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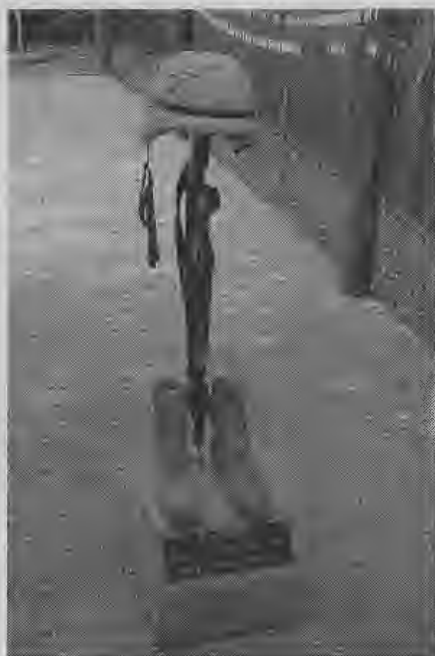


A big museum in a small city

Marysville, CA, a city with a population of 31,000; and its adjacent neighbor, Yuba City (à la Minneapolis-St. Paul)

has 80,000. Marysville is home to a museum of FAR greater stature than its smaller-town status would suggest: the **MUSEUM OF THE FORGOTTEN WARRIORS**.

There are over 60,000 items covering the Civil War to Iraq. One cannot help but be highly impressed by the vast amount of man-hours that went into creating all the dis-



Left: Tributes to lost comrades. **Middle:** The dog tag memorial for those lost in Iraq and Afghanistan. **Right:** One of the many uniformed mannequins.

Right: Part of the museum's extensive military library.
Below: WWII-era model aircraft.



plays. And, it has been all done without any official funding. Volunteer time and financial donations make this (no-admission-charge) remarkable, striking and inspiring museum possible.

The ramrod behind this Herculean effort (since 1985) is Dann Spear. He was too young for Viet Nam service, but had many friends who were in that SE Asia battle. The medals, patches, uniforms, weapons and other artifacts are all personal donations from the veterans themselves. Also on display are many BDUs, signed by veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, and presented to the facility by service personnel based at nearby Beale Air Force Base.

The museum's motto: "To remember, respect and honor veterans so they shall never be forgotten." Almost needless to say, the few pages here cannot do fitting justice to the immensity of this marvelous project.

The **MUSEUM OF THE FORGOTTEN WARRIORS** (5865 "A" Road, Marysville, CA 95901; phone 530/742-3090, www.museumoftheforgottenwarriors.org) is 45 miles north of Sacramento and 130 miles NE of San Francisco. Donations are tax-deductible. The museum is open Saturdays (10 to 3) and Thursdays (7 pm to 9 pm) as well as on Veterans' and Memorial Days. On Armed Forces Day in May there is the annual veterans' potluck. For groups, private, docent-led tours are available by arrangement. 🐾

— Armond Noble, Publisher, *Military*

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Military equipment on display outdoors at the museum.