

“Faith and Courage” exhibit recognizes U. S. Military Chaplains

(As published in The Oak Ridger’s Historically Speaking column on May 25, 2017)

The Secret City Festival 2017 is expanded and will run from Friday, June 2, 2017, through Saturday, June 10, 2017. There are special events planned throughout the festival and at various locations.

See <http://www.celebrateoakridge.org/secretcityfestival> or <https://www.facebook.com/SecretCityFestival/>

One of the very impressive exhibits will be the awesome and crowd favorite exhibit, "Faith and Courage" which will return to the Secret City Festival in 2017. The display will be included in the Oak Ridge Heritage & Preservation Association's Secret City Festival History displays. The exhibits will be on display at **102 Robertsville Rd., Midtown Community Center in the “Wildcat Den.”** The exhibit will be open from **10AM to 6PM on Friday, June 2, 2017 and Saturday, June 3, 2017.**

The focus of the exhibit is to honor the service and heroism of U. S. Military Chaplains of World War II. You will learn things about these brave people you have never suspected. You will be amazed at their courage demonstrated in the most difficult of situations.

In the words of President Harry S. Truman, "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."

The exhibit, "Faith and Courage", recognizes the contributions of a special group of veterans whose story is rarely told, U.S. Military Chaplains. Chaplains' dedicated service to those who go into harm's way for our country, their humble self-sacrifice, and their common, but little-known acts of heroism exemplify personal values, traits, and traditions that are of unquestionable benefit to any society.

This exhibit honors these exceptional individuals and attempts to extend the value of their service and sacrifice by keeping their memories alive as an example for later generations. See examples of the specific actions taken and the details of heroism often overlooked or just not talked about.

The presentation featured at the Secret City Festival will include text and photographs from World War II. Much of the information was collected with the help of the Army Chaplain Museum and the Navy Chaplain Archives.

Although this presentation will only include World War II, the full version of the exhibit also includes the Korean War, the Vietnam War, The Gulf War and the more recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are pleased to be allowed to display this portion of the much larger exhibit.

"Faith and Courage", the exhibit at Washington National Cathedral for the 2004 opening of the World War II Memorial, was an expansion of this exhibit. The opening service for the dedication of the memorial was held at the cathedral with the chiefs of all the U.S. Military Chaplain Corps in attendance.

The exhibit has received awards and recognition from the Tennessee Association of Museums, the Army Chaplain Corps and Navy Chaplain Corps Chiefs of Chaplains. You will not want to miss this most effective presentation.

"Faith and Courage" has been featured at the Celebrate Freedom Festival in Pigeon Forge, TN, the American Museum of Science & Energy in Oak Ridge, TN, and a number of other public venues. Congressman Zach Wamp requested the exhibit for an event honoring World War II

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veterans in Oak Ridge.

The permanent exhibit is based at the Tennessee Museum of Aviation in Sevierville. A traveling version is now available for showings in other locations.

The exhibit was developed and designed by Tom Walker, former exhibit designer for the American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge, TN. Tom will be available and will welcome your questions.

Make your plans NOW to come by and visit with Tom and others who have created these marvelous exhibits that will take you back in time to the history that is our heritage. The focus on Chaplains will cause you to appreciate their role in the war.



Our own famous Ed Westcott welcomes Tom Walker

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SCF 2016 023.jpg:Display featuring the “Four Chaplains”