

Here is a Featured Veteran who was also a terrific museum volunteer. His friendship, hard work, and dedication to the museum's mission continue to be missed by all who knew and worked with him.

Sergeant Merl Fletcher (1947-2012)

Randall, Minnesota

Merl Fletcher was born in Crosby, Minnesota, and raised in Browerville where he graduated from High School in 1965.

He was in the artillery branch of the US Army, serving stateside and in Germany where he participated in many training exercises.

Upon returning to civilian life, Merl worked in the printing business for 34 years; after he retired he started volunteering at the Minnesota Military Museum.



He had a love of history and of old things. Often, while laboring away on some project, Merl would remark that he felt very honored to work on the artifacts of Minnesota's military heritage. His work was always well thought out and careful. Merl was especially interested in guns and knives. At the museum he put this knowledge and talent to good use cleaning and restoring the museum's collection of firearms and edged weapons. During the building of the museum's special 150th anniversary Civil War exhibit, Merl helped with the construction of new exhibit cases and on many other aspects of the exhibit, right up to the its opening event.

For a number of years Merl also did the custodial work in the museum. It was a rare day when anyone could find a fingerprint or speck of dust in the exhibit areas.