

The newest addition to Highland High School is the latest exhibit paying tribute to the veterans of the Highland community who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States. Sponsored by the Highland Alumni Association, the exhibit features items from the various branches of the Armed Forces and their involvement in Vietnam and the Middle East. Two, large display cases hold numerous military artifacts and portions of letters written by Highland graduates from the front lines of armed conflict over the past 40 years. Mess kits, dog tags, uniforms, and pictures are among the featured items; and of special note is the military service flags donated by a local Highland family.

At the center of this somber exhibit is a pentagon featuring the names of four graduates who died in the Vietnam War: Jerry Paul Zindle, Class of 1963; Robert “Dutch” Bowman, Class of 1965; Ray Gene Huff and Bruce Wayne Spring, both of the Class of 1968. During the dedication of the exhibit at the November 20, 2006 Board of Education meeting, Board President Bob Kelly said, “It is important to never forget what these young men gave for our country.”

The inscription on the pentagon reads, “This memorial honors all Highland Community Veterans who, although separated by generations, share a common undeniable goal – to valiantly protect our country’s freedom. The American Veteran – forever a symbol of honor, valor, sacrifice and freedom.”

The Alumni History Hall committee, composed of Highland graduates, Leslie Ciammaichella, Jim Eyerdorn, Bob Hummel, JoAnne Sanford, Janet Sours, Marjorie Winter, and Tim Winter, worked over six months to develop the concept and design of the memorial exhibit. The committee worked with Mark Heppner, Vice President, Museum Services Division and Curator of Collections at the renowned Stan Hywet Hall

and Gardens in Akron, Ohio. He assisted in creating the final layout and memorabilia displays with the exhibit being manufactured by George Laurence of the Museum Acrylics Company in New Philadelphia, Ohio.

Tim Winter, Chairman of the Alumni History Hall committee, noted during his presentation to the Board of Education, “This exhibit honors the men and women of Highland High School who have served in the past, those currently serving our country, and those alumni in the years to come who will courageously choose to be a part of the American Armed Forces.”

The exhibit is located on the wall facing the Highland High School auditorium and across from the Alumni History Hall, dedicated in 2004.