Financial support is also being sought. Monetary donations will enable the Veterans Museum to conserve and protect historic artifacts in its collection and prepare them for exhibition, as well as provide special educational programming and general operating support.

The Atlantic County Veterans Museum Foundation, Inc. was incorporated in 2014 as a not-for-profit organization to support the development and the operations of the museum. The Foundation seeks to provide financial support for the museum through calls for individual donations and a variety of activities including fundraising events. The Foundation is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code, and your monetary gifts are tax deductible as the law allows.

Monetary donations may be made online through the Foundation’s website at: www.acvmf.org or mailed to the Foundation at P.O. Box 194, Northfield, NJ 08225.
A committee of veterans and historians was established by Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson in March of 2013 to assist with gathering, researching and accessioning artifacts and materials that will become part of the collection of a new museum dedicated to Atlantic County Veterans. The museum is scheduled to open later this year.

Historic location...

The Museum will be housed in the historic "Estell House" located in Atlantic County's Estell Manor Park adjacent to the Atlantic County Veterans Cemetery. The building was built circa 1832 by Daniel Estell, a prosperous landowner and businessman, whose grandfather Captain Joseph Estell led a company of local militiamen during the Revolutionary War. His maternal grandfather, James Knowles, also served in the Continental Army in a regiment of artillery "artificers." Artificers were skilled artisans and mechanics that kept the military equipment in working order. The structure, which is listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places as part of the Estellville Glassworks Historic District, was remodeled to its present Colonial Revival style in the 1920s by Daniel's granddaughter, Rebecca Estell Bourgeois Winston.

Rebecca was active in local politics and convinced the State Legislature in 1924 to carve out Estell Manor as its own municipality. She then became its first mayor, making her the first female mayor in the state. The house was purchased by the county in 1993 but has remained unoccupied while structural repairs were made. The building is located on Rte. 50 just south of the entrance to the Atlantic County Park at Estell Manor NJ.

Building the collection...

The Atlantic County Veterans Museum is interested in collecting artifacts from all eras and all theaters of the war including the "Home Front" and is particularly interested in items used by persons with a direct link to Atlantic County, as past or present residents or those who worked here during their service. The museum will use artifacts for exhibits and displays and for research by students, historians, authors, documentary film producers, etc. The museum may also consider traveling exhibits to schools and short-term loans to other museums.

The museum's website (www.aclink.org/vetsmuseum) contains a general list of what the museum is seeking. Since the list is general, and the committee is aware that there may be many items unique to certain situations, interested donors are encouraged to bring in any item for consideration. For questions about artifact donations call the Atlantic County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs 609-646-8699 x6314 or email: cmasonpurdie@aclsys.org.

Soldier images at right, top to bottom: Christopher Roeder, Milmay NJ, US Army, Iraq; Walter Grant (with Anna Ryan), Atlantic City NJ, US Navy, WW2; John Hackney, Egg Harbor Township NJ, Union Army, Civil War.