



NATIONAL VETERANS
MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM

NEWS RELEASE

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Experience the Top-Secret World of *Ghost Army: The Combat Con Artists of World War II* Opening at the NVMM May 24 at 7 p.m.

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The National Veterans Memorial and Museum (NVMM) invites guests to discover one of the best kept secrets of World War II when it opens its IL. Wiegandibition, *Ghost Army: The Combat Con Artists of World War II*, exclusively sponsored by the E.L. Wiegand Foundation, on Friday, May 24, at 7 p.m.

Ghost Army explores how 1,105 members of the top-secret U.S. Army 23rd Headquarters Special Troops known as the “Ghost Army” utilized artists, engineers and soldiers to create and deploy the first mobile, tactical deception unit in Army history. The 23rd was capable of simulating up



to two divisions (30,000 men) utilizing inflatable rubber tanks, trucks and planes, false radio messages, sound effects and more to mislead enemy forces.

A number of members from the Ghost Army unit returned to the U.S. to work in Hollywood, theater or become designers, cartoonists, writers and artists. A few of the more recognizable Veterans who served in the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops are: Bill Blass (fashion designer), Ellsworth Kelly (painter and sculptor) and Art Kane (fashion and music photographer).

Opening night [tickets are available online](#) for \$20 and \$15 for Veterans and active-duty service members.

The evening will include a short program (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) setting the stage for an immersive journey into top-secret Ghost Army missions and members to learn how they helped win World War II. Special guest speakers include Toni Kiser, National World War II Museum, where the Ghost Army exhibition

was created, and Pamela Pastoric, daughter of [Marion “Pat” Pastorcich](#), (A son of Croatian parents, he later changed the family name to Pastoric to make pronunciation easier) a member of the 603rd Engineer Camouflage Battalion.

Pat Pastorcich was born in Ohio and attended the Columbus College of Art on a George Bellows scholarship for two years before joining the Ghost Army. Among his classes for a major in industrial design, he took a course in camouflage which served him well. After his military service, Pastorcich attended the Cleveland Institute of Art and was employed by NASA and Glidden among other area businesses.

About the National Veterans Memorial and Museum

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum takes visitors on a narrative journey telling individual stories and sharing experiences of Veterans from all military branches throughout history. [The National Veterans Memorial and Museum](#) pays tribute to the sacrifices of men and women in service and their families. History is presented through a dynamic, participatory experience with photos, letters and personal effects, multi-media presentations, and interactive exhibits. Together, these elements link our national story of service to the larger context of the world.

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