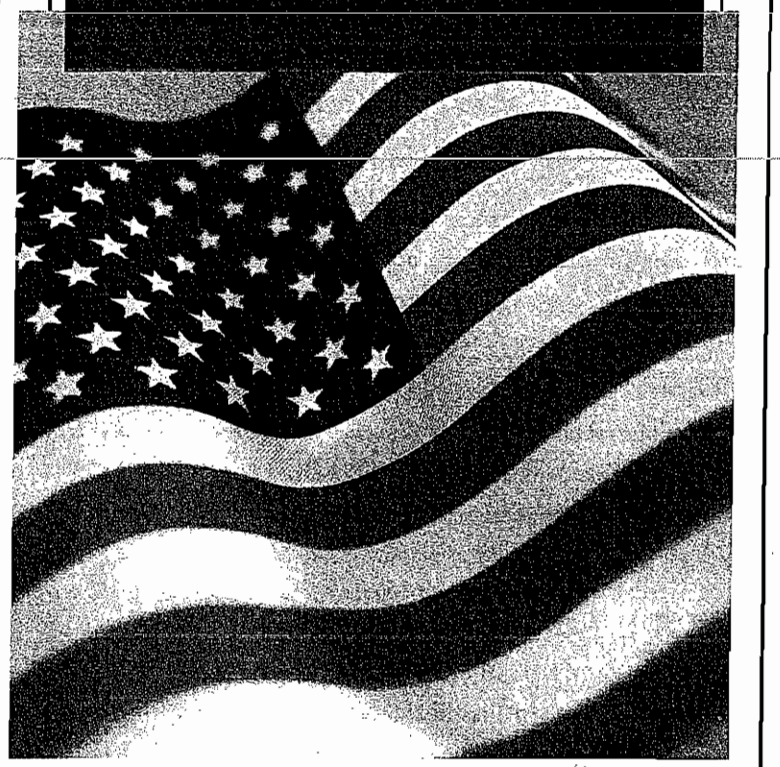
# A Walking Tour
# Deltona Veterans Park



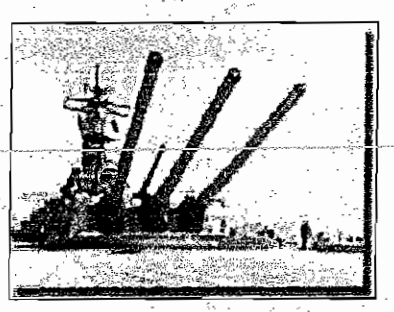
DELTONA, FLORIDA

DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO SERVED

## WELCOME

Welcome to the Deltona Veterans Park and Museum. This walking tour will assist you as you walk through the park. We will begin by exiting the museum.

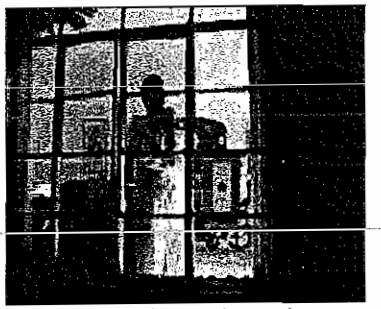
As we leave the museum, you see six sixteen-inch shells on either side of the sidewalk. These particular shells came from the U.S.S. *Missouri*. The *Missouri* was the final battleship built by the United States and was the site of the formal surrender by the Japanese at the end of World War 2. As you can see, there are two types of shells. The first shells with the silver tips are high-explosive rounds designed for use against unarmored targets and shore bombardment. The second round, seen here in the middle, are armor-piercing rounds for anti-ship and anti-structure work.



As you continue straight up the walkway, you will come to our first memorial. This was one of the first memorials built here at the park, and it was designed and built by a local Eagle Scout. This memorial was done in recognition of all **World War I veterans**. Although World War I started in 1914, the United States would not enter the war until 1917. The U.S. entered on the side of the Allies but never formerly joined the alliance. Instead, to avoid political difficulties, the U.S. designated their own forces as the American Expeditionary Force. The following year the war ended. An official armistice was signed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. This date would later be recognized and celebrated as Armistice Day, later turning into Veterans' Day.

## DELTONA VETERANS PARK

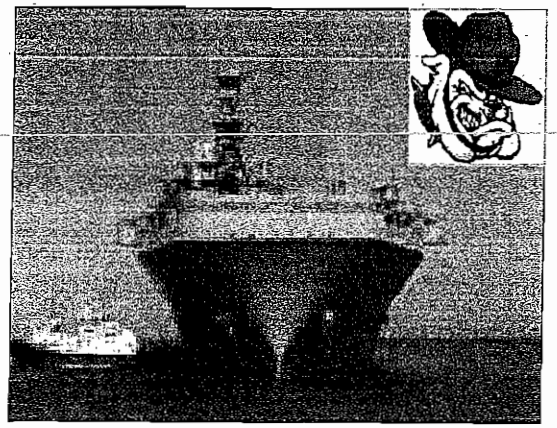
Exiting the World War I memorial, turn right and you will see our next marker, the **Blue-Star By-way** marker. These markers are used in National Cemeteries, parks, gardens and veterans facilities such as this one. These were started by the National Council of State Garden Clubs after World War II. A flag with a blue star flown outside a home signified a serviceman's home. They are still used today to pay tribute to the U.S. armed forces.



Continuing down the sidewalk you will notice throughout the park there are street signs posted next to the walkways. Each of them has been named after a particular U.S. military engagement. Some of them may sound familiar, some may not. Turn right and head toward the Howitzer. The first sign you will come to is **Chateau-Thierry**. The battle of Chateau-Thierry was fought in France during World War I. It was fought in three major waves as a means of protecting Paris from the German threat of occupation. This was the first battle where American troops suffered heavy casualties. However, it proved to the rest of Europe that the U.S. was there to fight. After forty-one days of heavy bombardment, the American Expeditionary Forces were able to defeat the German advance. Over 9,700 American military personnel died or were wounded at Chateau-Thierry.

The cross sign is **Belleau Wood**. This was actually the name of the second wave at the Battle of Chateau-Thierry. This battle proved to be the most catastrophic battle in U.S. Marine Corps history. Ultimately the battle turned into a victory and the American forces were able to

send the Germans into full retreat. In recognition of the hard-won victory, the United States Navy christened two separate ships as the U.S.S. *Belleau Wood*. It is said that during the Battle of Belleau Wood, the Germans referred to the American forces as *Teufel Hunden*, Devil Dogs, a moniker that the U.S. Marines happily adopted.



By now you will have arrived at our next Eagle Scout project, adjacent to the Howitzer. This marker highlights the lives of local veterans in the area. Next, is the **Howitzer**. This type of Howitzer began production in 1928. It was mass produced by the Rock Island Arsenal and was used extensively in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Howitzers are now used by 67 countries. It weighs almost 5,000 pounds and has a maximum range of approximately seven miles.

Follow the left path around the back of the Cobra helicopter as you continue through the tour. The Howitzer is on the corner of **Bastogne** and **Corregidor**. The Battle of Bastogne occurred during World War II. On December 19, 1944, before leaving his post, General Middleton gave the standing order to "Hold Bastogne." This battle was a smaller battle during the Battle of the Bulge. This was one of the last heavy assaults by the nearly-defeated German army. The Germans would attack a weaker Allied position forcing a huge "bulge" in the Allied lines, which gave the





larger battle its name. American soldiers were caught by surprise and forced back by heavy German attacks. Bastogne became surrounded by German forces, but the 101st Airborne Division rushed to the aid of the Allies and prevented the German capture of Bastogne. Bastogne was a vital strategic road junction that was needed for re-supply efforts. General Patton's Third Army would arrive and break the advance of the Germans until they were finally driven out of the "bulge" in January of 1945.

**Corregidor** occurred a few years earlier in May of 1942. The defeat at Corregidor by the Imperial Japanese Army marked the fall of the Philippines and Asia. However, at the Battle of Guadalcanal, the United States forces were able to turn the tide and halt the advance of the Japanese troops. Corregidor was the largest and last time any U.S. military force was required to surrender. As a result, over 75,000 POW's were taken and forced to march sixty miles in deep dust, over vehicle-broken macadam roads, and crammed into rail cars to captivity at Camp O'Donnell. This became known as the Bataan Death March. Thousands died en route from disease, starvation, dehydration, heat prostration, untreated wounds, and wanton execution. More horrendous and violent barbarity awaited those who were lucky to survive the march. Over 10,000 Filipino and U.S. POW's died before they could reach Camp O'Donnell. Eventually, Corregidor was retaken in 1945.

After the defeat of the Japanese at the end of World War II, the Japanese were held accountable for the treatment of the POWs during the Battle of Corregidor. The Japanese general in charge of the attack was tried and convicted of war crimes and executed on April 3, 1946, just outside of the city of Manila.

The next marker you will come to is in honor of our **World War II veterans**. The United States was forcefully obligated to join the largely European war when on December 7, 1941, Japan launched a massive attack against the United States fleet at Pearl Harbor. The following day U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt asked Congress to officially declare war against Japan. This was the last time the United States has declared war on any nation. Over 100 million military personnel, world-wide, would be mobilized, making it the most wide-spread war in history. The United States would send hundreds of thousands of troops and military personnel to Europe, to Africa, to Asia and to the Pacific Islands. The war would finally end after the United States dropped two atomic bombs, one on the city of Hiroshima and one on the city of Nagasaki.

Behind the Cobra helicopter is our **Deltona Memorial Wall**. This wall serves to honor and respect those who have fought to preserve our freedom and the freedom of others





Families and friends and even veterans are able to purchase a block and have the name of a veteran placed on the wall to remember the sacrifices they have freely given for our country.

Before you look at our beautiful Cobra helicopter, as you continue down the pathway, notice our next sign, honoring the Battle of **Guadalcanal**. Guadalcanal is located in the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific. This offensive was launched on August 7, 1942 and lasted all the way through February of 1943. This was the first major offensive by the Allied forces against the Japanese Empire during World War II. This would be the pivotal point of World War II for the Allied powers, turning the tide of the war in their favor. Guadalcanal was invaded by the Japanese in July of 1942 and was one of the most important strongholds for the Japanese due to its proximity to Australia. On August 7, 1942, U.S. Marines landed on the northern beaches of Guadalcanal and after three months of fighting, secured the airfield and a six-mile wide section of the beach. In mid-November, the U.S. Navy fought a reinforcement effort by the Japanese. Ultimately, over 1,500 American troops were killed in action and over 4,100 wounded. Japanese forces lost over 14,000 in battle and over 1,000 were taken prisoner.

Now you have come to one of the museum's most prized possessions, the **Cobra** helicopter. The Bell Cobra AH-1F landed here in Deltona on June 28, 2004. From the front, the Cobra is equipped with an M197 automatic gun. The M197 can shoot 750 rounds per minute. On each side, the Cobra boasts 38 2.75 rockets. These rockets have a shooting range of 8,000 to 10,000 meters or just over six miles. And finally, the Cobra is armed with the TOW Missile System. The TOW, or tube-launched, optically tracked, wire command-

link, carries two missiles each with a maximum of four launchers or a total of 8 missiles. The TOW missile is guided to its target by the front seat pilot/gunner. Corrective information is sent to the missile by two thin wires that deploy in flight. The Cobra was developed as an improvement to the Huey Helicopter. Production began in 1967 Up to date, over 1,100 have been produced at a cost of 11 3 million dollars, each!

Up the walkway from the Cobra is the sign for **Pork Chop Hill** and **Inchon**. Pork Chop Hill was the longest battle of the Korean War and actually consisted of two separate encounters in 1953. The first battle fought in the spring allowed for a UN victory over the Communist Chinese after only two days of fighting. The second consisted of many more Chinese and North Korean forces and resulted in a conceded victory to the Communists. Although the casualty rate of this battle was high for the American troops, the hill itself was tactically insignificant and had very little benefit. Eventually the high cost of defending the hill proved too much and it was evacuated by the Americans, allowing for a North Korean/Chinese victory. Less than three weeks after the battle of Pork Chop Hill, the Korean War would enter a stalemate, allowing for the negotiation of peace talks.

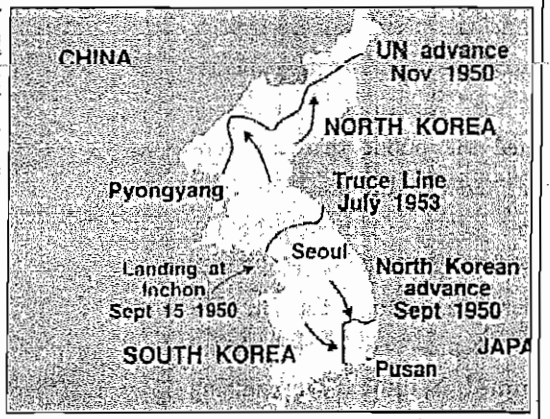
**Inchon** was orchestrated by General Douglas MacArthur. It was an aggressive and surprise amphibious assault against North Korean forces. Showing an incredible display of military strength, American forces arrived on the beaches of Korea, near Seoul, with 320 warships and 70,000 troops. Accompanied by heavy naval bombardment and fighting aircraft, the 1st Marine Division landed 100 miles south of the North Korean lines. Fight





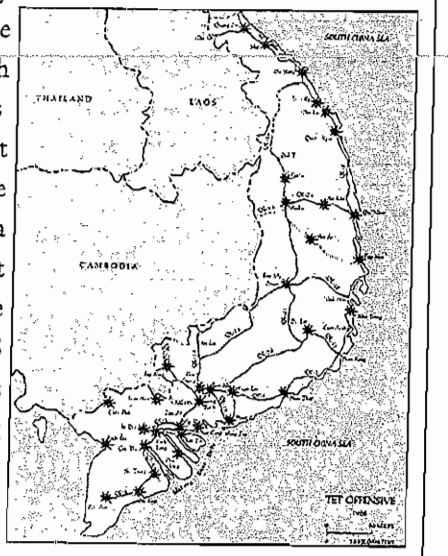
ing their way to Seoul, the attack positioned American forces across from the main North Korean supply lines. After supply lines were cut the North Korean army was largely destroyed or made ineffective within two weeks.

Next is our marker for the Korean War. The Korean War began in June of 1950 with the invasion of South Korea by North Koreans. Both sides desired a unified country, however, South Korea was a democratic nation and North Korea was Communist. The United States and other United Nations member countries would come to the aid of South Korea and as a result, Communist China would come to the aid of North Korea Over the next three years, heavy fighting did little to give either side any advantage. Ultimately peace negotiations would reestablish the border between North and South Korean at the same parallel To this day, a peace treaty has never been signed by either country And on May 27, 2009, North Korea officially withdrew from the armistice agreement with South Korea.




Next to the Korean memorial is our Tori in dedication to all the Pacific theater conflicts the US has participated in. The first date listed commemorates the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was that attack that would launch the US into World War II. The second date is to acknowledge the end of the US involvement in Vietnam. On January 27, 1973, President Nixon would sign a peace accord with representatives from North and South Vietnam. And to acknowledge the Korean War, this memorial itself was built as a Korean emblem.

The battle of **Hue** occurred during the Tet Offensive and was one of the longest and bloodiest battles of the Vietnam War Six battalions of US troops and remnants of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam overcame the communist troops, openly fighting in the city streets until the communists retreated to the countryside This battle is mostly remembered for the controversial press coverage provided by the American media This was the first time the press was given such open access to military engagements While the American government informed the public that we were winning the war, the press painted a different picture. Although the Tet Offensive and Battle of Hue were considered a victory for the US troops, the press vilified the soldiers and turned it into a demoralizing defeat. Over 5,000 communist soldiers died during the Battle of Hue versus 350 American military personnel




Our next sign is for **Old Baldy** This was also known as Hill 266. This battle consisted of a series of five engagements during the Korean War, including the Battle of Pork Chop Hill. Old Baldy held an immense strategic position by dominating the terrain in three directions. Intense artillery and bombardment rendered the hill treeless, giving the hill its nickname A series of violent and harsh fire fights led to the repeated gain-then-loss of the hill. After Pork Chop Hill was lost, the holding of Old Baldy became vital. At the end of the final battle, over 1,000 Chinese were dead compared to 350 men from the UN forces.

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On your right is our continuation of our memorial wall for Veterans. Our first wall received such an outstanding response a second wall was built. As you can see, it is also almost filled.

Next, is our memorial in dedication to the Persian Gulf War and the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. These are our most recent military engagements. The Gulf Wars was a military engagement between Iraq and 34 other nations aimed at expelling Iraq from Kuwait Iraq had invaded Kuwait in 1990. Immediately, the UN brought economic sanctions while the United States immediately prepared for war. In just over one year, Iraq was forcibly removed from Kuwait, however Saddam Hussein remained dictator of Iraq. This war would establish the U S. presence in the Persian Gulf area, which would become of great significance in just a few short years. The Iraq War is often called the second Persian Gulf War. On September 11, 2001, the United States would be attacked on her own soil by Al-Qaida, a terrorist organization based in Afghanistan. The United States accused Saddam Hussein of harboring Al Qaida terrorists and quickly launched a campaign in Iraq and Afghanistan. These are an on-going and current conflicts. The invasion of Iraq did lead to the capture of Saddam Hussein, who would later be executed by the newly-formed Iraqi government These conflicts have had a personal impact on our area with the loss of three of our own: Nicholas Rogers and Angelo Vicarro of Deltona, and Adam Quinn of Orange City.

Past the Gulf Wars Memorial, you will arrive at the next marker, acknowledging the Vietnam War. In the 1960s, the United States would again be called upon to protect against the spread of communism The

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Vietnam War began in 1959 with the invasion of South Vietnam Vietnam was very similar to Korea: both were divided countries, North being communist, the South being democratic. Both countries also saw the North invading the South. Involvement met its peak in 1968 during the Tet Offensive. Shortly thereafter, a strong and very public anti-war movement erupted within the United States In 1973, President Nixon signed a peace treaty in an attempt to end the conflict. Although all parties signed the treaty, fighting continued through 1975 In 1975, North Vietnam was able to capture Saigon, the South Vietnamese capital. The following year the country was united as a communist nation. The United States lost almost 60,000 military troops in the Vietnam War. Over 300,000 were wounded and over 2,000 were missing.

Nearing the end of our tour we come to **Khe Sanh** This battle began at 0530 on the 21st of January 1968 The North Vietnamese Army forces hammered the Marine-occupied Khe Sanh Combat Base with rocket, mortar, artillery, small arms, and automatic weapons fire Hundreds of 82 mm mortar rounds and 122 mm rockets slammed into the combat base Virtually all of the base's ammunition stock and a substantial portion of the fuel supplies were destroyed. The actions around Khe Sanh Combat Base, when flashed to the world touched off a political and public uproar as to whether or not the position should be held. It was.

At this time you should have arrived at the covered pavilion. There is one last marker to see The DAR dedicated this marker in recognition to all American patriots. This would include all of our major wars and lesser known minor conflicts

We would like to thank you for partaking of this tour. We sincerely hope you have enjoyed it. Please visit the Museum before you go home We would be grateful for any comments or questions you may have concerning this tour or the Museum

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