

WWII Art Exhibits  
Laynor Collection  
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*Laynor paintings also on display in Washington, DC area*

## **World War II Collection from Late Scottsdale Artist Exhibits at General Patton Museum in Luxembourg**

(SCOTTSDALE, AZ) – A renewed spirit of recognition for veterans of World War II is stimulating interest in a collection of paintings first created on the battlefield by the late Harold A. Laynor, noted artist and soldier whose mission to celebrate art through education continues at the Laynor Foundation in Scottsdale.

Works from Laynor's World War II Collection are exhibited through Labor Day at Old Town Theater, 815 King Street in Alexandria, Virginia, a suburb of Washington, DC. Admission is free, and visitors are asked to call 703-683-8888 for summer hours.

The General Patton Memorial Museum in Luxembourg is also featuring World War II paintings by Laynor as part of a celebration honoring the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Luxembourg's liberation. The festival kicks off on July 3 – the small European nation's Independence Day – and continues throughout 2005.

Romain Reinard, coordinator of the 60<sup>th</sup> Liberation of Luxembourg Celebration for the US Embassy, said Laynor's artwork is displayed through 2005 to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of General George S. Patton, Jr., who died and is buried in Luxembourg.

Laynor was a prolific artist who once studied under Pablo Picasso and earned a Jubilee Liberty Medal and Certificate of Thanks from the French government for his help in liberating their country.

Laynor served in the US Army as part of a division that sounds more like the summer's latest big-budget film or reality show than the military. Known as the Ghost Army, the role of the 1,100 troops who served alongside Laynor was to deceive the enemy through elaborately planned special effects, including amplified recordings of marching men, blank shells, arm bands, and inflated rubber tanks.

By disguising the real maneuvers of Allied troops with special effect sounds and sights, the Ghost Army earned its place in history.

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Besides Laynor, Ghost Army notables include fashion designer Bill Blass; Olin Dows, respected artist and friend of President Franklin D. Roosevelt; Hollywood set designer George Deistel; haute couture fashion photographer Art Kane; and American painter Ellsworth Kelly, whose works hang in the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum.

“The lifelong mission of my grandfather was to show how art reflects the times in which we live,” said Shana Goldblatt, a recent Arizona State University graduate who is invited to Luxembourg along with other Laynor family members to participate in the country’s liberation festival. “I’m proud that his realistic art continues to educate new generations about the role of the Ghost Army in World War II.”

Ghost Army artwork is included in both the Luxembourg and Virginia exhibits. Those traveling to the Washington area this summer can visit The Old Town Theatre at 815 King Street in Alexandria. Admission is free, and prints are available for \$250. Visitors are advised to call ahead for summer hours at 703-683-8888.

Valley residents can see Harold A. Laynor’s collection of diverse artwork – including original Ghost Army paintings – in Scottsdale by appointment. Call the nonprofit Laynor Foundation at 480-922-0538 to schedule a visit. Admission is free.

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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