

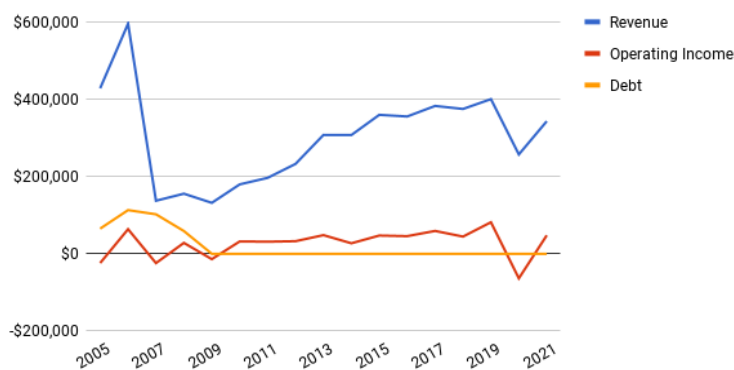
# MAPS Year-End Report for 2021

*By Kim Kovesci, MAPS Executive Director*

The year of the Covid Epidemic! 2020 was a very difficult time for everyone. We at MAPS took a major disadvantage and turned it into an advantage. We were 5 years into a 10 year plan to renovate the second floor of the hangar. We were able to complete the remaining 5 year construction plan in only 1 year. Our objective was to be ready to reopen with the Classroom, Restrooms and Kitchen completed for Banquet Hall operation. We also wanted to have the new second floor museum spaces ready to be populated with displays. We are all very proud of what we were able to accomplish. We have had several events in the Classroom and seventeen events in the Banquet Hall since its completion.

Our intent was to have all construction projects completed so we could focus on the financial recovery of the organization in 2021. The best way to show the health of MAPS is by reviewing five of our metric charts. They are Year-End Financial, Gift Shop Financial, Number of Visitors, Number of Memberships and Number of Volunteer Hours.

## Financial Year-End Results Year



The chart on the left shows a very high revenue in 2006. This was due to the last air show that MAPS Membership conducted before the split in the two organizations. This split was between the airshow people and the museum people. Notice the amount of debt for the organization from 2005-2009. That debt was eliminated through the sale of two flyable aircraft.

Once the debt was eliminated in 2009, the organization began to grow in all areas until the impact of COVID hit in 2020 causing a negative operating income. You can see the results of our efforts in 2021 as we returned to a positive operating income.

*Kim's article continued on the following page*

## HOURS OF OPERATION

SUNDAY	11:30 - 4:00
MONDAY	CLOSED
TUESDAY	9:00 - 4:30
WEDNESDAY	9:00 - 4:30
THURSDAY	9:00 - 4:30
FRIDAY	9:00 - 4:30
SATURDAY	9:00 - 4:30

## ADDRESS and PHONE

**Address:** 2260 International Parkway  
North Canton, Ohio 44720

**Phone:** 330-896-6332

## ★ Mission Statement ★

MAPS Air Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating people about the history of aviation and its impact upon society. It accomplishes this mission by acquiring, restoring, preserving, studying and exhibiting the impact of aviation on the culture of man.

**Kim's article *continued...***

Gift Shop activity very closely reflects the activity of the organization. You can see the growth of revenue in 2009 and the corresponding profit. We began tracking inventory in order to increase the inventory turns and only keep items that moved off the shelf. The impact of COVID on our 2020 revenue was significant and created a corresponding drop in profit. We were able to recover in 2021 to 2017/2018 levels by reducing inventory. Bob Hollis and Mary Cody spend many hours managing the inventory to keep popular items on the shelves. This was a very challenging year because almost everything had extended lead times due to supply chain issues. They both did a great job keeping on top of the inventory and sales.

As with the previous two metrics, the significant growth in visitors began around 2009 and continued until the shut-down in 2020. The continual increase can be credited to several factors:

- Increased General Visitation caused by word of mouth, signs on Rt. 77, P-51 on the pole at our entrance, and increased advertising in specific target markets;
- An increased focus on our US History Program for High Schools;
- New programs with Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts;
- The addition of MAPS Fundraisers, Car Shows, Pancake Breakfasts, WWII Aircraft Visits and MAPS's Annual Raffle; and
- The increase in Hangar and Hall Rentals for Other Organizations' Fundraisers, Birthday Parties, Seminars, Conventions and Military Shows.



organizations' Fundraisers, Birthday Parties, Seminars, Conventions and Military Shows.

The recovery in 2020 began very slowly. Because of our forced closure, we didn't document any visitors until April and the number was only 1/10 the amount of April 2019. Our High School program was shut down because of distance learning and the students could not leave campus. The Boy Scout programs were stopped and the Tour Bus Business stopped. We opened for visitors and created events with restrictions as much as possible with safety in mind. The results were that our visitor count for the year was only 12,094.



Our plan is to return to the number of visitors in 2019 (41,000) as soon as we can. We believe that we will quickly surpass this number and approach 50,000 visitors because of the addition of the Banquet Hall.

The number of memberships decreased but not as drastically as the other metrics. As you can see, we are approaching the 2019 record very quickly and plan to continue this growth in 2022.

We have very loyal members who actually stepped up to make significant donations during this period. Prior to 2019 our donations averaged between \$7,000 - \$8,000 per year. In 2021 our final number was over \$88,000. However, \$18,000 of this was specifically allocated for the purchase of the F7U Cutlass aircraft.

This increase in donations from our stakeholders was one of the reasons that we minimized the negative financial impact in 2020 and improved results in 2021.

***Kim's article continued on the following page***

## MAPS DIRECTORY

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kim Kovesci

### DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Reed Kimball

### EVENT COORDINATOR

Kent Kleinknecht

### DIRECTORS

Dennis Bachtel

Bill Cody

Jim Jackson

Valerie Kinney

Ken Ramsay

Bob Schwartz (Chair)

Marylou Thompson

### MARKETING

Doug Perry

### MUSEUM DISPLAYS

Scott Denniss

Gary Haught

### GIFT SHOP

Bob Hollis

### LIBRARY

Barb Johnston

Betty Tober

### MEMBERSHIP

Bob Schwartz

### MILITARY HISTORY PROGRAM

Debbie Bussinger

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Marylou Thompson

### OMM DISPLAYS

James Byerly

### PR / PUBLICITY

Mary Ann & Pete Nofel

### RESTORATION MANAGERS

Ron Duplain

Jim Jackson

Jim Schoop

Clay Tober

### SAFETY

Ted Mathies

### SCOUT COORDINATOR

Jim Felner

### SECURITY

Dave Conner

### TOUR COORDINATOR

Reed Kimball

### TREASURER

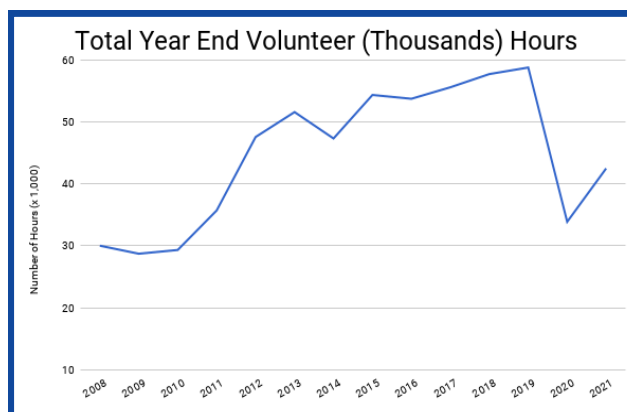
Mac McFarland

### WEBSITE & WEBMASTER

Ron Schultz

## Kim's article *continued...*

We want to thank everyone who donated to MAPS during this very difficult time. It made a significant impact on our recovery.



The last metric that we are going to review is the chart of volunteer hours. The statistics in this area are collected from a Google Form and collated by Bob Schwartz on a daily basis. Then on a monthly basis, he reviews over 1,200 entries and categorizes them by department, project, and individual volunteer. In 2019 we recorded approximately 58,000 volunteer hours which corresponds to almost 29 full-time equivalent people. The volunteer hours dropped to 33,906 hours in 2020 but we were able to recover to 42,668 hours in 2021. We have a lot of projects being worked in 2022 and we anticipate returning to Pre-COVID levels of volunteer hours this year.

So what does this tell us about the last two years? We did a pretty good job during 2020 of minimizing the impact of the COVID shutdown. It was devastating to a lot of museums but we reacted quickly, reduced our expenses and minimized the impact of lost revenue by applying for available government grants.

In 2021, we planned for a slow recovery and took advantage of any opportunity we could to generate revenue. We were very fortunate that our Pancake Breakfasts were successful. The Don Sitts/MAPS Car Show hit a record profit. We created seven dinner dances with Laflavour that were not individually impactful but in total contributed to our success. We were also successful in facility rental and were able to host 17 events in the new Banquet Hall. In total, we are very pleased with the results of 2021 because our budget conservatively planned for a loss of \$32,000 but we ended up with a positive \$47,715 Net Ordinary Income (prior to depreciation.)

We look forward to further recovery in 2022. We are planning to bring the High School visitations back as well as the return of the Boy Scout/Girl Scout Programs. The Don Sitts/MAPS Car Show will be held in June and we will again offer three Pancake Breakfasts.

The MAPS Raffle tickets will soon be available and we appreciate your support, as always. If you need more tickets, please contact the Museum and we will get them to you.

We want to thank you in advance for your ongoing support and generosity and are looking forward to returning to and surpassing our record metrics prior to COVID.

## Library News

*By Marylou Thompson, Briefing Editor*

Lane Evans, a senior at Lake Local High School in Millbury, Ohio chose MAPS as the recipient of his Eagle Scout Project in 2021.

The library was in desperate need of additional shelving for overflow books and Lane created shelving for two separate areas in the library that house almost 400 books.

We are very grateful to Lane for his hard work and wish him early congratulations on his May 28th high school graduation! Many thanks from all of us in the library!



**Above:**  
Lane and  
his Mom

### New Intern

MAPS is fortunate to have a new intern from Kent State, Sean Craney, who is in his junior year and is majoring in history. Sean's interest in history began in a unique 2-pronged way. An amazing history teacher gave him the passion and a video game, Battlefield I, gave him the direction of his pursuits - WWI.



Sean has a significant personal collection of artifacts from that period in history and attends MAPS Military Collector Shows with his dad. It is his dream to own his own museum one day.

As an intern, Sean will be auditing current displays and adding information to the exhibits from WWI to Vietnam.

Sean's family owns the Dragonfly Tea Room and Winery in Canal Fulton.

### Welcome Back

Bennet Cirelli, an intern from Walsh University who you met in the Briefing last year has returned to MAPS to complete a Capstone Project. This is an important senior requirement for his Bachelor in Museum Studies. Bennet will be graduating this spring.

## Upcoming Events

### MARCH

WED, MAR 2	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, MAR 12	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM
SAT, MAR 26 &	HUNTING, FISHING &	
SUN, MAR 27	OUTDOOR SHOW	9 AM - 4 PM

### APRIL

WED, APR 6	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, APR 9	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM
SUN, APR 10	MILITARY COLLECTOR SHOW	9AM - 4 PM
SAT, APR 23	WINE, WOMEN & SHOES	11 AM - 2:30 PM
SUN, APR 24	PANCAKE BREAKFAST	8 AM - 1 PM

### MAY

WED, MAY 4	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, MAY 14	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM
SAT, MAY 21	NORTH CANTON BEER FEST	3 PM - 8 PM

### JUNE

WED, JUN 1	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, JUN 11	ANNUAL CAR SHOW	8 AM - 4 PM
SAT, JUN 18	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM
	ANNUAL MEETING/ELECTIONS	

### A note about events

**Please call MAPS or check our website, Facebook or Instagram for details about events and any updates. Do not rely on any other internet sites as they may not have the most current information.**

His project involves digitizing our collection of oral histories from Ohio National Guard and Vietnam interviews that we received from the Ohio Military Museum (OMM)

### Congratulations!

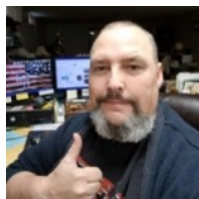
Intern Brent Butler who you also met in the Briefing last year graduated in December from Kent State with a BA in History. Brent will shortly begin a Masters in Library Science program. We are fortunate that he has decided to continue his internship at MAPS doing research for the new galleries on the second floor.

Congratulations from all of us Brent!

### Did you know?

Twenty-two of our Military Interviews have been accepted by the Veteran's History Program at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC and are now housed there.





# The Cornered Curator

*The journalistic musings of a disinclined raconteur.*

*by Scott Denniss, MAPS Curatorial Department*

I'm occasionally asked what my favorite artifact in the Museum is. If you know me then you know my answer is "all of them". We are blessed with a wide variety of artifacts of all types from all eras. Some of the neatest are the USAF Party Suits. These were specially made flight suits worn by pilots and aircrew for social occasions during the Vietnam War. Between MAPS, the Friends of the Super Sabre and the Super Sabre Society we have a total of seven in the Museum holdings. Look for them to be on display soon.

The article below is courtesy of the National Museum of the Air Force. It does a much better job of explaining them than I can:

## *"Sawadee! The Party Suit Tradition in Southeast Asia"*

*Party suits were a local and unofficial creation that arose in 1967 from the 357th Tactical Fighter Squadron of the 355th Tactical Fighter Wing, stationed at Tahkli Royal Thai Air Base. They created "special flight suits" in response to the 8th Tactical Fighter Wings' usage of black dyed cotton flight suits for social occasions. The use of these colorful, lightweight suits, popularly known as "Party Suits," was soon adopted by the Air Force flying units stationed at the large bases in Thailand. The tradition also quickly spread to units in South Vietnam and to a limited degree, other locations in Southeast Asia. Party suit usage was normally limited to flight personnel and those in direct support of flight operations.*

*Party suit colors were consistent within the unit and generally had some standard form of name, rank and unit identification. Additional insignia, unofficial patches (usually humorous) and other embroidery was purely up to the creativity of the individual. There were numerous local tailors near the air bases who specialized in making party suits and embroidering the many associated custom patches.*

*The light and comfortable suits were ideal in the tropical environment and were worn on-base only for special social occasions in lieu of official dress uniforms, which were not commonly used in Southeast Asia. The most significant social occasion was the famous "Sawadee" party. Named for the Thai language greeting appropriate for both "hello" and "good-bye," this party welcomed newly arrived personnel and bid good-bye to those returning home.*

*The party suit tradition, although superficially humorous, served an important role in Air Force organizations by promoting unit integrity and maintaining an esprit de corps under the most difficult combat circumstances, while being highly valued by those who served in Southeast Asia."*



Seven Party Suits in MAPS Air Museum holdings



This is one of the most popular patches seen on a Party Suit. "Yankee Air Pilot" was a name coined by the North Vietnamese to describe American Pilots. Of course the Pilots loved the name and wore it as a badge of honor.

# ORIGINS OF THE “COLD WAR”

*By Reed Kimball, MAPS Director of Education*

When we look at the study of history, we tend to look at events in isolation – in other words as an event that has a beginning and an end. We too often fail to see how ending one event, such as a war, sets up the foundations for the next. For example, we look at World War I as ending with the Treaty of Versailles, never realizing that the conditions set by the treaty formed the basis for World War II.

The end of World War II brought on the Cold War, a period of geographic and political tension between the United States and the Soviet Union and their respective allies which began following World War II. The term “cold” is used because there was, fortunately, no large-scale fighting directly between the two superpowers. The conflict was based around the ideological and geopolitical struggle for global influence by these two superpowers, following their temporary alliance and victory over Nazi Germany in 1945.



In seeking this global influence, each side supported regional conflicts around the world known as “proxy wars”. The U.S. government, on one hand, supported right-wing governments and uprisings across the world, while the Soviet government, on the other hand, funded communist parties and revolutions. This struggle for world dominance was primarily expressed through the development of nuclear arsenals and conventional military deployments to third-world countries throughout the world. Psychological warfare, propaganda campaigns, espionage, blockades and embargoes became weapons of the Cold War. The impact of this conflict even spilled over into rivalry at sporting events, particularly the Olympics, and technological competitions such as the “Space Race”.

The origins of what would become the Cold War were set primarily during two conferences held toward the end of World War II among the leaders of Great Britain, the Sov-

iet Union and the United States. The Yalta Conference, held in Crimea from February 4 to February 14, 1945 was attended by American President Franklin Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin.



The “Big Three” Allied leaders discussed the post-war fate of defeated Germany and the rest of Europe, the terms of Soviet entry into the ongoing war in the Pacific against Japan and the formation and operation of the new United Nations.

The key points of the meeting were as follows:

- Agreement to the priority of the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany. After the war, Germany and Berlin would be split into four occupied zones.
- Stalin agreed that France would have a fourth occupation zone in Germany if it was formed from the American and the British zones.
- Germany would undergo demilitarization and denazification.
- German war reparations were partly to be in the form of forced labor.
- Creation of a reparation council which would be located in the Soviet Union.
- The recognition of the communist Provisional Government of the Republic of Poland, which had been installed by the Soviet Union "on a broader democratic basis," was agreed to.
- The Polish eastern border would follow the Curzon Line, and Poland would receive territorial compensation in the west from Germany.
- Stalin pledged to permit free elections in Poland.

*Reed's article continued on the following page*



## Origins of the “Cold War” *continued...*

- Roosevelt obtained a commitment by Stalin to participate in the United Nations.
- Stalin requested that all of the 16 Soviet Socialist Republics would be granted UN membership. That was taken into consideration, but 14 republics were denied. Truman agreed to membership for Ukraine and Byelorussia .
- Stalin agreed to enter the fight against the Empire of Japan "in two or three months after Germany has surrendered and the war in Europe is terminated." As a result, the Soviets would take possession of Southern Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands, the port of Dalian would be internationalized, and the Soviet lease of Port Arthur would be restored, among other concessions.
- For the bombing of Japan, agreement was reached on basing U.S. Army Air Force B-29s near the mouth of the Amur River in the Komsomolsk-Nikolaevsk area but that did not happen. The Red Army would take the southern half of Sakhalin Island as one of its first objectives and that American assistance to defend Kamchatka was desirable.
- Nazi war criminals were to be found and put on trial in the territories in which their crimes had been committed. Nazi leaders were to be executed.
- A "Committee on Dismemberment of Germany" was to be set up. Its purpose was to decide whether Germany was to be divided into several nations.

The resulting report stated that the three would assist occupied countries to form interim government that "pledged to the earliest possible establishment through free elections of the Governments responsive to the will of the people" and to "facilitate where necessary the holding of such elections."

The second meeting was held at Potsdam, Germany from July 17 to August 2, 1945. Participants at this meeting were Stalin, British Prime Minister Clement Attlee (who replaced Churchill as British Prime Minister) and President Harry S Truman (representing the United States after President Roosevelt's death).



**Site of Potsdam Conference in 1945**



**Seated  
L to R:  
Attlee  
Truman  
Stalin**

They gathered to decide how to administer Germany, which had agreed to an unconditional surrender nine weeks earlier. The goals of the conference also included establishing the postwar order, solving issues on the peace treaty, and countering the effects of the war.

Key final decisions included:

- Germany would be divided into four occupation zones (among the three powers and France);
- Germany's border was to be shifted west to the Oder–Neisse line;
- A Soviet-backed group was recognized as the legitimate government of Poland; and
- Vietnam was to be partitioned at the 17th parallel.

The Soviets also reaffirmed their promise to promptly launch an invasion of Japanese-held areas. A number of changes had taken place in the five months since the Yalta Conference and greatly affected the relationships among the leaders. The Soviets occupied Central and Eastern Europe, and the Red Army effectively controlled the Baltic States, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Romania. Refugees fled from those countries. Stalin had set up a puppet communist government in Poland, insisted that his control of Eastern Europe was a defensive measure against possible future attacks, and claimed that it was a legitimate sphere of Soviet influence.

One of the major results of these meetings was that all three leaders ratified an agreement setting the boundaries of post-war occupation zones for Germany. There would be specific zones of occupation, one for each of the principal Allies. The former German capital of Berlin was likewise divided between the victors. While the focus of discussion at these two meetings was meant to shape post-war peace, the resulting divisions would serve to challenge world peace for another 46 years.

On June 24, 1948, the simmering tensions between the Soviet Union and its former allies in World War II exploded into a full-blown crisis in the city of Berlin. Alarmed by the new U.S. policy of giving economic aid to Germany and other struggling European nations (under the Marshall

*Reed's article continued on the following page*

## Origins of the “Cold War” *continued...*

Plan), as well as efforts by the Western Allies to introduce a single currency to the zones they occupied in Germany and Berlin, the Soviets blocked all rail, road and canal access to the western zones of Berlin leading to the Berlin Crisis.



Suddenly, some 2.5 million civilians had no access to food, medicine, fuel, electricity and other basic goods.

The United States and the Soviet Union agreed to temporarily divide Korea and oversee the removal of Japanese forces. On August, 17, 1945, the Soviet Union occupied Korea, which had been under Japan's control since 1910. The United States quickly moved its own troops into southern Korea. Japanese troops surrendered to the Russians in the north and to the Americans in the south.

Soviet and American officials had agreed to temporarily divide Korea along the 38th parallel, a latitudinal line that bisected the country. This decision avoided a long-term decision regarding Korea's future. This line became more rigid after 1946, however, when Kim Il Sung organized a communist government in the north – the Democratic People's Republic. Shortly after, nationalist exile Syngman



Rhee returned to Korea and set up a rival government in the south – the Republic of Korea (ROK). Each government hoped to reunify the country under its own rule. On June 25, 1950, some 75,000 soldiers from the

North Korean People's Army poured across the 38th parallel. This invasion was the first military action of the Cold War. By July, American troops had entered the war on South Korea's behalf.

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By July, American troops had entered the war on South Korea's behalf.

As far as American officials were concerned, it was a war against the forces of international communism itself. After some early back-and-forth across the 38th parallel, the fighting stalled and casualties mounted with nothing to show for them.

Meanwhile, American officials worked anxiously to fashion some sort of armistice with the North Koreans. The alternative, they feared, would be a wider war with Russia and China – or even, as some warned, World War III. Finally, in July 1953, the Korean War came to an end with an armistice.



The Korean peninsula is still divided to-day.

Similarly, the division of Vietnam at the 17th parallel agreed to in the Potsdam conference ultimately proved to be unworkable. The desire of France to keep

a unified Vietnam as a French colony, resulted in the First Indochina War. The Vietnam War, also known as the Second Indochina War was a conflict fought in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia that ran from November 1, 1955 to the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975. North Vietnam was supported by the Soviet Union, China, and other communist allies; South Vietnam was supported by the United States, South Korea, the Philippines, Australia, Thailand and other anti-communist allies.

The war, considered to be a Cold War era “proxy” war by many, lasted almost 20 years with direct U.S. involvement ending in 1973. It included the Laotian Civil War and the Cambodian Civil War, which ended with all three countries becoming communist states in 1975.



**The Vietnam War - also known as the Second Indochina War.**



## MAPS Anniversaries

November 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

*\*\* designates Family Membership*

### 25 YEARS

Pawski, David\*\*

### 10 YEARS

Cleveland, William\*\*

Conner, Renie

### 5 YEARS

Bernabei, Thomas

Eyster, Evelyn

Greenho, Daniel\*\*

Tackett, Douglas\*\*

Thomas, David

Vujovich, Elias

## CONGRATULATIONS

Thank You For Your Continued Support!

## Annual Fundraising Raffle

The 2022 MAPS raffle is in progress. You should have your raffle tickets in hand. If you haven't received them or if you need more, please stop in or contact us.

This is a huge fundraising event for MAPS that helps to offset the high cost of utilities in the winter months when revenue from admissions is low.

The drawing will take place at the membership meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM.

Remember - you can't win if you don't enter!!

Prizes are \$1000, \$500, \$250, \$125, \$75 and \$50!

## New Members

November 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

*\*\* designates Family Membership*

Alderson, Brenda\*\*

Arce, Kyle\*\*

Baker, Lori\*\*

Banks, Charles

Banks, Shaun

Bartley, Ronald\*\*

Boone, George\*\*

Brenner, David\*\*

Broemson, Scott\*\*

Brogan, Shawn

Burtoft, Jeff

Bush, Carlyle

Cauley, Michael\*\*

Chamberlain, C. Douglas\*\*

Collins, Joanne

Craney, Sean

Denny Jr, David\*\*

Ditty, Thomas\*\*

Flaker, Luke

Freeze, Nathan

Givens, Cameron

Hartman, Conner

Johnson, Chad\*\*

Johnson, David\*\*

Kahanic Jr, Paul\*\*

Littlefield, Gene\*\*

Mangeri, Suzanne\*\*

Mathewson, Judith

Owen, Doug

Redeker, Kaye\*\*

Render, Monica\*\*

Salzano, Darrin

Scarpino, Josh\*\*

White, Paul

Whitmire, Dale



A Warm MAPS Welcome!



## Visitors from Around the Globe

Despite the pandemic, during 2021, MAPS visitors who signed into the Visitor Log, came from 46 of our 50 states (including Alaska and Hawaii!) and also the following 11 foreign countries:

Belgium

France

Japan

Slovakia

Brazil

Germany

Puerto Rico

United Kingdom

Canada

India

Mexico

Doug Perry, MAPS Marketing Manager, maintains our Facebook, Instagram and advertising venues. He reports that MAPS has followers from 44 foreign countries and almost 8,500 followers from the United States, including over 4,000 from Ohio. A multitude of local businesses as well as state and nation-wide history museums, military museums, aviation museums, Chambers of Commerce and media outlets also follow us on Facebook. Even the National Museum of the USAF in Dayton follows us!

Doug has created a new ad that is published with Tourism Ohio in the Ohio Magazine. In the first few weeks the ad was active online, there have been over 700 requests for information from all over Ohio and 20 other states. See the ad on the back page of this issue of the Briefing.

# ★ ★ Restoration Magic! ★ ★

*Contributors: Almost all the guys in Restoration!*

MAPS Air Museum received the Sikorsy H-19D Chicksaw helicopter via donation from Soplat Airplane Sanctuary in Newbury, Ohio in May of 2018. It appears that the H-19 was causing a choke point for access to other airplanes and it needed to be removed. MAPS was thrilled to receive it!

Significant restoration was needed (as can be seen from the pictures) and began with Crew Chief Jerry Patton and the students from the Portage Lakes Career Center (PLCC) Aviation Program.

When MAPS received the H-19, it didn't have rotor blades or tail rotors. As it turned out, an extra set was discovered in Minnesota and a "short" road trip brought them back to MAPS.

Restoration on the H-19 was not a priority for a period of time as the restoration crew was hard at work on the OV-1 Mohawk and the F-4 Phantom in preparation for their dedication at our Veterans Celebration programs.

Once restoration could begin again, the crew began working on the H-19 in earnest. There have been several Crew Chiefs since 2018 - the latest is Jodie Baker but he is quick to say that the entire restoration crew functions as Crew Chief. On the day the crew was interviewed, each person was excited to tell stories of how the H-19 was being rebuilt so that one day it will be a showpiece!

Since 2018, a total of 3470 hours have been spent in restoration, 2140 of those hours in 2021 alone.

Our H-19, tail #54-1412 was built in Stratford, CT and was initially delivered on November 1, 1954 for the US Army Aviation. Her first assignment was with the 123rd Medical Company, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After many travels and assignments, in July of 1977, her registration was cancelled and she was moved to the Walter Soplat Collection.

The H-19 has a distinguished history as being the US Army's first true transport helicopter. During the Korean War, all branches of the military used the H-19 for cargo transport, troop transport, casualty evacuation, and the recovery of downed pilots and aircraft.

Uniquely, the engine was placed in the nose, freeing up space in the hold and making the engine easier to access for maintenance. The ability to transport wounded quickly to field hospitals via helicopter caused the number of wounded that died in the Korean War to be the lowest in history. The military's experiences with the H-19 led to the helicopter becoming an essential part of modern warfare, especially during the Vietnam War.

**Before the "Magic" began!**



**Most of the helicopter's outer skin needed replacing and much of it has been fabricated and installed pending final riveting.**



**Pratt & Whitney  
R-1340-57 Engine  
mounted in the nose.**



**US Army Sikorsy H-19D Chicksaw in the 1950s**

**Private First-Class Lamont Douglas Hill, United States Marine Corps**  
**Massillon Ohio native and Washington High School Graduate**  
**Killed in Action March 6, 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam**

***"AMBUSH!"***

***All hell broke loose. Out of nowhere, bullets ripped into the Marines of India Company, Third Battalion, Fourth Marines, on patrol near the village of Tan Lich, Quang Tri province, Republic of South Vietnam, 6 March 1967.***

***Shouts rang out, "I'm hit. MEDIC!" Several men lay bleeding. Everyone hit the deck.***

***"Where are they?" Their machine gun and rifle fire built in intensity and accuracy.***

***"And who are they?" Vietcong or North Vietnamese regulars?***

***"Let's move it, Marines!" Staying put meant certain death.***

***"Hill, get that '60 working; move it!"***

***Hill was badly wounded. The corpsman did a quick assessment. Hill was hurt bad, his wounds grievous. Hill needed to be evacuated, and NOW. But evacuation was not possible. The Marines were in too deep, too close to a well-armed enemy for evacuation. The Marines had to win this fight.***

***Hill refused to leave. He had a job to do. His buddies were depending on him for cover fire from his M60 machine gun. He moved forward to a better firing position. Hill opened fire. The enemy ducked for safety.***

***Hill stayed at his post, calling for more ammo to cover his fellow Marines. Firing without regard for his own safety or the wounds that drained him of life, he poured deadly fire on the well-entrenched enemy. Like the Washington Massillon Tiger he was, he knew he could not quit, not now.***

***His comrades regrouped, outflanked the enemy, and counter attacked. Twenty enemy bodies were discovered.***

***They also found Hill, unconscious, slumped over his machine gun. His wounds were mortal, his sacrifice supreme.***



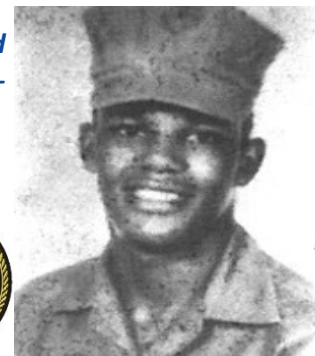
The imagery created in the hypothetical narrative above was written by Curatorial Department member and author, Dr. Michael Van Ness.

Is this the way things went down on that fateful day? Quite possibly but we will never know for sure. What we do know is that PFC Hill made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting his fellow Devil Dogs. His is one of the thousands of stories of heroism and sacrifice during the Vietnam War. His story and that of many others will be memorialized in the new second floor gallery currently under construction.

Private First-Class Lamont Douglas Hill was awarded the Navy Cross, the second highest decoration given for bravery in combat. The citation reads:

***The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Navy Cross (Posthumously) to Private First Class Lamont Douglas Hill (MCSN: 2229088), United States Marine Corps, for extraordinary heroism as a Machine Gunner serving with the Weapons Platoon, Company I, Third Battalion, Fourth Marines, THIRD Marine Division (Reinforced), Fleet Marine Force, in the Republic of Vietnam on 6 March 1967. While conducting a company sweep near the village of Tan Lich in Quang Tri Province, Private First Class Lamont Douglas Hill was attached to the Third Platoon when it was subjected to heavy automatic weapons fire from a well-entrenched enemy. In the initial burst of enemy fire, he was fatally wounded. However, realizing the gravity of the situation, Private First Class Hill, disregarding his own serious and***

***Presidential Citation continued on the following page***





*Lamont Hill's Citation continued...*

*painful wound, manned his machine gun and brought deadly, well aimed fire to bear on the enemy. Refusing medical treatment, except when he stopped to reload his weapon, he provided covering fire so that his wounded comrades could be moved to defiladed positions of relative safety. Then he immediately shifted his weapon and began to provide a base of fire on the entrenched enemy which enabled two squads of the platoon to make a most successful assault, killing twenty of the enemy. Private First Class Hill, succumbing to his wounds, fell unconscious upon his machine gun. His heroic actions were responsible for saving the life of at least one Marine and were instrumental in the defeat of the enemy with no further friendly casualties. Private First Class Hill's courageous actions, aggressive fighting spirit and loyal devotion to duty reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Marine Corps and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.*

Article written by Dr. Michael Van Ness and Scott Denniss, MAPS Curatorial Department



## ★ MAPS ★ Endowment Fund

*A message from Kim Kovesci, Executive Director*

Our Endowment Fund has been set up to ensure the long term survival of the organization. If you plan to have a financial review done, MAPS Air Museum would appreciate being considered in your plans. Thank you!

## Operation Flags of Freedom

*By Marylou Thompson, Briefing Editor*

Anyone who has attended special events at MAPS - especially around Memorial Day or Veterans Day has seen MAPS driveway lined on both sides with beautiful American Flags. They are placed there, at our request, by a non-profit, all-volunteer group known as Operations Flags of Freedom.

Steve Toohey of Perry Township created the nonprofit organization after a conversation with his close friend, Kathy Patron. Kathy's son, Sgt. Daniel J. Patron, a Marine explosive ordnance disposal officer, was killed in Afghanistan in 2011 while disarming a bomb. Kathy asked Steve what they could do to never forget Danny and all the other young men who have been killed. From that simple question, Operation Flags of Freedom was born.

Daniel is one of eleven Perry High School graduates who gave their lives in Vietnam and in the Middle East in service to our country. The Perry Veterans Memorial has been erected on the schoolgrounds with the eleven names and pictures etched in the granite.



Every year since 2012, Perry High School has been the site of a Memorial Day Event that honors those who gave their lives while protecting our nation's freedom. The celebration has expanded to feature a fleet of military trucks, live music, an adult hero hunt, fireworks and more.

Both Toohey and Patron believe Americans should enjoy the freedom we have as they celebrate the Memorial Day weekend, but hope observances like Operation Flags of Freedom will help people remember what the day means and what our freedom costs.

The mission of Operation Flags of Freedom is to honor, preserve, protect and educate. It has grown significantly over the last 10 years, and now includes two annual college scholarships and educational programs about patriotism and flag etiquette. Flags are displayed at over 100 events in NE Ohio every year.

To learn more, visit [opflagsoffreedom.org](http://opflagsoffreedom.org)



# Chairman's Notes

*By Bob Schwartz, Director Chair*

## 2021 Legacy Award

The MAPS Legacy Award was created in 2014 to acknowledge MAPS members who have lived their lives as examples to our young. Three people or couples are chosen every year. These individuals have been pillars of society and as volunteers have significantly contributed to the success of MAPS Air Museum.

The 8th annual MAPS Legacy Award ceremony was held at our Christmas party in December. This year's recipients are Barb Johnston, Betty and Clay Tober, Marsha and Rick Willaman.



**Barb Johnston** - Barb, along with her husband Bob, joined MAPS in April of 2004. Barb maintained the library and assisted Bob Hollis in the gift shop. Early on, both the library and gift shop were located in the restoration building. The gift shop was where Val's office is now and the library was where the main office is now located. Both created challenges in maintaining and preserving the collection due to leaking roofs and lack of funds. By the time MAPS moved into the new library, the collection had grown and a whole new set of challenges appeared.

Barb also was instrumental in sending out information to the local media for our Pancake Breakfasts and the Collings events which attracted large crowds. Barb is still working hard in the library and is a big asset to MAPS.

**Betty and Clay Tober** – Joined MAPS in June of 2011. Clay volunteered in the restoration area and found the unfinished stripped down PT-19 and started the restoration process by forming a crew. Clay's expertise in restoring old cars paid off big time and we now have a beautiful PT-19 parked in the hangar. After the PT-19, Clay helped in restoring numerous other planes including our OV-1 and a Jeep.

Betty volunteers in the library and was big help in reorganizing the library in its new location when it was moved over from the restoration building. Betty was also instrumental in forming a partnership with Don Sitts and creating the annual Don Sitts car show here at MAPS. Many cars arrive on a Saturday morning for a fun day of showing off a huge array of vehicles. Betty is also responsible for the Memorial Brick Program.

**Rick and Marcia Willaman** – Joined MAPS in August of 2007. Rick is a Ham Radio Operator and when he joined MAPS he found a sizeable collection of old aircraft radios located in various places around the museum. He gathered them all in one place in the restoration building and later in an unused room on the second floor of the hangar and was able to repair many of the units. He also found a large supply of the old vacuum tubes, tested them all, and was able to repair a fair number of units. Rick obtained use of the small brick building behind the hangar and installed equipment to have a MAPS Ham station. He also put together a number of old radio units and created a collection located in the front left corner of the hangar near the blimp gondola.

Marcia joined at the same time as Rick and became very active volunteering to help with our various events and was especially helpful when we had Collings events. She volunteers in the library and has taken on the responsibility of food ordering and set up for MAPS events.

**Congratulations and thank you to our Legacy Award Recipients!**





Because of the pandemic, some of our volunteers have had to make a difficult decision - not to return to MAPS because of personal health concerns. This has saddened us but we totally understand.

This has left MAPS with vacancies in a few key volunteer areas.

Many of the available volunteer positions are either for Tour Guides or in the Gift Shop.

We are asking any of our members who think they might be interested in volunteering in either area to contact **Reed Kimball (Tour Guide) or Bob Hollis (Gift Shop)**.

No experience is necessary! Detailed training is provided and you would not be working alone until you are comfortable enough to do so.

We are also looking for volunteers to work during some of our events - we have 22 scheduled over the next few months! These occur generally on weekends or in the evening. As an example, we are looking for volunteers to help pour beer at the North Canton Beer Fest on Saturday, May 21st.

If you are interested in helping out with events, contact **Kent Kleinknecht**, call or text him at **330-323-5764** or by email at **mapsevents@mapsairmuseum.org**

If you've been thinking of ways to give back to your community for a few hours, plus have fun and meet new people, MAPS is the perfect place for you to start. Many of our volunteers are retired, but we also have many who are still active in the workforce! We can be flexible to work around your schedule.

**Give us a call or email us - you'll be glad you did!**

**Reed Kimball - kimball.reed@mapsairmuseum.org**

**Bob Hollis - hollis.robert@mapsairmuseum.org**

**Reed or Bob - 603-896-6332**

### *To all MAPS Mothers, Grandmothers and Great-Grandmothers:*



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## MAPS Mourns a Loss

### Virginia "Ginny" Williams 1932-2021



Virginia "Ginny" S. Williams, of Canton OH, passed away peacefully on December 28, 2021, at the age of 89. Ginny was born May 1, 1932 in Glenside, PA, where she resided until leaving for college. She graduated from West Chester State Teachers College in PA with a degree in early childhood education. After graduation, Ginny went

on to teach for a short time before dedicating her time to her children. She returned to the classroom as a substitute teacher in NJ years later.

In 1956, Ginny married her high school sweetheart, Bob. They spent the next 57 years together raising children, traveling, and spending summers down on the NJ shore before his passing in 2013. Together they had a "wonderful life" as Ginny often shared with her family and friends. She and Bob loved spending time with friends near and far, enjoyed get-togethers with their friends in the area and traveling to see those out of state

She was a proud member of the Church of the Lakes, The Elks of North Canton, and MAPS Air Museum. After Ginny and Bob joined MAPS, Bob was very active as a tour guide and Ginny helped out at many events.

Rest in peace, Ginny.



## ★ Focus on Volunteers ★

MAPS is known as an all-volunteer organization, with 162 active volunteers who logged from 10 to over 1400 hours each in the last year. However, there are exceptions - MAPS has two full-time employees. One of the full-time employees is the Executive Director, Kim Kovesci and the other is Reed Kimball, Education Director.

In this issue of the Briefing, our focus is on Reed Kimball. You may be wondering why a full-time employee is being featured here. The reason is because, in addition to Reed's full-time responsibilities as Education Director, he has logged an average of over 700 volunteer hours per year over the last five years. He helps out wherever help is needed and can frequently be seen setting up tables for events, parking cars or working in the gift shop. In his "spare" time, he enjoys golf, tennis and fishing.



Reed grew up in a small town in Upstate New York. After high school, he attended the State University of New York at Canton and went on to earn a BS in Aerospace Engineering at Syracuse University and later, a MS in Education from Indiana University.

Reed met his wife, Candy, when they were both at Syracuse. They were blessed

with a son and daughter and will be celebrating 47 years of marriage this year. Their son lives in western PA and works as a nurse practitioner. Their daughter followed in dad's footsteps and teaches middle school science in Ft. Wayne, IN. Reed and Candy also have two adorable grandchildren.

Reed's 23-year military career began with active duty in the Army from 1973 to 1986. After a 3-year period of inactive Reserve, Reed returned to active Reserve from 1989-1996. During that time, he was deployed for Desert Storm as an Infantry Training Battalion Commander and spent three months at Ft. Benning, GA. Reed retired as a Colonel.

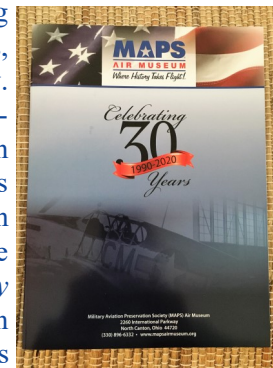
While in the Reserves, Reed began his teaching career in 1987 at Howe Military Academy, a private boarding school in northeastern Indiana, teaching middle school science and high school chemistry and physics. After his deployment to Ft. Benning, he returned to the school and was appointed Assistant Principal.

He became the principal in 1993 and remained in that position until 1998.

It was then that he and Candy began to think of college education costs for their two children. They crossed the state line and moved to Camden, MI where Reed took a position as a high school/middle school principal. Subsequently, both of his children attended and graduated from Michigan State.

Since Candy is originally from this area, she and Reed decided to move back to be closer to family about 12 years ago. It was shortly after they returned that Reed attended a Collings event at MAPS and the rest is history - Reed has been a member of MAPS for 12 years. He started out volunteering in the gift shop and then became a tour guide that same year. Nine years ago, the Education Director position was created as the responsibilities were too much for volunteers. Reed interviewed for the position, was selected, and continues in that role.

The role of Education Director is multi-faceted and of significant importance to MAPS. Reed is responsible for training and overseeing the tour guides, scheduling tours, coordinating the high school education program to comply with State standards, assisting with the Boy/Girl Scout programs, and coordinating the Air Academy. In addition, Reed has created a virtual tour of the museum which can be viewed on our web site and has created instructional videos on MAPS YouTube channel. He is the author of *MAPS - the First Thirty Years*, which chronicles the growth of MAPS from 1990 to 2020 and is available in our gift shop.



When asked what the best thing about MAPS is - Reed only had two words - "the people." He went on to say that it is really unusual for a group of veterans to get together in this type of environment and talk about what they did in service. Reed appreciates the measured growth that MAPS has achieved and also the support of the Board.

We thank Reed for his service to our country and also his dedicated service to MAPS over the past 12 years!

*Volunteers are key to our success!*

# MAPS

## AIR MUSEUM

*Where History Takes Flight!*

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Gift Shop • Free Parking • Handicapped Accessible • Over 50 Aircraft on site  
2 Museum Galleries with over 130 displays

## Mark Your Calendars!



Hunting, Fishing and  
Outdoor Show  
Sat & Sun, March 26  
& 27 9AM - 4 PM

Military Collector's  
Show  
Sun, April 10th  
9AM - 4 PM



Sunday, April 24th  
8 AM - 1 PM



North Canton Beerfest  
Saturday, May 21st  
3 PM - 8 PM

