



Newsletter

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Children give Centennial Grove uplifting send off



On a clear blue September day, the 15th to be exact, 77 children from Mountainside Elementary released 77 red, white and blue balloons into the sky above Fort Carson. The cause for celebration was the dedication and planting of the first 10 of 77 trees donated to the Mountain Post Historical Center (MPHC) from Colorado's Conservation Districts. The grouping of trees at the main gate will become known as the MPHC Centennial Grove

Army personnel, city officials, community members from all walks of life and members of the media gathered just outside Fort Carson's main gate to be part of the ceremony. Speakers included: wounded veteran Latoya Lucas, Robert Cordova of the Colorado Conservation Districts and Terry Sullivan, President of the Convention and Visitors Bureau. When the event concluded, adults and children watched in wonder as the patriotically colored balloons ascended into the cloudless sky.

The Centennial Grove is a living memorial to the brave men and women who sacrificed so much fighting the war on terrorism, including the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The 77 Conservation Districts in the great State of Colorado (CACD) wanted to honor these heroes, and what better tribute is there than a living memorial at Fort Carson? As Agriculture producers know, as goes agriculture, so goes the Country.

Robert Cordova, CACD

2008 Donations

The MPHCA would like to thank the following for their donations to the Mountain Post Historical Center. Their generous support has helped to move this project into the next phase.

- Ackerman Trust
- Combat Training Solutions
- El Pomar Fountain
- First Community Bank
- Gazette Charities
- Security Service Federal Credit Union
- COL Jerry Allgood, US Army Retired and Mrs. Allgood
- Julie Antuzzi-Rueffert
- William Bayles
- Mark Bradbury
- Gordon Hamilton
- Donald Holifield
- Paul Martin
- Terry Sullivan
- Tom Wiersma
- Lucy Allen in honor of LTG Robert and Mrs. Wilson's Anniversary

For a complete list of donors please go to the website at www.fortcarsonmuseum.com



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Letter From the President

Dear Friend of the Mountain Post Historical Center

The Mountain Post Historical Center Association (MPCHA) entered 2008 with renewed energy. The Board realigned to focus on the fundraising phase of the project. To help facilitate this phase of the project we hired our first employee, Becky Bayer-Hughes, as Executive Director. As a board we are confident that her presence is certain help the Mountain Post Historical Association to realize its vision. That vision is to bring a state of the art facility to Colorado Springs that will:

- Honor Fort Carson and its soldiers past, present and future.
- Educate the community members and visitors alike about Fort Carson and its impact on Colorado Springs and the world.
- Become a gathering place for enlistment, retirement, reunions and other special events.

Exciting things are happening this year! The capital campaign committee finished the fundraising plan and has hit the ground running. The five additional honorary chair people added to our already impressive list includes: General John W. Vessey, Jr., US Army (Retired), Jr., MG Mark A. Graham, Commander, Division West, 1st Army and Fort Carson, County Commissioner Sallie Clark, Hal Littrell and William B. Tutt. We are pleased to have their support. To see a complete list of Honorary Chairs go to our website at www.fortcarsonmuseum.com. One of the most exciting events this year was the tree planting ceremony that took place in September. The 77 donated trees will be a beautiful addition to the center.

2009 will be even busier. During the project's current phase, the MPCHA's capital campaign will raise funds to finalize the design and site plan and ultimately build the MPHHC. With the guidance of Julie Antuzzi-Rueffert, we are developing a comprehensive marketing, advertising and public relations plan to enhance the efforts of the Capital Campaign Committee, chaired by COL Denny Cripps, US Army (Retired).

We are very enthusiastic about how far we have come and how well we are moving forward with fundraising in the New Year. I want to acknowledge the efforts of all our supporters, contributors and MPHCA volunteers. Thank you for everything you have done to create this lasting icon for the Mountain Post.

Lou Mellini
MPHCA President

Wounded Veteran Still Serving Fort Carson

By Latoya R. Lucas, Chair, The Joe Gmelch Wounded Warrior Welcome Home Social, Purple Heart Recipient Operation Iraqi Freedom



My name is Latoya R. Lucas and I am Chair of the Joe Gmelch Wounded Warrior Welcome Home Social and also a Wounded Warrior Purple Heart Recipient. On September 15, 2008, I addressed a crowd of over one hundred dignitaries and supporters at the ceremonial tree planting for the MPHHC Memorial Grove, to voice my support of building the Mountain Post Historical Center (MPHC). I believe

that it is imperative to garner support and increase awareness for this project because soldiers posted at Fort Carson, the Mountain Post, come from all walks of life and every facet of our society. The MPHHC will serve as a place where their stories can be told and preserved for many generations to come.

Like countless others, I have a personal connection to the Mountain Post. In 2003, I was deployed to Iraq as part of the 52nd Engineer Battalion, to support the 101st Airborne Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). While stationed in Mosul, Iraq, I was seriously wounded during a convoy ambush and spent four months recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. During that time, I met many recovering soldiers and Marines, including one 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment soldier, a scout, who was also badly wounded. I learned that, like me, he was from the Mountain Post. We formed a close bond and during physical rehabilitation, we cheered each other's successes and encouraged one another during our setbacks. He was with me when I stood on my feet for the first time after lying on my back for several months. His wife later told me how proud he was of me. He and I shared the bond not only of soldiers who shed their blood in defense of our country, but also the pride of being Mountain Post soldiers.

The MPHHC will tell not only our stories, but also those of many other brave Mountain Post soldiers. These are stories of resiliency, valor, dedication to duty and the pride of serving the nation, the United States Army and the Mountain Post community. The MPHHC will stand as a reminder of the many soldiers who have paid the ultimate price and have made the supreme sacrifice for our nation. From WWII to the Global War on Terrorism, Mountain Post soldiers serve honorably and deserve a place of honor to celebrate their service and share their stories with those who will come to visit, listen, learn and reflect on their accomplishments. ©

Capital Campaign Committee is Looking For Your Support in 2009

Denny Cripps, Chair, Capital Campaign Committee

You may wonder how we can raise \$18.1 million during the current economic slowdown. Will anyone contribute? Who will be interested in a military museum? Well, as it turns out, lots of people. I recently attended a World War II dinner for my father's company and only 7 of the original 150 members remain. They wonder: how they will be remembered? Will they disappear into the dustbin of history until someone discovers an old diary or letter?

The story of Fort Carson is a compelling chronicle of 10 divisions from 1943 to the present. It has been the training ground of thousands of soldiers developing combat armor and infantry skills as well as special operations and logistics proficiencies. We must find funding sources to build and support our important cultural establishments such as the MPHC and we need your help. The most effective way is to solicit current soldiers, retired military and those who do business with Fort Carson.

The MPHCA has a list of hundreds of companies that build homes, pump fuel, landscape schools, move earth, plow snow, fix vehicles, supply food, provide gate guards, deliver rocks, repair toilets, sell windows, replace tires, and other services that any large post needs. You can help by becoming an "MPHC Ambassador:" tell your family, neighbors,

friends, community groups and more about this worthwhile project. If you are a business owner, join us. If you are an employee, tell your boss.

The MPHC will become a centerpiece for our community. We hope you will be part of the effort to make the MPHC a reality.



Fort Carson Facts

Fort Carson is the second largest employer in all of Colorado. In fact Colorado Springs was smaller than Pueblo by a long shot before the Fort opened its gates in 1942. Here are some amazing facts about Fort Carson and its impact on our community.

Population

- Military 18,158
- Family Members 27,600
- Civilian Employees 4,500
- 5th largest retiree community in the U.S. (18,940)
- The population of Fort Carson will increase to 70,800 in 2011

Economic Impact (FY07 Data):

• Military Payroll	\$1.048B
• Civilian Payroll	\$129.4M
• Local purchases/GPC	\$169.7M
• Military Construction	\$222.8M
• Rent & Lease Payment	\$94K
Total:	\$1.5B

Fort Carson and its Soldiers have a huge, positive impact on our community! A donation to the MPHC tells them just how much you appreciate their service, commitment and sacrifice.



"The completion of the Mountain Post Historical Center is important for our community. The Center will pay tribute to the history, accomplishments, and sacrifices of the brave men and women that have been a part of Fort Carson since 1942, and those who will follow. It will also serve as a constant reminder of the importance of Fort Carson to our region and our community."

Brian Binn, President- Military Affairs, Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce

Enterprise zone designation makes honoring the military even more rewarding!

With the MPHC's Enterprise Zone designation, individuals and business who make cash contributions of \$250-\$100,000 will receive a 25% state tax credit for their donation. In-kind contributions \$250-\$50,000 qualify for a 12.5% state tax credit.

You may donate online at www.fortcarsonmuseum.com or send a check to:

**Bank at Broadmoor, Mountain Post Historical Center
Attn: Fran Decker, 155 Lake Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80906**

If your donation fits these guidelines make your check payable to "El Paso County Enterprise Zone," write "MPHC" in the memo line.

NOTE: You will receive Colorado Department of Revenue form DR0075, "Certification of Qualified Enterprise Zone Contribution," in the mail from MPHC in time to file with your Colorado State Income Tax forms.

For more information on the Colorado Enterprise Zone, consult "Tax Information Index for Contribution to Enterprise Zone" at www.TaxColorado.com

For more information on the MPHC call 719-633-2867, email Info@FortCarsonMuseum.com or visit www.FortCarsonMuseum.com

The Mountain Post Historical Center Association (MPHCA) is a 501 (c)(3) organization whose mission is to support the efforts to build the Mountain Post Historical Center (MPHC), a dramatic, State-of-the-art facility to be located outside the gates of Fort Carson.

To be removed for the MPHC newsletter mailing list—email bbayerhughes@fortcarsonmuseum.com or call (719) 633-2867. Provide you name and address to be promptly removed.

HELP the MPHC go GREEN—To receive future editions of the MPHC newsletter via email visit our website at www.FortCarsonMuseum.com

Privacy Policy—The Mountain Post Historical Center Association, Inc. is dedicated to protecting the privacy of individuals. We do not share your information with anyone without written permission nor will we ever sell your personal information to anyone.

PO Box 2080, Colorado Springs CO 80901

The Mountain Post Historical Center logo features the words "THE MOUNTAIN POST HISTORICAL CENTER" in a serif font. The word "POST" is significantly larger and positioned in the center. To the right of "POST" is a stylized American flag with three red horizontal stripes and a field of stars. The word "MOUNTAIN" is positioned below "POST", and "HISTORICAL CENTER" is positioned above it.