



World War II Related Organizations and Museums in California

Aerospace Museum of California at McClelland Park

3200 Freedom Park Dr, Sacramento, CA 95652

916-643-3192 www.aerospacemuseumofcalifornia.org

The Museum previously hosted over 600,000 visitors on McClellan Air Force Base AFB in Sacramento. However, in 2001 McClellan AFB closed and the museum was converted it to a private museum. Its mission is to emphasize education and aerospace science while continuing to display the proud heritage of aviation and aerospace activities in California's Capital region.

Hamilton Army Airfield, Discontiguous Historic District

Located on the southwest side of Hamilton Army Air Field in Novato and is accessible from Alameda de la Loma and Bell Marin Keys Blvd. exits from Highway 101, CA 94945

www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel/wwIIbayarea/ham.HTM

For more info contact the Navato History Museum:

415-897-4320 www.ci.novato.ca.us/prcs/museum.cfm

Hamilton Army Airfield was built as a bombardment base and the headquarters for the 1st Wing of the Army Air Corps; it is one of only three bases established for this purpose nationally. The base played a significant role during World War II in training and national defense by serving as an overseas staging area.

Port Chicago Naval Magazine

Port Chicago, Suisun Bay, CA 94585

925-838-0249 www.history.navy.mil/photos/pl-usa/pl-ca/pt-chgo.htm

Located just off Highway 242 - exit at Port Chicago Hwy North - at first stop sign, turn right, first building is ID Office. All visitors are shuttled to the Memorial on National Park Service vehicles from the Concord Naval Weapons Station Identity (ID) Office.

Port Chicago Naval Magazine was dedicated as a National Memorial in 1992 to honor the courage and commitment of the Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, Merchant Mariners, and working civilians killed and injured, on July 17, 1944, when Five thousand tons of munitions being loaded for transport to the Pacific detonated. It was one of the largest homeland disasters during World War II.

Disparate treatment of the survivors only deepened the wounds. Black sailors were ordered to return to work almost immediately while white officers were granted a leave of absence. In protest, 50 African Americans refused to serve under these harsh conditions. They were subsequently court-marshaled and found guilty of mutiny, prompting future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall to declare the proceedings "one of the worst frame-ups we have come across." On December 23, 1999, one of the few surviving convicted mutineers, Freddie Meeks, was granted a full pardon by President William J. Clinton.

Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park

1401 Marina Way South, Richmond, CA 94804
510-232-5050 www.nps.gov/rori

Preserves and interprets the stories and places of our nation's home front response to World War II. The exhibit includes a sampling of photos, stories and memorabilia that have been donated to the park.

Sons of the Revolution Library and Museum

-Partner museum with the California State Military Museum

Sons of the Revolution Building, 600 South Central Avenue, Glendale, CA 91204
818-240-1775 www.militarymuseum.org/SRLibrary.html

In addition to the over 35,000 volumes of books, periodicals and manuscripts, many of which are rare out-of-print first editions, the Sons of the Revolution Library and Museum is blessed with a magnificent collection of artifacts, many of which are on display.

The California State Military Museum

1119 Second Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
916 442-2883 www.militarymuseum.org

The California State Military Museum is the official military museum and historical research center of the State of California. It houses over 30,000 artifacts as well a substantial library and archives. In addition to the main facility in Sacramento, the museum has five satellite museums (more on these below) and also maintains relationships with the McClellan Aviation Museum and the Sons of the Revolution in the State of California Library in Glendale.

The Conservation Corps State Museum and Institute

-Website hosted by CA Center for Military History

Located on Highway 1, Five miles north of San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
805-788-0517 www.militarymuseum.org/CCCMuseum.html

Established August 18, 1995 and housed in four barracks buildings on the grounds of historic Camp San Luis Obispo, the museum documents the youth corps movement of the 20th century. The four buildings contain displays of artifacts and memorabilia related to the history and operations of all conservation corps that operated in California - past, present and into the future.

The SS Red Oak Victory

Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park
1500 Dornan Dr., Terminal One, Point of Richmond, Richmond, CA 94804
510-237-2933 www.ssredoakvictory.com/

Built in Richmond Kaiser Shipyard # 1, and launched on November 9, 1944, the Red Oak was one of 414 Victories built during World War II, and one of a few to be transferred from the Merchant Marine to the U.S. Navy. Doomed to be scrapped, *Red Oak Victory* was turned over to the Richmond Museum of History and returned to a new home in Richmond on Sept. 20, 1998.

World War II National Submarine Memorial – West

Located just outside the main gate of the Naval Weapons Station
800 Seal Beach Boulevard, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562-626-7897

www.submarinehistory.com/WWIISubmarineMemorial.html

The Los Angeles Chapter had a dream of someday constructing a memorial to honor all shipmates who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. On 13 January 1977, ground was broken and their dream became the National Submarine Memorial - West.

Additional Organizations in California

(American Merchant Marine Veterans) AMVETS Department of California

240 East King Avenue, Tulare, CA 93274

559-688-3407

www.amvets-ca.org/index.html

On December 10th, 1944 eighteen Veterans met in Kansas City, Missouri and founded The American Veterans of World War II. Less than three years later on July 23rd, 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed Public Law 216, making AMVETS the first World War II organization to be chartered by congress. This was just the beginning of a journey assisting veterans and sponsoring numerous programs that serve our country and its citizens.

American Merchant Marine Veterans: China Coasters Chapter

A Founding Chapter of the American Merchant Marine Veterans

440 N. Avalon Blvd. Wilmington, CA 90744

310-834-2488

www.ammvcc.org

This Chapter aims to educate the American public and our government as to the importance of a strong American flag Merchant Marine and to help their fellow American seamen.

American Merchant Marine Veterans: Sacramento Valley Chapter

Meeting location: American Legion Post 447, 720 Santiago Ave., Sacramento, CA 95815

Contact by email from website: www.ammvsacvalley.com

The Sacramento Valley Chapter has members in Redding, Grass Valley, Davis, Dixon, Placerville, and throughout the Sacramento area.

California Center for Military History

-Subordinate element of the California State Military Museum

1119 Second Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

916-442-2883

www.militarymuseum.org/CMH.html

The California Center for Military History is a unit of the California State Military Reserve CSMR, which also has several cadre strength support battalions located throughout the state.

Camp Roberts Historical Museum and Museum Annex

-Satellite museum of the California State Military Museum

Bldg. 114, Camp Roberts, CA 93451

805-238-8288

www.militarymuseum.org/CampRobertsMuseum.html

The Museum complex has about 3,000 line items displayed and stored for future exhibits such as its large vintage vehicle collection. Other exhibits include the Camp stage shows and radio broadcasts, the Camp chapels, a WWII office, and an Iraqi Republican Guard exhibit.

If no answer from main number contact the curator, Gary McMaster: 805-237-8471

Camp San Luis Obispo Museum and Historical Site

-Historical site of California State Military Museum

Located on Highway 1, Five miles north of San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

916 442-2883

www.militarymuseum.org/CampSanLuisObispo.html

The Camp San Luis Obispo exhibit site is an outdoor static display area consisting of seven fixed and rotary wing aircraft from the 1950's and 1960's, a Japanese Type 97b Tankette, an F4 Phantom II Fighter Bomber, and sculptures created by Italian Prisoners of War.

Fresno Air National Guard Base Historic Site

-Historic site of California State Military Museum aka - Fresno Army Air Base, Hammer Field

Located approximately 4 miles east of downtown Fresno, CA 93727

559-454-5210

www.militarymuseum.org/FresnoANGBase.html

The Fresno Air National Guard Base in California is home to the 144th Fighter Wing. The mission of the 144th FW is to provide air defense protection for California from the Mexican border to Ukiah utilizing the F-16 Fighting Falcon jet fighter aircraft.

General George S. Patton Memorial Museum

Located off Interstate 10, about 30 miles east of Indio at Chiriaco Summit, CA 92201

760-227-3483

www.desertusa.com/mag99/feb/stories/paton.html

The museum was established to honor the late General George S. Patton and the thousands of men who served with him at the Desert Training Center and overseas. The site was donated by Joseph Chiriaco, one of the first area residents General Patton met when he arrived to set up the center.

State Naval Forces in World War II

-Subordinate element of the California State Military Museum

1119 Second Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

916 442-2883

www.militarymuseum.org/csng.html

The Provisional Division of the Nautical Corps was ordered to active duty 8 December 1941. They were inactivated on 17 May 1943. There is very little written history about these units. However, there are records of the missions they performed.

The 185th Armor Regimental Museum

-Satellite museum of the California State Military Museum

7401 Mesa College Drive, San Diego, CA 92111

916 442-2883

www.185museum.com

The 185th Armor Regiment's lineage extends back to early Alta California and includes numerous organizations. The Guardsmen of the Regiment have served in every conflict, from the Mexican-American War to the present War on Terrorism.

The Trophy Room, San Francisco War Memorial Building

401 Van Ness, San Francisco, CA 94102

415-621-6600 sfwmpac.org

The San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center, one of the largest performing arts centers in the United States, covers seven and one-half acres in San Francisco's Civic Center Historic District. The Trophy Room is located there.

United States Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II

PO Box 629, San Pedro, CA 90733

310-519-9545 www.lanevictory.org

The veterans of the US Merchant Marine sailed cargo ships, Liberty and Victory ships as well as tankers that delivered the food, fuel, medicine, war material, tanks, trucks, and guns to the troops during World War II. Today, these veteran volunteers serve aboard the SS Lane Victory and publish *The Anchor Light*, a monthly newspaper.

Links to National Military Related Organizations

Americal Division Veterans Association

www.americal.org

American Ex-Prisoners of War

www.axpow.org

American GI Forum of the United States

www.agif.us

Arab American War Veterans

www.dav.org

Blinded Veterans Association

www.bva.org

Disabled American Veterans

www.dav.org

Hispanic War Veterans of America

www.hwva.org

Italian American War Veterans of the USA

www.ITAMVETS.org

Japanese American Veterans Association

www.javadc.org

Jewish War Veterans of the USA

www.jwv.org

Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A., Inc.

www.purpleheart.org

National Association for Black Veterans, Inc.

www.nabvets.com

Paralyzed Veterans of America

www.pva.org

Polish Legion of American Veterans, USA

www.plav.org

Stories of Service

www.digiclub.org/sofs

The American Legion

www.legion.org

The Retired Enlisted Association

www.trea.org

The Women Marines Association

www.womenmarines.org

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

www.vfw.org

Women in Military Service for the America Memorial

www.womensmemorial.org

Women's Army Corps Veterans Association

www.armywomen.org