, at 7 pm. More details will be announced in the MAX Show program and on the OVMS website.

## Possible Vietnam Museum Exhibit Trip at the MAX. You Want to Go?

The Heinz History Museum in Pittsburgh is hosting an exhibit entitled "The Vietnam War." A special group tour for OVMS members and families is being considered for the evening of Thursday, September 19, 2019, at 7 pm. This exhibit is a ground-breaking Vietnam War exhibit created by the New York Historical Society which initially ran in New York City and then has traveled to other venues, including the Heinz.

This special after-hours visit is being offered by Anne Madarasz, Curatorial Director and Chief Historian of the museum. The exhibit at the Heinz closes the Sunday of the MAX show. So this will be the last chance to see it in this part of the country.

Upon arrival the OVMS group would be escorted to the Vietnam War exhibit site by docents who would lead the tour. One of the docents we expect to participate is a Vietnam veteran (2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry). In addition to the main exhibit, the national traveling exhibit called "Marking Time: Voyage to Vietnam," will also be on view. This exhibit was created by OVMS member Art Beltrone and his wife Lee after they discovered historic graffiti-covered bunk canvases aboard the troopship General Nelson M. Walker, which was tied up in Virginia's James River "Ghost Fleet." The ship served in World War II and the Korean War. It was then brought back into service during 1966 and 1967 in order to bring complete units to Vietnam in

one voyage. This soldier art graffiti tells a poignant story of the thoughts and emotions of these young men on their way to war. Art will lead this portion of the tour, giving it a unique, personal touch just for the OVMS.

There will be a discounted group admission rate of \$10 per person. Normally the admission is \$15 to \$18. We are looking into arranging a shuttle bus to transport OVMS members to the Heinz museum and back to the hotel. We are working on some ideas to help defray costs, at least for OVMS Vietnam veterans.

What the OVMS office needs to move forward with these plans is a list of those who would be interested in this after-show trip for Thursday evening. We need a general idea of the number of people who would like to attend. It is important that you let us know if you are interested in attending by September 2, 2019. Just send us an email at [ovms@fuse.net](mailto:ovms@fuse.net) or call 1-513-245-9540 to let us know.

## The Fall Wilmington Show November 15-16, 2019

Don't forget, our November Wilmington show will follow a few weeks after the MAX Show. This year, 2019, the show is two weeks later in the month. This is due to a scheduling conflict. It will, hopefully, be just a one-time change. Table reservation forms for this show are available on the OVMS website and at the back of this newsletter.

## 2020 Show Of Shows February 19-23, 2020

It will be here before you know it. The 2020 Show of Shows will once again be held in Louisville, KY, at the Kentucky Expo Center in South Wing, Hall C. This is the same hall that we have had for the last few years. It is one big room, just the way we all like it. This show is always sold-out early, so reserve your tables now. Table reservation forms can be printed off from the OVMS website. If you cannot print one, contact the OVMS office and we will send one in the mail. Table rates have increased a little bit to cover rising costs. The new rates are: \$100 for aisle tables and \$120 for wall tables. More information will be forthcoming as the show draws closer.

## June Show Complementary Hotel Room Winner

The winner of the June 2019 drawing for a free hotel room at either the SOS or the MAX was long-time member David Hughes. David has chosen to stay at the 2020 Show of Shows. He will spend Wednesday evening through Sunday morning as the guest of the OVMS at the Crowne Plaza, our host hotel. Congratulations David, enjoy the show!

Would you like to be a winner like David? It's easy! The drawing is open to all table holders (dealers) at our June and November Roberts Centre Shows in Wilmington, Ohio. The drawing takes place at the end of the show on Saturday. If your name is drawn and you are still fully set-up and ready to do business at that time, you win the room at the show of your choice. This is a deal worth over \$500! So, reserve your tables now and prepare to get lucky!

## Membership Notes

As of press time, the Society has 3851 current members with paid dues up to 2019 and beyond. This includes 685 life members and 257 annual members having addresses outside USA. We will be sending out 2020 membership renewal notices by the end of this coming September.

## Lost and Found

Items turned in to Lost and Found at the June 2019 include the following:

1. Two WWII German armbands, but not Nazi party.
2. Three WWII USMC patches.
3. A single West German shoulder strap.

If you are missing these treasures, call the OVMS office at 513-245-9540 to give us a detailed description. If we like your answer, we'll make sure they are returned to you.



# VIEWS OF THE 2019 JUNE SHOW AT THE ROBERTS CENTRE



**DAVID HUGHES:  
THE WINNER OF THE  
JUNE 2019  
FREE HOTEL ROOM  
DRAWING FOR THE  
2020 SHOW OF SHOWS**



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# **THE MAX SHOW**

## **Military Antiques Extravaganza**

### **September 18-22, 2019**

**1000 TABLE MILITARIA & COLLECTIBLE ARMS SHOW**

**Sponsored by The Ohio Valley Military Society, Inc.**

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