

National Civil War Museum Advisory Council Member

<u>Member Contact</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Location</u>
<p>Michael G. Kraus, Curator</p> <p>Michael Kraus’s interest with history began when he was ten with the discovery of a 3000 year old Native-American stone ax which he found in the dirt while playing behind his parent’s home in Western Pennsylvania. From that moment the question of who was here before us and what happened to them awakened Michael to a lifelong affinity for historical artifacts and the background stories they hold.</p> <p>Kraus’s interest expanded over the years to focus on military history particularly the American Civil War. In a recent Pittsburgh newspaper interview, a reporter referred to him as the “go to” person for all things Civil War as Michael is recognized in the field not only as an authority on historical artifacts, but also as a long time re-enactor, who attended his first re-enactment event in 1966. He continues to enjoy re-enacting holding the rank of captain of the 116th Pa. Volunteer Infantry, Company “I” Irish Brigade. Capitalizing on is living history expertise Kraus was tapped by several film companies as an on location historical consultant. Michael has worked on, and appeared in, “Gettysburg” in 1993 and “Cold Mountain” in 2003. Other media credits include being the co-writer of a nationally distributed documentary DVD series titled: “Civil War Minutes” (recently broadcast on PBS) and as military antiques appraiser for “Pittsburgh’s Hidden Treasures” an antique road show type program on KDKA Television.</p> <p>Michael Kraus graduated from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Fine Art and in 2009 was recognized by the university as a distinguished alumnus. For nearly 20 years Michael has worked as a sculptor combining artistic talent with a passion for history. Kraus has been commissioned to create at least six large public bronze monuments with historical themes.</p> <p>Currently, Mr. Kraus is the Curator of Collections at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial and Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.</p> <p>Soldiers and Sailors National Military Museum and Memorial is a National Register of Historic Places landmark in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It is the largest memorial in the United States dedicated solely to honoring all branches of military veterans and service personnel.</p> <p>It was conceived by the Grand Army of the Republic in the 1890s as a way for Pittsburgh and Allegheny County to honor the dwindling ranks of its American Civil War veterans. The Memorial today represents all branches of the service and honors both career and citizen soldiers who have served the United States throughout its history.</p> <p>Architect Henry Hornbostel designed the memorial in 1907. Dedicated in 1910, the building is in the Beaux-Arts style and is heroic in scale. It is located in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh and adjacent to the University of Pittsburgh campus and its Cathedral of Learning.</p> <p>The Memorial houses rare and one-of-a-kind exhibits that span the eras from the Civil War to the present day conflicts. Since 1963, it has operated the “Hall of Valor” to honor individual veterans from the region who went above and beyond the call of duty. Today the hall has over 600 honorees, and among them are the Medal of Honor, The Kearny Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Silver Star and Distinguished Flying Cross winners.</p> <p>The building houses an auditorium seating 2,500, a banquet hall, and meeting rooms, in</p>	<p>Soldiers & Sailors National Military Museum & Memorial</p>	<p>Pittsburgh, PA</p>

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addition to is museum.

For more information, visit www.soldiersandsailorshall.org