

Newsletter May 2026



Walking Tour of the Historic Garrison



The museum's Director, Bev Boyko, hosted our first guided walking tour of the historic garrison at Jackson Barracks. in April. A full bus of avid history buffs headed over to the oldest part of the post and enjoyed a detailed narrative of the barracks' beginnings in the 1830s with highlights of the architecture, events and changes throughout the years. Guests enjoyed first-hand views of the old jail, the existing towers, officer's quarters and a first-class view from the levee at the Mississippi River.



FREE EVENT

RUCK TO REMEMBER

SATURDAY
MAY 30
8:00 AM

**BEGINNING AT LOUISIANA
MILITARY MANEUVERS
MUSEUM**

**BLDG 1940 THIRD ST.
CAMP BEAUREGARD
PINEVILLE, LA**

**MUST BE PRE-
REGISTERED**

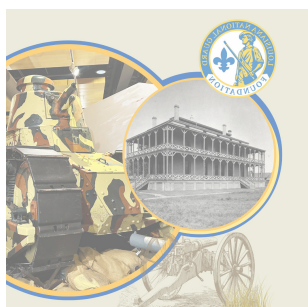
**100% ID CHECK
FOR AGES 16+**

CHOOSE BETWEEN

5K RUCK OR

1 MILE WALK

RUCK PARTICIPANTS ARE
ENCOURAGED TO WEIGHT THEIR
RUCK WITH CAN GOODS WHICH
WILL BE DONATED TO GOLD STAR
FAMILIES IN NEED AT THE
CONCLUSION OF THE EVENT.



New History Series Programming coming up!
Jackson Barracks Museum Speaker Series
Second Thursdays at 6:30pm

**Join us this spring as we offer a series of monthly
lectures on interesting and unique topics about our history
and our community. Details on page 6.**





CAMP BEAUREGARD

LOUISIANA NATIONAL CLUB

Semaphore Flags for Communication

Martha Arrington, Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum



For centuries on both land and sea, the military has used flags in various ways to convey information. The Semaphore flag signaling system uses two flags to represent the letters of the alphabet enabling trained signalmen to quickly and accurately communicate simple or even complex messages. Semaphore flags are typically square containing two colors divided diagonally. Signalmen hold one flag in each hand extending arms in various designated positions to represent each of the alphabet letters.

A form of the first widespread Semaphore flag system is credited to French inventor Claude Chappe in the 1790s. Used for centuries, the Semaphore flag system is still employed primarily for government and military purposes. The Semaphore was used extensively in both World Wars by most navies and armies. An example of its many uses was a Beach Master using the Semaphore to instruct landing craft where to land based on beach hazards. After the advent of radio and electronic transmissions, this style of communication is used less extensively. However, the Semaphore flags are still a vital communication system under certain circumstances for both ships and ground troops. It is critical during wartime to have the capability to communicate without the use of radio transmissions that could give away positions to the enemy. It is often used in areas that verbal communication is hindered due to excessive noise levels as well as in the coordination of several simultaneous activities that could create excessive verbal commands to become confusing.

The Semaphore flag signaling system offered several advantages over other systems, particularly in the pre-radio era or under circumstances requiring radio silence. This system simply requires a trained signalman on each end to send and receive messages. In the absence of a trained signalman, a person with diagrams should be able to still communicate. This communication is even possible without the flags by using other handheld objects, gloved or bare hands when necessary. Semaphore could convey concepts of greater complexity than other traditional communication systems like bugles or drums. Trained signalmen could rapidly spell out complete commands and detailed instructions.

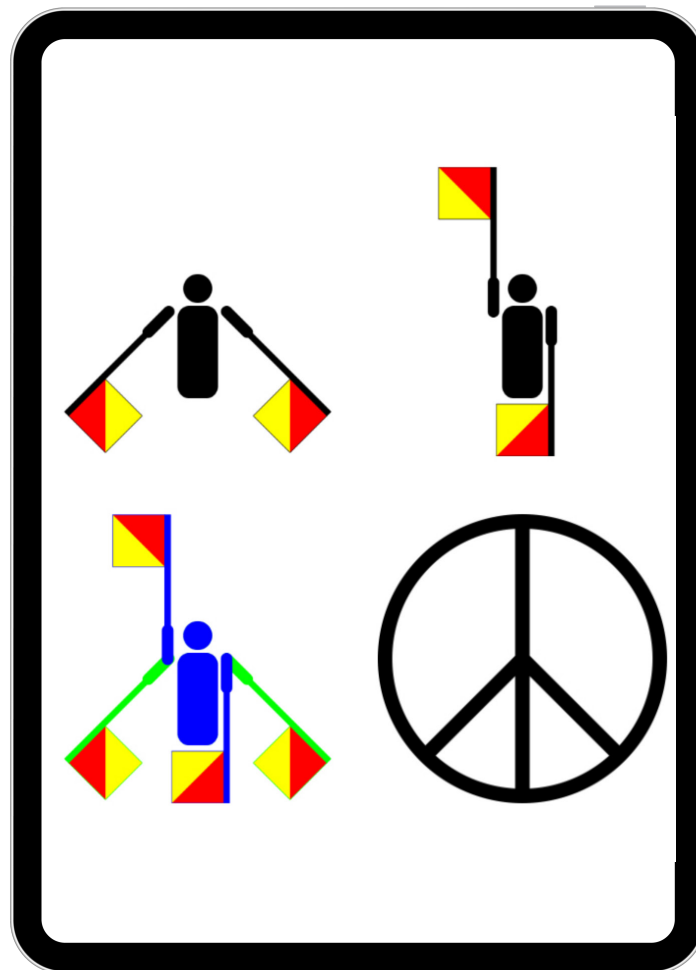
Although the Semaphore communication system proved highly effective, there are definitely some disadvantages with the most obvious being the signalmen have to be in close enough range to be visible. Inclement weather, low lighting, and other conditions can impair Semaphore messaging making it impractical. Another issue, Semaphore

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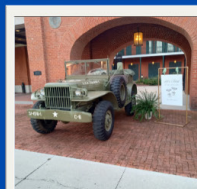
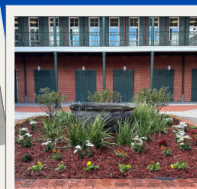
requires personnel to be more disciplined than other communication systems in continuously watching for incoming messages to be effective. Runners, bugles, radios and other sounds claim attention. Naval signal flags as static displays as well as electronic messages do not require constant observation.

Becoming one of history's ironies, the semaphore alphabet was used to create one of the most iconic antiwar emblems. Englishman Gerald Holton was a conscientious objector in World War II. As an art major, he designed a nuclear disarmament logo for a protest march in 1958. The protesters carried five hundred copies of this new symbol which was designed with the Semaphore alphabet letters for N and D encased within a circle. This iconographic international symbol came to be known as the peace symbol



ADD VINTAGE VEHICLES AND
MUSEUM SPACE
TO YOUR NEXT EVENT

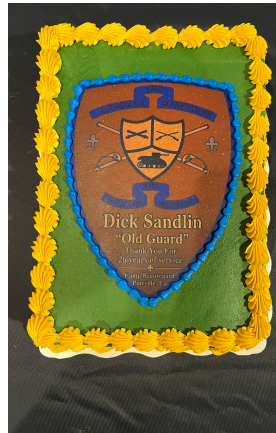
VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR
DETAILS
GEAUXGUARDMUSEUMS.COM



UPGRADE
YOUR EVENT

Volunteer Appreciation

On Thursday, May 14th staff at Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum honored long-time volunteer, Dick Sandlin, for 26 years of service. It was also Mr. Sandlin's 88th Birthday! Having served in Germany, Mr. Sandlin was keen to volunteer at the museum and joined WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam Veterans as part of the "Old Guard" who wanted to see the museum succeed. He not only donated his time to the museum, but also artifacts such as an armor officer's field cap, Viet Cong flag and .50 caliber machine gun. He stated in an interview, "I just enjoyed being out there and I enjoyed being around the volunteers. The museum is different, it stands out to me. It helps fulfill a gap the former servicemen need." We can't thank him enough for all of his years of support and generosity.



Recognizing Our Volunteers!

May 14th was a day of appreciation for all of our volunteers at Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum at Camp Beauregard, Pineville, La. We are grateful for their time and devotion to our museum!



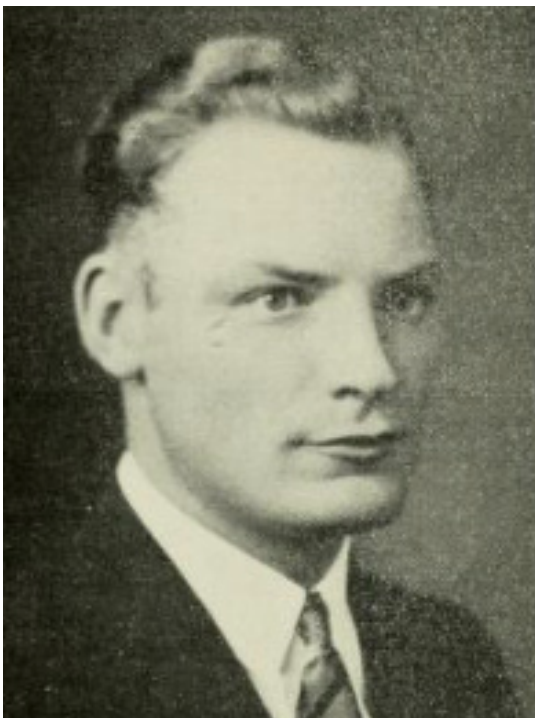
Meet Mr. Kilroy

Mr. Jerry Sanson
Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum

A meme that became popular during World War II, typically seen in graffiti – though its origin predates its use in graffiti by several decades.



Kilroy story at Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum



James J. Kilroy

One of the most famous characters associated with the U.S. Army during WWII was named Mr. Chad Kilroy. Did you know that he had a first name? His half-hidden face showed up in theaters of war all over the world and became about as familiar as pictures of the most prominent generals. GIs looked for him or drew him on walls, on equipment, in latrines, on beaches, hidden in barely accessible parts of ships, on bomb casings, on enemy fortifications, in the Reichstag in Berlin, and reportedly even in Joseph Stalin's personal bathroom, among other places.

The origin of Kilroy is still a mystery. One story holds that his origin might be traced to the practice of Australian soldiers who wrote "FOO (Forward Observation Officer) was here" as graffiti during World War I.

The most popular origin story is the one related under his illustration on the latrine wall in the Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum. According to this version of the story, the real Mr. Kilroy was James J. Kilroy, a rivet inspector at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy, Massachusetts, whose job was to count the number of rivets installed by individual riveters each shift so they could be paid accurately. Workers sometimes erased his chalk marks showing their progress and backed them up so they would be paid for extra rivets, so he began marking his count in crayon and writing "Kilroy was here" on areas that he had inspected. Ships were not painted when he completed his work and were commissioned before painting, so as American troops boarded the ships, they saw his message and began copying it everywhere they went. Other Allied troops appreciated the joke and helped spread the phrase worldwide. Mr. Kilroy from Quincy became an international celebrity.

The familiar figure accompanying the phrase is also difficult to trace, but one story is that perhaps Royal Air Force electricians created it using the Greek symbol for Omega and symbols from their circuit sketches. Wherever it came from, the familiar face, nose, and hands began appearing with the phrase by mid-1944.

Mr. Kilroy's face continued to peer at us long after the war ended. He became such an indelible symbol of the American experience of World War II that his image is included at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.





JACKSON BARRACKS MUSEUM SPEAKER SERIES

Second Thursdays at 6:30 pm

\$10 donation to LANG Foundation in support of our museums.
See our website for more details - geauxguardmuseums.com

June 11

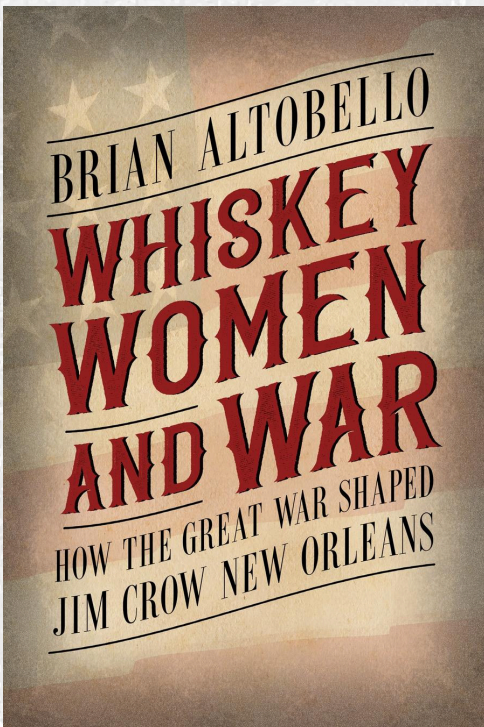
Stephen Bateman, Louisiana Knife History & the Bowie Knife



Historian Stephen Bateman will explore the historical, cultural, and technological significance of knives in Louisiana from the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries, tracing their evolution from French-Canadian trade items to iconic American weapons like the Bowie knife. Beginning with shipments of the Coteau Boucheron to France's North American colonies around 1662, this presentation will examine how this European kitchen knife became essential diplomacy, survival, and economic exchange in the Lower Mississippi River Valley, and concludes with the Bowie knife's transformative impact on American history.

July 9

Brian Altobello, *Whiskey, Women and War*



Brian Altobello will discuss how the Great War shaped New Orleans through the city's unique experience under a powerful political machine during World War I. His presentation will explore the city's mobilization for the war, including enlistment and war bond drives, alongside an anti-vice crusade that led to Prohibition and the shutdown of Storyville red-light district. Altobello also analyzes the women's suffrage movement, and complex race relations as African Americans participated in the war effort withing the Jim Crow system.

August 13

Dr. Sean Scanlan, National WWII Museum



Like their fellow countrymen, Jews in the US joined the American military in large numbers during World War II. Nearly 600 Jewish men and women from New Orleans served in uniform across all branches of the military and all theaters of the war. This talk illuminates the stories of Jewish New Orleanians like the Louisiana National Guard 122nd observation Squadron's MAJ Sam Zemurry, Jr., who served as a pilot and puts their service into the larger contexts of Southern Jewish history, New Orleans history, and the broader American military experience that changed the world.

September 10

Bill Hyland, Toutant Beauregard Family: Pioneers & Patriots



While Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard is widely known, his Louisiana ancestors remain largely obscure. This presentation will explore their contributions as pioneer businessmen, colonial officials, and patriots. St. Bernard Parish Historian Bill Hyland will share the story of P.G.T. Beauregard's father, Jacques Beauregard, who served at the Battle of New Orleans, as well as the broader service of other family members to Louisiana.

Camp Beauregard Summerfest 2026

June 18th Starting at 8am

Incrediball Tournament (8am to 3pm)
Information Booth (9am to 3pm)
Game Booths (9am to 3pm)
Arts & Crafts (9am to 3pm)
Arts & Crafts Vendors (9am to 3pm)
Food Vendors (9am to 3pm)
Free Hamburger & Hot Dogs (12pm)
Rib Cook – Off (12pm)
DJ (9am – 3pm)
Jumpers
Kiddie Splash Pad

For more information : Cherita.m.book.nfg@army.mil or
Cindy.h.Goulart.nfg@army.mil



\$5 JEEP RIDES!

*At Camp Beauregard
Summerfest*



All ride donations benefit the
LANG Foundation supporting
our programs