



Chris Kaufman/Appeal-Democrat
 Ken Swetzer of Rio Oso looks over some of the donated war memorabilia at the Museum of the Forgotten Warriors in Linda on Monday. Swetzer, who served in the Marine Corps during WWII as a gunner on the USS Massachusetts for six months, has donated his own items to the museum, which consist of a medal, photographs and a Japanese 20 mm shell.

Remembering the nation's heroes

Vets make visit to the Museum of Forgotten Warriors in Linda

Daniel Witter
 Appeal-Democrat

Ken Swetzer of Rio Oso stood inside the Museum of the Forgotten Warriors in Linda on a rainy Veterans Day looking through a glass case at a photo of himself and another U.S. Marine buddy.

The photo was taken 60 years ago and is surrounded by others he took while stationed on board the USS Massachusetts.

It was a time in his life that he said he loved, sailing all over the South Pacific working as a U.S. Marine gunner aboard the Navy ship.

As he looked at the old picture of himself staring back, Swetzer, now in his 70s, said Veterans Day has taken on new importance for him with each passing year, especially as a veteran of World War II.



Dog tags hang with other military memorabilia at the Museum of the Forgotten Warriors in Linda. The museum is built on curator/founder Dann Spear's dedication to those who served in the armed forces.

Chris Kaufman
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"As you get older, you pay more attention to (Veterans Day)," he said, quietly lost in thought.

As he attempted to explain, Swetzer broke into tears.

"All of the people that were in it are dying off," he said, sadly.

Dann Spear, museum founder and curator, said the museum has that effect on veterans, many of whom filed through the facility Monday to remember Veterans Day, their war buddies and those who never came home.

"These walls talk to people," Spear said, standing in front of one covered from floor to ceiling with pictures of servicemen and women from different wars. "This museum is about people, not wars."

Joe Spallino, a Vietnam veteran who lives in Marysville, walked through the museum looking at the pictures of soldiers, not too unlike himself, who fought in the same war.

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