



After rounds of discussion involving the navy, Smithsonian Institute and Minnesota officials, the navy consented to transfer custody to the State of Minnesota, providing that the state arrange and pay for its move and accept responsibility for maintaining the gun in excellent condition. (p. 220) ...Surely to be discussed at some future time will be the ultimate disposition of Ward number three gun. (p. 233)

Excerpts from *The USS Ward: An Operational History*
by Richard Klobuchar

1958
2024

STEPS TAKEN BY THE MINNESOTA MILITARY & VETERANS MUSEUM (MMVM)

- ✓ MMVM and MN Navy League traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with Admiral Sam Cox, Naval History & Heritage Command
- ✓ MMVM sent a formal request to Admiral Cox requesting that a new loan agreement be written replacing MDVA with MMVM
- ✓ At the direction of Admiral Cox, his Registrar of Loans contacted MMVM to initiate a new loan agreement
- ✓ MMVM commissioned a conservation report for Ward Gun #3
- ✓ MMVM briefed staff of the Capitol Area Architecture and Planning Board
- ✓ MMVM briefed the Minnesota Historical Society
- ✓ MMVM collected additional research materials from Richard Klobuchar
- ✓ Final floorplan completed for MMVM's new 40,000 sq ft facility
- ✓ HF 4054 & SF 3884 introduced at the MN State Legislature



For decades the gun has sat outside of our offices at the State Veteran Services Building. We are eager to see a new chapter to be written in the history of this storied WWII artifact. It is a story of great importance to the nearly 300,000 Minnesota Veterans, their families and our entire state.

We believe this new facility, adjacent to a Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery-Little Falls, to be the ideal location and fully endorse their plan to remove, restore and relocate the gun inside this new facility which will open to the public in 2026. The prominent placement it will enjoy at the heart of the WWII Exhibition Gallery is befitting of the service of the Minnesota Naval Reservists who made history the morning of December 7, 1941.

Brad Lindsay
Commissioner, MN Department of Veteran Affairs

The Minnesota Navy League Council is writing to support movement of the USS Ward (DD-139) 4"/50 caliber gun that sits on the Minnesota Capital ground in St. Paul to a new indoor facility at the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum at Camp Ripley. At its current site, the gun is exposed to the elements and will continue to degrade. Moving it to an indoor facility at Camp Ripley will preserve this important part of Minnesota's Naval history.

William L. James III,
President, MN Navy League Council



MINNESOTA MILITARY AND VETERANS MUSEUM

