Homelake Historic Preservation and Restoration Foundation and Homelake Veterans' History Museum

June 2026
Volume 1, Issue 1

WELCOME

Homelake Historic Preservation and Restoration Foundation

The Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, formed exclusively for charitable, religious, scientific and educational purposes; for the promotion, preservation and restoration of the historic properties of the Colorado State Veterans Center at Homelake, hereinafter referred to as "Homelake" or the "Center"; for the collection or receipt of items of military memorabilia; as a repository for items of military memorabilia donated or left to the Center under the Repository Legislation passed by the Colorado Legislature.

Foundation Board

The Foundation Board has bid farewell to a few longstanding members and have added new members. The board is currently composed of:

Gene Glover—President James Hall—Vice President

Wayne Ross—Treasurer Gene Farish—Lawyer/Legal

Christa Davis—Secretary Helen Dyer—Member at Large

Jane Rhett—Museum Director

Joe Aldrich Evelyn Espinola Bobbie Hatton Al Malespini

Rhonda Magnuson Rick Mosio Jack Rudder Ed Simpson

Quarterly meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at the Homelake Veterans' History Museum at 4pm. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2026. The Foundations Annual Dinner/Membership Drive/ Silent Auction is held on the First Thursday in June.

New Address

The Foundation has a new mailing address:

Homelake Historic Preservation and Restoration Foundation

PO Box 5 Homelake, CO 81135

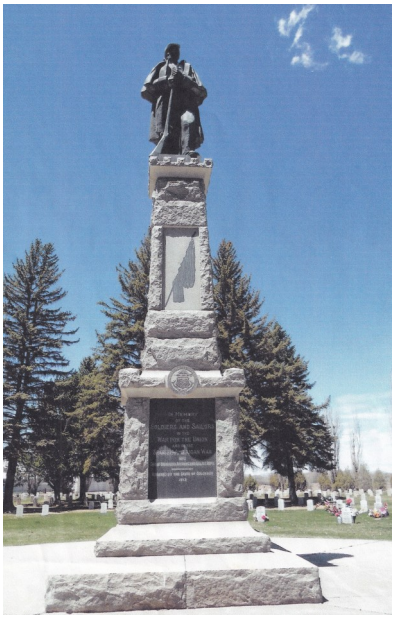
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION FOUNDATION

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HHPRF Annual Dinner and Meeting on 4 June 2026



Foundation Board News

The Foundation has added new tiers to its original Membership levels. Each individual member of the Foundation shall be entitled to one vote for each vacant seat on the board of directors. Each individual membership shall be entitled to one vote on matters submitted to the membership at its meetings. Each corporate, business, or organizational member shall designate one person to cast votes on behalf of the corporation, business or organization.

Membership levels:

Single ($15/yr)
Family ($25/yr)
Sustaining ($100/yr)
Corporate ($500/yr)
Lifetime ($1,000)
Bronze ($2,500)
Silver ($5,000)
Gold ($15,000)
Platinum ($25,000)

Annual Meeting

This years HHPRF annual dinner meeting was held on Thursday, 4 June 2026 at Eduardo's Mexican Grill.

Highlights of the event included: 20 members (including a few new members) in attendance during which Foundation business was addressed.

A solemn minute of silence was observed in honor and remembrance of long time board member Lewis Entz.

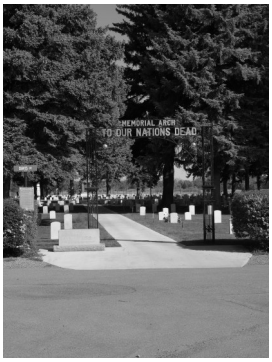
Election of 2 new board members, and re-election of 4 sitting board members.

The Foundation Logo and biannual newsletter were approved.

Completed Projects

The Homelake Historic Preservation and Restoration Foundation exists in partnership with the community of Homelake (Colorado Veterans Community Living Center), and the broader communities of the San Luis Valley, and has been actively working to stabilize, restore and preserve many of the historical buildings on the Homelake Campus.
In the years since the Foundations formation the Chapel has been restored, and the historic and unique circular cemetery located on the campus has been enlarged.





Photographs by Harold D. Dyer (copyright 2025)



Old Administration Building (Photo by Harold D. Dyer 2025)

Current Project

Over the last few years, the Foundation has been working on the restoration of the Old Administration Building (built in 1904-1905).

Phase 1 was the stabilization of the foundation of the building and was completed in 2012.

Phase 2 replaced all the windows; this was accomplished over the years of 2015-2017. Though there were delays during the Covid pandemic, other work that has been completed include painting of the porch ceilings and columns.

Phase 3 will restore the first floor of the building. This will include replacing the exterior doors, the addition of an ADA ramp, upgrading the electrical and plumbing, some interior demolition of early 20th century additions, and the restoration of walls ceilings and floors.

Phase 4 will be the restoration of the stairs and second floor. Other work that will be done during Phase 3 and 4 is the installation of an elevator and ADA bathrooms.
Once Phase 3 is completed, the Old Administration Building will become the new home of the Homelake Veterans' History Museum (which is currently housed in the old dining hall). The museum houses and displays military mementos and memorabilia and is also a repository for the historical records and artifacts of Homelake.

October 2025 Old Admin Building Event

On Saturday, October 25, 2025 the Foundation and the Museum hosted an Old Administration Building "before Restoration" Event to view the existing structure and learn about the plans and vision for its future.

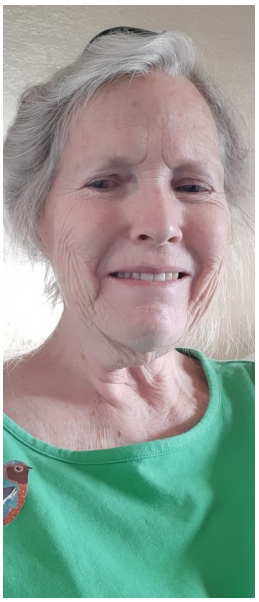
We had a nice turnout with visitors touring the Museum, attending a presentation regarding the future of the Old Administration building complete with storyboards explaining the phases of Restoration and the Grants and Donations needed to complete each phase which was located at the Homelake Picnic Pavillion. Many visitors also took the opportunity to visit the Military Artifacts around the Homelake Campus, including a Korean War Ambulance, Air Force Jet, Army Tank, and the Monuments to our War Veterans.

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Foundation Retirements and Memorials

ERIN SMITH

Erin Smith was an integral part of the Homelake Historic Preservation and Restoration Foundation's creation in 2005. Her first role on the board was as Secretary and in 2019 became the Foundations President. During her tenure on the board a number of projects were completed and the initial phases of the restoration of the Old Administration were accomplished. Erin announced her retirement from the Board during the Foundations 19th Annual Meeting in June of 2024, but remains a member of the Foundation. We Thank Erin for her loyalty and dedication to the Foundation.



LEWIS ENTZ

7 Sept 1931—10 Dec 2025

Lewis H. Entz was a very important member of the Homelake Historic Restoration and Preservation Foundation. He was responsible for obtaining the many military items located on the Homelake campus, i.e. the Army M60 Battle Tank, the A-7 Corsair II, the Korean War vintage ambulance, and the memorial for the bronze plaques for WW I and WW II. Lewis was active in the expansion of the cemetery, the Chapel, as well as many other projects the Foundation has undertaken. His support and presence will be greatly missed.



Museum News

This last year has brought many interesting items to the Museum. There were twelve new collections catalogued, 524 plus items during the year. One hundred fifty-five books from Kennedy and Rudder collections were added to the library, ten old photos of Homelake buildings, and the biggest collection of all, more than 200 military models.

This last collection was the work of Kem Kistler, donated by his widow Vicki Kistler. His family was from the Valley and lived in Del Norte and Alamosa. He started building models at an early age and continued through his life. His military collection consists of all sorts of vehicles: tanks, halftracks, jeeps, ships, boats, planes, choppers, rockets, etc. Most have been catalogued but there are still about 50 more to be unwrapped cleaned and added to the list. The airplanes are now hung from the ceiling in the Museum. These models range from the earliest planes to today's jets and rockets. It is a great addition to the Museum!

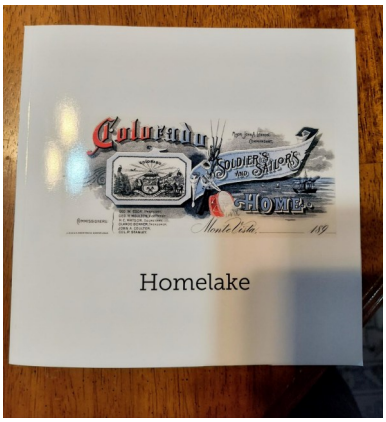


The Museum now has internet capabilities due to a generous donation.

Museum Report 2026

Projects for the Museum this year will include finishing cataloguing the Kistler Collection. Rearranging the Women in the Military display, setting up a large screen to use for videos, conference calls and such are a couple of projects in the works. Continuation of archiving thresidences' files is also on going.

The Museum is running out of space for storage as well as display. We are having to start rotating some of the exhibits and storing others. We try to keep the exhibits interesting to all our visitors.



The Museum now has set up some items for sale. Dave and Helen Dyer have put together a photo book of the Homelake campus which can be ordered. Helen has made a variety of cloth key chains to appeal to different likes. We also have bookmarks and postcards for sale. There are buttons and books that can be had for a donation. These books are duplicates of what we have in the Library. Entrance to the Museum is free to all but donations are much welcomed.

We have also purchased a small display cabinet that we will be installed at the Nursing Home. This cabinet will have rotating display items from the Museum for those residents who are unable to physically visit the museum.

Homelake Veterans' History Museum

The museum is open to the public Memorial Day through October 2, 2026. All other times we are open by appointment.

Due to a shortage of Volunteers, the Museum is currently (2026) open Wednesday through Friday 9a—3p.

If you would like to become a volunteer, please contact us at 719.852.8235 and leave a message with your name and contact information.

Upcoming Events

In an effort to keep the Foundation's Members informed as to the progress that is being made on its current projects and Foundation business, including grants and donations/donors. News and updates regarding the projects and donations of the Homelake Veterans' History Museum will also be featured.

As such this Newsletter will be available biannually in June and December of each year.

To help us keep costs down (postal) and to receive this newsletter in a timely manner, including any announcements of upcoming events please provide us with your name and email address. You may contact Christa Davis at:

christaksmile@gmail.com or you can contact the board through the Homelake Veterans' History Museum at 719.852.8235 and leave a message.

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Is a registered 501 (c)3 Nonprofit Organization

You can follow the Foundation on Facebook:

You can follow the Museum on Facebook:

Coming soon to Instagram!

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5