



RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA

Real Trains. Real History. Real Excitement.

NEWS RELEASE

P. O. Box 15, PA Route 741, 300 Gap Road, Strasburg, PA 17579

717/687-8628 • Fax: 717/687-0876

info@rrmuseumpa.org • www.rrmuseumpa.org

The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is administered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, with the active support of the Friends of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania non profit organization.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: OCTOBER 22, 2009

MEDIA CONTACT: DEBORAH REDDIG (ext 3007; dreddig@rrmuseumpa.org)

RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA PAYS TRIBUTE TO U. S. MILITARY AND AMERICAN RAILROADS DURING TRAINS & TROOPS

The United States military, service men and women and American railroads will be honored during the tenth annual Trains & Troops event at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania on Saturday, November 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, November 8 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. A 1940s Swing Dance, featuring the Bob Troxell Big Band, also will be held at the Museum on November 7 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

“Trains & Troops is the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania’s tribute to the men and women of the U. S. Armed Forces, American railroads and all those who served, and are serving, overseas and on the home front in defense of our nation,” says Museum chief curator Bradley K. Smith.

The Red Rose Veterans Honor Guard, accompanied by the Lampeter-Strasburg Community Band, will present the colors as a salute to veterans and active duty service men and women at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 7. The Lampeter-Strasburg Community Band will then perform a repertoire of Americana and patriotic music from 11:05 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The salute to veterans again will take place on Sunday, November 8, accompanied by the Lancaster Trombone Quartet, at 1:00 p.m. The Lancaster Trombone Quartet will then perform from 1:05 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

-more-

(2) RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA PAYS TRIBUTE TO U. S. MILITARY AND AMERICAN RAILROADS DURING TRAINS & TROOPS

“The American Civil War marked the first major military application of railroads, which were principally used as supply lines for troops, munitions, rations and communications,” Smith explains. “The U. S. Military Railway Service was created in 1916 for World War I, which, by the end of the war, had over 32,000 railroaders and 897 officers working for the Service. In World War II, U. S. freight and passenger railroad service, both military and civilian, was phenomenal. As many as 160 freight trains traveled daily between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg and numerous passenger trains were converted into troop carriers and hospital cars. Following World War II, the railroads’ use in conflict declined, but did not disappear. Today’s military rail movements are centered more on large, heavy equipment, which simply cannot move over highways. A renewed focus on the railroads for both military and civilian importance as an integral part of a balanced transportation network is necessary for our nation’s well-being.”

During Trains & Troops, a fascinating array of military and military railroad service-related posters, uniforms, equipment, jeeps, field gear, maps, books, photographs, memorabilia, collectibles and vintage cars will be on display from participating exhibitors, as well as from the Railroad Museum’s archives. Visitors will encounter military, civilian and railroader living history re-enactors from various eras in our nation’s history.

A flyover of the Railroad Museum by several vintage World War II aircraft is planned at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, weather permitting.

Author Larry Alexander will give a presentation on his new book, "Shadows in the Jungle: The Alamo Scouts Behind Japanese Lines in World War II" at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday and on Sunday. Alexander will have available for purchase, and will sign, copies of his new book as well as copies of his first book, "Biggest Brother: The Life of Major Dick Winters, The Man Who Led the Band of Brothers." His third book, "In the Footsteps of the Band of Brothers: A Return to Easy Company's Battlefields with Sgt. Forrest Guth," is due out in May 2010.

(3) RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA PAYS TRIBUTE TO U. S. MILITARY AND AMERICAN RAILROADS DURING TRAINS & TROOPS

Currently, the following groups and displays are scheduled for Trains & Troops:

- 30th Pennsylvania Infantry Company E
- American Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II
- Kilroy's Homefront Commandos
- United States Demy Die Corps
- Capitol Wing Airman's Preservation Society
- 51st Engineers U. S. World War II
- Knit Your Bit: Knitting for Defense
- Gettysburg Homefront
- Vietnam War Era American Military Advisors Association of Pennsylvania
- Paxtonville World War II Display Committee
- Homefront Memories
- Army Ground Forces Association
- Patriot Daughters of Lancaster
- U. S. Coast Guard in World War II
- 1st Infantry Division 26 Reg HQ MP
- 2nd Armored Division
- 28th Division 109th Infantry L Company
- 90th Division Living History
- 724th Korea Veterans Transportation Railway Operating Battalion
- 83rd Infantry Division 329th Reenactment Group
- 2nd Armored Divison, 82nd Recon B Company
- 12th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, 41st Pennsylvania Volunteer & Veteran Reserve Corps

Trains & Troops participants, activities and times may be subject to change without notice.

(3) RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA PAYS TRIBUTE TO U. S. MILITARY AND AMERICAN RAILROADS DURING TRAINS & TROOPS

The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania will be accepting toys again this year on behalf of the Marine Corps Toys For Tots program. Visitors who purchase a toy in the Museum store to be donated to Toys For Tots will receive a 15% discount on their entire store order.

The first 50 paid visitors each day of Trains & Troops will receive a train “bentcil,” compliments of the Friends of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. One per family, please. Trains & Troops is included in the regular Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania admission charges. Proceeds from Trains & Troops and the Swing Dance benefit important Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania education, presentation and interpretive programs.

The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania houses a world-class collection of more than 100 historic locomotives and vintage railroad cars, some of which are open for inspection. Visitors will not want to miss Steinman Station passenger depot, Stewart Junction hands-on railway education center, the Museum’s cab simulator, the Whistle Stop Shop museum store and the Trains In Motion Pictures exhibit in the Museum gallery.

Living history re-enactors from the Railroad Museum’s Trains & Troops event will be riding special trains on the Strasburg Rail Road. Troop train times are 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Saturday and 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are purchased separately at the Strasburg Rail Road or on line at www.strasburgrailroad.com and cost \$15.00 per person 12+, \$9.00 per person 3-11 and \$3.00 per person under 3. Train enthusiasts also should plan to visit the National Toy Train Museum and the Choo Choo Barn.

For information on area lodging, dining, shopping and entertainment, call (866)STRSBRG, (800)PADUTCH or (800)VISITPA or visit www.strasburgpa.com, www.padutchcountry.com or www.visitpa.com. The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, with the active support of the Friends of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. Call (717)687-8628 or visit www.rrmuseumpa.org.