



**OREGON MILITARY DEPARTMENT**  
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS, OREGON NATIONAL GUARD  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
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May 11, 2017

The Honorable Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

The Oregon Military Department respectfully submits the following written testimony in relation to Senate Bill 1021.

There is a request before this committee seeking \$3.5 million in Article XI-Q General Obligation Bonds to finance the creation of exhibits and other capital expenditures directly related to the establishment and maintenance of the Oregon Military Museum. While the Oregon Military Department (OMD) is officially neutral on this request we submit the following information detailing the potential use of funds and the benefits they would provide.

**Oregon Military Museum - \$3,500,000:**

The focus of the Brigadier General James B. Thayer Oregon Military Museum and Historic Park is to honor the men and women who have served our state and nation in the United States Armed Forces. The intent is to construct a world-class museum complex to provide a comprehensive educational resource for preserving and sharing the rich military history of Oregonians. The ultimate goal of the project is to provide our children and future generations with an educational opportunity to learn the importance of citizenship, heroism and sacrifice.

This museum is being built with a combination of funding sources. Listed below is what has been previously obligated:

- General Fund – \$250,000
- Other Funds – \$1,099,066
- Federal Funds – \$6,145,776

The 2015 Legislative Assembly appropriated \$250,000 in one time General Fund investment to help finance construction costs. Other Fund revenue has been received from two 501(c)(3) non-profit corporations, the Oregon Military Museum Project and the Historical Outreach Foundation, while overtures to other organizations seeking funding have also been made. Federal Funds have been provided by the National Guard Bureau through a Master Cooperative Agreement program.

Should General Obligation Bonds be approved for this project we would utilize those funds in the following manner. We would reassess the scope of the project and add back items from the original design which were value engineered out in order to meet available resources. The initial brick and mortar design for the project came with a cost of nearly \$10 million, unfortunately available resources have only amounted to slightly under \$7.5 million. This delta required negotiations between the agency and the design firm to reduce the cost. The proposed new bond funds could allow for an expansion of the Hall of Valor building, an expansion of the Galleria facility, and/or potentially adjusting the timeline for the completion of other portions of the building envelope. All of these items were either excluded or modified from the original design due to cost restrictions.

We would also focus on internal improvements to showcase the 14,500 artifacts and 30,000 item library in a professional manner. This would include upgrades to the lighting system, the sound system associated with first person stories taken from Veteran's, visual display structures, and facility specific storyboards which help showcase Oregon's unique military history. All of these projects would be included in the capitalized value of the building as they are site specific and permanently attached to the facility.

As with all projects funded through state sponsored General Obligation Bonds, we will seek to leverage additional federal funds from the National Guard Bureau to help enhance and expand the scope of the work being performed.

This concludes my written testimony. Thank you for your consideration of this project.



David A. Stuckey  
Deputy Director  
Oregon Military Department

## HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM



In 1975, the Oregon Military Department established the Oregon Military Museum as the official state repository for military weapons, documents, and artifacts relating to the military history of the citizens of

Oregon. Its collection of irreplaceable treasures defines Oregon's military legacy and preserves it for future generations.

Until 2009, the Museum was located in several buildings at the Oregon National Guard's Camp Withycombe. As the result of a massive base realignment project, the Museum relocated to the 1954 Clackamas Armory building. The move provides the Museum with unique opportunities to expand operations and better fulfill its mission. It also presents some challenges. Major renovations are required to reconfigure and retrofit the Museum buildings and grounds.



**MUSEUM'S NEW NAME** In 2012, the Museum was named in honor of Brigadier General James B. Thayer, (ORSDF, Ret.), one of Oregon's finest military and civic leaders. Thayer joined the U.S. Army in 1942, earning the prestigious Silver and Bronze Star medals for his combat service. More than 15,000 Hungarian-Jewish refugees were saved the day his anti-tank mine platoon liberated the Nazi death camp Gunskirchen Lager, near Wels, Austria.

## VISITOR EXPERIENCE

### THE MUSEUM WILL TRANSFORM INTO A VENUE OF HIGH-QUALITY VISITOR LEARNING EXPERIENCES THAT HONORS THE SERVICE, COMMITMENT, AND HISTORY MADE BY OREGON'S SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN.

Hands-on family activities and educational exhibits will engage visitors intellectually, emotionally, and physically, as they explore and learn that the military is an enduring part of Oregon's past, present, and future.

Visitors will experience a renewed respect for the values associated with military service: duty, honor, selfless service, endurance, and valor. They will gain insight into the meaning of "freedom isn't free." Many will share and express connections to the past, including their own family's history.

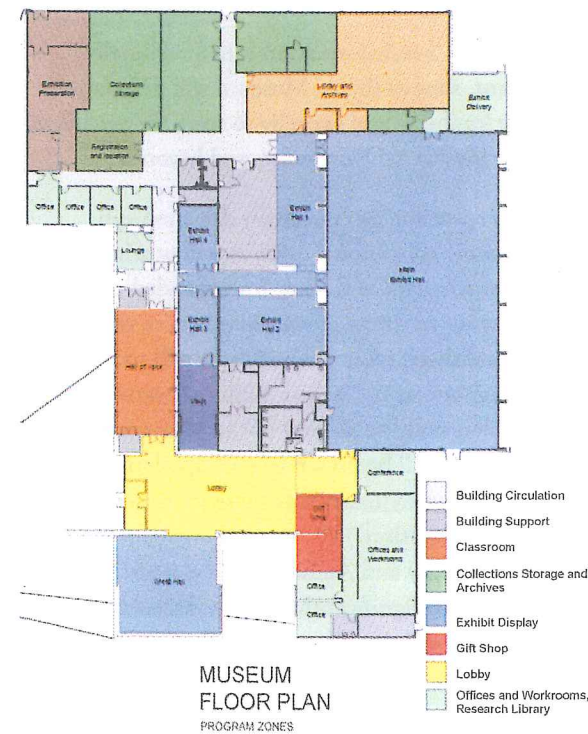
## THE COLLECTIONS

The Oregon Military Museum has built significant and unique collections that extensively document the role of Oregonians' military contributions to state, national, and world history. From rare weapons to prisoner-of-war relics, mustard gas warnings to flags, from tracked vehicles to ribbon-laden uniforms, the outstanding multi-million dollar collection contains more than 14,500 artifacts. Some are one-of-a-kind and cannot be seen elsewhere. Each artifact tells its own historically significant story. The library collection houses more than 30,000 library volumes and 750 cubic feet of archives dating back to the 1860s.



## TRANSFORMATION GOALS

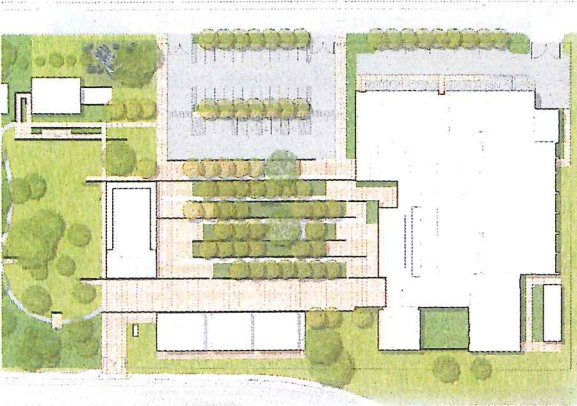
- ⊛ Become a regionally significant museum with an expanded audience and better defined character.
- ⊛ Create new educational exhibits and enhance the public's access to meaningful learning experiences.
- ⊛ Prepare, protect, and preserve military artifacts and library material.
- ⊛ Enhance visitor experience and visitor services.
- ⊛ Support historic military research and study.
- ⊛ Upgrade and modernize building systems.





## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Oregon Military Museum's multi-million dollar capital campaign will renovate three key areas within the multi-acre site on Camp Withycombe: the Park, the Plaza, and the main Museum building.



The Museum's transformation into a regionally significant, state-of-the-art Museum will dramatically increase its ability and capacity to serve the people of Oregon, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond.

- The space for professionally designed and dynamic educational exhibits will quadruple.
- Improvements will allow for expanded public hours to welcome greater numbers of visitors.
- A new displayable weapons area will securely house one of the largest military firearms and artillery collections west of the Mississippi.
- Artifacts will be preserved with modernized building systems such as climate control and fire suppression.
- The Library and Archives will be centrally located to significantly improve accessibility.
- Educational opportunities and events for people of all ages will be offered.
- The Museum's ability to serve the public well into the future will be ensured.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Brigadier General James B. Thayer Oregon Military Museum's mission is:

- To inspire and educate visitors about Oregon's military heritage and legacy to include the National Guard, the state's early militia, and all branches of the Armed Forces.
- To meet its professional stewardship obligations for the historical artifacts and archives entrusted to its care.

## BE A PART OF HISTORY

**THE OREGON MILITARY MUSEUM GREATLY APPRECIATES ALL FINANCIAL GIFTS, REGARDLESS OF THE AMOUNT. YOUR SUPPORT HELPS US REACH OUR GOALS!**

The Oregon Military Museum Project (OMMP) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supporting the fundraising efforts for the Oregon Military Museum.

Contact information:

Oregon Military Museum Project  
6200 SW Virginia Avenue, Suite 210  
Portland Oregon, 97239

503-998-7577

[info@oregonmilitarymuseumproject.org](mailto:info@oregonmilitarymuseumproject.org)

[www.oregonmilitarymuseumproject.org](http://www.oregonmilitarymuseumproject.org)

Gifts may be made in honor or memory of a special person. Acknowledgement of your gift will be sent to those you designate.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
GENEROSITY & SUPPORT!**



## Brigadier General James B. Thayer OREGON MILITARY MUSEUM

HONORING OREGON'S ARMED FORCES

*"We are honored to be part of this extraordinary effort to preserve the history of the thousands of Oregon veterans who have served their state and nation so valiantly. The men and women who made Oregon's military history deserve a special place for future generations to come and learn about their sacrifices and triumphs."*

*-Victor Atiyeh, Governor of Oregon (1979-1987)*

*-Theodore Kulongoski, Governor of Oregon (2003-2011)*



Oregon Military Museum Design Concept



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# OREGON MILITARY MUSEUM



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About Us

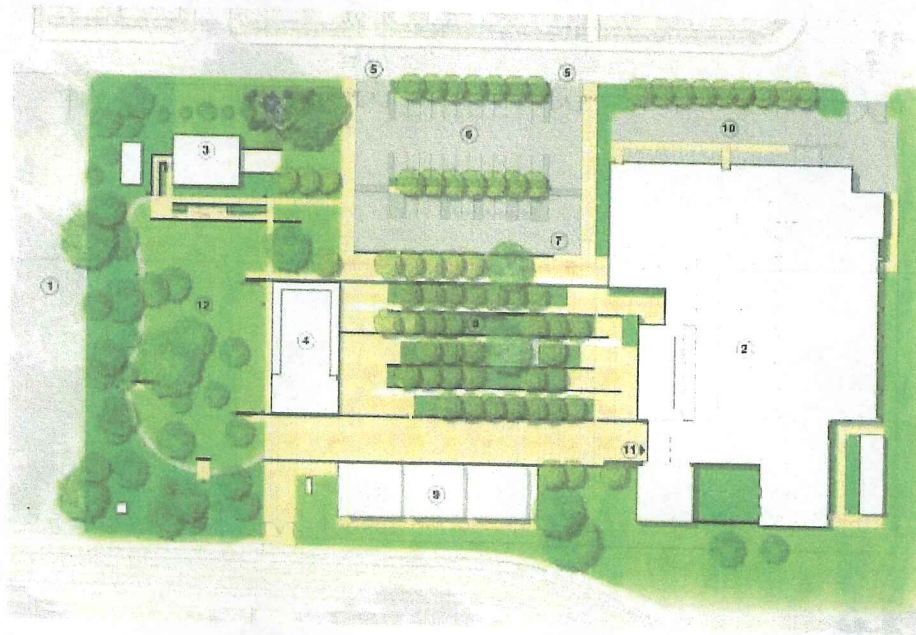
The New Museum

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News

## Renovating the Oregon Military Museum

The Oregon Military Museum is **temporarily closed to the public for renovation**. The 2005-2011 Base Realignment (BRAC) process at Camp Withycombe gives the Museum a unique opportunity to expand and deepen its interpretive scope. Exciting plans are underway to reopen the Museum, which will honor the service, commitment, and history made by Oregon's service men and women.



Site Plan Legend

- 1 Quarters One
- 2 Biggs-Groves-Jones & Trauger Military Museum
- 3 Battery & Issue Barn
- 4 Quarterswater Building
- 5 Site Entry
- 6 Parking
- 7 Dropoff Area
- 8 Moon Garden
- 9 Trucks & Buses
- 10 Service and Drive-way
- 11 Museum Entry
- 12 Pellets Path

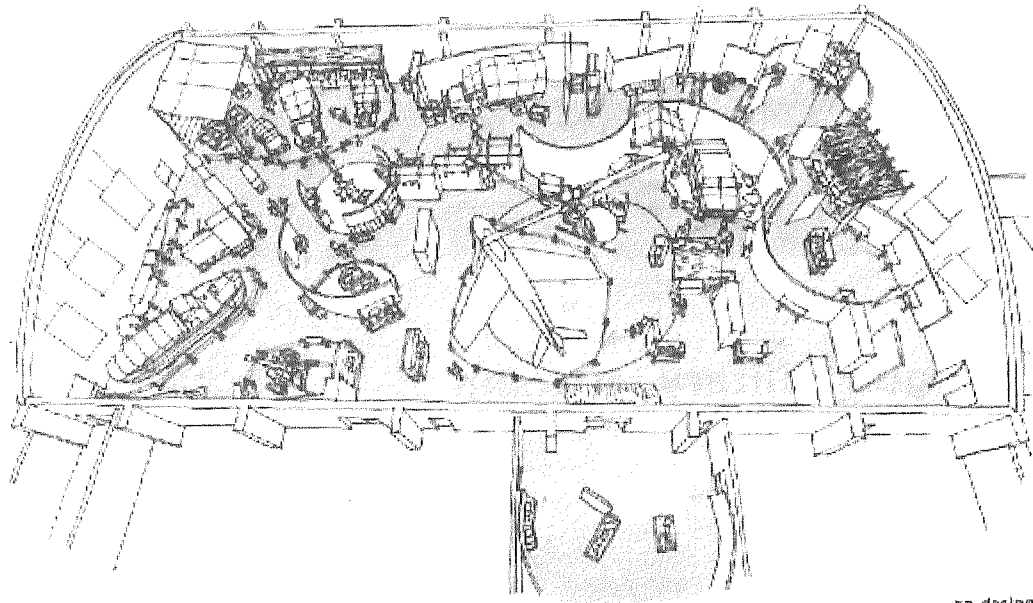
Oregon Military Museum Site Plan  
February 21, 2014



THA PLACE studio

### Pathfinding: Future Plans for the Museum

Since 2009 the Museum's contents and artifacts have been stored in the Clackamas Armory, and the Oregon Military Museum has been closed to the public. The Museum will transform into a venue of high-quality visitor learning experiences. Expanded areas for education, administrative, and research functions will provide long-term benefits for the Museum and its audiences. To learn more about the project's status please visit the news page.



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