McCord explores World War II

March 7, 2013

History comes to life this week as McCord Gallery & Cultural Center in Palos Park presents an exhibit of artifacts from World War II.

Vintage military vehicles on the front lawn of the 1830s-era farmhouse in which the gallery is housed welcome visitors to the exhibit, which opened yesterday and continues through this Sunday.

Uniforms, vehicles, documents and weapons will give visitors a broader understanding of the hardships that soldiers underwent in the global struggle between the Allied and Axis powers.

Artifacts taken from battlefields that are now in the collections of local families will be included in the display. Pictured are the uniform, documents and photos from Palos Park Village Administrator Rick Boehm whose father, 2nd Lt. Richard Boehm, served in the Army Air Corps.

Also displayed is a Nazi flag captured from German headquarters by Pvt. Willis R. Norton, which was shipped home to his wife in Kentucky and remains in its original shipping box.

Of special interest is a small Japanese flag removed from the pocket of a dead Japanese soldier at Iwo Jima. It is signed by friends and family members wishing him good luck in battle.

The exhibit is open every day through this Sunday, March 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is $12 for the public; $10 for members of McCord. Veterans, military, students and children under 18 are free.

The event will also include a lecture and reception with Dr. Ted Karamanski, professor of history at Loyola University in Chicago, followed by refreshments, Saturday, March 9, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Admission is $50. Karamanski recently lectured on the Columbian Exposition of 1893, the famous Chicago World’s Fair, at the Palos Park Public Library, and gave the program on Custer’s Last Stand and the Indian Wars at that exhibit last year at McCord.

The McCord Gallery & Cultural Center is at 9602 W. Creek Road (129th Street and La Grange Road), Palos Park. For more information, call 671-0648 or visit mccordgallery.org.