



Military Heritage Museum

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Gary Butler Biography



Gary Butler currently serves as the Executive Director of the Military Heritage Museum, a role he assumed in April of 2018. Gary led the Museum through its relocation and expansion project and is currently responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Museum at its new location. In its new location, the Military Heritage Museum has grown significantly. Currently, the Military Heritage Museum is the largest military themed museum on the Florida Gulf Coast, from Naples to north of Tampa, and the only one that offers a multi-dimensional museum experience. A “you can’t get anywhere else” experience that integrates virtual reality, computer-interactive, live performances, audio-visual, veteran museum guides, graphics, and countless artifacts.

Gary has over 40 years of service in the non-profit sector, 28 of those years in executive management roles. Prior to joining the Military Heritage Museum as executive director, Gary most recently served as the Interim Regional Executive Director for the Charlotte County Family YMCA where he helped lead the successful acquisition of the Charlotte Y by the Sky Family YMCA headquartered in Venice.

Gary retired from the Boys Scouts of America in early 2016 after 35 years of service including his final position as national Chief Operating Officer. Between 2009 and 2015, he was responsible for the performance of all BSA affiliates and their 110,000 program sites. His responsibilities also included oversight of the national organization's museums, historical properties, and high adventure bases. In addition to his national service he has, in the role of executive director, led local BSA affiliates with headquarters in Buffalo NY, Johnstown PA, and Kingston NY.

Gary also comes from a strong military family. His wife Sharon, daughter Jessica, son Jonathan, and son-in law Chris, are all army veterans. Gary and Sharon relocated full-time to the Punta Gorda area following Gary’s retirement from the Boy Scouts of America. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Punta Gorda Historical Society.