

Traveling Vietnam Wall and Cost of Freedom Tribute headed to Brandenburg

Submitted by **Dorena Federici**

Event Coordinator AVTT,
Americas Freedom Tribute

BRANDENBURG, Ky. — Americas Freedom Tribute would like to announce to the people of Brandenburg that The American Veterans Traveling Tribute's (AVTT) Traveling Vietnam Wall and Cost of Freedom Tribute will be on display for the public at 200 Telco Drive, Brandenburg, KY.

Remembering and respecting our Veterans for the selfless sacrifices they have made is one of our greatest responsibilities as citizens of this state and nation. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom. America's Freedom Tribute offers the people, alongside Veterans, the chance to pay their respects to our nation's fallen warriors and gain a deeper appreciation

for all those who have answered the call to service. Dorena Federici, the AFT Event Coordinator stated, "We would like to thank Brandenburg for providing the location for us to display our Tribute."

The American Veterans Traveling Tribute

The confirmed location is 200 Telco Dr., Brandenburg, KY. Tributes available for viewing will include the Vietnam Wall, honoring the 58,300 fallen service members. Visitors will also experience the Cost of Freedom Tribute, which recognizes the sacrifices made in WWI, WWII, Korea, Desert Storm, Somalia, 9/11, Iraq, and Afghanistan and the attacks of 9/11. The 9/11 tribute includes all casualties from the Twin Towers, as well as a dedicated panel honoring our brave emergency responders.

The Complete Tributes stands 6 feet tall and stretches 170 lin-

ear feet. As it travels across the country, it not only honors the names and sacrifices of our fallen heroes but also serves to educate future generations so that history is never forgotten.

We are currently seeking volunteers, donations, and community participation to help make this event meaningful and successful. Your support helps ensure that these tributes continue to honor those who gave everything for our freedom.

For press info or interviews with AVTT email Dorena at dfederici.aft@gmail.com. For additional info about AVTT, visit the website at www.avtt.org or <https://www.americasfreedomtribute.org>.

To volunteer, participate or just help in any way, contact Dorena Federici by email Dfederici.aft@gmail.com.

More information will be announced closer to the time of event.

Shawnee State University awards full-tuition scholarships to top performers at SUMS Math Competition

Annual event recognizes academic achievement with university scholarships

Submitted by **Shawnee State University**

PORTSMOUTH, Ohio – Shawnee State University awarded full-tuition scholarships to the top two individual finishers in its annual SUMS Math Competition, held May 12. The event brought together 35 high schools from Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia for individual and team mathematics challenges.

The competition, hosted by the Department of Mathematical Sciences and Office of Admission, recognized top-performing students and teams with scholarship awards.

Rylan Wood, from Dawson-Bryant High School, placed first in the individual competition, receiving a four-year full-tuition scholarship to Shawnee State. Spencer Whitford, from Walnut Hills, earned second place and also received a four-year full-

tuition scholarship.

Vibhman Haricharan of George Washington High School and Jacob Lyons of Oak Hill High School tied for third place in the individual competition. First-, second-, and third-place finishers received Mathematica software licenses, provided by sponsor Wolfram Research.

Other top 10 finishers in the individual competition included Myles DeAtley of Valley High School and Logan Hamilton of Dawson-Bryant, who tied for fifth place. Seventh-place finishers were John Reed of North Adams High School, Coltrane Parsons and Leixun Mao of Athens High School, and Kaden Williams of Fayetteville-Perry High School.

The St. Joseph Central Catholic team placed first in the Quiz Bowl competition. Team members Gavin Simpson, Sophia Rowe,

Alex Gnau, and Addison Murray each received a \$1,750 scholarship and a Mathematica software license.

Valley High School earned second place in the Quiz Bowl, represented by Allen Smith, Myles DeAtley, Silas Lansing, and Ry Smith. Each team member received a Mathematica software license.

Bonus problem award recipients were Kendall Simpson of St. Joseph, Madeline Charles of Portsmouth High School, Isabella Niswander of Peebles High School, Gavin Simpson of St. Joseph, and Hayden Hubbard of Waverly High School. Awards included a Mathematica license and merchandise from the Shawnee State University Bookstore.

To learn more about upcoming events at Shawnee State University, explore shawnee.edu/visit.

Kentucky Historical Society to honor 14 at annual History Awards

The Kentucky History Awards breakfast sponsored by Stewart Home & School will be held on June 6 at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History

Submitted by the **Kentucky Historical Society**

FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 2, 2026) – The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) will celebrate the outstanding contributions of 14 individuals and organizations from across the commonwealth at the annual Kentucky History Awards Celebration, sponsored by Stewart Home & School, on Saturday, June 6.

This year's honorees represent a wide array of achievements in the field of history, with award categories spanning education, projects, publications

and public service. In addition to the standard categories, KHS will present several prestigious special honors named in recognition of Kentucky's most distinguished historians. Among these are the Dr. James C. Klotter Lifetime Dedication to Kentucky History Award and the Thomas D. Clark Award of Excellence.

"Kentucky's history belongs to all of us, and these honorees are proof that it takes dedicated people in every community to keep that history alive and meaningful," said KHS Executive Director Scott Alvey. "From classrooms to cem-

eteries, from digital media to exhibits, the breadth of this year's recipients reflects just how many ways there are to serve our shared heritage. We couldn't be prouder to celebrate them."

This year's recipients include:

Thomas D. Clark Award of Excellence - Keeneland Library

Award of Distinction - LaDonna Latham

Dr. James C. Klotter Lifetime Dedication to Kentucky History Award - Judy Lyne

Brigadier General William R. Buster Award - Dewey Pope

Frank R. Levstik Award

for Professional Service - Mike Hudson

History Projects Class A: Learn from the Past to Build a Better Future - Friends of Maple Grove Cemetery - Richmond

History Projects Class B: Stories from the Balcony - Joanna Hay - Frankfort

History Projects Class C: Lexington's 250th Celebration - Mary Todd Lincoln House - Lexington

History Projects Class D: Love & Marriage - Frazier Kentucky History Museum - Louisville

Publications University Press: American Bloodlines: Reckoning with Lynch Culture - Sonya Lea

Publications Local/Private Press: The Madison County, Kentucky, African American Lost History Project - Judy Greene Baker

Publications Digital Media: Discovering Lexington - Jeff Hoagland

2025 Gilder Lehrman Kentucky Teacher of the Year: Amanda Smith - New Covenant Christian Academy - Marshall County

2025 Richard H. Collins Award: Labor's Lost Cause: May Day, 1886, and Fears of a New Civil War between Labor and the National Guard - Shannon M. Smith

The awards will be pre-

sented on Saturday, June 6, at the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort, serving as the kickoff for Kentucky History Day, presented by WesBanco. Breakfast and networking begin at 9 a.m. EDT, followed by the awards presentation at 9:30 a.m. After the awards, a variety of events will take place across the KHS campus, including living history demonstrations, performances, exhibitions, military demonstrations and more. For more information about these events and the Kentucky Historical Society, visit www.history.ky.gov.

Looking back to June 4, 2018

Written by **Jonathan Wright**

The following information was entered into the June 4, 2018, edition of The Ledger Independent:

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Art in the Garden festival a treat

AUGUSTA — Friday's showers gave way to Sat-

urday's sunshine for Art in the Garden in Augusta, inviting visitors to the numerous artwork on display for the annual event.

Augusta's Art Guild hosted the festival, where several artisans set up their booths to exhibit their craftsmanship by the Ohio River side. Visitors were welcome to peruse the many wares available for purchase and to take in the atmosphere of a nice summer day, with bluegrass music playing in the distance.

The festival is held on the first Saturday of June in Augusta. Jane Tongret, member of the art guild, gave some his-

torical context on how the guild and this event came into being.

"The guild was founded in 1999 by Judith Federer," Tongret said. "This is our 18th year of Art in the Garden, and every year it gets bigger and better."

"It started as a real small group of four women that just loved to paint, and they decided they had beautiful gardens and they were just going to start a local thing," Tongret said. "Then they started getting involved with a lot of other artists, and it just blossomed into a once a year festival."

Booths with paintings depicting rural land-

scapes and others with more impressionistic and abstract takes were on display. Artisans peddling woodwork, trinkets and ceramics were also in abundance. David Hayward, who had a booth in the festival was selling handmade cigar box guitars.

Hayward said he's been doing woodwork since he was 4 years old. He began creating the four-string guitars after seeing the rising popularity of homemade crafts. Each guitar at his booth had its own unique look and character. As the name suggests, several of them are made with cigar boxes.

"The boxes are nice and durable, so when I make a guitar out of them, you can take it out on the boat or on the deck and not have to worry about them falling over or getting something spilled on them," Hayward said, "and they're easier to learn."

Even members of the art guild take part in selling their works. Theresa Barnes, president of the

guild, was present at her own booth, selling needle-felted paintings. Landscapes and skylines, even a lion, made entirely of wool adorned Barnes' stand.

The event as a whole has been instrumental in bringing in visitors to the small town, and for some, it's become a destination each year.

"It's a wonderful event that brings people into the community," she said. "We estimate between, on days when it's beautiful like today, anywhere from 3,000 to 5,000 people come through."

Not only does the festival promote artworks of local artists, but it also shows off Augusta's historical sites as well.

"If you walk around town, you'll see these blue markers," Tongret said. "If you take your phone, and you tap that app, it tells you the whole history of each property. Augusta is the only river front in the state of Kentucky that does not have a flood wall. This is the way it was in the 1700s."

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