

WEDNESDAY MORNING
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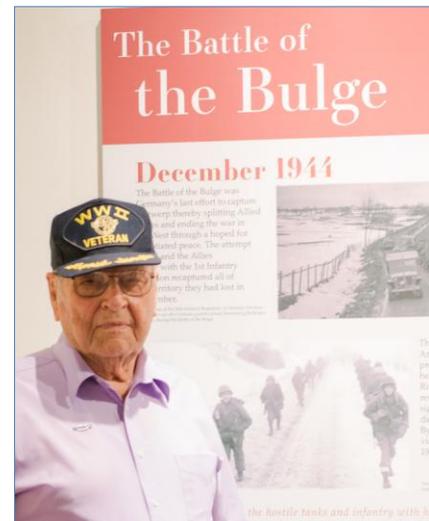
From the desk of V. Marie Martin
Foundation Director

Duty First: 100 Years of the Big Red One, an exhibit exploring the epic 100-year history of the 1st Infantry Division through the eyes of five soldiers from the founding of the Big Red One in 1917, opened to FHDC members and military guests on August 25, 2017. Over 425 guests were present to see the ribbon cutting and the unveiling of this **first-of-a-kind exhibit** in the FHDC Tallgrass Gallery. This exhibit is a pilot program initiated by the Center of Military History in collaboration between a government facility and a private museum.

Those present to assist in the opening ceremonies were: **Brigadier General William A. Turner**; Manhattan Mayor **Usha Reddi**; City Commissioners **Wynn Butler**, **Mike Dodson** and **Karen McCullough**; City Manager **Ron Fehr**; Mayor **Phyllis Fitzgerald** and City Manager **Allen Dinkel**, both of Junction City; FHDC Director **Susan Adams**; Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation (FHDCF) President **Bruce Snead**; FHDCF Director **V. Marie Martin**, and FHDCF members **John Reese** and **Roger Reitz**.

We wish to recognize the following sponsors for making this exhibit possible: **Briggs Auto Group**; **Pearce-Keller American Legion Post #17 Manhattan**; **American Legion Riders Post #17 Manhattan**; **Col. (Retired) Charles & Merry Rayl**; **Visit Manhattan Kansas**; and the **Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation**. We also wish to extend a very special thank you to **Jan Miller**, owner of **Steve's Floral**, for donating beautiful flower arrangements, and to **Hildegard Bembry**, for her creative floral design artistry.

Don't miss. . . **Star-Spangled Saturday, September 16**, 10 am to 3 pm. Test your skills on an inflatable obstacle course provided by the Army National Guard, taste an MRE (meal, ready-to-eat), learn proper flag etiquette, see military vehicles, get your own custom dog tags made (additional cost), learn what goes in a ruck-sack, and try on some military equipment. Food available for purchase from the **Tasty Traveler** food truck. Activities and demonstrations for every age! Be sure to check the



Jim Sharp, son of the Flint Hills, Battle of the Bulge Veteran, author and historian at a display in the Duty First Exhibit.

FHDC website and Facebook page each week through January for additional youth and adult event listings and registration information.

The FHDC Foundation is so grateful to Marty Vanier and the late **Bob Krause** for their vision and foresight in establishing the **Horizon Ranch Immersive Experience Theater Endowment Fund**. The fund helps maintain the operations of the theater and the equipment used to show the *Tides of Time* film. FHDC is able to have repairs made to the equipment with no cost to the City of Manhattan. After five years of 363-days-per-year continuous use, and multiple showing each day, the three projectors have begun to wear out. Thanks to such philanthropic funds like the Horizon Ranch Endowment, the Foundation and Discovery Center were able to cover repair costs of over \$22,500 during the past two years. Thank you so much Marty!

Community Day on August 6th, was an opportunity for FHDC to show appreciation to Manhattan and Flint Hills guests by providing free admission to everyone! Over 1,800 people took advantage of the opportunity to attend this event. FHDC partnered with **Milford Nature Center, Beach Museum of Art, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Manhattan Public Library, Riley County Police Department, Visit Manhattan, Boys & Girls Club, Rock Springs 4-H Center, Riley County Historical Society and Museum, Wild Outdoor Adventures Park** and **Big Brothers Big Sisters** to provide activities and information about other community and regional organizations that extend services and programs throughout the beautiful Flint Hills region. In addition to all the partners, a big thank you to sponsors **Flint Hills Auto, Hy-Vee and Manhattan Parks & Rec Department**, each of which helped make this day possible!

Solar Eclipse.... If you missed any part of the hype leading up to this celestial event you must have been on another planet! Thursday, August 17th, **WIBW TV** station from Topeka came to the FHDC to give away free solar eclipse viewing glasses. The line of over 475 people to receive free glasses started inside the FHDC building and reached around the west and north sides of the building. The fun didn't stop there!

That evening over 400 guests attended FHDC's free monthly **"Go See It Lecture"** which was presented by Professor Chris Sorenson, Kansas State University, who spoke about eclipses. Prior to the lecture, additional glasses provided by KSU were given away to guests at the Discovery Center. On the big day of August 21st, seven large tour buses departed the FHDC parking lot at 7:30 am to transport eager eclipse viewers to Highland College at Highland, KS. Three additional buses departed the KSU campus for the Highland destination. **FHDC** and **KSU** partnered in organizing this trip, and over 550 people registered for the event.

If you missed the first three issues of **VISTAS Memo** you can now **read them online** at the FHDC website, <http://www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/414/Vistas-Memo>. The Foundation's pages are located within the FHDC website, so be sure and take time to browse other sections of the FHDC website to keep up with all the activities happening at the Foundation and Discovery Center.

The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation

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The VISTAS MEMO is provided to advance the cause of philanthropy in support of the Flint Hills Discovery Center. We thank and celebrate all those investing in the Center's unique and dynamic mission.