



# ALLIES

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# Museum Brings Decommissioned Submarine Home

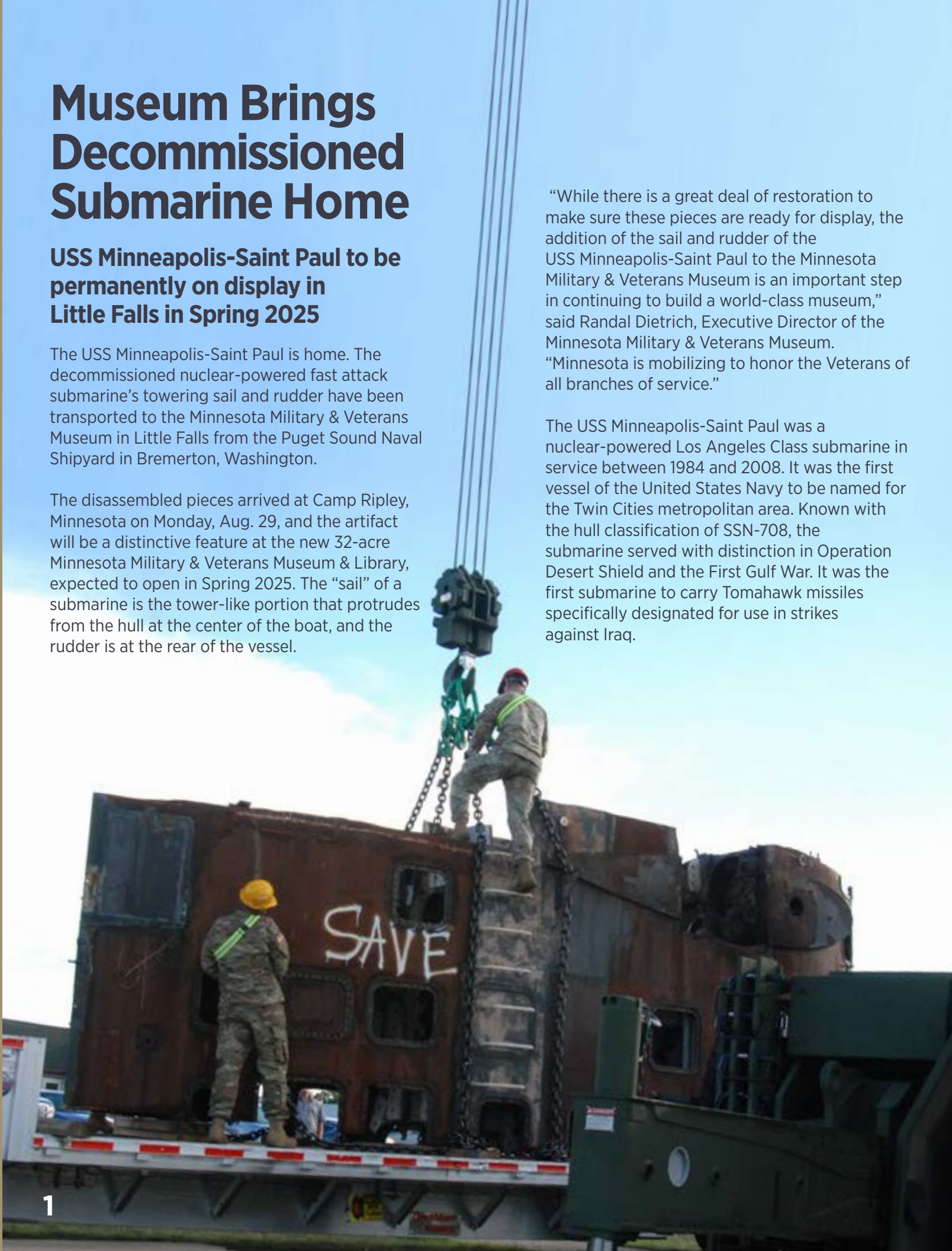
## USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul to be permanently on display in Little Falls in Spring 2025

The USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul is home. The decommissioned nuclear-powered fast attack submarine's towering sail and rudder have been transported to the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum in Little Falls from the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington.

The disassembled pieces arrived at Camp Ripley, Minnesota on Monday, Aug. 29, and the artifact will be a distinctive feature at the new 32-acre Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum & Library, expected to open in Spring 2025. The "sail" of a submarine is the tower-like portion that protrudes from the hull at the center of the boat, and the rudder is at the rear of the vessel.

"While there is a great deal of restoration to make sure these pieces are ready for display, the addition of the sail and rudder of the USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul to the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum is an important step in continuing to build a world-class museum," said Randal Dietrich, Executive Director of the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum. "Minnesota is mobilizing to honor the Veterans of all branches of service."

The USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul was a nuclear-powered Los Angeles Class submarine in service between 1984 and 2008. It was the first vessel of the United States Navy to be named for the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Known with the hull classification of SSN-708, the submarine served with distinction in Operation Desert Shield and the First Gulf War. It was the first submarine to carry Tomahawk missiles specifically designated for use in strikes against Iraq.





“Preserving this vital Naval artifact is important to the men who served on her, but also to the history of Minnesota,” said Bill James, United States Navy League Minnesota Council President. “The USS Minneapolis Saint Paul admirably served from 1984-2008 and took part in Operation Desert Shield and the Gulf War. The Navy League and submarine Veterans continue to mourn the deaths of two SSN-708 Sailors who died in rough seas on the coast of southwestern England in 2006. Along with the Minnesota Submarine League we look forward to the restoration of the sail and rudder and placement at the new Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum.”

Transported by St. Cloud, Minn. based Anderson Trucking Service, and expertly unloaded by Camp Ripley logisticians, the pieces will receive extensive renovation over the next two years. “This project is a great opportunity to show our support for Veterans and military personnel,” said Scott Anderson, Executive Vice President and Chief Administration Officer of Anderson Trucking Service. “We are honored to assist with this amazing addition to the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum and can’t wait to see it come to fruition. Many of our drivers and employees are Veterans, and this is one way that we can honor their service and show how grateful we are.”

In a letter to Navy Program Manager Curtis A. Brown, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz said “The sail and rudder will be a fantastic addition to the museum and serve as a reminder to generations of Minnesotans of the service and sacrifices made by the men and women of the United States Navy to preserve our freedom.”



A very special Thank You to Anderson Trucking Services of Saint Cloud for their generous support.

# Introducing Brooks Berg

## SSN-708 Restoration Team Leader By Kevin Olson

CAPT Brooks DeLisle Berg was raised in White Bear Lake, MN. Appointed to the United States Naval Academy in 1977, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Systems Engineering and graduated with the Class of 1981. CAPT Berg was one of the last individuals to interview with the creator of nuclear engineering, ADM Hyman G. Rickover, for acceptance into the Navy Nuclear Power Program. After initial nuclear power and submarine officer training completed in 1983, CAPT Berg was assigned to the fast attack submarine USS Finback (SSN 670). He completed several aggressive forward area special operations deployments aboard Finback and completed Nuclear Engineering Officer certification.

In April of 1986, CAPT Berg was transferred to oversee the technical aspects of the construction of the USS Newport News (SSN 750) at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in Newport News, VA. He led several major shipyard testing events including taking the newly installed nuclear reactor into critical power operations for the first time. Subsequently, CAPT Berg completed Submarine Officer Advanced Course training at New London, CT, and was deployed as the Blue Crew Navigator and Operations Officer aboard USS Alabama.



From 1988 through early 1992, CAPT Berg completed five nuclear weapons deterrent patrols. The Alabama was on station and covering target packages assigned to support Middle East military operation Desert Storm in case a nuclear weapons response was ordered by the President of the United States.

In 1992, CAPT Berg was transferred to the role of Navigation Assistant to the Director of Strategic Programs, Washington DC. There he trained, monitored and certified strategic missile submarines in the targeting and launch of nuclear weapons. CAPT Berg then left active duty and performed as Commanding Officer of five navy reserve units. Under his command, the Commander, Naval Forces Japan reserve detachment received the Meritorious Unit Citation for superior support of active duty requirements in the Western Pacific area of operations. CAPT Berg retired on 1 May 2006 at the Minneapolis Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center.

Concurrently with reserve duty, CAPT Berg completed a 25-year career in the medical device industry in the Twin Cities.

CAPT Berg resides in Woodbury, MN, with his wife Linda and together have raised two young men who have graduated from the University of Wisconsin and St. John's University.



**Mark Stange**  
U.S. Navy League MN

**Brooks Berg**  
Restoration Team Leader

**Randal Dietrich**  
MN Military & Veterans Museum



# Minnesota Stories from Kabul 2021



In a follow up to the museum's documentary entitled **RESOLUTE: MN Stories of 9/11 and the War** that was broadcast statewide last year and is now available on YouTube, a series of on-camera, oral history interviews were recently completed with Minnesotans who were in Kabul at the time of the chaotic evacuation.

As conditions deteriorated in Afghanistan in August 2021, more than 400 members of the MN National Guard, under the command of LTC Jacob Helgestad, were rushed to Kabul's Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA). Even though LTC Helgestad estimated that 80% had never deployed before, he noted that they had rehearsed for this and encouraged those under his command to "trust yourselves and trust each other."

His statement to the commanding general was "Hey Sir, you will never wait on us."



On August 15, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fled the country as the Taliban entered Kabul. U.S. Ambassador Ross Wilson, a Minnesota native, was forced to close our embassy. Ambassador Wilson, remaining Embassy staff and other diplomats worked from the airport to support the evacuation. LTC Helgestad added: "Everything that the world saw happened over the weekend. When we got



Photo Credit: Edwin Anderson

there (0300 on 17 August), we solidified the security of the airport. They didn't start the evacuation until the airport was secured. We were the last ground combat unit in, we were given our section of the airport to secure and that is when they started processing. You can make the argument that we were the last piece to begin actual evacuation out of Afghanistan."

The resulting 12-minute video is now available on the museum's YouTube channel and has been added to the traveling exhibit by the same name. CPT Rachel Cochran, a Physician's Assistant while at HKIA, serves as the primary narrator. Remarks by Ambassador Ross Wilson, 1LT Carl Swanson and LTC Jacob Helgestad are also featured.

LTC Helgestad concluded: "It was the application of what we rehearsed and all of the individual pieces. We executed to what we had trained for."

## HAMID KARZAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT





Photo Credit: Carl Swanson



Photo Credit: Sara Seck



Photo Credit: Michelle Jaeger





# Time to Honor Their Service

**Joseph Votel, General, US Army (Retired), Lake Elmo, MN**

When speaking with many audiences throughout my 39-year military career, I have often tried to highlight the importance of support from the American public. I believe it is an essential motivational ingredient for our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen. Fortunately, despite politics and other opinions, the American people have sustained this support for our uniformed men and women as they have done the Nation's work in many locations. I saw it prominently during my service in Afghanistan and Iraq, and I continue to see it after my return to Minnesota following my 2019 retirement. It is powerful and, perhaps more than anything else, sends an unambiguous signal to our men and women that we value their efforts.

This support is, of course, essential during times of conflict --- but I would also highlight that this support for our veterans and their families is equally important as they return to our communities. Return to our communities is often a difficult transition --- mainly when our Veterans come with the visible and invisible scars of combat. There is a multitude of ways to address these challenges. One fundamental and tangible way is through public recognition and honor to their service.

I am writing to ask for your financial support for an initiative to recognize our Minnesota Veterans with a world-class museum worthy of their service and sacrifice.

Your support will help us realize this dream of properly honoring generations of Minnesota Veterans for their service to our State and our Nation.

With deepest respect.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph L. Votel".

Joseph L. Votel  
General, US Army (Retired)

General Joseph L. Votel is a retired U.S. Army Four-Star officer and most recently the Commander of the U.S. Central Command, responsible for U.S. and coalition military operations in the Middle East, Levant, and Central and South Asia. During his 39 years in the military, he commanded special operations and conventional military forces at every level. His career included combat in Panama, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Notably, he led a 79-member coalition that successfully liberated Iraq and Syria from the Islamic State Caliphate. He preceded his assignment at CENTCOM with service as the Commander of U.S. Special Operations Command and the Joint Special Operations Command.

Votel graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1980. He is the Class of 1987 Senior Fellow at the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point.



# MN State University Mankato Explores America's Longest War

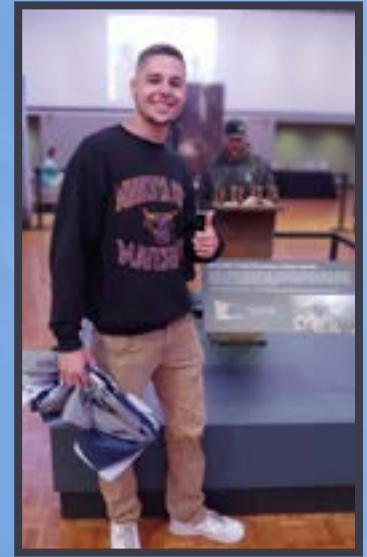
By Kyle Ward, Director of Social Studies Education

Last spring, I was struck by how young the prospective new class of college students looked as they toured the campus. Talking with my current students and seeing this potential batch of new ones, it dawned on me that almost every traditional student on our campus had little to no recollection of the events of 9/11. What they know of 9/11 comes textbooks, Hollywood movies or family and friends who are old enough to recall that fateful day. While their personal memories are almost non-existent, every one of these students are living in a world defined by the tragic events of that day and the world it created.

With this appreciation, it was an easy decision to bring the Military & Veterans Museum's Post-9/11 exhibit to the Mankato Campus. I wanted to help our student body learn more about these events and Minnesota's connection to them. While this initial decision was simple, the remarkable ripple effects it had for our university would have been difficult to predict:

MSU has a number of majors connected to the events surrounding 9/11. We were able to specifically target programs such as our Social Studies Education, History, Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, the ROTC, Political Science, International Relations, Psychology, Sociology, Ethnic Studies, K-12 Education, and the list goes on. This exhibit experience gave academic programs the opportunity to teach our students as well as to have discussions that are relevant to their fields of interest.

In preparation for the exhibit's arrival, MSU reached out to the New York 9/11 Museum. This was done with the hope that they might send some curriculum materials that could be shared with future Social Studies teachers. Instead (to our surprise) the 9/11 Museum Education Team offered to test run a new pre-service (college) program at MSU. This resulted in an educators' workshop in which a number of future teachers from campus and educators from our area, showed up and participated. During their time on campus, the 9/11 Museum representatives suggested that Mankato apply to be a test site to premiere their new film which featured survivors and explained to a new generation of Americans what happened that day and the impact it has had on our world. Through a partnership AMC Theaters, the university was able to host 180 area high school students to view the film and explore the traveling exhibit on Friday, September 9.





An additional connection was made when the Minnesota Humanities Center reached out with an offer to organize a panel discussion (on campus) to coincide the exhibit in the Centennial Student Union. The panel, introduced by Larry Herke of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, was a diverse group who focused on various perspectives on 9/11 and the Global War on Terror. One of the panelists was Mariah Jacobsen, whose father, Tom Burnett, was on the United Flight #93 that crashed into the Pennsylvania countryside.

The Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum and MSU, Mankato also screened the film, *The Outpost*,

which was released in 2020 and depicts the 2009 Battle of Kamdesh in Afghanistan. This film was chosen because the uniform and artifacts from one of the main characters is part of the traveling exhibit, giving students a more personal connection to the museum artifacts and the movie.

Finally, one of the biggest reasons we wanted to bring this exhibit to our campus was that it gave us the opportunity to reach out to our current and former veterans. Not only those who were actual students at MSU, but those from the surrounding community as well. The MSU Library Archives and History Department is now working with the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum to capture and preserve the stories of the men and women who remember 9/11 and those who served in the Global War on Terror.

With various university departments getting involved, the campus theater, the Minnesota Humanities Center, area high schools and the New York 9/11 Museum, this 'simple' program quickly grew into something we could not have imagined last spring when I watched those new underclass students get their first tours of our campus. The museum's traveling exhibit, about one of the most significant days in world history, was of enormous benefit to our college students, the veterans who served from Minnesota and the community as a whole.





For many years this M3A1 Stuart tank sat in front of the Brainerd Armory as a silent testament to the men of A Company, 194th Tank Battalion, and their courageous defense of the Philippines after the Japanese invasion. It is also a memorial to all those that suffered (and died) while in Japanese captivity. With the blessing and encouragement of both the 194th Tank Battalion Association and the staff at the Brainerd Armory, restoration is underway for eventual installation in our new facility's WWII Exhibition Gallery.

*Special thanks to Russ Mulholland, Mark Tilton, Jesse Fischer and Adam Schlangen*



The OH-58 Kiowa helicopter was introduced into active service in 1969. It saw extensive service with the US Army as both a light observation / reconnaissance / utility aircraft, and as a gun platform for close in support of ground forces. It was a workhorse helicopter, and the last OH-58 was finally retired from active service in July 2020, after almost 52 years of continual service. The OH-58 was used by the Minnesota National Guard until replaced by the Blackhawk helicopter.

The OH-58 on display at the Minnesota Military and Veterans museum recently underwent a thorough cosmetic restoration, which included body work, and a complete repaint using historically appropriate materials. The crew at the Combined Services Maintenance Shop (CSMC) are restoring several museum aircraft/vehicles as part of their training and in anticipation of future public display.

*Special thanks to Russ Mulholland, Jesse Fischer, Dennis Nyangweso, Jon Schultz, and Darin Robinson.*



The museum is operated by the Military Historical Society of Minnesota (MHSM), a non-profit 501(c)3 educational organization chartered to preserve and interpret Minnesota's military history.

The museum is certified by the U.S. Army Center of Military History and the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, although its mission encompasses all branches of military service.

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