

Tryon Palace Hosts Smithsonian Exhibition

Tryon Palace will host the traveling version of the National Postal Museum's permanent exhibition, "Mail Call," through July 20. Organized and circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), this free exhibition explores the history of America's military postal system, and examines how even in today's era of instant communication, troops overseas continue to treasure mail delivered from home.

Throughout American history, the military and postal service have combined forces to deliver mail under challenging and often extreme circumstances. But whether it takes place at headquarters or in hostile territory, on a submarine or in the desert, mail call forges a vital link with home.

With compelling documents, photographs, illustrations and audio stations, "Mail Call" celebrates the importance of this correspondence. Visitors will discover how military mail communication has changed throughout history, learn about the armed forces postal system and experience military mail through interesting objects and correspondence, both written and recorded on audiotape. The exhibit offers an appreciation of the importance of military mail and the hard work that has gone into connecting service men and women to their government, community and loved ones at home.

"Mail Call" features a number of items that bring to life the story of military mail. One such highlight is a kit with supplies for "Victory Mail," a microfilm process developed in World War II to dramatically shrink the volume and weight of personal letters. Beginning in 1942, V-Mail used standardized stationery and microfilm processing to produce lighter, smaller cargo—150,000 microfilmed letters could fit in one mailbag.

Visitors will also gain access to dramatic firsthand records and heartfelt sentiments through excerpts from letters exchanged between writers on the front line and the home front. The exhibit also explores how the military postal system works today and describes the new ways the men and women of the armed forces are communicating with home.

From the earliest handwritten letters that took days or even months to deliver, to today's instant communication via email or the internet, "Mail Call" presents the changing look and format of mail pieces through the decades. It also examines the complex operations systems set in place to ensure safe delivery, and it explores the incalculable role mail plays in maintaining the morale of our military personnel.

This free exhibition at Tryon Palace, located in the North Carolina History Center's Duffy Exhibition Gallery, is sponsored locally by the Tryon Palace Foundation. The Duffy Gallery is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon-5 p.m. on Sunday. For more information about Tryon Palace or the Tryon Palace Foundation, visit www.tryonpalace.org.



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K4TW Loses Staunch Supporters

By Jean McDanal

We are sorry to report that Bruce Carbrey lost his battle with cancer on May 7. Bruce was one of the original kayakers when Pine Knoll Shores first began the Kayak for the Warriors (K4TW) event seven years ago. He was a behind-the-scenes genius in past events, especially in his creation of the original K4TW website and each year made it better. His work produced world-class websites that were nothing short of spectacular.

Last year Bruce raised \$4,780 by himself and was awarded the Warriors trophy for raising the most funds for Hope for the Warriors®.

Bruce told us that after his family and his battle against his cancer, the next most important thing in his life was Kayak for the Warriors. He was a Vietnam veteran, and we are sure that in some way this event meant much more to him than just a 3.2-mile kayak race.

This year, Bruce's son-in-law, James Castellow, will be paddling in his honor. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Sally, and family.

Just 57 years old, Marty Bourdeau left us too soon after a short illness. Marty served in the Marine Corps for 21 years and retired as captain. He was well known in the Pine Knoll Shores community. He served as a Pine Knoll Shores police officer and also served as a Carteret County sheriff's deputy for the past 18 years.

Since the inception of the Kayak for the Warriors project, Marty was a volunteer staple, primarily handling the tents, tables and chair set-up at Garner Park.

Last year, he was asked to serve as captain for the kayak loaner program. He was able to secure 35 loaner kayaks and paddles and prepared them for transport to and from Garner Park. His wife Charlotte and neighborhood friends followed Marty's detailed plan to bring his kayak loaner program to successful fruition.

Marty will be forever missed by many in the law enforcement, military and Pine Knoll Shores communities.

In Memoriam

Raymond Bogert
Bruce Carbrey
Larry Clugston
Vivian Macdonald

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