

AMERICAN SOLDIERS HOMECOMING FEATURES VIETNAM WALL, OHIO FLAGS OF HONOR AND WWII REENACTMENTS!

On August 7-9, 2009, The Dennison Railroad Depot Museum in Dennison, Ohio will hold its Third Annual American Soldiers Homecoming Festival which is held each year to honor and remember American heroes past and present, both on the Homefront and in the military.

This year's event will focus upon thanking our Vietnam Veterans. Special features will include the Traveling Memorial Vietnam Wall and the Ohio Flags of Honor, both free for viewing and open 24 hours a day throughout the festival. The wall will be escorted into town, traveling from Cambridge through Uhrichsville and then Dennison on Thursday, August 6, arriving with its motorcycle escort at approximately 4p.m.

Thirty-one hundred wooden crosses made by local veterans will also be on display representing all Ohio Vietnam Veterans. The names of these veterans will be read, and wreaths will be placed on the crosses for all local Tuscarawas County veterans. All veterans names will also be read at the Ohio Flags of Honor. A variety of programs will be held throughout the Homecoming at the site of the Wall.

The Homecoming always includes WWII history as Dennison was the site of a WWII Homefront Salvation Army Servicemen's Canteen that served 1.5 million soldiers and earned Dennison the nickname "Dreamsville, USA". To this day, there is always hot coffee in the railroad Depot lobby for any visitor, keeping the homefront hospitality alive. Throughout the Homecoming Festival, the Canteen will be open once again offering free hot coffee and cookies to visitors.

Three WWII Battle reenactments will take place as well as a Youth Reenactment inside the Homecoming's Battlefield. Each year the battle plans change and this year, WWII trenches and bunkers will be added to the battle site. General Eisenhower will also be on hand in the Battle Field for an encore performance.

Other highlights of the Homecoming include: A Ticker Tape Parade, USO Dance with the Big Band Recollections, Speakers and Roundtables on the Vietnam War, after effects and the Korean War Troop Train Wreck, 1970s Musical Show by the Trumpet in the Land Singers, Dancing by Teresa's School of Dance, Military Exhibits in the Masonic Temple, and all the exhibits in the Dennison Railroad Depot Museum, including its new feature exhibition: "Presidents, Trains and Whistle Stops", sharing photographs and the history of all the presidents that stopped in Dennison.

This event is FREE for all veterans, current military and WWII Canteen volunteers. They are encouraged to call and register in advance to receive their ticket packets. Veterans are also encouraged to ride and be recognized in the Ticker Tape Parade. Transportation in the Parade is provided. To register, contact the Depot toll free at 1-877-278-8020 or depot@tusco.net.

Many of the Homecoming events are free including: The Vietnam Wall, Ohio Flags of Honor, outdoor bands, food and souvenir vendors. Battle Passes are required for the general public for those who want to attend the battles, USO dance, Museum, roundtables and speakers, living history and WWII campground.

Battle passes are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$6 for students 7 to 17, and under 7 are free. All Battle Passes are good for THREE DAYS. Wendy Zucal, museum director, shares that it is a tremendous bargain as Museum admission alone is regularly \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$4 for students.

Family Battle passes are also available at \$25 per family.

Early Bird Prices are available for Battle Passes from now until June 30th, saving \$2 per ticket.

The Dennison Railroad Depot Museum, located in the center of the Homecoming Festival, houses a restaurant, gift shop and museum. The Museum fills the largest portion of the Depot and continues throughout a new wing inside railroad cars attached to the Depot. Many family fun activities can be found in the Children's Interactive Railroad Car, Presidents exhibit and Model Train Room. A rare WWII hospital car restored with Save Americas Treasures dollars houses the Museum's WWI and WWII Canteen collection. A popular "Bing Scavenger Hunt" is available for kids, named after Dennison's heroic WWI mascot Private Bulldog Bing.

To receive a detailed schedule of events for the American Soldiers Homecoming or to purchase Battle Passes, contact the Depot toll free at 1-877-278-8020, www.dennisondepot.org or depot@tusco.net.

The Dennison Depot is located in Tuscarawas County where State Routes 250, 800 and 36 meet, 15 minutes from New Philadelphia. Dennison is exactly halfway between Pittsburgh and Columbus and 40 minutes south of Canton. Other nearby attractions include: Warthers Carvings, Amish Country, Trumpet in the Land, Historic Schoenbrunn Village and the Uhrichsville Clay Museum.