



MBCA Ozark Section Newsletter

*The Star of the Ozarks*

Local Events

Regional Events

Articles of Interest

**Arts Center of the Ozarks  
Sunday, February 19, 2017**



Great news, arts-loving MBCA members! We were able to add a stage performance to the February event at Arts Center of the Ozarks! Northwest Arkansas Audio Theater will present two one-act mystery plays that are adaptations of old radio shows, complete with microphones, visible sound effects, and commercials. The first is an episode of "The Shadow", and the other is Nero Wolfe. Fun, fun, fun!

We'll begin by taking in the art exhibit "Border Cantos", which is a light look at some of this country's southern border issues, have a catered lunch from Lennys Subs followed by a business meeting, and then attend the play. Including the play meant we had to change the meeting date to Sunday, February 19 (previously announced as Saturday); we apologize and hope it works in everyone's schedule. This was too good to pass up.

Date: Sunday, February 19  
Time: 12:30-5:00 p.m.  
Place: Arts Center of the Ozarks, 214 S. Main, Springdale  
Cost: \$27 per person (lunch \$12, theater ticket \$15, exhibit free). Bring checks payable to Ruth Shafer or cash; she will collect as you enter the arts center.  
RSVP: email or call Ruth by Friday, February 10. She has reserved a block of choice seats in the theater that must be claimed by that date and must also let the caterer know how much food to prepare. Her email is [ruthshafer73@gmail.com](mailto:ruthshafer73@gmail.com), phone number is (479) 756-6943, and cell phone is (479) 601-7542.

**Moses Performance  
Branson, Missouri March 18, 2017, 3:30 p.m.**

Moses, at Sight & Sound Theatres of Branson, brings this epic biblical tale from the Old Testament to brilliant, multi-dimensional life right before your eyes! Nothing quite compares to live theater, and when it comes to the most beloved stories of the bible, nothing comes close to delivering a production like Sight & Sound Theatres! And show-goers need not be the epitome of devout to enjoy *Moses*. The sound and lighting are state-of-the art; there are both live animals and lifelike animatronic creatures, the costumes are gorgeous and richly-hued, and the incredible actors deliver the story to pure perfection. The joy of the experience is nearly indescribable!



This splendid production of *Moses* takes you back to the lavish splendor and pride of ancient Egypt, contrasting them with the poverty and oppression of the Hebrew slaves, and showing how a humble, broken man of God would come to be their deliverer. Audiences are completely drawn in as they feel the struggle of Moses and the children of Israel - an epic struggle for faith, for freedom, for a belonging that's eluded them in an unforgiving land. You'll be there as Moses parts the Red Sea, as he discovers the Burning Bush, as the ten plagues infest Egypt when the Pharaoh refuses to liberate the children of Israel, and when Moses receives the Ten Commandments from God. You'll live the story in all its heartbreak, glory, passion, and salvation.

**We need to make reservations as soon as possible; tickets sell out fast!** Tickets are \$47.00 for adults and \$21.20 per child (3-12) with taxes included.

RSVP: Linda Harrell [linda.harrell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linda.harrell@sbcglobal.net) or 479-644-8087 no later than February 1. Arrangements will be made for either lunch prior to the performance or dinner afterwards. Please let Linda know your choice, then she will decide, depending on the majority's preference. Linda can help with group rates at a hotel if you plan to spend the night.

**In Memory of George T. Williams 1935 2017**



George T. Williams, 81 of Fayetteville, Arkansas, passed away on Sunday, January 15, 2017.

George has been a member of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America Ozark Section since August 1995. He was the former president of the

Arkansas Oil Marketers Association, past president of Northside Rotary, also holding a position with the former Fayetteville Civil Service Commission. George was an active member of the Central United Methodist Church in Fayetteville.

George graduated from the University of Oklahoma and was an avid OU sports fan throughout his life, as was he a University of Arkansas fan. He loved to travel to many places including trips to Las Vegas, England, and throughout Europe. He made several trips to Germany to purchase new Mercedes-Benz vehicles. His favorite destination with Jan was to the country of Aruba, where every year they would spend at least two weeks enjoying the beautiful country and lifestyle. George also loved playing the game of golf and, until he could no longer play the game, he would be seen on the golf course wherever he traveled.

George is survived by Jan Sweitzer; one daughter, Rebecca Williams-Lencho and husband David of Fayetteville; three sons, Charles M. Williams and wife Linda of Dallas, Texas, Marty Williams of Fayetteville, and T. Scott Williams and wife Cheryl of Fayetteville; and seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

George loved his cars and was quite a collector for many years. He kept them spotless. He was also one of the original members of the MBCA Ozark Section, and he loved going to the Oaklawn Horse Races in Hot Springs. The Ozark Section has some wonderful memories with him and Jan on our trips. He would always give us tips on how to bet.

George will be greatly missed by his family and friends; he was an inspiration to so many of us, and had a "heart of gold".

Memorial donations may be made to Shriners Hospital at [shrinershospital.org/Donate](http://shrinershospital.org/Donate), Fayetteville Animal Services at 1640 S. Armstrong Avenue, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701, or St. Jude's Hospital in Memphis Tennessee at [stjude.org/Donate](http://stjude.org/Donate).

The family hosted one last celebration of life for George by holding a "Happy Hour" at the Springdale Country Club on January 19 for family and friends.

**Welcome New Members**

<b>Leon Hard</b>	<b>Hot Springs, AR</b>
<b>Jacob Russell</b>	<b>Springfield, MO</b>

**Thanks to Renewing Members for Their Continued Loyalty**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Member Since</b>
<b>John Brennan</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Carl Cody</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Reid Fairchild</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Don Klinger</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Luke Lippig</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Ann Marlowe, Ph.D.</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Pamela Modisett</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Eugene Smith</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Louella Terrell</b>	<b>1992</b>

**Airbag Recall**

At Mercedes-Benz, there highest priority is keeping you safe. So, they'd like to share some important information about a recall involving Takata frontal airbags used in any vehicles, including certain Mercedes-Benz models. This safety recall is a result of inflators that may improperly deploy with excessive force in the event of a crash. Takata and other inflator suppliers are working with the U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Administration (NHTSA) to coordinator availability of replacement airbags. To learn more about the Takata recall, including information on free airbag replacement visit; [mbusa.com/mercedes/recall](http://mbusa.com/mercedes/recall).

## Mercedes-Benz Dealership of Northwest Arkansas Hosts Customer Appreciation Day

Submitted by Kathy Menold, President



On November 19, 2016, approximately 30 members of the MCBA Ozark Section attended the "Open House Customer Appreciation Day" at the Mercedes-Benz Northwest Arkansas Dealership in Bentonville, Arkansas, from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The event included a complimentary service inspection, car wash and a continental breakfast.

The majority of Ozark Section members attended the event from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Keith Garrison, our membership chairman set up an area with recruiting information to attract new members to the Ozark Section.

This event was hosted to include all Mercedes-Benz patrons, not just the Ozark Section members. Guest were presented with Mercedes-Benz gift bags as they left the dealership. Each bag

included a water bottle, coaster, knit cap, note pad, pen, lip balm and glove-box bag, with the dealership's logo on each item.

Brooke Hobson, the dealership's new Service Manager, hosted the event. and we can't thank her and the Mercedes-Benz of Northwest Arkansas Dealership staff enough for their wonderful hospitality. We also want to thank Patti and Bob Tetu, who helped to coordinate the event with Brooke Hobson. The Mercedes-Benz dealership has been extremely wonderful to host the November events for the Ozark Section over the past several years.



### Annual MBCA Ozark Section Christmas Party December 10, 2016

Submitted by Kathy Menold, President



The MBCA Ozark Section held their annual Christmas Party on December 10, 2016, at the Shadow Valley Country Club in Rogers, Arkansas. Twenty-eight members and two guests enjoyed a wonderful evening of dining and dancing. This year's event included a sit-down dinner with a choice of steak, salmon or chicken. We were entertained by a wonderful three-piece jazz ensemble for the evening.

Each year the Ozark Section presents a membership award for "Member-of-the-Year" for outstanding participation by hosting or becoming involved in activities with the section. This year the award was presented to John and Dottie Miller of Greenwood, Arkansas. John and Dottie have hosted several events over the past few years, and Dottie has created our table decorations for the Christmas Parties. They have been a great asset to the section, especially with John's wonderful sense-of-humor keeping us all laughing!



I also presented a gift to a couple from Carl Junction, Missouri, Tom and Pam Kluba, for attending their second Ozark Section event. They had actually attended the November dealership event, but left before I could give them their recognition. Tom and Pam joined the MBCA Ozark Section when they were recruited by Gary and Linn Reusswig, also from Carl Junction.

Larry and Wanda Altman invited their neighbors, Joel and Jeany Ray, to join the Christmas Party. We hope they will join us again and become members.

The Ozark Section had set aside for the Arkansas Children's Hospital the amount of \$317.76, which was raised in May from the Casino Poker Run. Members also donated \$680.00 to the hospital at the Christmas Party, with an additional \$300.00 donated directly to Arkansas Children's Hospital from members. The total donation from the Ozark Section's members was \$1,242.76. A warm thank you to all of our members who participated in the donations.

We have been very fortunate to have held our Christmas Parties the last two years at the Shadow Valley Country Club thanks to Don and Mary Baker who are members of the club. We want to thank Larry and Wanda Altman again for their work in hosting the Christmas Party, and also Dottie Miller for her beautiful Christmas table arrangements; which became door prizes for our members.



## HONOR FLIGHT TRIP

Submitted by Dave Jones

At 2:15 a.m. on November 1, 2016, two recent past presidents of MBCA's Ozark section were roused from sleep so they could have a quick breakfast at a motel near the Springfield, Missouri, airport in preparation for boarding a shuttle to the field. Dave Jones and Robin Retzlaff were beginning a long, event-filled, and very memorable day. They would be flown on a commercial airliner to Washington, D.C., on a trip arranged by Honor Flight of the Ozarks. It's part of an all-volunteer organization of 133 hubs in 41 states that does the trips to pay tribute to former service members from all of this nation's wars. *Fair warning: This is longer than most of our newsletter articles; however, it only includes a few of the observations and facts related to that busy day. Much more could be said. If you want more, please ask me; the memories are vivid.*

A week before, 40 veterans and an equal number of "guardians" (each vet was required to have an assistant) attended an afternoon briefing on what the trip would involve. One vet was a 103-year-old who drove himself to the meeting and would do so again for the flight! He'd served in a unit supporting Doolittle's Raiders during WWII. About half of the vets were in wheelchairs, and most of us related tales of friends who didn't make it home from their war. Vets paid nothing; however, each guardian was assessed \$450. I insisted that I reimburse Robin, but he graciously refused, saying it was an honor to be selected and a privilege to be included. What a loyal friend he is! He even drove us to and from Springfield and gifted me with a book written by a fellow trip mate who won a Silver Star as a Navy medic in Vietnam.



We each were given a special backpack containing gifts and treats, as well as a comprehensive "Flight Book" that summarized the program and sights we would see. We also were issued a colorful ball cap, a large nametag on a lanyard, and a brightly colored T-shirt. The accompanying pictures are from a DVD Robin made. They show vets wearing royal blue and guardians wearing vivid red; however, the day was crisp, and many wore a light jacket over their shirt. At the sendoff were volunteers wearing yellow Ts. They made the process go smoothly. The terminal was filled by an enthusiastic, cheering crowd of children and civilian adults, military members, cadets, scouts, Rolling Thunder cyclists, and others.

We boarded about 7:30 a.m. and arrived in D.C.

about 10 a.m. As at Springfield, a crowd of patriots greeted us. Chartered buses took us to our first stop, which was the **WWII Memorial**. As we stepped out we heard bagpipe music. Waiting at the entrance was a piper in full regalia. He played a variety of songs, the most moving to me being "Amazing Grace". Two other costumed men were "on post" with him, as shown in the accompanying picture. I told the "sergeant" he looked as my dad did on returning from WWII's great hate. The piper advised me the man was in fact a retired Air Force officer and that he, the piper, was retired Navy. The one in the Army Air Corps uniform was probably retired Army. I'm sure they were volunteers who wanted to provide color and a touch of nostalgia for us. They succeeded.



While roaming the memorial, I was awestruck by its many poignant symbols, especially a commemorative area of 4,000 sculpted gold stars, icons of family sacrifice. Each depicts 1,000 American combatants who died in the conflict. Beneath the field's panel are the words "Here We Mark the Price of Freedom." A nearby one contains the Kohima Epitaph: "Tell them of us and say / For their tomorrows / We gave our today."

From there, we were bused to the **Korean War Memorial**. It features (a) 19 grey sculptures of poncho-clad, 7.5' tall, spooky figures wearing helmets and crossing a field of bushes that simulate Korea's rough terrain, and (b) a 164' long Mural Wall of 41 black granite panels lightly etched to show—almost 3D-like—the faces of people looking out at the silent platoon. Beside a Pool of Remembrance was the oft-quoted line "Freedom is Not Free." Another plaque said: "Our Nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met."





Robin and I then walked to the nearby **Vietnam War Memorial**, which lists the names of 58,260 who died in that conflict. I was grateful not to be among those listed, and I paid special respects at the name of a fighter pilot who was the father of my son-in-law, a Southwest Airlines pilot who has flown many Honor Flight groups to D.C. I made a pencil-edge “rubbing” of the father’s name while Robin waited patiently. He then emailed it on the spot to my deceased daughter’s husband and others.

Next, we walked to the close-by **Lincoln Memorial**. It was not on our itinerary, so we quickly paid our respects there while reading the many timeless passages the President wrote. Back on our bus, we were driven to the **Marine Corps War Memorial**. Although it’s commonly called the Iwo Jima memorial, it’s actually dedicated to all Marines who’ve given their lives since 1775. The 32’ high statue has a 60’ flagpole that flies our flag 24 hours a day.

The **Air Force Memorial** was next on our agenda. It’s a 270’ high arrangement of three arching spires that evoke an image of flight and pay homage to the three core values of the Air Force: Integrity, Service, and Excellence. The spires portray contrails from a “bomb burst” maneuver done by the Thunderbirds aerobatic team. Absent is a fourth contrail, to suggest the Missing Man formation traditionally used at Air Force memorial services.

Crossing the Potomac, our bus then headed for a new and not yet completed attraction, the **Women in Military Service to America Memorial**. Dedicated not only to those who served in the armed forces but also to women who were in the Red Cross, USO, Special Services, and US Public Health Service Cadet Nurse Corps, it looks out across D.C.’s monuments and **Arlington Cemetery**, which was our final destination.

We learned that, ironically, Arlington was the home property of Robert E. Lee until the Union Army seized it during the Civil War and that it was converted to a burial ground in 1864. It now contains the remains of veterans from every war America has fought since the American Revolution. I was especially moved (and surprised at the author’s name) when I read a prose poem on the Arlington page of the Flight Book: *“Alone and far removed from earthly care / The noble ruins of men lie buried here. / You were strong men, good men / Endowed with youth and much the will to live. / I hear no protest from the mute lips of the dead. / They rest; there is no more to give. / So long my comrades, / Sleep ye where you fell upon the field. / But tread softly please. March o’er my heart with ease. / March on and on. / But to god alone we kneel.”* Author? Audie Murphy, who received the Medal of Honor and every other military combat award for valor available from the U.S. and many from other countries. He then starred in movies.



After the bus drove us through the cemetery, we walked to the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** and watched silently and respectfully as the extremely precise ceremony called *Changing of the Guard* took place. It has done so 24/7 for 79 years—even during a hurricane. I learned our U.S. Sen. Cotton was a platoon leader there from 2006 to 2008. Each guard takes 21 steps during his march across the Tomb, pauses 21 seconds after an about-face maneuver, and starts back across. The number alludes to the 21-gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

We then returned to our buses and the airport, where—as was the case on both ends of our trip—a cheering throng awaited. One even handed me a rose. Upon my return home, I gave it to my wife and reminded her of a line often cited by military people: *“They also serve who only stand and wait.”* For those of us who were Vietnam vets, the trip provided a valuable emotional release and partial compensation for the Welcome Home we deserved but didn’t receive. That was also manifest in the letters, notes, gifts, and other expressions of gratitude that were in a surprise “mail call” package. An accompanying picture shows tired ‘ol me holding the rose and my package. It contained 48 items, about half of which were from elementary school students. I sent a note of thanks to each person—especially my wife, Ruth. Unknown to me, Honor Flight and she had contacted friends, relatives, and others suggesting they send something. As was true for many of my trip mates, I shed tears of joy and felt my chest swell with pride while I reviewed the items.

On returning to the motel bed I’d vacated about 22 hours before, I recalled Gen. MacArthur’s famous line from the farewell speech he gave before congress in 1951: *“Old soldiers never die, they just fade away.”* I then happily faded off to sleep.

**2017 Upcoming Ozark MBCA Events**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
February 19	Arts Center of the Ozarks Lunch at the Arts Center	Springdale, AR
March 18	Moses Performance Lunch or Dinner TBA	Branson, MO
April 22	Blanchard Springs Caverns Bluegrass Music	Mountain View, AR
May 20	Dogwood Canyon Nature Park Tram Ride and Trail Lunch	Lampe, MO
June 17	Over the Border Day Trip Lunch at Liggy's Restaurant	Carthage, MO
July 15	Membership Potluck	TBA

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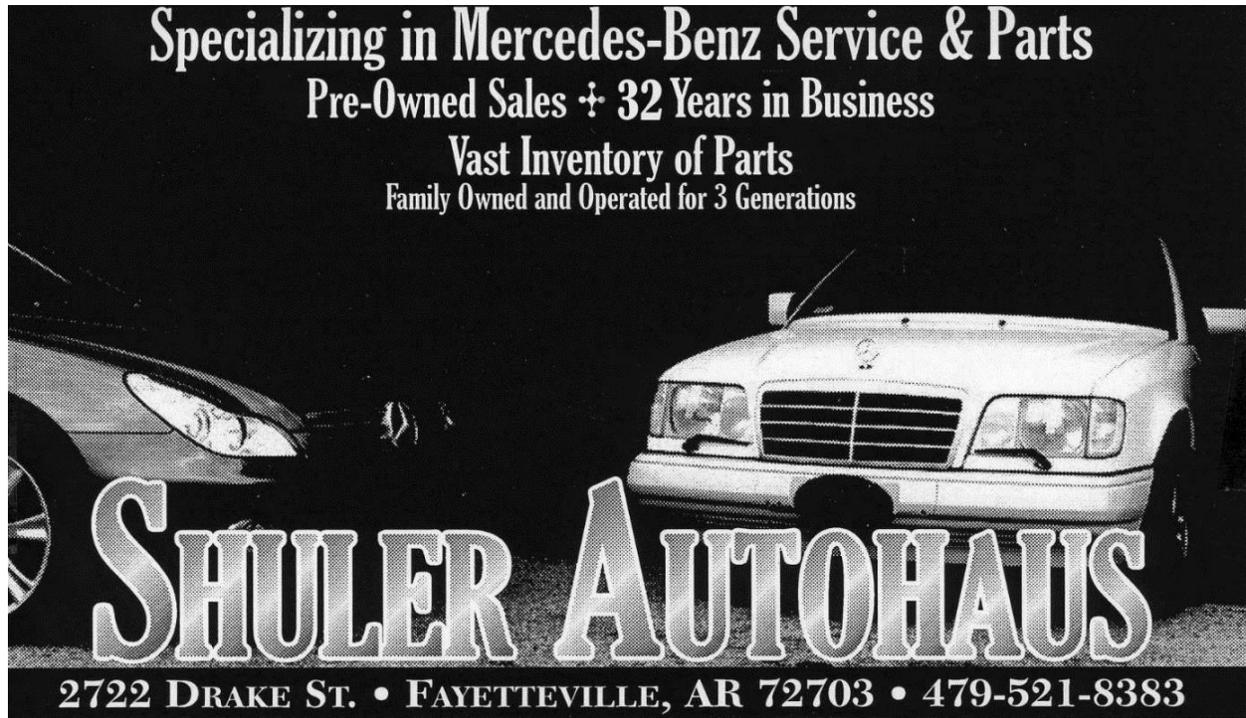


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**2017 MBCA European Trip**  
**Summer Stuttgart, Germany Tour**  
**June 26-July 2, 2017**

Guided tours of the Carl Benz Museum in Ladenburg • the AMG facilities in Affalterbach • the Mercedes-Benz Museum and Brand Center in Unterturkheim • the Technical Museum in Sinsheim • the Classic Center in Fellbach • and additional optional tours.

Cost: \$2,500 U.S. per person includes hotels, all meals, transportation and guided tour in English (airfare is additional).

Call trip leader and past Nation MBCA President Jim O'Sullivan at 843.671.2079 or email [osullivan55@gmail.com](mailto:osullivan55@gmail.com) for details.

For reservation form go to (<https://www.mbca.org/site/default/files/reference/German%20Tour%20Registration%20Form%202017.pdf>)



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**Ozark Section Birthdays**

Vern Sutter	Feb 13
Eric Duca	Feb 13
Hugh Showalter	Feb 19
Al McClain	Feb 21
John Concoby	Feb 25
Ginny Gulseth	Mar 01
Beth Hickman	Mar 03
Carl Cody	Mar 03
Becky Deitz	Mar 10
Bee Anderson	Mar 19
Jason Dean	Mar 23
Porfirio Gutierrez	Mar 27

**Who's Who?**

**Ozark Section  
MBCA**

4026 Jessica Lane  
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**Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs**

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*MBCA Ozark Section Newsletter* – published every two months, is the official newsletter of the Ozark Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.

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*Articles and Submissions* – Copy should be emailed to the editor by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the next issue. For example, submissions for the July/August issue should be received by the editor by June 10. The editor reserves the right to edit all material; submission of material constitutes permission to edit and publish that material. No assumption should be made that the editor has authenticated any information in materials submitted.

**Ozark Section Anniversaries**

Don & Mary Baker	Feb 04
Dave Jones & Ruth Shafer	Mar 14
Marty & Bee Anderson	Mar 15
Porfirio Gutierrez & Tanny Jones	Mar 17
John & Linda Concoby	Mar 19
Congratulations!!	

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, contact our Hospitality Chairman, Diane Paulsen at [diane.kcrealty@gmail.com](mailto:diane.kcrealty@gmail.com) or 479-790-5643.



**Ozark Section Newsletter**  
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