



## Face of Fillmore

*By Sherry Shepard*  
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I treated myself to a patriotic tour of Fillmore on Veterans' Day.

My parents instilled in me a great love of our country and the people who have made it great. I was told as a child about the feelings my grandparents had as they looked in awe at the Statue of Liberty and how their lives would be forever changed by their immigration to America. I remember well that picture of an American flag which hung in my childhood home. It had been one of my grandfather's choicest possessions. I got out my grandmother and grandfather's naturalization papers from that day on November 18, 1924, when they became citizens. What a wonderful feeling that must have been!

This patriotic holiday seemed like an appropriate time to pay tribute to those who have defended our country. I thought of others who stayed on American soil but were kept in their jobs as farmers and miners and others to help keep the war effort going.

My first stop was the National Guard Armory Building. I realize the building is no longer part of our military, but its history is one of being the send-off spot for many of our troops.

The building was constructed in 1927 to house the 213th Charlie Battery. During the Korean Conflict the battery was deployed to Korea. Among the actions they saw in that war was one battle that earned them a Distinguished Unit Citation that was presented January 25, 1952, by Major General Wyman, Commanding General of IX Corps.

It was fifty years later that this National Guard unit was again deployed, this time in 2002 and 2003 as the Alpha Battery 145th to secure the Deseret Chemical facilities near Tooele. This was just after the 9/11 attacks and security was beefed up all around the country. In 2007 and 2008 as the 145th Charlie Battery, the group was sent to Iraq. There they were stationed at Camp Bucca in



Tank in front of the National Guard Armory



Field of Flags in front of the Millard County

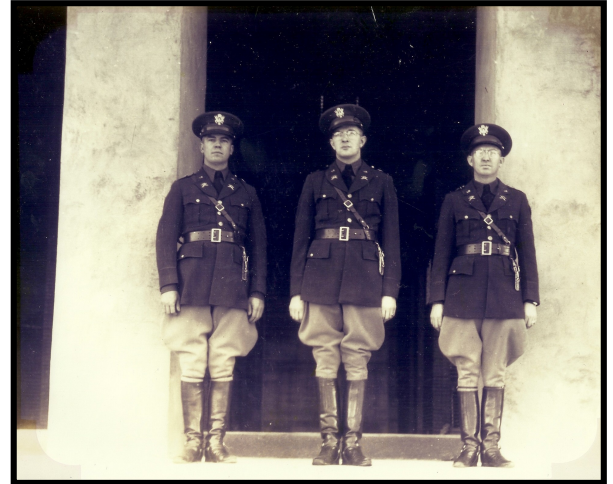
southern Iraq, where they guarded the detainees. In the fall of 2010, the National Guard Armory underwent a facelift, as considerable upgrading was done to the building as well as new sidewalks and landscaping. During the summer of 2011, Charlie Battery 222nd was deployed to Iraq. They were combined with Beaver's platoon with 45 men in each.

Just around the corner was a breathtaking sight with hundreds of American flags fluttering in the breeze in front of the Veterans Memorial Wall, the Millard County Courthouse, the American Legion Hall and onto the expanse of lawn beyond.

The Veterans Memorial Wall was dedicated in May 2001 in a memorable ceremony. Over 4800 names of veterans of military service from Millard County from pre-1900 to the present day are engraved there. American flags guard the white cross at its entrance. The wall was the first recipient of a very prestigious award – the Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge Award. An impressive celebration of freedom took place on August 16, 2001, further honoring our returning troops. This included a fly over and the presentation by name of all of the troops, the national anthem and prayer. The welcome was given by Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr., presentations were made by military personnel and the program ended with a special flag presentation, cannon salute, siren salute, and prayer.

The American Legion Hall was next on my tour. This unique log building stands on Main Street as a memorial to the men and women who dedicated part of their lives to military service and is an excellent example of the patriotism of our community. It was completed in 1926.

The history of the building's construction shows the pride this community had in their military people. In 1922 Frank L. Stewart and his wife Ethel were honeymooning in Idaho. Frank was taken by the enormous stands of beautiful lodge pole pine. Stewart devised a plan to sell the logs for \$5 each to the citizens of east Millard County, who in turn would donate the logs to the Legion Veterans of World War I. The money would pay for the logs and freight. Patriotism and enthusiasm were running high, and the logs quickly sold. All of the needed logs were bought in February 1924. The building construction was unusual. It was built in an octagonal shape with tongue-and-groove on all corners. The roof was hip style with exposed rafters in the ceiling. The interior of the building shows the logs are chinked with plaster and cement. Three large stone fireplaces were installed for heating the building. Most of the labor was donated.



Pictured here are three national guardsmen in 1927. The one on the left is George Huntsman, father of Knox Huntsman and first commander of the National Guard in Fillmore. With him in the picture are Mark Paxton and LaVoy Kimball.



Flag display at the Fillmore City Cemetery

At the south end of Main Street is a triangular park called the Blue Star Park. A single sign in the center reads:

A tribute to the Armed Forces  
who have defended the  
United States of America.  
Sponsored by  
Utah Association of Garden Clubs  
Boy Scouts of America  
in cooperation with  
Millard County and Fillmore City and  
American Legion Auxiliary Post #61.

My final stop was at the Fillmore City Cemetery. I love the new entrance and the patriotic feeling I have there. Standing guard over the cemetery is an impressive flag display with an American flag flanked by those of the five branches of the armed services.

Take time one of these warm autumn afternoons to visit some of these memorable patriot spots in the Face of Fillmore.