

Museum Day draws thousands of visitors

Bonnie Heater
Signal staff

Hundreds visited museums and cultural venues free of charge around the country Sept. 27 during the Smithsonian magazine's Museum Day. All that was required for an individual and a guest to visit a museum of their choice was a copy of an admission card which could be printed from the Smithsonian magazine website.

Marine Pfc. Brian Critchfield, assigned to the Marine Detachment at Fort Gordon, and his fiancée Jessica Hresko selected the National Science Center's Fort Discovery museum, located in downtown Augusta, to tour. We wanted to see "Inventions of Leonardo da Vinci," said Critchfield. His fiancée drove down from Baltimore, Md., to spend some time with him. He is completing the super high frequency satellite communications operator-maintainer course at Vincent Hall on Fort Gordon.

Critchfield and Hresko viewed several wooden replicas of Leonardo da Vinci's inventions. Of particular interest to the young Marine was the hydraulic screw, which converted water power into mechanic power by transmitting to a horizontal axle the rotary motion imparted by water falling on the blades. Its principle is used in modern water turbines.

Many replicas of this Italian Renaissance genius are on display at Fort Discovery. Some of them include: a parachute, assorted flying machines, double hull for ships, paddle wheel ship, a helicopter, printing press, spring-drive car, hydrometer, anemometer and much more.

The famous painter of the Mona Lisa and the Last Supper was born April 15, 1451 in the Tuscan hill town of Vinci, in the lower valley of the Arno River in the territory of Florence, according to Martin Kemp's book: *Leonardo Da Vinci Experience, Experiment and Design*. He was the illegitimate son of Messer Piero Fruosino di Antonio da Vinci, a Florentine notary, and Caterina, a peasant. His parents did not marry, but he spent his early years with his father. Because of the nature of his birth he was limited in his choice of a vocation. He couldn't become a notary like his father. Fortunately, his artistic abilities helped shape his future.

In 1466, at the age of fourteen, he was apprenticed to one of the most successful artists of his day, Andrea di Cione, of Florence, Italy.

At the age of 20, da Vinci qualified as a master in the Guild of St. Luke, the guild of artists and doctors of medicine. His life is an interesting read. Few knew he was a vegetarian. Often he would purchase birds in the market and just release them to the wild. He died at Clos Luce, France, on May 2, 1519 and is buried in the Chapel of Saint-Hubert in the castle of Amboise.

Da Vinci's designs and inventions continue to be featured in the Knox Gallery of the National Science Center's Fort Discovery, located



Photo by Bonnie Heater

at One Seventh Street on the Riverwalk in Augusta, through Oct. 11. The exhibit is free with paid general admission. See www.NationalScienceCenter.org for prices, hours and directions or call (706) 821-0641.

(This article was compiled with assistance from Vicki Arnett and Kenneth Jackson, who are librarians at the Woodworth Consolidated Library.)

Marine Pfc. Brian Critchfield, assigned to the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment at Fort Gordon, and his fiancée Jessica Hresko, from Baltimore, Md., take a close look at a wooden replica of a hydrovic screw featured in the "Inventions of Leonardo da Vinci exhibit" during Smithsonian magazine Museum Day Sept. 27 in the Knox Gallery at the National Science Center's Fort Discovery in downtown Augusta. The exhibit, which features many inventions of the well known painter, mathematician, architect and inventor, runs through Oct. 11. An individual and one guest could tour museums around the country for free on Museum Day, Sept. 27; the event is sponsored by the Smithsonian magazine.

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Photo by Charmain Z. Brackett

Latoya Hawes paints a lizard on C.L. Wright, 4 to get him in the festival mood as he gets set to join the hundreds who turn out to show their support for hospitalized veterans and service members at the Charlie Norwood Veterans Administration Medical Center Oct. 4.

Walkers honor vets

Charmain Z. Brackett
Correspondent

release honoring those who had served.

There were two courses for walkers – a flat paved trail

served as the basic training course and the hills behind the VA made for a tougher "gung-ho" course.

About 250 people walked to show their support for hospitalized veterans and active duty military Oct. 4 at the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center on Wrightsboro Road.

The walk and festival featured a variety of entertainment, children's games and lots of food.

"We've gotten a lot of good community support," said Kimberly Hoge, the hospital's chief of voluntary services, who coordinated the event to raise money and awareness for the patients.

The event raised about \$6,800 to provide extra items for hospital patients.

Students from Glenn Hills High School raised \$800.

They "really went out of their way," said Hoge.

During the ceremony, hospital officials acknowledged veterans of wars staying at the hospital.

Vera King and Oliver Withers are both World War II veterans. Karnig Surabian served in the Korean War. Earnest Brown is a Vietnam war veteran. Bruce Joyner is a Gulf War veteran and Vanessa Harris has served in Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom.

Also, there was a balloon

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