

# Thoughts from the Executive Director

*By Kim Kovesci, MAPS Executive Director*

## Change to the Organization

Organizational change is a dynamic process and there are certain points during the lifecycle of an organization that are more important than others. We are currently in one of those points, and the changes that we make will shape the organization for the next phase of our organization's life.

The reorganization of the MAPS Board of Directors occurred last month, Bob Schwartz stated that he did not want to be considered for Chairman of the Board of Directors but he will remain on the Board and continue to do the Volunteer Hours and Membership work.

When I think about the atmosphere when I came to MAPS, I am pleased to say I like the culture here at MAPS much better now. A tremendous amount of credit for this improvement was due to the efforts of Bob. He was Chairman of the Board when I was elected to the board and he was the Chairman who hired me a year later. As Chairman he has been a calm, stabilizing factor my entire time at MAPS. I have confided in him, worked with him on complex problems, asked him for advice for major decisions and received his support when carrying out those decisions.

On behalf of the Membership of MAPS Air Museum, I would like to thank Bob Schwartz for helping to create the culture that we currently have at MAPS.

## Change in Chairman of the Board

For the first time in almost a decade and a half, we have a new Chairman of the Board. The board voted to name Denny Bachtel as Chairman, Val Kinney as Vice Chairman, Mac McFarland as Finance Manager and Reed Kimball as Secretary.

Denny has been a board member for several years and his demeanor/background are very similar to Bob's. I don't think there will be a noticeable change or disruption to the operation of the board.

## Organizational Status

Other than the board's organization, we have the paid organization. There are two salaried employees; Reed (Education Director) and Kim (Executive Director).

We have four part-time hourly employees; Mary Cody (Paint & Cleaning), Dave Conner (Hangar Manager), Scott Denniss (Collection Manager) and Kent Kleinknecht (Event Coordinator).

*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

## 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...*

### Incorporation of our Youth Programs

One of our strategic objectives is to strengthen our youth programs by incorporating them into our events and providing training sessions for each.

### My Personal Plan:

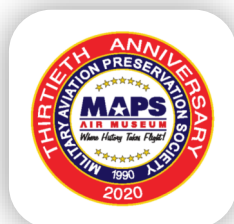
If "The Good Lord is willing and the creek don't rise" is to keep working at least for the next two years and complete my contract. I will continue to delegate in order to reduce both my and Reed's workload and reduce our hours so we can extend the time we have left at MAPS. The benefit of this delegation is to reduce the risk to the organization because of the loss of key individuals. The more people who know how to perform functions, the less risk to the organization.

### How are we doing?

- ◆ Our Culture is one of being helpful, respectful and cooperative with very few conflicts.
- ◆ Most of our members are pleased with the direction of the organization.
- ◆ We are financially solid and able to meet our financial obligations.
- ◆ We have completed or in the process of completing all but one of our major capital projects.
- ◆ The painting of our hangar will shortly be complete and the entrance is full of beautiful flowers.
- ◆ Our metrics will return to pre-COVID levels and possibly surpass them by the end of 2023.
- ◆ Our aircraft inventory is very impressive and the quality of our restorations is of high quality.
- ◆ Our restoration building is well run, clean and efficient.
- ◆ Our motor pool keeps our equipment running and the grass mowed.
- ◆ Our display rooms are already "World Class" but once the 2nd floor galleries are finished, we will be "One of One."
- ◆ Our library is organized and attractive.
- ◆ Our gift shop is breaking records and rotating stock.
- ◆ Our tour guides receive amazing feedback from our visitors because of their knowledge and passion for the stories they tell.
- ◆ Our events are fun and well organized.

### Final Comment

I guess the bottom line is that you should always try to ask the question, "Is this place better than when I came?" In other words, "Is MAPS better because Bob Schwartz was the Chairman of the Board for thirteen years?" The answer is simple, "Absolutely!"



## 2022 Directors & Staff

### **Directors:**

Denny Bachtel (Chair) Valerie Kinney (Vice Chair)  
 Bill Cody Jim Jackson  
 Bob Schwartz Ken Ramsay Marylou Thompson

### **Executive Director**

Kim Kovesci

### **Education Director**

Reed Kimball

### **Events Coordinator**

Kent Kleinknecht

### **Painting & Custodial**

Mary Cody

### **Collection Manager**

Scott Denniss

### **Hangar Manager**

Dave Conner



## MAPS DIRECTORY

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kim Kovesci

### DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Reed Kimball

### EVENT COORDINATOR

Kent Kleinknecht

### DIRECTORS

Dennis Bachtel (Chair)

Bill Cody

Jim Jackson

Valerie Kinney

Ken Ramsay

Bob Schwartz

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

## Chairman's Notes

*By Dennis Bachtel, Director Chair*



My name is Denny Bachtel. For those of you who may not know me, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I've been a MAPS member for approximately twelve years, an active volunteer for eight years and on the Board of Directors for five years. I was recently elected Chairman of the Board of Directors.

I primarily volunteer in Restoration and for special events here at MAPS.

My wife Debbie (who works in the gift shop and also at events) and I live in Massillon, OH. We have two sons and daughters-in-law and eight grandchildren.

I am a U.S. Air Force and Vietnam Veteran. While in the military, I was an airframe repairman and worked on numerous types of aircraft while in the service in locations in South East Asia, Central and South America, and at several bases in the United States,

After my military service, I worked for forty years for Aqua Ohio, a privately owned public water utility serving Western Stark County, and the cities of Green and New Franklin in Summit County. While working for Aqua, I obtained an Associate Degree in Civil Engineering from Stark State College.

At this time, I'd like to thank Bob Schwartz for the leadership and calm professionalism he has demonstrated during his years as Chairman of the Board here at MAPS. Bob will continue as a director and will be counted on for his continued contributions and knowledge.

My goals are to continue on the path that Kim, Reed, Bob and the directors have established which is continued growth and development of our Museum.

If you'd like to introduce yourself or discuss MAPS issues, I can generally be found in Restoration, the hanger, or on the flight line.

Have a great day and have fun at MAPS!

## Words from Bob Schwartz

I was elected to the Board of Directors in 2008 and then elected Board Chairman at our annual reorganizational meeting in 2009. This year, after a lot of thought, I decided to not run for Board Chairman. I'm 79 now and my physical abilities have started to slow down over the past couple of years. I will still be handling memberships and volunteer hours as I really enjoy doing both.

Denny Bachtel is the new Board Chair and he will make an excellent Chairman. His business and volunteer experiences will make for a well-run Board and be advantageous to MAPS.

When I joined MAPS and started on the Board, we had no Executive Director and the Board ran the whole organization. This made for some long Board meetings; 4 hours or more was not unusual. We worked together as a team and were able to move forward and were finally able to hire Kim Kovesci as our Executive Director starting about September of 2011.

I've always enjoyed walking through the museum and seeing everyone. We have a great bunch of wonderful volunteers who put in many hours and do a super job. I still plan on walking around - old habits are hard to forget!

# MAPS Hosts Presentation of France's Highest Honor

## Legion d'honneur

On July 9, 2022, about 200 people came to MAPS to honor two WWII veterans, Leonard Giorgio and Walter B. Stitt, who were formally presented France's highest honor, the French Legion d'honneur.

The event was coordinated with MAPS by Eric P. Montgomery who began assisting WWII Veterans with their efforts to apply for the French Legion d'honneur in 2014. As an advocate for WWII Veterans, Eric assists those eligible for the award by completing, then submitting their applications to the French Government for approval. For those confirmed, he helps to arrange and coordinate their formal presentation ceremonies.

Following are portions of the briefing prepared by Eric P. Montgomery for the event.

*French Consul General to the Midwest, Yannick Tagand, will formally decorate PFC Leonard Giorgio, a radioman with the 45th Infantry Division, who served in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany as part of the Headquarters Company of the 180th Infantry Regiment; a remarkable 455 days in combat. After the war, PFC Giorgio became a Lieutenant after accepting a Commission in the US Naval Reserve, a combined service of 24 years.*

*Corporal Walter B. Stitt served in the 3rd Armored Division, E Company of the 33rd Armored Regiment, as a crewman within a M4 Sherman Tank. He and the unit battled its way across France after landing in Normandy in July of 1944. Liberating village upon village in Germany, and then again in Belgium, Corporal Stitt sustained wounds, forcing him to serve out the remainder of the war in England with the 95th Bomb Group.*

*Needless to say, the opportunities to witness presentations like this are extremely rare. Within this unique setting, to be in the presence of these brave and noble heroes of WWII, surrounded by the war-birds and equipment that helped them along their way, further magnify their efforts to liberate France and Europe as a whole from oppression and tyranny.*

*Their relentless effort, their bravery, their dedication to duty, and their honor which carried them to absolute victory, the Legion d'honneur medal recognizes those endearing characteristics. Conceived over two centuries ago by Napoleon Bonaparte, First Consul of the First Republic of France, the Ordre national de la Legion d'honneur was devised to reward eminent military and civil merits in the service of France. Despite the march of time, the award is still the highest distinction that can be bestowed upon those who have met that exacting criteria and accomplished those great deeds.*



Eric P. Montgomery speaking  
at the event.

*See next page for pictures of the event*





*L to R Seated:* Walter B. Stitt and Leonard Giorgio  
*L to R Standing:* Professor (Retired) Richard M. Berrong, Kent State University;  
 Maj Gen (Retired US Army) Deborah Ashenhurt, Director, Ohio Dept. Veterans Services;  
 Consul General Yannick Tagand, Consul General of France to the Midwest;  
 Colonel (Retired US Army) Reed Kimball, MAPS Director of Education; and  
 Eric P. Montgomery, Event Coordinator



*Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur.* The two medals before they were presented to Giorgio and Stitt.



American and French Flags lined the entryway to MAPS for the event, courtesy of Steve Toohey's Operation Flags of Freedom.



MAPS curator, Scott Denniss, created a display of WWII uniforms, insignias and medals earned by Giorgio and Stitt.



The audience listening to Professor Berrong.

The entire program can be viewed on MAPS YouTube Channel. Access through our website, choose Created Playlists, Scroll right to General Videos, View Playlist. Click on one of the two videos of the program.

# The Legacy of the American Veteran

*Speech delivered by Reed Kimball, Col. USAR (Ret), MAPS Director of Education, on the occasion of presentation of the French Legion d'honneur to two Ohio WWII veterans. (see pages 4&5)*



Ladies and gentlemen, it is my distinct pleasure to speak before you this morning. I can only hope that my remarks are worthy of this day, of this event and of our honorees.

I do not intend to talk about myself or what I have accomplished in my career as an Army officer. I am simply a small town boy who wanted to honorably serve my Nation and promote the values that I learned from my father and three uncles who served in past conflicts. I would rather talk to you today about what it means to serve ones Nation and what veterans have shown us about service and sacrifice.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt once wrote, “Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them.” A veteran is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with freedom and that the costs of those freedoms are often paid for by those that choose to wear a uniform.

Our veterans are drawn from several generations and many backgrounds. They are Americans who still serve in the continuing War on Terrorism, those that recall the swift conflict of the Persian Gulf War, the long Cold War vigil, the heat of Vietnam, the bitter cold of Korea and, for fewer and fewer of a rapidly vanishing generation, the long march across Europe and the Pacific.

For those that have served, what I am about to say should be all too familiar. For those that have never served, what is a VETERAN?

A veteran is someone, sometime young, sometimes bent with age who always seems to stand a little taller when listening to simple melody called the “Star Spangled Banner” or reciting a pledge to a flag.

A veteran stands and salutes a colorful piece of cloth when it passes in a parade, when it is raised or lowered on a flagpole or folded in a ceremony as a symbol of more than just a nation, but a measure of respect to all that have served it and a remembrance of those that have gone before us.

A veteran is one who repeatedly finds emotions that they try to keep hidden deep inside when hearing a simple bugle melody called TAPS, or sheds a tear when they see a flag-draped coffin because they know what it represents better than most, or gets a lump in their throat when a song or a picture or even a smell brings back memories of far off battlefields and of comrades that have gone before them.

A large and ever-growing portion of our population does not understand what a veteran is and will never know what it is like to be a veteran, a demographic that is still changing. Of those in this nation today who are over the age of 65, 49% are veterans. Looking at those between the ages of 18 and 35, less than 4% of the American population have served or will ever serve in this Nation’s armed forces.

Because of this change, the legacy of the American veteran has been lost to a generation of Americans. That is why this venue is so appropriate for this event. You are sitting in a museum that is dedicated to preserving that legacy. We tell their stories so that the service and sacrifice of the American veteran will never be forgotten. They are all here. From a young African-American from Massillon, Ohio who was awarded the Medal of Honor during the American Civil War to a young man from Perry Township, Ohio killed by an Improvised Explosive Device in Iraq. You can view in our collection a piece of the battleship U.S.S. Arizona, a ship that still rests in the calm waters of Pearl Harbor and a display honoring a young Zanesville, Ohio woman who was the only American female combat casualty in the War in Vietnam. We exist to tell of their service and sacrifice as they no longer can.

For many veterans, we have reached a time when the torch must be passed to a new generation to carry. We experienced

*Reed’s speech continued on the following page*



## The Legacy of the American Veteran *continued...*

The challenges of either maintaining a fragile peace or of waging war in order to bring back a seemingly elusive peace. We often returned victorious but have also returned to be ridiculed and spit upon by those we have taken an oath to protect. However, as veterans, we share a bond that cannot be broken – a bond that connects us together like no other. The camaraderie we shared in military service and those that we served with will remain in our hearts and define us till the day we die. We accepted as a sacred duty, the task of protecting the freedoms drafted by our founding fathers. Unlike a majority of the population who believe that the freedoms they enjoy are a birthright guaranteed by simply being born in this country, these individuals stepped forward and gave part of their lives to protect those same freedoms. Many gave their all.

That is the legacy of the American servicemen and women – a legacy of service and sacrifice that must be preserved and passed on to future generations before the concepts of duty, honor and country are forgotten. An American philosopher once wrote “Those that cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it”. The danger in not remembering the sacrifices made by the men and women that have earned the right to the title “veteran” is that we, as a nation, may forget that the price of freedom is never cheap.

To the two veterans that we honor today, please allow this one old veteran to thank you for your service and to congratulate you on the honor you are receiving.



## MAPS Mourns a Loss

**Dorothy June Curie 1946 - 2022**



Dorothy June Curie, 76, of Medina passed away peacefully on May 26, 2022 at the Cleveland Clinic Justin T. Rogers Hospice Care Center in Akron with her family by her side.

She was born March 23, 1946 in Wooster, Ohio to Richard and Mary (nee Ziegler) Stahl.

Dorothy, affectionately known as “Dottie” or “Sis” to her friends and family, was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend to many. She leaves behind a son Craig Curie (Heidi), granddaughter Amanda Fintel (Kyle), grandsons Chad and Brandon Curie, great-granddaughter Kate Fintel, a brother Dick Stahl (Bonnie), nieces and their families and many cousins including Belinda Carnes (Kevin) who was like a sister to her.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Dorothy was an avid baker, and loved to share her cookies at various flea markets, craft shows and MAPS Air Museum where she had many friends that will miss her greatly. She was a free spirit and was blessed to travel and go places whenever she had the opportunity. Dorothy loved spending time with her grandkids and great-nieces and nephews, and spoiling them at any opportunity. She had a kind heart and really cared about others.

MAPS is especially sad to lose our beloved “*Cookie Lady*.” Dottie was a welcome sight at many of MAPS events, and her wonderful cookies almost always sold out by the end of the day. One MAPS member would buy up a supply of cookies to keep in her freezer until the next event.

Rest in Peace our dear Dottie!



## MP-447th Returns Home

Family and friends gathered at MAPS recently and anxiously awaited the return of Soldiers who had been deployed in Saudi Arabia and Qatar for the past 10 months.

The MP-447th is an Army Reserve Military Police Company based in North Canton with a history spanning 54 years. The Unit was activated in Wooster, OH in 1968 and has been in North Canton since 2006.



Smiles, hugs and happy tears in abundance!

The family side of deployments



THANK YOU!



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## MAPS Member Orientation

After the membership meeting on Saturday, September 10th, there will be a new member orientation. Kim Kovesci will give a short presentation on the history and mission of MAPS and department managers will speak about all the things we do here at MAPS and a myriad of volunteer opportunities.

MAPS is a volunteer organization that year to date has documented over 30,000 hours. This equates to almost \$800,000 in unpaid labor costs according to Washington, DC based Independent Sector. The dedication of our volunteers is what keeps our doors open and we have lots of fun doing it!

We'd love for you to be part of our volunteer team. If you have a few hours a week or an occasional few hours to help out, here are a few areas that might spark your interest:

***Research, genealogy, gift shop, groundskeeping, gardening, library, archives, curator department, maintenance, housekeeping, aircraft restoration, sound technician, videography, tour guide, school groups, events, event set-up, food service, parking, BSA/Girl Scouts, writing for displays/newsletter, data entry, and membership records.***

Even if you're not a brand new member, but would like to see what we're all about, please join us.

The membership meeting is at 11AM in the Banquet Hall and lunch will be provided afterward - including the monthly birthday cake! The orientation starts at 1 PM. See you then!!

## MAPS Mourns a Loss

### Lt. Col. Leslie Peine, USAF Ret. - 1945-2022



Lt. Col. Leslie Allen Peine, Chaplain, USAF, Ret., 77, of Chardon, passed away August 10, 2022. Les was born in Painesville, on May 19, 1945 to the late Lester and Thelma Peine. He was a graduate of Chardon H.S., Mt. Union and MTSO. Les retired from The United Methodist Church, E.O.C., having served many area churches. He was a member of Rotary, Kiwanis, MAPS Air Museum, Civil Air Patrol, The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, SAM Center, Massillon Medal of Honor Steering Committee, American Legion Post 221, IMPACT Massillon, M.O.A.A., Mt. Union Alliance Chorale, and SK K8CP. He is survived by his loving wife, Beryl Anne (Berger) Peine; children, Mark A.(Leigh) Peine, Susan E.(Nick Laughton) Peine and Sarah R.(Jarod) Oldham; five grandchildren; siblings, Karen S.(Rich) Knierim and Connie J. (Warren)Williams; and sister-in-law, Susan I. Peine. Les was preceded in death by his brother, William J. Peine.

Less was the chaplain at MAPS and he participated in many MAPS events. He will be greatly missed!



# Thoughts on the Hall of Fame Parade

*By Doug Perry, MAPS Marketing Manager*

Well, MAPS has taken part in another Hall of Fame Parade. Some may wonder why we put in so much time to do so.

First, the most obvious reason is to market the museum to the many thousands of people who both live in Northeast Ohio and those who come into the area each year to take part in the festival and see their favorite player honored by being inducted into their museum. This year was no different. In fact, there seemed to be more people than usual who attended the parade in downtown Canton.

But, there are other reasons we put all the things into the parade that we do. At least for me. Yes, I am the Marketing Manager for MAPS and marketing for our museum is indeed very important but, I find our taking part in the parade also fulfills one of our core mission items. History!



As some of you may know, I have for the past few years been riding in the parade in Jim Cassler's World War II era jeep dressed as General MacArthur. Jim is dressed as a Lieutenant who is driving the General. There is a 48 star flag on one side and a red five star flag on the other and the jeep pulls the Iwo Jima memorial trailer. We have been leading our group, followed by Jim's group of World War II re-enactors, another military vehicle carrying MAPS personnel, Kim Kovesci pulling the Cobra, followed by Ted Mathies and his utility vehicle.

Mr. Cassler and I have begun to count the number of times that people yell "hey General", or "it's MacArthur", "that's some pipe", etc. I am really pleased when people recognize just who it is I am dressed as and the significance of the corn

cob pipe I chew on during the parade. It shows that some know a little history and I sometimes see young people asking just "who is that" and adults starting to explain.

Now I have to say that this year I believe we got about three "General Pattons." I know... I know... but think about that for a second - at least they know the name Patton and that he was a General. And, they are talking about it at least for a second.

In some small way we are bringing history to the forefront for some of these folks in the midst of them enjoying a parade with their football heroes, bands, bikes, cars, and performers of all kinds. No easy task!

Now back to marketing. Once people see the World War II unit, then they see the Cobra coming, we get a lot of "Thank You" and "Thank You for your service" comments along the route. We also get a lot of "wows" when they see the Cobra with MAPS name on each side coming down the street.

Each time we do a parade, our efforts show thousands of people our name and a sample of what we do at MAPS. And even though it is a bit of work - it is a bit of fun too! I know those folks from out of state enjoy the parade. I have spoken to someone from *VisitCanton* who said people have told them that the parade was "the best they have seen". Someone else asked, with some disbelief in their voice, "you do this every year?!"

Once again our staff and volunteers have served and represented our organization and Northeast Ohio well. Job well done!



A tribute wall in the Louise Timken Library honors the many MAPS veterans and their military family members. James Byerly traces his military tree back to a drummer boy in the Civil War!

Many thanks and much gratitude to our very own MAPS heroes this Veterans Day!

# ★ ★ Restoration Magic! ★ ★

*By Marylou Thompson, Briefing Editor*

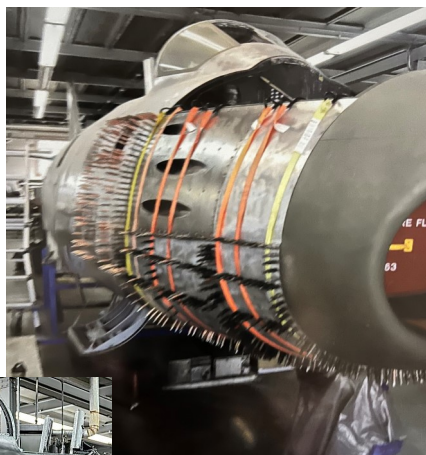
This F-86A Sabre arrived at MAPS in April of 2014 on loan from the Air Force Museum. It had been in storage there for 10 years and as you can see, she was in great need of restoration magic from our talented restoration crew! When she is completed, this rare and historic (there are very few left in the world) aircraft will join the F-86D currently on display.



The F-86 was produced as both a fighter-interceptor and a fighter-bomber. Both carried six .50-caliber M3 Browning machine guns with an electrically-assisted feed in the nose that fired them at a rate of 1,200 rounds per minute. The first flight of these transonic jets was in 1947 and they were the first swept wing fighter which could counter the similarly-winged Soviet MiG-15 in high speed dogfights over the skies of the Korean war. The F-86A was considered one of the best and most important fighters during the war in Korea. This aircraft was also highly rated in comparison to fighters of other eras and set its first official world speed record of 670 mph in 1948.

Our plane (Serial #48-0263) has quite a history. Not only is she a combat veteran of the Korean War, she participated in the Thompson Trophy Race (Jet Division) National Air Races in Cleveland in 1949. The winner of that race was Captain Bruce Cunningham who was flying "our" plane and reached a speed of 586.173 mph doing 10 laps of a 15 mile circuit.

Since the spring of 2014, the F-86A has undergone extensive restoration under the guidance of Crew Chief Chet Starn. A total of 9409 volunteer hours have been logged as of June 1, 2022. The following pictures will highlight some of the magic that has occurred!



The nose of the plane had considerable damage and new lower nose panels were needed to repair it. It wasn't a piece that could easily be fabricated - it had to be a "real" piece from a real plane.

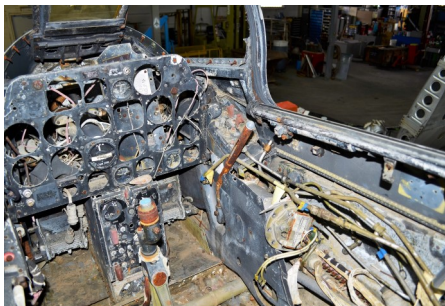
Chet ended up traveling to Tuscon, AZ where he was able to get the panels. Imagine his dismay when he returned home and realized that both panels he had gotten were for the right side of the aircraft!



With creativity and ingenuity, Chet was able to fabricate one right side panel to fit the left side. Note the far right picture with straps and clecos. This was how Chet was able to draw and clamp them together while maintaining the desired alignment and preventing distortion of the pieces. Magic!

*More pictures on the following page*





Cockpit instrument panel as it looked before restoration.



Cockpit instrument panel as it looks after restoration.



Actual gauges for the F-86A are almost impossible to find! A little magic by Al Petschauer on his 3-D printer created the one to the left. He made several and if you didn't know, you'd never know they weren't the real deal.



Primed and ready for the Sherwin-Williams Silver-Brite final coat which will produce a chrome-like uniform appearance.



Kathy Jo Wells, in protective gear, testing the new paint. It works! It looks like chrome!



The F-86A has come a long way but still has a long way to go until it can be displayed. The first week in August, the wings were wheeled out and placed on flat platforms so they can be restored and painted. It is hoped that by mid-September the wings can be attached and restoration will continue in the hangar over the winter.

Chet Starn and his crew have done an amazing job restoring this plane. Many of the restoration volunteers have worked on this plane since 2014 but of particular mention are: **Carl Bergsneider, Mike Bilderback, Ron Duplain, Dave Gibson, Jim Jackson, Tim Petroff, Al Petschauer and Bob Warren.**

Last year, Chet turned the Crew Chief reins over to Ken Ramsay and he is now working on the Beechcraft and the Corsair.



An F-86A in flight



## ★ Focus on Volunteers ★



In 1994, this was the starting point for our B-26. Over 14,000 restoration hours went into bringing this Marauder back to life.

Above is Dave Pawski posing in the cockpit of his “baby” - the B-26 Marauder. He has worked on this plane as Crew Chief since shortly after he joined MAPS in 1996 and was still making improvements as recently as last year.

Dave hails from the Willoughby/Painesville area and graduated in 1991 from the Univ. of Cincinnati with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. In 1996, he moved to Cuyahoga Falls for a job opportunity and he currently works for a packaging company where he has been since 2000. Dave met his long-time significant other, Kerrylynn, on-line in 2003 and they have been together almost 20 years.

As with many of MAPS volunteers, Dave didn’t find MAPS, MAPS found him! Dave had seen a flier for one of our pancake breakfasts from a former co-worker and remembered it. About the same time, he had seen an article in a Willoughby paper about a B-26 that had been part of a local museum that closed. At the time, Dave thought that he would love to work on a plane like that. Little did he know, that plane had found its way to MAPS and so did he.

Dave also belongs to the B-26 Marauder Historical Society that works to preserve the memory of the 300,000 men and women who were involved with the Martin B-26 Marauder during World War II. The Society hosted a reunion event here at MAPS in 2014.

Dave got his pilot license in 1998 and went on to become instrument rated on a Cessna. He was flying on the morning of September 11, 2001 when US Airspace was shut down after the Twin Towers were hit. He had to land at the closest airport which was a small airport in Salem, OH and just happened to be his intended destination. Someone generously offered to give him a ride home that day. When airspace was reopened to non-commercial flights, Dave’s instructor had to file a flight plan with Cleveland Flight Center before he could go and pick up the plane.

Well, Dave is not just into just into planes! He belongs to the NEO Mustang Club and shows a beautifully restored 1978 Mustang Cobra II. He did almost all of the restoration himself, including body and paint work. He also has a black 1977 Mustang Cobra II and you can’t miss the sound when Dave leaves MAPS after a long day’s work in restoration.

Although Dave wasn’t in the military, both of his grandfathers served during WWII. His maternal grandfather was in the USN and worked as an aircraft mechanic on a support aircraft carrier. He worked on Corsairs and now, his grandson, Dave is working on our Corsair in restoration. His paternal grandfather was a Glider Flight Instructor in Europe.

When asked what the best thing about MAPS is, Dave said it’s the people and the opportunities that volunteers have here. He said when he first joined, he remembers sitting around with the “first generation folks” as he calls them, and listening to them tell stories and laughing as they frequently played jokes on each other.

Dave, we sincerely thank you for sharing your incredible passion and talents and for being part of the MAPS family!



# A Medal Well Travelled

*By Scott Denniss, Curatorial Department*



On January 21, 1945, U.S. Army Air Force Navigator 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Ed Franta flew his first bombing mission aboard the B-17 Flying Fortress named “Cruisin’ Cradle”. He would go on to fly 36 more missions before the end of the war.

Lt. Franta flew out of Knettishall Airfield England with the 653<sup>rd</sup> Bomber Squadron of the 388<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, mighty 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force. At some point during his service he was awarded a United States Army Air Force Air Medal. This unique medal was inscribed and awarded in England. What makes this particular medal unique is the elegant inscription “For Exceptionally Meritorious Achievement” followed by his name. This type of inscription is unique to the 388<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group and was only issued this way for a brief time. It is not known exactly how many Air Medals were inscribed this way and awarded. Today they are known as “FEMA” Air Medals, FEMA being the first letters in the four words of the inscription. These medals are highly coveted by collectors and extremely valuable. Though there were possibly

several hundred or thousand issued this way, my research indicates that there are currently fewer than ten FEMA Medals known to have survived. Assuredly there are more out there but they just haven’t turned up yet.

So let’s fast forward in time a bit. Ed Franta returned to his hometown of Canton, Ohio after his honorable service in WW II. He was married for 59 years, raised a family and lived a full life until his passing in 2002. In 2006 his widow donated his military uniform, including the Air Medal, to the Ohio Military Museum where it was proudly displayed.

In 2015 the Ohio Military Museum moved to its current home here at MAPS. Sometime after that, this medal and other artifacts were stolen from the museum. The perpetrator was identified and successfully prosecuted. But through no fault of the Museum, the medal was never recovered.

Several years later, Mr. Franta’s name and several others of missing medals were circulated among a vast network of military historians and collectors. Unfortunately there was never any positive response. That is, until 2022 when a local collector contacted the Museum. They had recently purchased a small collection of militaria of which the medal was part. Fortunately, they remembered the name and contacted us to return the medal and Lt. Franta’s Navigator wings at no cost to the Museum. Unfortunately, the seller was never identified. But through the honesty and generosity of the local collector who wishes to remain anonymous, two important artifacts have been returned to their proper place.

The MAPS and Ohio Military Museums are special places with very important missions. Incredible things happen here which cannot be explained but yet they further and enhance our mission of preserving, honoring and educating. I think this is one of those cases. All those that dishonestly possessed the medal never knew its true value. Had they known, they wouldn’t have sold it for the mere pittance that they did. Everything happens for a reason and karma, both good and bad, always comes back around.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Franta’s grouping is currently on display in the main lobby.



*Happy Veterans Day to all who served!*

# 10th Annual Veterans Day Celebration

*By Valerie Kinney, Veteran Program Coordinator*

Many of us remember where we were on September 11, 2001. Kids who were babies at that time, grew up to serve in the same war. After 20 years, the United States ended its involvement in Afghanistan in August of 2021.

MAPS Air Museum will celebrate Veterans Day Celebration X on November 12, 2022. We will not dedicate an aircraft this year, but will recognize all the men and women who have served our country in the Global War on Terror. We are very proud of all those who served!

In our museum, we have a display called "The Fallen Feathers". (See our website under Exhibits) The feathers are carved by Ohio woodcarvers, on native Ohio wood, for each Ohio man or woman who was killed during the War on Terror. This display was created by Graham Webb. He carved the first feather and he has carved the last feather for Corpsman Max Soviak, the last Ohioan KIA. This feather will be presented to the family to place in the display.

The Veterans committee would like to create a video(s) for the program, using pictures from those who served during the Global War on Terror. Pictures should include the veteran. Examples: with military unit, with locals, at welcome homes, holidays overseas, etc. Please send no more than 5 pictures and include your name, rank, location, unit name, etc. This includes Gold Star families too. You can send via email (.jpg file) to [kinney.valerie@mapsairmuseum.org](mailto:kinney.valerie@mapsairmuseum.org), mail hard copies to MAPS Air Museum/ Attn: Valerie Kinney, 2260 International Parkway, North Canton, OH 44720, or drop them off at the MAPS gift shop. We will try to include as many photos as possible. Please make sure I have these no later than October 10, 2022

Reservation forms for the event can be picked up in the lobby at MAPS or request one via email. The program is: Saturday, November 12, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM - 8:30 PM

- ◆ Registration/Social Hour will begin at 4:00 PM.
- ◆ Buffet will begin at 5:00 PM.
- ◆ Program will begin at 6:00 PM.
- ◆ Museum will remain open for guests until 8:30 PM.

Attire: Military dress for veterans and business casual for civilians.

Cost: \$25.00 per person, reserve a whole table for six to eight people for an additional \$20.00.

We look forward to seeing you there to help us honor our Veterans!

## Upcoming Events

### SEPTEMBER

WED, SEP 7	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, SEP 10	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM
SUN, SEP 11	PANCAKE BREAKFAST	8 AM - 1 PM
FRI, SEP 16 AND		
SAT, SEP 17	VETERAN RESOURCE FAIR	10 AM - 3 PM

### OCTOBER

WED, OCT 5	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, OCT 8	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM
SAT, OCT 22	POLITAL & POP CULTURE	9 AM - 4 PM
SUN, OCT 23	MILITARY COLLECTORS	9 AM - 4 PM
SAT, OCT 29	LAFLAVOUR DINNER/DANCE	5:00-10 PM
SUN, OCT 30	ANNUAL HAM FEST	8 AM - 4 PM

### NOVEMBER

WED, NOV 9	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, NOV 12	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM
SAT, NOV 12	VETERANS DAY GALA	4 PM - 8:30 PM

### DECEMBER

WED, DEC 8	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, DEC 10	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM
SAT, DEC 3	VOLUNTEER X-MAS PARTY	6 PM
SUN, DEC 4	SANTA FLY-IN	TBA

### 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.**

## ★ 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!



## MAPS Anniversaries

May 1, 2022 to July 31, 2022

**\*\* designates Family Membership**

### 30 YEARS

Minor, Peg \*\*  
Johnson, Richard \*\*  
Petersen, Ronald

### 20 YEARS

Baker, Jim \*\*  
Johnson, Vickie \*\*  
Courtney, David

### 15 YEARS

Reynolds Family \*\*  
Sahyers, Chuck \*\*  
Weaver, Dan

### 10 YEARS

McKinstry, Clair  
Tolerton, Joyce  
Warren, Robert\*\*  
Boyea, Jim & Jan \*\*

Kettler, Rick

Slutz, Clyde  
Saurer, Mark

### 5 YEARS

Bonnell, Dana \*\*  
Hanna, Mark \*\*  
Ryan, Calvin \*\*  
McMasters, John \*\*  
Rush, Mackenzie \*\*  
Marusiak, Ted  
McCool, James \*\*  
Dillon, Maria \*\*

## CONGRATULATIONS

Thank You For Your  
Continued Support!

## New Members

May 1, 2022 to July 31, 2022

**\*\* designates Family Membership**

Allen, Wallace	Knappenberger, Jim
Altland, Matthew **	Koonce, Tahrieg
Black, Joseph **	Kot, Michael
Boyea, Bridget	Kral, Andrew **
Brown, Kenneth **	Lang, Andrew **
Cazzolli Sr, Robert **	Martinak, Joann **
Cole, Tim **	McGuyrt, Grady
Cox, Amanda **	Mitchell, Jason
Davis, Patrick	Mullins, Luinda **
Dean, Patricia **	Parfitt, David
Dearborn, Joanna **	Reitz, Michael
Donahue, Colleen **	Riddle, Johnny
Dreussi, Romon **	Runer, Evelyn
Evans, Richard **	Schoenberger, Penny
Faass, Robert	Shanofski, Ian
Fanty, Kenneth**	Sherwood, Jack **
Gliozzi, Debbie **	



A Warm MAPS Welcome!



## T-34 Fly In - September 11 - Pancake Breakfast

### One day - Two Great Events!

MAPS will host a Fly In of T-34's from Sept 9 - Sept 11. They are a part of the T-34 Association that specialize in formation flying. The group will be flying formations during the weekend in support of several September 11th ceremonies. The visit was coordinated by **Mike Grossman** who owns **Castle Aviation** and is also a member of the T-34 Association.

The T-34 was a trainer aircraft used by the USAF from the early 50s through the early 60s. The USN also used the T-34 as a trainer from the early 50s until the mid-70s.

Those attending the fall pancake breakfast will have a front row seat to see these amazing planes fly in formation. Don't miss it!



# MAPS

## AIR MUSEUM

*Where History Takes Flight!*

2260 International Parkway  
North Canton OH 44720  
Phone 330-896-6332

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The BRIEFING Newsletter  
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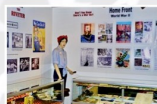


**COME FOR THE AIRCRAFT**  
*Stay for the History*

**MAPS**  
**AIR MUSEUM**  
*Where History Takes Flight!*

Find us on  @mapsairmuseum or [www.mapsairmuseum.org](http://www.mapsairmuseum.org)

Please check our Website or Facebook page for current hours.



**WALK-THROUGH TOURS:** (No Reservation Required)

Adults - \$15 • Children (Ages 6-12) - \$8 • Children under 6 - Free  
Discounts for Veterans, Active Duty Personnel and Seniors.

Group discount available for 15 or more with prearranged reservation.

**Just 3 Miles off Interstate 77 • Just 9 minutes from the Pro Football Hall of Fame**

MAPS Air Museum is located on the west side of the Akron Canton Airport in the  
CAK International Business Park • 2260 International Parkway (at the very end) off Massillon Rd. City of Green  
330.896.6332 • [www.mapsairmuseum.org](http://www.mapsairmuseum.org)

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

## Mark Your Calendars!

Pancake  
Breakfast



Last Pancake Breakfast  
of the year!!  
Sunday, September 11th  
8 AM - 1 PM  
Includes T-34 Fly In - see  
page 15 for more info



LaFlavour Dinner/Dance  
October 29th  
5:00 PM to 10 PM



10th Annual Veterans  
Day Celebration  
Saturday, Nov. 12th  
See page 14 for details