



The Artillery Officer Candidate School Heritage Hall



**Preserving the Legacy of Artillery Officer Candidate School
Fort Sill, Oklahoma
July 10, 1941 to July 7, 1973**

The Artillery Officer Candidate School played a crucial part in an important chapter of America's history. That story is now presented to the public inside a new addition to the Field Artillery Museum at Fort Sill.

The Artillery OCS Heritage Hall recognizes the significant contributions of Artillery OCS to our nation. If you attended OCS, it was likely a turning point in your life. Your support ensures that our history is known and our legacy preserved. Funding and sustainment for the Heritage Hall comes entirely from graduates, cadre, families and friends of the Fort Sill Artillery Officer Candidate School.

THANK YOU to more than 800 individuals and groups who have provided financial support for the Heritage Hall project. That generous support makes this all possible.

If you have not already done so, a donation of \$250 or more will help us with sustainment. A contribution in any amount is welcomed and very much appreciated. Construction is complete and the Field Artillery Museum was granted beneficial occupancy of the building on December 12, 2023. We had a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony followed by a light lunch inside the Hall on November 2, 2024.

The Heritage Hall is a joint project of the Artillery OCS Alumni, the Artillery Museum, and Fort Sill. The 40' x 80' addition to the South Gallery of the Museum will serve as a theater/classroom with wall space dedicated to the OCS story: the history, culture, and traditions of Artillery OCS; our heroes; our fallen comrades; and distinguished graduates. There are display cases, uniform displays, OCS history panels, and photos.

Kiosks with Artillery OCS Hall of Fame Inductee photos and bios, Fallen Comrade biographical information, Class Photos and loads of OCS history will augment the displays. A 40' x 50' multi-purpose courtyard graces the east entrance.

The Heritage Hall will help the U.S. Field Artillery Museum fulfill its mission and significantly increase our exposure to the public. It is secure and open during regular Museum hours. More than 28,000 visitors will have access to the Heritage Hall yearly.

On January 29, 2025 we had accrued \$985,719 for the project: \$812,989 in contributions received since November 1, 2019 and \$172,730 from our General Fund that has been temporarily restricted by the Alumni Board of Directors for the Heritage Hall Project (construction, furnishings, displays, kiosks and sustainment).



The courtyard and east entrance to the Artillery OCS Heritage Hall. Fort Sill was granted beneficial occupancy of the facility on December 12, 2023 and the completed project was gifted to the Fort Sill Garrison on May 9, 2024. A Ribbon Cutting took place on November 2, 2024

Payments to CDBL, Inc for construction management and subcontractors for work completed and materials totaled \$832,797.92 and were carried on our books as WIP (Work in Progress) an asset until May 9, 2024. That leaves us with \$136, 619 remaining on hand and available for the project in the future. The facility was inspected by Fort Sill Directorate of Public Works (DPW), and the building and contents were officially gifted to Fort Sill on May 9, 2024 after the signage was added to the front of the building to complete the project.

The gift package was prepared in accordance with Army Regulation 1-100, the Army Gift Program and presented to the Fort Sill Commanding general on July 7, 2020. The final design details (construction plans and drawings) were prepared in consultation with the Fort Sill Directorate of Public Works (DPW). The gift package was approved by the Secretary of the Army on August 4, 2022. The letter from the Secretary made it out of the Pentagon on October 21, 2022.

The entire project was reviewed and consulted with the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office in a three-phase process and no issues were found. We were fortunate to have Frank Siltman consulting with our project team. He was the Western Region Director of Museums, U.S. Army Center of Military History until retirement.



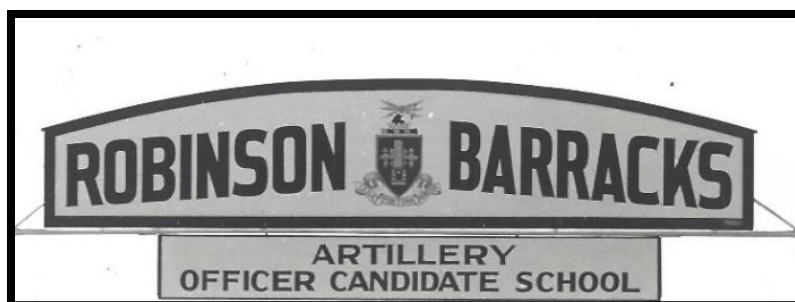
Future home of the Artillery OCS Heritage Hall 40'x 80' addition and 40' x 50' courtyard attached to the South Gallery of the US Field Artillery Museum at Fort Sill. (March 2023)

U.S. Field Artillery Museum Director/Curator Gordon Blaker worked tirelessly with our team on the exhibits, display cases, and OCS history information panels. To ensure everything is in order, we continue to coordinate our activities with the Fort Sill Museum Facility Operations Specialist Michele Mabry and the Fort Sill Directorate of Public Works (DPW).

Fort Sill DPW issued a license to our contractor in November 2022.

When the bids from sub-contractors came in during December 2022, we hit an obstacle (primarily inflation) that increased our projected cost substantially. We immediately reached out to our Alumni and Friends on December 20, 2022 for help and the response was overwhelming. The additional contributions through November 28, 2024 topped \$306,995.

THANK YOU!!!!



If you have not already contributed to our Legacy project, we hope you will seriously consider a donation to the Artillery Officer Candidate School Heritage Hall project. Each of us benefited from our own individual OCS Experience. We have a chance to share the history of that remarkable school with the public and preserve the legacy of OCS at Fort Sill. Thanks for being part of that history, and thanks for your support.

The best way to help us is a tax-deductible contribution to the Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter. Donations of any amount are welcome and very much appreciated. No amount is too small. Giving any amount you can to this project makes you a Team Member and helps preserve our legacy.

Every contributor becomes a lifetime member of the Artillery Officer Candidate School Heritage Society. The Heritage Society is an independent 501c3 organization created on October 9, 2019, to perpetuate the legacy of the Artillery OCS. There are no membership dues. Members of the Heritage Society maintain the Alumni group website on a volunteer basis.

Please visit the website: www.artilleryocshistory.org

There is a special page (*Find Your Way Website Visitor Guide*) to help familiarize you with the website layout and some tips on finding what you are looking for.

Contributors to the Artillery OCS Heritage Hall project at the following levels are recognized on two special wall panels inside the entrance and eventually on the kiosks that will soon be installed.

Panel One:

The "Commandants" Level (\$25,000 or more)

The "Five-Star" Level (\$10,000 or more)

Four-Star: \$5,000 - \$9,999

Three-Star: \$2,500 - \$4999

Panel Two:

Two-Star: \$1,000 - \$2499

The following level of recognition will be acknowledged on flip charts:

One-Star: \$500 - \$999

All contributions made in "Memory of" or "in Honor" of specific individuals are documented with the memorial wording requested by the donors for viewing. The contribution amounts are not recorded on the flip charts.

The campaign to raise money for the Heritage Hall project does not have an end date.

Funds will be required for sustainment, so contributions will always be welcome.

If you choose to make more than one contribution during the campaign, the cumulative amount contributed will be used to determine your recognition level. Contributions "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" graduates will be shown at the appropriate recognition level and will be noted inside the Heritage Hall.

Individual Classes may wish to pool their contributions to receive special recognition at the Three-Star Level or above in the Group contributor category. Some graduates have made contributions and encouraged classmates and other alumni to contribute to this very worthwhile project. I encourage you to do the same.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please call or email:

admin@artilleryocsalumni.com

www.artilleryocshistory.org

Sincerely,

Randy C. Dunham (Class 10-69)

Artillery OCS Alumni Secretary

Click on the link below to go to the website page for the Artillery OCS Heritage Hall with separate links to the following information:

- a list of individuals making contributions of \$500 or more.
- a list of all contributors in alphabetical order.
- a list of all contributors in class order.
- picture albums of the building progress.
- drive-by videos of the building in progress from March to May 2024.

<https://artilleryocshistory.org/artillery-ocs-heritage-hall.html>

**Thank You for your Generous Donation to the Artillery OCS Heritage Hall.
(Please send the donation form below with your check)**

**The Artillery OCS Alumni Chapter is an IRS 501 (C) 3 charitable organization.
Donations are tax-deductible. EIN # 74-3052514.
Please make your check payable to "Artillery OCS Alumni"
Mail to PO Box 33612, Fort Sill, OK 73503.**

Name _____ **Class # and Year** _____ - _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ **ZIP** _____

Phone _____

Email _____ @ _____

Please find enclosed donation for \$ _____

For your convenience, we accept contributions to the Heritage Hall Project by credit card through PayPal. Our PayPal link is found here:

<https://artilleryocshistory.org/support-us.html>

THANK YOU!!!!