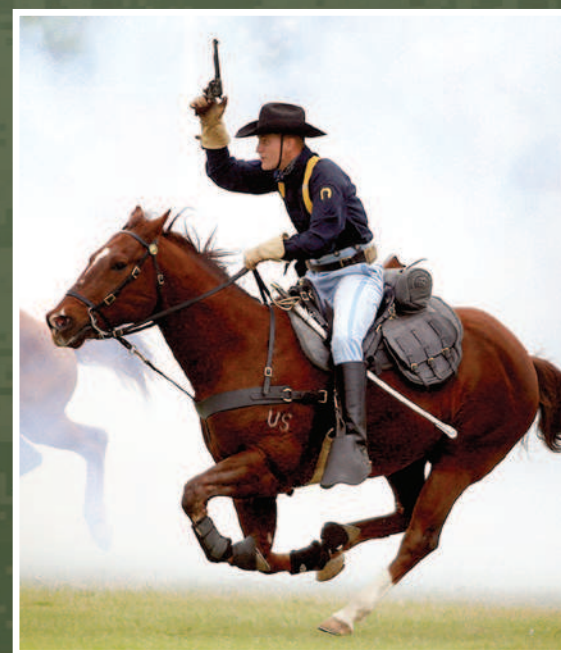




# FORT HOOD TURNS 75



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## FORT HOOD TURNS 75

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# 75 years later, 'The Great Place' remains the gold standard for the Army

**R**epresenting Fort Hood — one of the largest military bases in the world — is the greatest honor I have as the representative of Texas' 25th Congressional District. Known as 'The Great Place,' it is the gold standard for the U.S. Army. It is composed of some of the bravest and most selfless people we have in this country. These men and women are not only an asset to Central Texas, they are vital to achieving the United States' national security strategy.

Located near Killeen, this 340-square-mile installation is invaluable to the local community. Home to approximately 140,000 people, this post provides economic relief for a multitude of families by fostering over 12,000 civilian jobs. Whether it is in one of the three counties or seven local communities, Central Texas is a place for almost 400,000 residents. In a time where our country is finally recovering from financial turmoil caused by the pre-

**U.S. REP.  
ROGER  
WILLIAMS**



**Since 2003,** this post deployed and redeployed more than 852,000 soldiers.

vious administration, job opportunities are essential for the growth of this nation.

Fort Hood's influence does not stop at the local level. As a true treasure of Texas, this small but powerful area affects the entire state. Recent findings from 2015 estimated that Fort Hood contributed \$35.4 billion to the Texas economy. That equates to providing employment to 201,538 U.S. citizens. Fort Hood's distinctive characteristics of military friendliness allow it to be instrumental to the contribution of Texas' economy.

Currently, Fort Hood is the only post in the U.S. capable of stationing and training two full armored

divisions within its campus. This allows for it to be a Texas military hub, as well as a significant economic frontrunner year after year. Fort Hood is committed to those of us who are lucky enough to call the Lone Star State home by providing the most employees on a single site in the state of Texas.

When it comes to our nation's national security, Fort Hood does not shy away. Since 2003, this post deployed and redeployed more than 852,000 soldiers overseas. As the greatest state within the greatest country in the world, we know how important it is to maintain our status as a strong and ready-for-action military. Fort Hood displays leadership through its state-of-the-art training for the 21st century soldier.

Since becoming a permanent military installation in the 1950s, Fort Hood has come a long way — it has been dealt a hand that has been more trying than most in the past years, where time and time again, it has proven resiliency in the toughest of conditions. It is made up of some of the finest soldiers I have ever had the opportunity to meet, and I would like to congratulate 'The Great Place' on reaching its diamond anniversary; 75 years.

Three-quarters of a century of being a fully-operational, active military post is something we can, and should, be tremendously proud of. As I said before, Fort Hood is a special part of the 25th district and I am humbled to have the opportunity to fight on behalf of these brave men and women each and every day in Washington.

**U.S. REP. ROGER WILLIAMS** is the representative for Texas' 25th Congressional District, which includes Fort Hood. His office is located in Austin.

## Happy anniversary from Harker Heights

The city of Harker Heights wishes a happy 75th anniversary to Fort Hood!

Since its beginning as Camp Hood in 1942 through today, what we now call Fort Hood has a proud history in defense of our country.

Given the size of Fort Hood and the number of soldiers stationed on the base,



**Smith**

Harker Heights has the opportunity to interact with a large number of our Army's finest.

We in Harker Heights are honored to be a part of Fort Hood's story as we provide municipal services to our soldiers and their families.

It is our goal to honor their service by

providing municipal services that go above and beyond. For all who serve our great country, we say "thank you."

Happy 75th anniversary Fort Hood, we look forward to many more anniversaries as we serve locally as you defend our great nation!

**Spencer H. Smith**  
Harker Heights mayor



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ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Fort Hood is marking its 75th anniversary this year. The post opened in 1942 as Camp Hood to train troops to fight in World War II.

## Killeen celebrates strong relationship with Fort Hood

**T**he City of Killeen celebrates with you — The Great Place of Fort Hood — on your 75th anniversary. It also marks 75 years that Killeen and Fort Hood have been great partners in this community, and we continue to value that partnership every day.

Killeen continues to be the home of the many soldiers and their families. The military is what brought me here, like so many others, 27 years ago. Now, as mayor, I can tell you what great pride our city takes in being a military town and what a great responsibility we feel in serving those who serve. We strive to make Killeen a place that feels like home no matter



Segarra

where you're from or how long you're here.

Fort Hood is clearly the economic engine in our city. It's the largest single-site employer in the state of Texas and has an annual economic

impact of \$35 billion. Its value to this community and to the state cannot be overstated. It's our duty to be the civilian voice advocating on behalf of the installation and its future, a role we have embraced.

The City of Killeen values its partnership with Fort Hood. The cooperation between community and post has brought improved highways, a

joint-use airport, Texas A&M University-Central Texas and countless businesses and services that have added to the region's quality of life.

It stands to reason that more and more soldiers and their families choose to make Killeen home when their military service ends. This is a testament to what we have created together. The relationship between Killeen and Fort Hood grows stronger with each year and is the standard by which other military communities are judged. It is a proud day to celebrate The Great Place on its 75th anniversary.

**Jose Segarra**  
Killeen mayor

## Happy anniversary to 'The Great Place'

It is fitting that Fort Hood be recognized on its 75th anniversary. As mayor of the great city of Copperas Cove, I along with the citizens of this appreciative city, wish for many more years of association with "The Great Place."



Seffrood

Fort Hood is very important to our city and we appreciate the day-to-day and long-term interactions with you. The very existence of Fort Hood is the keystone that binds our economy ensuring the continuation of growth.

It is my pleasure to wish Fort Hood, "The Great Place," happy anniversary from "The Great City."

**Frank Seffrood**  
Copperas Cove mayor

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# Fort Hood — The Great Place — turns 75

BY DAVID A. BRYANT AND JACOB BROOKS  
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

**F**ort Hood was born 75 years ago.

The reason?

World War II.

As Allied troops clashed with the armies of the Axis powers in the early years of World War II, U.S. military minds brainstormed on ways to counter the heavy tank battalions of Germany that were blitzkrieging through Europe and threatening to turn all humanity into Adolf Hitler's twisted vision.

Enter Fort Hood — or Camp Hood as it was known in those days. The Army post officially opened Sept. 18, 1942, as a tank destroyer training site; 75 years later, the sprawling post, home to approximately 36,000 troops, is still here.

Units came and went: the 1st Armored Division, 2nd Armored Division, 4th Infantry Division. Many, like the 1st Cavalry Division — which played a key role in Vietnam and Iraq — are still here. But the post, and its “Great Place” reputation for top-notch field training, never wavered.

The growth is still here, too. While the number of military personnel, their families and civilian contractors account for more than 55,000 people who use the post to live and work, Fort Hood supports nearly 400,000, including many retirees



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

The Tank Destroyer Forces of World War II memorial is seen, Sept. 5 at Fort Hood.

and area residents in Central Texas and 16 counties. Many of those people shop at Fort Hood stores, eat at restaurants on post or have their

medical needs met at the state-of-the-art Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center.

The number of people impacted

**Camp Hood** opened Sept. 18, 1942, as a tank destroyer training site; 75 years later, the sprawling post, home to approximately 36,000 troops, is still here.

by Fort Hood in some way or form: countless.

Further, the post has been an Army leader in developing methods to deal with improvised explosive devices, paved the way for new Army-wide medical review boards and embraced the Army mentality of focusing on soldiers' families that came about in the 1980s — all that, while keeping intact its reputation for a place of combat live-fire exercises and some of the best training grounds in the country.

Fort Hood's soldier population has ebbed and flowed with the nation's military needs of the era. During the early Camp Hood days, there

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ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Capt. Andrew Daniele, left, and Sgt. 1st Class William Carhuff medically evacuate a simulated casualty during their UH-60 Black Hawk training exercise in October at North Fort Hood.

were nearly 100,000 troops on the post, quickly moving through their training and then heading to the World War II battlefronts.

During and after the Cold War, about 50,000 troops were here. In recent years, amid Army downsizing, the troop numbers have shrunk, but Fort Hood has the ability to take on more at moment's notice.

With nearly 200,000 acres devoted to Army training area, Fort Hood is also home to:

- 78 small arms ranges
- 11 tank and Bradley ranges
- 10 urban training areas
- 2 airborne drop zones
- 2 underground training facilities
- 261 Abrams tanks

- 378 Bradley Fighting Vehicles
- 312 Strykers
- 179 aircraft

### WEST FORT HOOD

In 1947, West Fort Hood was known as Killeen Base, and it, along with locations at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, and Fort Campbell, Kentucky, became an ideal spot to store the nation's nuclear arsenal.

Killeen Base became known as Site Baker, which was jointly run by the U.S. Air Force and the Atomic Energy Commission.

As nuclear weapons became smaller and more efficient, the need for Site Baker became less important. Additionally, improvements in

missile guidance and power made it possible for the Soviet Union to attack the site, leading to weapons being stored closer to their bombers.

The site was decommissioned as a nuclear storage bunker in 1969.

On Oct. 1, 1951, Gray Air Force Base was officially established in what is now known as West Fort Hood. The base was transferred to the Army in 1963 and redesignated Robert Gray Army Airfield, according to a 2012 Herald report. It became an official part of Fort Hood in 1969.

### NORTH FORT HOOD

In January 1943, an additional 16,000 acres in Bell County and

34,943 acres in Coryell County near Gatesville were purchased, according to mybaseguide.com. The site near Gatesville was known as the sub-camp and later as North Fort Hood. During the war years, North Fort Hood housed nearly 40,000 troops and 4,000 prisoners of war, and was the site for the southern branch of the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks.

The area is now used primarily by First Army Division West to train and certify reserve component forces for deployment.

According to the unit's website, [www.first.army.mil/divwest](http://www.first.army.mil/divwest),

CONTINUED **PAGE 8**

Division West supports pre-mobilization training for reserve component forces in accordance with the Army Force Generation model; assesses and reports pre-mobilization readiness for reserve component forces; conducts mobilization and demobilization operations; conducts counter-improvised explosive device, counter insurgency and escalation of force training; provides command and control over assigned and mobilized forces; and provides operational force protection.

### DARNALL ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

In June 2016, Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center officially opened a new, state-of-the-art hospital on Fort Hood. Darnall originally opened its doors on Fort Hood in 1965, according to the medical center's history. The need for a larger facility became apparent when more than 2,200 wounded soldiers evacuated from Iraq and Afghanistan passed through the

hospital since 2003. The new facility officially opened for patient care on April 3, 2016, and is 60 percent larger than the old building.

The \$561 million hospital has six floors and 947,000 square feet of space. The building is roughly 60 percent larger than the old hospital and also offers a pharmacy twice the size of the old building. The emergency department at the old building had 26 beds for patients,

while the new building has 58 beds and an additional six available for triage.

Rooms are single-patient rooms three times bigger than the old hospital, are nicely furnished with spaces for a family member and windows to the outside in every room. There are 128 surgical beds and bassinets (staffed), 2,453 staff members and employees (907 civilians, 609 military, 950 contractors,

95 volunteers). The hospital serves 160,300 active-duty soldiers, retirees and their families, which includes approximately 10 percent of active-duty Army forces.

Darnall treats military retirees and beneficiaries from a multi-county area. It is the only hospital in the Killeen area capable of treating trauma patients, including civilians, with wounds similar to those found in a combat zone.



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center is a state-of-the-art hospital. It opened last year, replacing an older facility.

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 Brig. Gen. W.R. Nichols, March 1944-July 1944  
 Col. B.F. Delamater Jr., July 1944-April 1946  
 Maj. Gen. John L. Leonard, June 1946-July 1946  
 Maj. Gen. John M. Devine, July 1946-Oct. 1946  
 Maj. Gen. L.S. Hobbs, Oct. 1946-Aug. 1947  
 Maj. Gen. J.G. Christiansen, Sept. 1947-June 1949  
 Maj. Gen. Albert C. Smith, June 1949-Oct. 1950  
 Maj. Gen. W.B. Palmer, Nov. 1950-Dec. 1950  
 Maj. Gen. Bruce C. Clarke, Jan. 1951-April 1953  
 Maj. Gen. L.L. Doan, April 1953-July 1953  
 Maj. Gen. William S. Biddle, Oct. 1953-April 1954  
 Maj. Gen. Hobart S. Gay, April 1954-Oct. 1954  
 Maj. Gen. Thomas L. Harrold, Oct. 1954-June 1956  
 Maj. Gen. William N. Gillmore, June 1956-Aug. 1957  
 Maj. Gen. William S. Biddle, Aug. 1957-March 1959  
 Maj. Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, March 1959-March 1960  
 Maj. Gen. Edward G. Farrand, April 1960-June 1961  
 Maj. Gen. W.H.S. Wright, July 1961-March 1962  
 Lt. Gen. Thomas W. Dunn, April 1962-Oct. 1963  
 Maj. Gen. H.J. Jablonsky, Nov. 1963-Jan. 1964  
 Lt. Gen. Harvey H. Fisher, Jan. 1964-Feb. 1965  
 Lt. Gen. Ralph E. Haines, March 1965-April 1967  
 Lt. Gen. George R. Mather, June 1967-Sept. 1968  
 Lt. Gen. B.E. Powell, Sept. 1968-July 1971



Lt. Gen. G.P. Seneff Jr., July 1971-Sept. 1973  
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 Lt. Gen. Marvin D. Fuller, Nov. 1977-Jan. 1980  
 Lt. Gen. Richard E. Cavazos, Jan. 1980-Feb. 1982  
 Lt. Gen. Walter F. Ulmer Jr., Feb. 1982-June 1985  
 Lt. Gen. Crosbie E. Saint, June 1985-June 1988  
 Lt. Gen. Richard G. Graves, June 1988-June 1991  
 Lt. Gen. H.G. Taylor, June 1991-Oct. 1993  
 Lt. Gen. Paul E. Funk, Oct. 1993-Dec. 1995  
 Lt. Gen. Thomas A. Schwartz, Dec. 1995-Aug. 1998

Lt. Gen. Leon J. LaPorte, Aug. 1998-Aug. 2001  
 Lt. Gen. B.B. Bell, Aug. 2001-Nov. 2002  
 Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Metz, Feb. 2003-May 2006  
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 Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell Jr., April 2011-Dec. 2012  
 Lt. Gen. Mark A. Milley, Dec. 2012-Aug. 2014  
 Lt. Gen. Sean MacFarland, Aug. 2014-March 2017  
 Lt. Gen. Paul E. Funk II, March 2017-Present  
 Compiled by David A. Bryant

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# The people behind the creation of Camp Hood during World War II

BY ROSE L. THAYER  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

While the federal government scouted potential locations for its new tank destroyer training grounds in 1941, communities vied for the economic benefits and pride in supporting the war effort.

The Killeen area's congressman, U.S. Rep. W.R. "Bob" Poage, fought to acquire this new training camp for his district, but largely remained neutral as to where exactly. His hometown Valley Mills, near Waco, was also in the running, according to the book "Historic Killeen: An Illustrated History" by Gerald Skidmore. However, the influential newspaperman and then-president of the Temple Chamber of Commerce Frank W. Mayborn, did not have to remain neutral. He worked closely with Poage to bring the camp to Killeen.



HERALD | FILE

Fort Hood's east entrance was renamed and dedicated in Frank W. Mayborn's honor in 2013.

Mayborn, who owned the Temple Daily Telegram and later the Killeen Daily Herald until his death in 1987, was so dedicated to the war effort he even joined the Army at the age of 39 and was assigned to the newly formed Camp Hood.

His widow, Sue Mayborn, recalled

this time in his life back when Fort Hood dedicated the east entrance of the post in Frank Mayborn's honor in 2013.

"He was unpacking in the barracks. He looked around, it was all kids surrounding him," Sue Mayborn said during remarks to a

crowd of military and community leaders. "One young guy looked at Frank ... and said, 'Geez, pops, what's this war coming to?'"

Mayborn was honorably discharged in 1945 as a major and he returned to editing his newspaper.

Other locals mentioned in Skidmore's book as dedicated to bringing Camp Hood to town included Santa Fe Railroad officials, Will Sutton, the Killeen Chamber of Commerce and Killeen Mayor R.T. "Top" Polk.

The book, "Fort Hood, The First 50 Years," by Odie B. Faulk and Laura E. Faulk, also mentioned help from Santa Fe railroad officials, particularly Jim Reinhold, who was assigned to Washington, D.C., to keep track on plans for war plants. Reinhold, the book points out, shared information with Mayborn, which he got from Senate friends of Santa Fe.

But ultimately, the final say was left to Maj. Gen. A.D. Bruce, the

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HERALD | FILE

Ranchers and farmers in rural Coryell County were displaced in 1941 to make room for Army training when Camp Hood was established during World War II.

post's first commander.

Camp Hood brought both economic gain and patriotism to an area where merchants were used to an agricultural economy, mainly cotton and wool. A bad year for cotton crops could mean a bad year financially for the regular merchants as well as the cotton traders. A military installation would be a more stable economy.

But for all those reaping in the rewards of the newfound economy, there were those who lost everything. More than 300 farm and ranch families had to give up their homes and land to make way for the installation. Many felt they were underpaid for their land, but most understood why it had to happen. As part of their displacement, many of these families retain cattle grazing

leases on the military installation even today.

The story of one family matriarch, Irene Margaret Clements Elms, known as Aunt Rene, was chronicled in the book "Unforgettable Decade" produced by Killeen Project 1930s Inc. She was 91 years old and blind, and she lived with her daughter's family, the McClurg family, at Sugar Loaf.

Aunt Rene had come to the place as a bride of 20 and raised her six children there. When the government took the home place and Aunt Rene was told she had to move, she was quoted as saying: "Well, I have lived through the Civil War, the Spanish American War, and the World War and if it is necessary for this war that I have to move, I can do it."

# HAPPY 75<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!

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# Remembering Central Texas in the days before Camp Hood

BY JULIE A. FERRARO  
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

It's never easy to lose one's home. For hundreds of families populating over 20 Central Texas communities in the early 1940s, though, giving up their land was mostly seen as part of the effort to defeat Germany during World War II.

The federal government used eminent domain to seize the land, according to Sylvia Edwards' thesis, "Land Acquisition in Coryell County ... A Civilian Perspective." Edwards, currently graduate program coordinator for the School of Journalism at the University of Texas at Austin, added how the Second War Powers Act in 1942 made creating what was then known as "Camp Hood" possible.

Prior to the land becoming a training ground for tanks, cattle roamed and grazed. Ranchers whose families had occupied their homes for generations were abruptly left with nothing.

Settlers had come to the area in the 1830s, according to the Texas State Historical Association. More permanent settlements were not formed until the 1840s, once attacks by Native Americans subsided.

Frequent droughts and an uncertain water supply caused the early settlers to deem the land worthless for anything but cattle and sheep. Eventually, the land was tamed so corn, wheat and cotton could be successfully grown.

The Civil War and its aftermath took a toll on land values. As the



HERALD | FILE

People locate old family property in Coryell County during a historical marker dedication ceremony in 2013 at North Fort Hood. About 470 families were forced to abandon more than 20 Coryell County communities in 1942 to make way for Camp Hood.

years passed, however, cattle and cotton helped restore the economy. Railroad lines constructed through the area improved communication, bringing an influx of immigrants.

Into the 20th century, the area which became Camp Hood remained mostly agricultural. World War I saw the populace eagerly supporting the effort, with draft quotas exceeded and citizens groups formed to support rationing and maintain morale.

It must be presumed the residents never expected — during that conflict, or when the U.S. entered World War II — their property would be claimed for use as a military post.

Author J. Aikens wrote in his book

"History of Fort Hood and Local Area" how one witness recalled some families' reaction to being told of the land seizure. "They had been born upon that land; and their forefathers were buried there. They had labored to improve it and expected to pass it on to their sons and daughters."

Indeed, not only were families forced to move, but cemeteries were relocated. Some houses were actually transported to other sites.

Copperas Cove resident Les Ledger was interviewed for a Herald article commemorating Fort Hood's 70th anniversary, Sept. 18, 2012. His family moved to the area in 1854.

"I remember my grandfather talk-

ing about moving off the land for Fort Hood," said Ledger. "Although it was a sad time, he always said 'If giving up our land saves one American boy's life, then it is worth it.'"

The ranchers' dilemma of what to do with their livestock was solved by U.S. Congressman W.R. "Bob" Poage. In "Fort Hood: The First Fifty Years," Odie and Laura Faulk credit Poage with ensuring the displaced ranchers retained grazing rights on Camp Hood property.

Former Copperas Cove mayor John Hull's family owned 600 acres of land which is now part of Fort Hood.

"Back in the '30s and '40s, Cove was a big cattle shipping point," Hull said in a Herald article published Oct. 12, 2012. After Camp Hood was established, the economy definitely changed.

Perhaps the last tangible vestige of Fort Hood's pre-history as a collection of small communities was Reynolds House, torn down in April 2015. Where most buildings were demolished or moved prior to Camp Hood's official establishment, the five-bedroom residence built in 1915 initially housed the post's commanding general. In the decades which followed, other general officers and senior noncommissioned officers lived there. Eventually the Red Cross occupied the space, according to prior Herald articles.

The most enduring evidence of the land's history remains: the sight of cattle meandering along remote Fort Hood roads, looking for a tasty meal.

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**IT'S GOOD TO BE IN**

# Many famous faces have called Fort Hood home in the past 75 years

BY JULIE A. FERRARO  
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Since Camp Hood was established on Sept. 18, 1942, it can be safely estimated that millions of soldiers have marched on the post. Of those, a few were either famous before they were stationed at what became Fort Hood, or achieved fame after their departure.

Jackie Robinson, a second lieutenant when he arrived at Camp Hood, found himself the victim of ongoing discrimination against African-Americans during the 1940s.

Robinson had been assigned to the 761st Tank Battalion. In early July, 1944, an on-post incident reminded the pioneering baseball player that prejudice still existed. A letter Robinson wrote, archived in the Records of the Office of the Secretary of War, explained what happened that fateful day. He had been at the “colored officers club” on post, and took a shuttle bus to the central station. “I noticed one of the officer’s wife and sat down beside her.”

Though the woman had light skin, she was African-American. The driver objected to Robinson’s choice of seat, and told him to move to the rear of the bus. Robinson refused, and the driver threatened to make trouble for him. “Upon reaching the bus station, a white lady tells me that she is going to prefer charges against me.” When his own commanding officer refused to press for a court-martial, Robinson was



transferred to the 758th Tank Battalion, whose commander signed the papers.

Robinson was charged with insubordination, disturbing the peace, drunkenness, conduct unbecoming an officer, insulting a civilian woman, and refusing to obey the lawful orders of a superior officer; according to Jules Tygiel’s article, “The Court-Martial of Jackie Robinson.” Acquitted by a jury of eight whites and one African-American, Robinson was transferred to Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky, and discharged from the Army in November 1944.

Another baseball player, Pedro Sierra, pitched a no-hitter while a member of the Fort Hood Tankers team in 1961. The event took place in front of baseball great Ted Williams, who was instrumental in Sierra being signed for the major leagues.

Cuban by birth, Sierra had played baseball in the Negro Leagues prior to being drafted into the Army. After

his discharge, he pitched for the Minnesota Twins and then in the Provinciale League in Canada.

Sierra even got a chance to appear on the big screen. In the 1993 sequel “Major League II”, he appeared as a coach for the White Sox.

The world of Mixed Martial Arts competitions brings together assorted fighters who train hard. Perhaps Jorge Rivera, known as El Conquistador, got some of that training while serving as a 19K armored cavalry scout with A Company, 1st Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment at Fort Polk, Louisiana. When that unit moved to Fort Hood in 1991, Rivera participated in the transfer. Ten years after his discharge, Rivera stepped into the ring, and has had a stellar UFC career.

Getting the most attention during his stay at Fort Hood: Elvis Presley. At age 22, Presley had been drafted into the Army in the 1950s, like thousands of others in that era.

The Air Force and Navy had offered to make special arrangements if he enlisted in their service. Even the Army suggested he be part of “Special Forces” as an entertainer or recruiter. Presley refused any celebrity treatment. He arrived at Fort Hood by bus on March 28, 1958, and his blossoming stardom brought out fans by the hundreds.

A news conference asked that Presley be given privacy during his training, but reporters even followed him to the mess hall, continuing the questions while he ate a dinner of perch and french fries.

Assigned to Company A, 37th Armor Battalion, 2nd Armored Division, Presley completed his basic training by June 1958. After a brief break, he returned to finish his tank training, driving a light truck. He lived off-post during that period with his family in a rented home at 605 Oakhill Drive in Killeen.

Fans would flock to the house, according to reports in the Killeen Daily Herald. Sometimes, Presley would step out and sign autographs. Often, though, he snuck in through a back entrance to avoid the crush.

Presley departed Fort Hood much more quietly in September with his unit, headed for Germany.

Quiet may be the key word when it comes to being famous and being stationed at Fort Hood. The list of the famous might be far more extensive, but so many who have served don’t mention their link to The Great Place.

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# Local Army legend Gen. Shoemaker left lasting legacy

BY ROSE L. THAYER  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

It doesn't take long for new residents of Fort Hood or Killeen to hear the name Robert Shoemaker. Whether hearing tales about his courage and leadership in the Army, the accomplishments of his eight years as a Bell County commissioner, or simply attending the Killeen high school named in his honor, it's clear he's a man who left an impact on his community.

Shoemaker, who died in June at age 93, began his Army career as a West Point cadet during World War II — graduating in 1946 — and retired as a four-star general in 1982. During his 36 years of service, the Michigan native participated in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, where he eventually commanded two air cavalry units. Later, he served as the commander of the 1st Cavalry



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Retired Gen. Robert M. Shoemaker died in June at age 93. He served 36 years in the Army.

Division, then as III Corps and Fort Hood commander, and later led U.S. Army Forces Command.

Upon Shoemaker's passing, Acting Secretary of the Army Robert Speer noted the nation's loss of

such a decorated leader: "We should never forget his leadership during one of the most difficult times in our nation's history."

Retired Lt. Gen. Pete Taylor, a Bell County resident, first met Shoemaker in Vietnam in 1969, and is proud to call him a friend and mentor. Throughout the years, their paths crossed on various projects.

"He was courageous — to a fault probably — and never backed away from anything," said Taylor, who delivered the eulogy at Shoemaker's funeral. "He taught me a lot of good lessons in combat, out of combat and in the civilian world."

At Shoemaker's funeral, Taylor took note of the many ways his friend "Gen. Bob" left a legacy for the entire community: "Reflecting on the life of Bob Shoemaker reminds us that he was not just an incomparable soldier; a gifted statesman, an exceptional leader

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Retired Gen. Robert M. Shoemaker stands next to his assistant, Leslie Francis, and cuts his cake at his 92nd birthday celebration in 2016.

and a wonderful husband, brother and uncle, at the end of the day, Gen. Bob was also an extraordinary

friend, mentor and source of energy, encouragement, thoughtful advice; an example and role model for those

of us who served with and for him over the years.”

After retirement, Shoemaker and

his wife, Tuke, settled into Central Texas and became familiar faces at Fort Hood ceremonies, community events and educational institutions. While Taylor was Fort Hood commander and Shoemaker a county commissioner, the two worked together to bring Texas A&M-Central Texas to Killeen. He also set up a \$600,000 scholarship endowment to support graduates of Shoemaker High School to attend Central Texas College and Texas A&M-Central Texas.

“His memory is carried on by the high school,” Taylor said. “His legacy will live on through those kids.”

Shoemaker often referred to the students of his high school as his grandchildren and each year the school would host a birthday party for him.

“While his extraordinary life on earth is complete, he will always be an inspirational figure to those of us privileged to have known and served with him, both in and out of uniform and in peace and war,” Taylor said at the close of his eulogy.

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# Hometown hero of WWII remembered through airport, proclamations

BY ROSE L. THAYER  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Just as Killeen was preparing for its new status as a military community, one of its own, Robert Manning Gray, shipped off to war and showcased extraordinary courage.

Born in Killeen on May 24, 1919, Gray joined the Army Air Corps at age 21 and learned to fly the B-25 aircraft. He was a skilled pilot who was chosen to fly in the famous Doolittle Raid over Tokyo on April 18, 1942. Though his plane crashed, he survived.

He served in the China-Burma-India Theater for another six months before being killed in action in the China-Burma Campaign on Oct. 18, 1942. He was 23 years old.

## GROWING UP

“(Gray) graduated from Killeen High School in 1937, in what later became the Avenue D Elementary School and is now the home of some city government offices (City Hall),” said Mark Philliber, Gray’s nephew. “He played on the high school football team as a receiver. His nickname was ‘Bullet Bob’ because of his quickness.”

Philliber said from what he heard growing up, it sounded like Gray’s



This bronze statue of Capt. Robert M. Gray is in the Killeen airport that bears his name.

childhood was very happy. He was a bit of a prankster at school, but in a fun-loving way.

“He was very well liked and popu-

lar. One of our very good friends who was the same age as Bob and graduated with him, always remembered the time when some boys

were making light of her and how Bob stepped in and quickly put an end to it,” he said.

Philliber’s mother, Marjorie

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Evelyn (Gray) Philliber, was Gray's only sibling.

"Killeen was a small farming and railroad town prior to the war. The population was about 1,200 before Camp Hood was established in January 1942, everyone knew everyone and everything about each other," Mark Philliber said. "In a town that small, that couldn't help but be the case. Bob's grandparents, going back to the late 1870s, I believe, lived in two adjacent farms on Cowhouse Creek near Elijah — on what is now Fort Hood — so all of the families in this area knew each other going a long way back."

Gray's first cousin, James Freddie "Fred" Page, remembers attending his cousin's high school graduation.

"His life was going to school in Killeen, raising sheep and cattle for agricultural shows, milking the cows (and) chopping wood for the old cast iron stove to keep the house warm," Page said. "He did have a Pinto pony that he named 'Whiskey Pete.' He and best friend, 'Screw-driver' Arnold and others formed a band and played for dances, mainly south of Belton, in the area where the Czechs lived."

Page's daughter, Noralyn Ripps, added that Gray would later name his B-25 bomber after his horse.

"He attended Texas A&M but was later transferred to John Tarleton College in Stephenville," Page recalled. "He became an officer in

## Killeen's 18th mayor, R.T. Polk, was the first Killeen mayor to proclaim April 18 — the anniversary of the Doolittle Raid — as Bob Gray Day in memory of the hometown hero.

the ROTC at that school. The next thing I know, he was in Dallas at Love Field taking advanced flying lessons. This was in 1939 or 1940. The next thing I remember was that he was in Kelly Field in San Antonio (after joining the Army Air Corps)."

Mark Philliber said that before the raid, Gray was part of a bomber group stationed in Pendleton, Oregon, and then was in Tacoma, Washington, flying B-25s in anti-submarine patrols off the coast before transferring to Florida to begin training for the raid. When Gray was flying back to the West Coast after his training in Florida, he decided to make a little trip through Killeen, Page said.

"The boys had been encouraged to practice low-level flight. Bob came down the old Nolanville Hill road that was being rebuilt, and was so low that I was told the construction crew jumped off their machines and headed into the bar ditch," Page said.

"Bob then flew down Avenue D going west and flew over the high school building, and everyone there asked who that could be — and Mr. Peebles said it could be no one except 'Bob Gray.' The editor of the Killeen Herald, Pat Taylor, told me that he could see Bob grinning as he flew so low."

Unable to land because of strong winds, Gray took off, wagged his wings and flew off. "He was trying to say goodbye to his parents and friends. This was the last time anyone saw him," Page said.

### LASTING LEGACY

Killeen's 18th mayor, R.T. Polk, was the first Killeen mayor to proclaim April 18 — the anniversary of the Doolittle Raid — as Bob Gray Day in memory of the hometown hero.

According to Killeen's public information office, Polk ordered that "flags will fly from every socket and flag pole in the community, and the

day will be set aside permanently as the memorial to a brave heart that winged its way into the very vitals of enemy territory and destroyed the military objectives that were calculated to bring harm and destruction to our great country."

Current mayor Jose Segarra carried on this tradition, as have the mayors before him, proclaiming April 18, 2017, Bob Gray Day.

In the years since Gray's death, the city has also named Sixth Street, formerly a main thoroughfare of downtown Killeen, after him.

"Most recently, when the city's new joint-use airport was constructed on the east side of the airfield, we took the opportunity to honor Gray with a permanent statue, replica of his B-25, Whiskey Pete, and a historic display so that all those who passed through the airport could learn of the local hero," said Hilary Shine, city spokeswoman.

The military refers to its side of the Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport as Robert Gray Army Airfield.

Gray is buried in Killeen City Cemetery. His relative Mark Manning still lives in the area and participates in the annual observance of Bob Gray Day.

"Because of Gray's distinguished service and strong ties to Killeen, the community saw fit to continue his legacy," Shine said.

DAVID A. BRYANT contributed to this report.

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The M4 “Sherman” Medium Tank, above left, was small compared to today’s M1 Abrams. The Sherman’s 75 mm gun couldn’t pack quite the punch of the Abrams’ 120 mm main gun.

The most common small personnel carrier of World War II was the Jeep, right. Today, the High Mobility Multi-Wheel Vehicle (HMMWV) — commonly pronounced as a “humvee” — carries small units around.

The biggest difference between the WWII “Deuce and a Half” 2.5-ton truck, below left, and today’s 5-ton Light Medium Tactical Vehicle, below right, is the size. | PHOTOS BY ERIC J. SHELTON



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The Bell H-13 Sioux helicopter, at right, was acquired by the Army in 1946. Today, the UH-60 Black Hawk does many of the same missions.

PHOTOS BY ERIC J. SHELTON



# Vehicles of war: A 75-year difference

**T**he vehicles used to carry soldiers around and to conduct combat missions have been through many changes over the years. The soldier training at Camp Hood 75 years ago could never have foreseen what the soldier of 2017 would use to go to war.

The most common small personnel carrier of World War II was the Jeep. Today, the High Mobility Multi-Wheel Vehicle (HMMWV) — commonly pronounced as a “humvee” — carries small units around. The biggest difference? Jeeps had no armor.

The larger personnel carriers, however, would still be recognizable to the soldier of 1942. The biggest difference between the WWII “Duce and a Half” 2.5-ton truck and today’s 5-ton Light Medium Tactical Vehicle (LMTV) is the size.

When it comes to heavily-armored vehicles, the tankers of World War II would probably have been green with envy of today’s tankers. The M4 “Sherman” Medium Tank was

small compared to today’s M1 Abrams. The Sherman’s 75 mm gun couldn’t pack quite the punch of the Abrams’ 120 mm main gun.

As for the “King of Battle,” the Redlegs in 1942 managed to ride around in a 105mm Howitzer Motor Carriage M7, which was adopted in 1941 because more power was needed to defeat modern armor of the time. Today, artillerymen have the M109 Paladin, which carries a 155 mm Howitzer with an effective firing range of 11 miles.

While helicopters weren’t in full military use until the Korean War, the units of Fort Hood had no problem adopting them into their inventory. The Bell H-13 Sioux helicopter was acquired by the Army in 1946 and was used for various tasks from wire-laying to medical evacuations. Today, the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter does many of the same missions — only with a lot more room and a much greater flying distance.

David A. Bryant



In 1942, artillery power came with a self-propelled 105mm Howitzer Motor Carriage M7. Today’s troops use the M109 Paladin, which carries a 155 mm Howitzer, seen below.



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# 'Black Panther' Battalion has historic place at Fort Hood

BY JULIE A. FERRARO  
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

When the name "Black Panthers" is spoken, some might think of a group from the 1960s.

Long before that, however, the 761st Tank Battalion bore the name. Their motto: "Come Out Fighting!"

The African-American unit known as the Black Panthers fought in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II, and three other major campaigns during those years. They faced other battles back on U.S. soil, though — even while stationed at Fort Hood.

Accounts differ in the number of soldiers assigned to the unit. Army historical records indicate the total was 713: six white and 30 African-American officers and 676 enlisted men.

**"The operations** of the 761st in the Bulge split the enemy lines at three points, preventing the resupply of German forces."

Author Matt Helm, in an article posted on the website BlackPast.org, wrote, "The 761st consisted of 760 black men and white officers primarily operating the M-4 Sherman battle tank."

An article in the Killeen Daily Herald on Aug. 20, 2006, stated the unit had 793 members. Joseph E. Wilson, in his article from "World War II Magazine" in January 1998, lists 36 officers and 593 enlisted men as the complement.

## DEDICATION AND COURAGE

However many served, their dedication and courage cannot be denied. Being awarded 300 Purple Hearts, 70 Bronze Star Medals and

11 Silver Star Medals is tangible proof.

The 761st Tank Battalion was formed on March 15, 1942, and activated April 1, 1942, at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. The soldiers received advanced training at Camp Hood from Sept. 15, 1943, switching from light to medium tanks. There they remained until August 1944.

During those months at Camp Hood, the soldiers of the 761st were advised not to leave the post. Concerns about racial prejudice remained very real.

The unit arrived in France by way of Omaha Beach on Oct. 10, 1944. Gen. George S. Patton, commander of the Third Army, hailed them, "I

would never have asked for you if you weren't good. I don't care what color you are as long as you go up there and kill those Kraut (expletive). Everyone has their eyes on you and is expecting great things from you. Most of all, your race is looking forward to your success. Don't let them down and damn you, don't let me down!"

In his book, "Brothers in Arms: The Epic Story of the 761st Tank Battalion, WWII's Forgotten Heroes," former NBA great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar wrote, "The 761st Tank Battalion was one of the most effective tank units to participate in hostilities during WWII. Their entry into the European theatre was



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ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

In 2005, a statue commemorating the 761st Tank Battalion was erected at Fort Hood on the street named for the unit.

marked by one crucial success after another.”

That success could be attributed to the fact that — unlike other units, which spent an average of two weeks on the front lines — the 761st saw 183 straight days of action at the front.

Wilson wrote, “In a major battle at Tillet, Belgium, the 761st operated for two continuous days against German Panzer and infantry units, who withdrew in the face of the Black Panthers’ attack.”

Adding more detail, “The operations of the 761st in the Bulge split the enemy lines at three points, preventing the resupply of German forces.”

Statistically, Wilson included, “The unit inflicted 130,000 casualties on the German army and captured, destroyed or aided in the liberation of more than 30 towns, several concentration camps, four airfields,” and other sites. The 761st also saw action in six European countries.

Though much of the praise and

honors due the unit were delayed, in 1978, a Presidential Unit Citation was issued by President Jimmy Carter. The document read, “Throughout this period of combat, the courageous and professional actions of the members of the “Black Panther” battalion, coupled with their indomitable fighting spirit and devotion to duty, reflect great credit on the 761st Tank Battalion, the United States Army, and this nation.”

In 2005, a statue commemorating the 761st Tank Battalion was erected at Fort Hood. It is, appropriately, located on the street named for the unit. At III Corps, the VIP room includes the 761st unit insignia among its decorations.

Only one member of the original 761st Tank Battalion survives, to the knowledge of Ivan Harrison Jr., son of Lt. Col. Ivan Harrison Sr., the unit’s second commanding officer.

A handful of soldiers who joined the unit later also survive, but the battalion’s memory will live as long as history is told.



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# Mounted Warfare Museum aims to make designs a reality

BY ROSEL THAYER  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

In the six years since the National Mounted Warfare Foundation began advocating for a military museum in Central Texas, plans and architecture may have shifted; but the true goal has always remained the same — to tell the story of mounted warfare and Fort Hood.

Bob Crouch, vice president of the National Mounted Warfare Foundation, said that always has been and remains today the vision that drives the organization.

“The primary responsibility of a museum is to tell stories — to have a place to display artifacts and exhibitry,” Crouch said. The main areas of focus are to tell the story of the cavalry and armored Army units, along with the history of it in Central Texas and to train soldiers and educate the public.

In its most recent and likely final design, the museum will be a one-story structure located at main entrance to Fort Hood. It will be 42,000 square feet with 24,000 of that dedicated to permanent exhibition space and another 1,600 for temporary exhibitions. Originally plans called for a larger, costlier



COURTESY | NATIONAL MOUNTED WARFARE

The interior of the National Mounted Warfare Museum is shown in this rendering.

three-story facility.

“It will really tell the story and fulfill that basic mission with a better design,” Crouch said. “In the current design, 75 percent of the museum is dedicated to telling the story.”

The exact storyline of the museum continues to evolve, but Crouch said it will begin in the cavalry’s early days, move into the creation

of Camp Hood, and cover the units that have been stationed at Fort Hood over the past 75 years. For example, the 2nd Armored Division once called Fort Hood home, but has since inactivated. Its archives remain stored on the post and will be included in the new museum.

Established in January 2011, the foundation has worked to raise funds for a museum supporters say

will match the importance of this history. Crouch said they are now about 75 percent done with the design of a museum and about 70 percent to their funding goal, making a 2018 groundbreaking ceremony a possibility. In total, the foundation is raising nearly \$37 million, and a thermometer on their homepage is tracking the steady progress.

The museum will be built on Army property, which means the foundation does not need to find and acquire land for the project — a cost savings of \$10 million. Some of the larger, more significant donations have included a \$5 million anonymous gift, a \$250,000 pledge from Union State Bank, \$125,000 of pro bono work from the project’s architect, Huckabee, Inc., and ongoing support from the cities of Killeen and Harker Heights. A group of community members, led by Copperas Cove residents, also organize an annual Homecoming for Heroes Gala to benefit the foundation.

Once the museum opens its doors, the Army will take over the museum and integrate the current 1st Cavalry Division Museum and 3rd Cavalry Regiment Museum into the design. Staff from those museums will integrate into the



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COURTESY | NATIONAL MOUNTED WARFARE FOUNDATION

A rendering shows the proposed National Mounted Warfare Museum at Fort Hood.

new museum, and the foundation will remain to fundraise for future developments and upkeep.

"It's a true partnership between the Army and the foundation," Crouch said.

Because the Army will absorb the museum, architecture plans

are currently awaiting approval of the Secretary of the Army. Approval could come as early as spring 2018, and if funding is in place, construction could begin toward the end of that spring.

While finalizing the remainder of the funding is an important goal,

Crouch also wants to make sure every person from the surrounding Fort Hood area knows about the museum.

"Until everybody in Killeen, Harker Heights, Copperas Cove and the greater community around Fort Hood is aware of the project,

we haven't maximized our exposure," he said. "It gets better all the time.

"We went from a series of drawings and images, which were nice ... to a much more tangible project. People see we are that far along and it is very serious," he added.

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The Clear Creek Main Exchange is seen Sept. 5 at Fort Hood. The sprawling post has an economic impact of \$35.4 billion on Texas.

## Fort Hood has \$35.4 billion economic impact on Texas

BY ROSE L. THAYER  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

**F**ort Hood not only impacts the landscape and culture of Central Texas, it also impacts the wallets of about 200,000 Texans, according to an economic impact study from the Texas Comptroller's Office.

Released in 2016, the report estimates that Fort Hood contributes \$35.4 billion to the state's economy and generates about \$12 billion in disposable income. It used 2015 information such as troop levels, civilian jobs on post and the annual operating budget. The nearly \$63 million of educational Impact Aid provided to local school districts in the 2016-2017 school year also played into it.

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar traveled to Fort Hood to announce the report's findings and said the post directly employs more than 60,000 service members and civilians, making it the largest single-site employer in the state. The report also states it can sometimes be difficult to recognize the tangible

ways that military installations impact Texas, so there could be additional positive impacts it does not account for. Of the 15 military installations in Texas, Fort Hood has the greatest impact, Hager added. It also includes the indirect jobs that result from the installation's placement in Texas.

"There's no question 'The Great Place' makes me proud to be a Texan," said U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas. "'Support our troops' is more than just a phrase in Texas, it's a way of life. The soldiers and airmen at Fort Hood, along with their families and the surrounding community built to support their service, have truly dedicated themselves to their fellow Americans. I'm grateful for their service every day, and I'm honored to represent such outstanding public servants in the U.S. Senate."

The previously released report from 2014 showed Fort Hood's economic impact as \$25.3 billion statewide, and in 2008, the post had just under an \$11 billion impact on the Texas economy.



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

The USO Fort Hood building is seen Sept. 5. The USO was created during World War II.

## USO Fort Hood supports soldiers from beginning to end of careers

BY ROSE L. THAYER  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

**L**ike Fort Hood, the creation of the USO also comes from World War II. Tasked in 1941 to provide morale and recreation services to military personnel, the organization continues to do so today — though it may look a bit different than what President Franklin D. Roosevelt could have ever imagined.

In August 2001, the USO Fort Hood opened in the Rivers Building, as one of the nonprofit's early expansions beyond airport lounges and overseas locations and onto garrison military installations.

Today, the USO operates its main center out of a former World War II-era barracks building near III Corps Headquarters, a North Fort Hood location, and a Pathfinder site where transitioning service members and their spouses can get support moving into the civilian workforce.

"We've been on Fort Hood for 16 years now and only because of the wonderful relationship we have with garrison and III Corps commands," said Isabel Hubbard, USO

Fort Hood director. "Our mission is to keep soldiers and families strong by supporting their everyday needs through our centers and programs."

Some of the services include free lunch for soldiers on weekdays, computer and Internet access, video games and various family-friendly programs. The main post center — which caters to about 120,000 visitors a year — underwent a \$100,000 renovation in 2014 and also features a children's play area, a movie theater and a snack bar.

"The center is a resting place," Hubbard said. "It's a place to sit, relax, take a break from the challenging duty day, and have a cold drink or a meal."

Much of the work at the USO Fort Hood wouldn't be possible without dedicated volunteers to serve lunches, greet visitors, or dress up as movie characters as part of *Movies on the Lawn*.

"We welcome you into the Army, we walk alongside you for your whole career, and then we're here while you transition back to civilian life," Hubbard said. "That's how we've evolved over 75 years. It's the new face of the USO."



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# Still standing: A look at the oldest building on post

BY JASON DOUGLAS  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

**A**s Fort Hood turns 75 this year, so too does the oldest building on the Army post: the Old Post Chapel. It was built of wood and was rapidly assembled to meet soldiers' spiritual needs during the mobilization of more than 12 million people during the onset of World War II.

Sgt. Maj. John Proctor, who served as the III Corps chaplain sergeant major from June 2015 to June 2017, said the chapel was built with a standard blueprint of the time with an expected life span of five to 10 years.

"The fact that it's still there 75 years later is a testament to what people thought was temporary in 1942," Proctor said. "In the 1950s, military chapels began being constructed of brick."

Proctor said the functional design of the chapel was standardized during the war, meaning almost all atonement chapels looked like the Old Post Chapel from 1942 to at least the late 1950s, and had the option of hosting Jewish Sabbath services, Roman Catholic masses and Protestant services.

"They had to have a facility that could flex back and forth between



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

The Old Post Chapel is the oldest facility at Fort Hood. The wooden structure was built in 1942 to serve the spiritual needs of troops training at Camp Hood.

these three major traditions to accommodate the three primary faiths which would have been these big three in 1942," Proctor said. "If you go in there the altar can be pushed into the wall and the cabinets above the altar open, which is where the Jewish rabbi would put the tablets and scrolls of the Jewish scriptures."

Proctor also said the chapels were created with perfect acoustics.

"You could speak from the pulpit and the members of the church

could hear you speaking perfectly because the church didn't use microphones in 1942," Proctor said.

The chapel had fallen into disrepair and was being used primarily for weddings until Proctor arrived in 2015. He, along with three soldiers and numerous requests for work repairs, finally brought the chapel back to life and began holding a special service there until July 30 when the ceremony was conducted for the last time.

"The last religious active service

at old chapel was the traditional Latin mass," Proctor said. "This is the form that the Catholic Church used for the last 1,400 years until approximately 1965; the oldest facility on Fort Hood was housing the oldest Christian service in the world."

Proctor said the service is no longer offered at the chapel because the Catholic chaplain reached mandatory retirement age and the other Catholic chaplains on the Army post don't know the ceremony.

The building next to the Old Post Chapel is being used as the USO office and was also built in 1942 as part of the same complex for use with the chapel.

"The USO building that's next door used to be the post chaplain's office," Proctor said. "Those three buildings all used to be owned by the post chaplain."

There are 16 total religious support facilities and at least 11 chapels on Fort Hood.

Proctor said that while the religious observation will no longer be held there for the time being, it is still actively being used for marriages. He hopes one day the Old Post Chapel will be named a historical landmark because it won't be able to be used for much other than a museum.



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A soldier in camouflage uniform and a cap is hugging a young child from behind. The child is smiling and holding a small American flag. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a brick wall and a metal fence.

***To 75 years of distinguished service,  
and the families who serve as well.***

Heartfelt thanks to our men and women in uniform, their families, and our local USO team. As we celebrate Fort Hood's 75th birthday, you're the spirit behind the heritage in which all of America can take pride.



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