

GENERAL MOTORS' \$1 MILLION GIFT SPONSORS HISTORIC MACRO ARTIFACT



The General Motors Foundation's recent \$1 million pledge toward the construction of the National Museum of the United States Army continues the company's longstanding history of supporting the U.S. Army and its Soldiers.

"General Motors (GM) has been an important participant in the history of this country," said David S. Lewis, the Capital Campaign's Director of Corporate Programs. "This act of generosity and corporate citizenship is evidence of GM's continuing role in reinforcing the strength of our nation."

Made in honor of Kent Kresa, a former member of the automotive manufacturer's board of directors, GM's gift will sponsor the exhibit of a history-making World War II M4 Sherman tank.

The tank, nicknamed *Cobra King*, was assembled at GM's Fisher Tank Arsenal and enjoys historic provenance as the first American tank to break into the besieged town of Bastogne on December 26, 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge.

Cobra King will be a major attraction in the Museum's *Saving Democracy: Global War Gallery*, where the story of the Army's role in global conflict and how the retooling of American industry changed the course of the war and defeated the enemies of democracy.

"General Motors is honored to help the National Museum of the United States Army to continue to tell the story of the brave and heroic sacrifice of so many who fought to preserve freedom during the world's darkest hour," said Bob Ferguson, GM Foundation Chairman and GM Vice President for Global Public Policy.

When notified of GM's contribution, MG John P. Herrling (USA-Ret.), Campaign Executive Director noted that "no other manufacturer delivered as much material to the Allied forces during World War II as did General Motors."

According to Herrling, Detroit-based GM converted 100% of its production to the Allied war effort in response to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's call to the nation's manufacturing and industrial communities to support the Allied war effort in late 1940. GM was among the first companies to respond, delivering more than \$12 billion worth of materiel ranging from airplanes to tanks, marine diesel engines, trucks, machine guns, and shells.

"GM was an integral part of what Roosevelt called 'the great arsenal of democracy' whenever he referred to Detroit's role in wartime support, and we are proud that the company's alliance with the war effort will be featured in this important historical exhibit," Herrling said.

GM's gift places them in the Five-Star Circle of Distinction reserved for donors of \$1,000,000 - \$4,999,999. More information on the new General Motors can be found at www.gm.com.

COBRA KING

In 2009, Army historians from U.S. Army Europe and curators from the Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor at Fort Knox, Kentucky, confirmed that an M4 Sherman tank on display at Rose Barracks, Vilseck, Germany, was *Cobra King*, from Company C, 37th Tank Battalion, 4th Armored Division. Nicknamed *Cobra King* by its first crew, this tank helped liberate France and was the first tank to reach American lines around the besieged town of Bastogne, Belgium, on December 26, 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge. The *Cobra King*, an up-armored version of the M4 designated as the M4A3E2 Assault Tank, was identified using serial and registration numbers. *Cobra King* is being restored by the Patton Museum at Fort Knox in preparation for display at the National Museum of the United States Army to be built at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.



The 'Cobra King' crew—1st Lt. Charles Boggess, Cpl. Milton Dickerman and Pvts. James G. Murphy, Hubert S. Smith and Harold Hafner—pose for a celebratory photo in the vicinity of Bastogne, Belgium, shortly after the tankers led the armor and infantry column that liberated the town in December 1944.