In honor of World War I and the five WW1 Medal of Honor recipients native born in Tennessee, the TMCA will be giving out a single “Best of Show” display award during each of the next 5 TMCA Shows. The winner will receive a plaque with the name of one of the 5 Medal of Honors engraved on it.

The winner will also received a $100 cash prize.

Display criteria is pretty simple, in order to be judged Best-of-Show, it must be related to World War 1. The display may relate to any nation or any theater of operation involved in World War 1. (1914-1918).

Other displays, during the Show, will still be welcome and are encouraged, however, only the WW1 theme displays will be judged for Best-of-Show and the $100 cash prize. There will be no 1st, 2nd or 3rd place display winners.
In Honor of the Brave Heroes and Citizen Soldiers who can no longer speak for themselves.

By: Robert Wilson

Private William L Arrington
Service# 33742864
DOB: 12 May 1925 Washington, DC
3rd Company, 1st Regiment, 1st Special Service Forces
KIA: est. 24-25 May 1944 near Cisterna, Italy
Decorations and Awards: Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 3 Bronze Service stars, World War II Victory Medal

Private Arrington was killed in action when the 5th Army breakout offensive began on 25 May, 1944, the FSSF was sent against Monte Arrestino.

There were copies of letters wrote by William's Mother trying to establish next-of-kin status. She states "My son was killed May 1944 crossing Hwy 7 on the drive to Rome. He was with the First Special Service Force. He was married - but his widow remarried in the Spring of 1945. I was divorced from his father and custody was awarded to me and the child was raised by me.

The Father wrote to Graves Registration this: "The daily paper stated that questionnaires were going to be mailed out soon to relative to bringing back the dead. My son William L Arrington 3rd Co. 1st Reg. 1st Special Service Force serial no. 33742864 was killed in action May 25 19944 on the drive to Rome. At the time of his death he was only 19 years and 2 months of age. But was married a few months before going overseas to a girl he had known only one month. She remarried within seven months of being notified of his death and refuses to correspond with me. She has been trying to hide her second marriage from me. My sons Mother and I want him brought back and buried at Arlington and due to the above mentioned facts. I think the questionnaire should be mailed to me or his mother. Where is he now buried?
Respectfully, Fuller L Arrington"

Private Arrington rests in Arlington, Sec: 12 Site 5025
Lieutenant (junior grade)(LTJG) Donald R. Walker  
Birth: 16 May 1922...Santa Ana California  
Kingfisher Pilot USS West Virginia  
KIA: 16 June 1945 Okinawa

Here is the story of LTJG Donald Ray Walker, he flew the Vought OS2U Kingfisher; a spotting plane among other things off the USS West Virginia. They were reconnoitering Okinawa for a firing assignment and LTJG Walker and his Observer Melvin Ladson took hits destroying their Kingfisher causing them to bail out and parachute into enemy territory. Both men were reported missing as the newspaper states. RIP Ltjg Walker and AVO3 Ladson

On 16 June, she was firing an assignment for the 1st MarDiv off southwestern Okinawa when her spotting plane, a Vought OS2U Kingfisher, took hits from Japanese antiaircraft fire and headed down in flames, her pilot and observer bailing out over enemy-held territory. Within a short time, aided by Putnam and an LCI, West Virginia closed and blasted enemy guns in an attempt to rescue her plane crew who had "dug in for the day" to await the arrival of the rescuers. The attempt to recover her aircrew, however, was not successful.

On June 16 Marines were pushing Japanese to the Southern lip of the Island. I was called to replace LT Donald Walker for close support while Walker took my place further inland. As we went by each other we waved and a minute later Walkers plane was hit by AA fire. I saw Walker and his radioman Ladson bail out. I called in his coordinates but both men disappeared. Our fighters appeared in no time but found only 3 Japanese who were gathering up Walkers chute. All rescue efforts failed. Three days later the Marines reached the area and sadly found Walker dead in a cave. There was no mention of radioman Ladson.
Lawrenceburg WWII German POW Camp ~ April 1944 to March 1946

Camps Forrest, Campbell, and Tyson had other uses besides inducting and training soldiers during WWII. All three bases additionally served as prisoner-of-war camps for German, Italian, and Austrian POWs through 1946. Prisoners were also held at Tellico Plains, Crossville, Memphis, Lawrenceburg, and Nashville. Camp Forrest, which was the headquarters for several permanent and temporary POW camps in five southeastern states, processed approximately 68,000 prisoners. During the war, a German POW camp was located in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee from April 1944 to March 1946. Over 330 German POWs were housed in large tents on Pine Bluff at the edge of Lawrenceburg City Limits. The prisoners cut wood and a few were contracted out to local farms as day laborers, and many of them got to know the locals quite well. When the war ended and the prisoners went home to Germany, they wrote letters to their American friends.

One Lawrenceburg family, the Brocks, kept the letters, and in the 1980s, one of their descendants found close to 400 letters stuffed in a corn flakes box. Curtis Peters (President ~ Lawrenceburg Historical Society), an in-law in the Brock family and an involved member of the Lawrenceburg Historical Society, kept the letters and made presentations on them for many years. During 2015, the Lawrence County Historical Society took on a project to metal detect at the POW camp site, which is now privately owned by several home owners. Permission was obtained and a group of five history buffs started the process over several months. Lots of German items and US Military artifacts were unearthed. Items made by German POWs and POW letters will be on display at the Fall 2016 TMCA Show as well as many of the military artifacts that were dug up at the camp. A list of some of these items is listed below:

**German POW WWII Artifacts found at Camp Lawrenceburg (April 1944 to March 1946)**

- **German 1942 War Medal** ~ This was for the Italian German campaign in Africa in 1937/1942. Mussolini's National Fascist Party created this Italian/German African campaign medal in memory of the actions of the German Africa Corps DAK (Deutsche Afrika Korps) in the North African campaign. Found May 15, 2015
- **WWII German Panzer Unit Skull & Bones Emblem** ~ dug June 3, 2015

**German WWII Dog Tag belonging to a German POW** ~ This is an Original WW2 Relic German Soldiers Dog Tag- ID ~ dug June 3, 2015

- **Staff Company Grenadier-Ersatz-Bataillon 437** (A grenadier in Replacement/reinforcement Battalion # 437)
  - ID # 789 Blood Type
  - German WWII Dog Tag belonging to a German POW~ This is an Original WW2 Relic German Soldiers Dog Tag- ID ~ dug July 8, 2015
  - **Staff Company, Grenadier-Ersatz-Battalion 15th Motorized (A grenadier in Replacement/reinforcement Battalion)** ID # 1365 Blood type O

- **1941 French 50 Centimes Coin** ~ dug June 22, 2015
- **Zinc 1 Reichspfennig coin was minted by Nazi Germany between 1940 and 1945**
Dug June 22, 2015
Trench Art ring made from a coin ~ dug June 22, 2015
Barbed Wire bracket from roll of barbed wire ~ dug March 31, 2015
Small section of barbed wire ~ dug Nov. 11, 2015
Five German Army tunic buttons ~ dug between March 2015 and Nov. 2015
42 US Army General service uniform buttons (worn by both US soldiers and German POWs

at the camp) ~ the first one was dug on March 31, 2015
US Army button with anchor and thirteen stars (unidentified unit)
Several US Army insignia
Army / Navy whistle (made in England) ~ dug June 11, 2015
Pocket watch face and back ~ dug June 11, 2015
Pearl cigarette lighter ~ dug June 17, 2015
Gem Micromatic Open Comb Razor (Officer area of camp)
Hand Grenade Fuse ~ dug June 4, 2015
51 led washers (three with screw attached) used to secure tents to wood platforms
12 small US Army metal buttons
Canteen snap from web pouch
30 Cal. M1 carbine shell ~ dug July 8, 2015
Metal Cream tube with Berlin lettered on it ~ dug July 8, 2015
Gillette metal shaving cream tube ~ dug Sept. 13, 2013
US Army issue metal shaving cream tube ~ dug June 4, 2015
Mennen metal shaving cream tube ~ dug June 22, 2015
Colgate metal tooth paste tube ~ dug June 22, 2015
Nine lock keys ~ Found March thru Nov. 2015
Five horse shoes
42 Tent Grommets
Ax head ~ dug June 17, 2015
Tokin ~ dug July 8, 2015
File ~ dug Sept. 13, 2013
Buckles (various) ~ dug Sept. 13 to Nov. 2015
Liberty Standing quarter ~ dug June 11, 2015
1946 Lincoln Head penny ~ dug June 22, 2015
US Army mess kit ~ dug June 4, 2015
Various shotgun brass shells
Boot clips
Various pieces of cast iron from wood burning stoves
Wrist watch
Three Door knobs

Hundreds of other metal items yet to be identified!
**Display Award Winners**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Place</th>
<th>2nd Place</th>
<th>3rd Place</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Schuler</td>
<td>Roy Chilson</td>
<td>Terry &amp; Foster Palmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WW1 Painted Helmets</td>
<td>US Military Weapons of WW2</td>
<td>US Military Folding Knives</td>
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</tbody>
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**OVMS UPCOMING SHOWS**

**Ohio Valley Military Society**

**NEXT SHOW:** November 4-5, 2016

**Roberts Centre**  
123 Gano Road, Wilmington, Ohio  
Website: [http://www.sosovms.com/](http://www.sosovms.com/)

**SOS**  
February 23-26, 2017  
Kentucky Expo Center  
Louisville, KY
** Wanted **

Army Air Force Technician
Badges / Bars

There are 27 authorized bars. I am looking for the following in STERLING.

- AP Hydraulic SP
- AP Machinist
- AP Power Plant SP
- AP Propeller SP
- A.C.S. Radio SP
- Radio V-I Mech.
- Jet Mechanic

Robert W. Wesbrooks
PO Box 671372
Marietta, GA 30066
(678) 429-2490

Wanted

Parts for a WW2 40mm US Navy Bofors anti-aircraft gun.

Seats, sights, muzzle break etc. What do you have?

Dave: 615-479-4569 or dhoagey@comcast.net

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Gov. Bill Haslam has appointed a nine-member Tennessee Great War Commission to create events, share information and educate others as they tell the story of the Volunteer State and its citizens who participated in World War One. Dr. Michael Birdwell, a Tennessee Tech University history professor, appointed by Gov. Haslam was unanimously elected chairperson of the commission. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Michael Birdwell and representatives of the Commission to share this information at our Fall/Winter Show.
Joseph B Atkinson, Medal of Honor, Tennessee, World War I

Adkison was born in Egypt, Tennessee and entered the Army in 1917 in Memphis. By mid-1918, Adkison and his division were involved in combat in France. On September 29, 1918, near Bellicourt, France, Adkison, by then a Sergeant, found he and his platoon pinned down by heavy German machine gun fire located fifty yards to their front.

Adkison, acting alone, charged the machine gun nest, kicked it over into the enemy trench, and using the bayonet fixed on his rifle captured the three man machine gun crew, allowing his platoon to advance. He was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1919.

Adkison died in 1965, and is buried in Salem Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church in Atoka, TN.

Medal of Honor Citation


When murderous machinegun fire at a range of 50 yards had made it impossible for his platoon to advance, and had caused the platoon to take cover Sergeant Adkison alone, with the greatest intrepidity, rushed across the 50 yards of open ground directly into the face of the hostile machinegun kicked the gun from the parapet into the enemy trench, and at the point of the bayonet captured the 3 men manning the gun. The gallantry and quick decision of this soldier enabled the platoon to resume its advance.