

Thoughts from the Executive Director

By Kim Kovesci, MAPS Executive Director

Future Organizational Activities

At the beginning of the COVID Epidemic, we were in the middle of a 10-year plan to renovate the second floor of our main hangar. We were able to complete the last 5 years of the plan during the COVID lockdown. This major accomplishment created the need for the MAPS Board of Directors to revisit our strategic plan. From this planning session emerged four major goals.

Population

The first goal was to populate the second floor rooms. Since the strategic planning meeting, we have made significant progress with some of the rooms.

- The Art Gallery is open and being viewed.
- The F-100 Gallery is open and being viewed.
- The Bob Hope Gallery artifacts are being inventoried.
- The Vietnam Gallery walls are being prepared, cabinets staged, stories being written, mannequins being assembled and dressed. The Gallery will consist of three rooms.

Reorganize

The second goal was to reorganize MAPS into an organizational structure that will allow us to meet our current growth and guide us for many years to come. As our organization travels through its life cycle, especially during a growth cycle, there is a need to make adjustments in order to meet new challenges. MAPS will begin to evolve from **building** the or-

ganization to **maintaining** the organization. We have talked about this phenomenon many times and there will be a new skillset required by management to move us forward.

In addition to the evolution, we need to be able to compensate for the retirement of Mac MacFarland as the Financial Manager, the retirement of Reed Kimball as the Education Director in October 2024 and the eventual retirement of Kim Kovesci as the Executive Director.

We have been successful in the finance area by the addition of Roger Hurbst as the Financial Manager. Reed and Kim's duties will be addressed

Kim's article continued on the following page

MAPS WINTER HOURS

January 1, 2024 To
March 4, 2024

HOURS OF OPERATION

SUNDAY	11:30 - 4:00
MONDAY	CLOSED
TUESDAY	CLOSED
WEDNESDAY	CLOSED
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...*

during the redesign of the organization. These duties will be assigned throughout the organization and will focus on maintenance of existing programs.

We believe the organization will peak at this next growth segment from 35,000 to 50,000 visitors. We have always believed that the renovation of the 2nd floor will add about 10,000 visitors to our totals. Therefore, we will design the organization to maintain a level of 50,000 visitors with the new organization.



The changes in the organization will be presented to the Board of Directors as recommendations. All recommended changes to the organizational structure and any hiring decisions are required to be approved by the MAPS Board of Directors.

Youth Involvement

We currently have three BSA Troops, a WWII Reenactor BSA Venture and a Civil Air Patrol Group. This goal focuses on getting more of our youth involved in MAPS support and Youth Education.

We started something new during our pancake breakfasts. In the past, we have had the youth groups help with parking, cleanup, sometimes recruitment tables and manning encampment areas.

This year we added stations at the C-47 and C-130.

- The 1944 Crew, WWII Reenactors stage themselves by the C-47 to tell the story of the aircraft during WWII and show our visitors around the airplane.
- The Civil Air Patrol takes up staging positions in the C-130 to tell the history of the aircraft along with explaining to our visitors the three missions; medical, personnel and cargo.

We have been requested to work with the CAP Cadets to teach some aviation maintenance techniques such as soldering, riveting and sheet metal working.

Reed conducts the Air Academy which is a program held on Sundays where a student and their guardian attend 10 sessions of aviation categories. These sessions have been full with a waiting list so Reed has had to add additional sessions.

Women assigned to the C-130s from Youngstown coordinated a training program for our Troup 7335 which is a female troop within BSA.

Reed has utilized some of his content from the Air Academy to present to the Civil Air Patrol and BSA Troops as part of their normal meetings.

Additional Hangar

When we were doing the strategic planning, we had two significant repair projects that needed to be completed before we considered revisiting an additional hangar. They were the repair of the awning on the Restoration Building and the replacement of the Substation for the Main Hangar. Both of these projects require significant funding even though grants may be requested.

Another issue that is holding up starting an additional hangar is making sure we can cover the added operating costs such as utilities, insurance and maintenance. This will require an analysis of the budget with the new payroll levels to determine our financial position.

We have completed the repair of the awning on the restoration building and are waiting on drawing approval for the replacement of the hangar substation. The reorganization will occur in January and February with an analysis of financial position being performed in March. This will determine if an additional hangar project can be revisited.

Summary

All four goals focus on preparing MAPS for the future whether it be in completing museum space, reassignment of duties, getting the youth more involved or building a new home for our aircraft. We have made a tremendous amount of progress over the past 12 years and I think we should all be very proud of our accomplishments. Now is the time to look into the future and set up the organization for success long after we are gone.

Thank you for your support and friendship. - Kim

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

Drew Maser

GIFT SHOP

Bob Hollis

LIBRARY

Barb Johnston

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

HANGAR MANAGER / SECURITY

Dave Conner

TOUR COORDINATOR

Reed Kimball

TREASURER

Roger Herbst

WEBSITE & WEBMASTER

Ron Schultz

The Cornered Curator

By Scott Denniss, Collections Manager

The journalistic musings of a disinclined raconteur



“Space”, it’s not the final frontier. It’s the answer to a question I’m frequently asked. “What’s the number one thing I would like to have at the museum?” Space... display space, storage space and work space. I doubt there’s another museum curator who would disagree with me.

The museum has thousands of artifacts in storage, over a thousand uniforms alone. We have three main storage areas all of which are filling up. We have two main galleries both of which are getting pretty well maxed out with displays. Could we add more artifacts to the display cases? Yes, of course we could but they would look like disheveled cases at an antique mall. Could we put more things on the walls? Sure, but good luck trying to see, let alone read them ten feet up on the wall. Could we rotate



Absolutely! Rotating displays is part of the plan for the curators department. It’s just a matter of having the manpower and time to do it. The current focus of the curators department is completing the Vietnam War gallery and completing an inventory of everything in our collections. Once all of the galleries are completed, then we can start working on a rotation procedure. When the inventory is finished we can start de-accessing things. We are reevaluating our storage methods and always looking for more efficient ways to safely store items. We are constantly looking for new ways to display items that will maximize the space available.

So how did we get to this point you ask. Well, there are a couple reasons. When the museum first opened, there wasn’t much to display. So the curators took most of the donations that were offered. That doesn’t include the stuff just left at the front doors after hours or donations accepted by MAPS members on behalf of the museum. In addition, the museum absorbed the Ohio Military Museum, complete with all of their holdings.

In the last few years we have become very selective. As a general rule, we won’t accept anything unless it has a potential use. This year alone we have turned down almost as many donations as we accepted. These are usually things we have in triplicate or things that don’t fit within the mission of the museum. A collection of French Foreign Legion badges is cool but a bit out of our lane.

Don’t get me wrong, we want to look at any potential donation or loan. The galleries are full of incredible donations and loans. But please don’t get upset when we turn down your collection of airplane calendars from 1999 or a used crankcase oil from a M4 Sherman tank - we just don’t have the space!

Veterans Program XI



November 11, 2023 marked MAPS 11th Annual Veterans Program honoring the 179th Airlift Wing and the 164th Airlift Squadron from the Ohio Mansfield-Lahm Air National Guard Base. Over 300 attendees helped to celebrate the end of a flying legacy as the 179th was redesignated to become the first Cyberspace Wing in the country. The 179th has been a flying unit dating back more than 70 years.

Col. Darren Hamilton, Wing Commander of the newly formed 179th Cyberspace Wing addressed the group as did Col. Reed Kimball, US Army (Ret), MAPS Education Director, who spoke about the meaning of “home” to a veteran.

Because of the Wing’s redesignation, their fleet of aging C-130s were retired. The last C-130, the “*Spirit of Mansfield*” Tail #4401 left Mansfield-Lahm in July of 2022 for demilitarization and on January 7, 2023 she arrived at her final home - MAPS. She is a beauty and the largest in MAPS inventory of over 50 aircraft.



C-130 “*Spirit of Mansfield*”



C-130 seen through hangar door windows

Another part of the evening’s celebration was for the man who worked tirelessly to obtain this C-130 for MAPS - Brig. Gen. Ray Weber, USAF (Ret.). Ray is an active MAPS volunteer and you can read much more about him on Page 14.

Kim Kovesci, MAPS Executive Director, presented Ray with a plaque dedicating the “*Spirit of Mansfield*” to him. Ray’s name has been painted on the nose of the plane, just below the pilot’s window.



Kim Kovesci (on right) presenting dedication plaque to Ray Weber. Ray’s son Mark watches from the foreground.



L-R: Maj. Gen Mark Weber (Son of Ray Weber), Brig. Gen. Ray Weber, USAF (Ret.) and Lt. Col. Chuck Tyburski, USAF (Ret.), who flew with Ray in the 1960s.

MAPS Anniversaries

August 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023

*** designates Family Membership*

25 YEARS

Haines, Rita
Stella, Bob**

20 YEARS

Barracato, Bill**
Cassler, James**

15 YEARS

Bistransky, Anthony**
Cramer, Arlene
Johnson, Dave**
Murdoch, Arthur**
Swift, Scott**

10 YEARS

Hawkins, Gerald
Kunkle, Steve
Perry, Douglas**
Pinkerton, Brian
Truex, Don
Vogeleang, George**

5 YEARS

Warehime, Joe**

CONGRATULATIONS

Thank You For Your Continued Support!



New Members

August 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023

*** designates Family Membership*

Albert, Michael**	Krach, Jeff**
Adams, Taylor-Lyn**	Lavoie, Kasey
Anderson, Amy**	Marsi, Gabor
Anter, Amy**	McNutt, Conner
Bair, Mason	McNutt, David**
Barzan, Tracy**	Metz, Sean**
Blaine, Jim	Mullen, Daniel
Cannon, Maria**	Myers, Joseph
Conner, Gary	Myers, Richard
Conochan, Patrick**	Obratil, Michael**
Courtney, Ann**	Owens, Tamar
Cramer, Kenneth**	Patterson, Roger**
DeVitis, Jo Ellen**	Peterson, John**
Diederich, Jeffrey**	Petit, Charles**
Doherty, Shaun**	Pettorini, Robert
Edwards, Gaylord**	Priest, Rebecca**
Eley, Kristin**	Sangdahl, Lou**
Gittinger, James**	Semroc, Judy
Gosiaco, Taylor**	Sergeuk, Lisa**
Haky, Stephen	Swank, J. Jonathan**
Harbaugh, Tammara	Tadayon, Karri**
Hayda, Henry**	Valdez, Emilia
Hayes, Michael**	Van Eeden, Renette**
Horrocks, Robert**	Van Sickle, Roger**
Hull, Rcihard**	Vela, William**
Jackson III, Harvey**	Warner, Tamara**
James, Mitchell	Westfall, Leland**
Kerr, Donald**	Wickus, Scott**
kiesel, Julie**	Zakrajsek, James**
King, Edward**	Zelenko, Jim**
Kotapish, Edward**	



A Warm MAPS Welcome!



THE WAR IN VIETNAM

Part 2: Build-Up (1950-1965)

“War is a place where the young kill one another without knowing or hating each other, because of the decision of old people who know and hate each other, without killing each other.”

Erich Hartmann - World War II German Fighter Pilot (1922 – 1993)

By Reed Kimball, MAPS Education Director

The primary military organizations involved in the ground war in Vietnam were the United States Armed Forces and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), fighting against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN), more commonly called the North Vietnamese Army, or NVA and the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam (NLF), more commonly known as the Viet Cong, a South Vietnamese communist guerrilla force.



US Armed Forces



Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN)



Viet Cong



People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN)

In September 1950, US President Harry Truman sent the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) to Indochina to assist the French in the First Indochina War. After the French halted efforts toward recolonization of Indochina in 1954, the United States assumed financial and military support for the South Vietnamese state. The Viet Cong soon initiated a guerrilla war in the south. Working under the “domino theory,” which held that if one Southeast Asian country fell to communism, many other countries would follow, President John F. Kennedy increased U.S. aid, though he stopped short of committing to a large-scale military intervention. US involvement escalated under President Kennedy, through the MAAG program, from just under a thousand military advisors in 1959, to 16,000 American military

military personnel in November of 1963. In contrast, by 1963, the North Vietnamese had sent 40,000 soldiers to fight in South Vietnam.



MAAG Advisor, March 1962

On August 2, 1964, USS Maddox, on an intelligence mission along North Vietnam's coast, allegedly fired upon and damaged several torpedo boats that had been stalking it in the Gulf of Tonkin. A second attack was reported two days later on USS Turner Joy and Maddox in the same area. The second "attack" led to retaliatory airstrikes, and prompted Congress to approve the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution on August 10, 1964. The resolution granted the President power "to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression". In effect, this granted the President use of military force in Southeast Asia without having to ask for an official declaration of war.



USS Maddox (DD731)



USS Turner Joy (DD951)

In February of 1965, President Johnson ordered the bombing of targets in North Vietnam in retaliation for a Viet Cong raid on the US base in the city of Pleiku and at a nearby helicopter base at Camp Holloway. Operation FLAMING DART was initiated on February 7, 1965. The president also ordered the deployment of combat units for the first time and increased troop levels

Reed's article continued on the following page

The War in Vietnam *continued...*

to 184,000. On March 8, 1965 US Marines of the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed on beaches near Da Nang, the first American Combat Troops to enter Vietnam.



Camp Holloway
February 6, 1963



Operation FLAMING DART
February 7, 1965



9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade
March 8, 1965

National Medal of Honor Day

March 25th was established by Congress in 1990 as National Medal of Honor Day to “foster public appreciation and recognition of Medal of Honor recipients.”

To its recipients, the Medal of Honor represents more than recognition of combat actions. Instead, it symbolizes the sacrifices of those they served alongside and those who came before them.

Each year on this day, Medal of Honor Recipients lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. The “unknowns” buried here are each Medal of Honor Recipients.

It is the only United States Military Award that is worn from a ribbon hung around the neck, and the only award presented by the president of the United States.



February is Black History Month

By Marylou Thompson, Briefing Editor

Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. National Black History Month serves as both a celebration and a powerful reminder that Black history is American history, Black culture is American culture, and Black stories are essential to the ongoing story of America — our faults, our struggles, our progress, and our aspirations.

The military history of African-Americans spans from the arrival of the first enslaved Africans during the colonial history of the United States to the present day. African Americans have participated with honor and integrity in every war fought by or within the United States since the Revolutionary War.

The Medal of Honor is the United States' highest award for military valor in action. And while over 150 years have passed since its inception, the meaning behind the Medal has never changed.

Medal of Honor recipients are a part of something greater. They collectively embody the values that we as a country strive to uphold - courage, bravery, sacrifice, integrity and the desire and dedication to do what is right. But they are also unique. They are parents and siblings, spouses, colleagues and friends. They are ordinary people who did extraordinary things.

There have been 94 African-American Medal of Honor recipients with one person receiving two Medals.

- ◆ Civil War - 25
- ◆ Indian Campaigns - 18
- ◆ Spanish-American War - 6
- ◆ Non-Combat - 1871-1910 - 8
- ◆ WWI - 2
- ◆ WWII - 7
- ◆ War on Terror - 1

Before World War II, the Medal of Honor could be awarded for actions not involving direct combat with the enemy. Eight African-Americans earned the Medal in this way, all of them sailors.

Throughout American history there have been many famous all-Black military units from the Revolutionary War through WWII. On July 26, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981 that mandated the desegregation of the U.S. military.



Chairman's Notes



By Dennis Bachtel, Director Chair

In September of this year, my wife Debbie and I had the opportunity to go on a Stephen Ambrose World War II history tour, "D-Day to the Rhine". The tour started in London moved on to Normandy, Bastogne, Dachau and ended at the Eagle's Nest with many stops in between. We visited numerous battlefields, large and small, historic sites and museums. We were immersed in WW II history - the trip was designed for history nerds and I guess we qualified.

Many of the sites we visited were museums or had museums adjacent to them, such as the Imperial War Museum in London, the Churchill War Room, Bletchley Park, The Tank Museum at Bovington, the Utah Beach Museum (which has one of the 6 remaining B-26s like ours that are left in the world), the 101st Airborne Museum in Bastogne and many others.



While visiting these historic sites and museums it was inevitable that we compared them to our own MAPS Air Museum. Each of these museums is great in their own right. While most of these museums are government, large foundation or privately supported, our museum had a humble beginning. Over the past 33 years MAPS has become a museum that can stand proudly alongside those we visited.

None of the museums we visited had nearly as diverse of a collection as we have at MAPS. I don't believe the original MAPS members could have envisioned the type of facility that we have become. We started as an Aviation museum and with the addition of the Ohio Military Museum, the Super Saber/Friends of the Super Saber museum, the upcoming Bob Hope, Art and Vietnam galleries along with the Gallery of Heroes, Ted's Medical Tent, parts of Dick Maston's military vehicle collection and so much more. We have evolved into what I would call a World Class Museum.

The museums we visited throughout England and Europe appeared to be fairly complete. By comparison we here at

MAPS are continually updating our displays and have a very active restoration facility with numerous aircraft projects going on at any given time. We also have several remodeling and maintenance projects that are continuous throughout our facility. If it has wheels we'll move it, if it doesn't have wheels we'll add wheels and move it and if we can't add wheels we'll still move it. We're always on the move. I believe that one of the things that sets us apart is our passion for MAPS, we have an organization made up of a diverse group of professionals. Together we have created a museum we can all be proud of.

On top of everything else we do at MAPS, we've become an event center. Over the years people within the organization have asked, "Are we a museum or are we an event center?" And the answer is, "We are most definitely both!" Some of the events we have hosted are car shows, weddings, proms, military shows and birthday parties, just to name a few. Without the events going on at MAPS and the revenue the events generate, it is unlikely we would have been able to accomplish all the things we have. Without the museum, our event center would be just another large empty space, but with our aircraft and other military items throughout the facility, we have become a much sought after location - each entity supports the other.

Not to be overlooked is our impact on the community, internal and external. Our internal community is our staff and volunteers. Everyone that works here has their own reasons for being here, whether it's from boredom after retirement, an interest in military history or aviation, wanting to learn a new skill or wanting to stay relevant. The reasons are as varied as the people. Some even call it therapy.

Our external community is the community at large, through the various school and scouting programs that have come to rely on us as a resource, and our support of local holiday events, parades, speakers, marathons - we have become an integral part of the community.

None of what we have created here would have been possible without the input of the hundreds of individuals that have contributed in any way over the years. We always start by thanking the volunteers and I will get back to them. Today I'd like to start by giving a huge THANK YOU!!! to our staff, Kim, Reed, Mary, Kent, Scott, Dave, Penny and Drew. Without these people and their leader-

Continued on following page

Chairman's Notes *continued...*

leadership, dedication, passion and hours worked way beyond what they get paid for, much of what goes on at MAPS wouldn't happen. I'd also like to thank the Board of Directors, past and present, for their oversight and for all the same reasons I cited for the staff. Not to be overlooked are our many contributors, some through their support with grants, many others through individual contributions and some with in-kind services. Finally, and last but not least, our volunteers. Needless to say, without our dedicated volunteer base, none of what we have built here could have happened and can only be sustained by your continued support. Thank you all for everything you've done and everything I know we can count on you to do in the future.

I know I'm biased, but I hope after reading this you'll understand why I truly believe MAPS is a World-Class museum. I am proud of what we have accomplished in building our brand and I'm extremely proud to have been a small part of what we have done.

Debbie and I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Christmas Shopping Made Easy!



This year make MAPS your one-stop-shop for all the aviation and history fans on your list!

We have t-shirts, sweat-shirts, bomber jackets, mugs, hats, books, puzzles, model planes, tote bags, toys and lots of stocking stuffers. Plus we now have C-130 items, including prints of MAPS

C-130 by local aviation artist, Ed Davis.

We are again offering a Gift Shop Gift Certificate that can be purchased in any amount and is good to use for one year from purchase.

We also offer a Free Pass which is good for one free admission during regular museum hours. Purchase any number of Free Passes to give to friends or relatives who may not have had the opportunity to visit MAPS yet. Once here, they will be want to come back again and again!

Of course, a MAPS membership is another great gift idea that will last the whole year. The membership form can be found on the MAPS website, downloaded and sent back to us - all from the comfort of home!

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER

WED, DEC 6	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, DEC 16	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM

JANUARY

WED, JAN 3	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, JAN 13	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM

FEBRUARY

WED, FEB 7	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, FEB 10	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM

MARCH

WED, MAR 6	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, MAR 9	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM
SAT, MAR 23 & SUN, MAR 24	HUNTING, FISHING AND OUTDOOR SHOW	8 AM - 4 PM

APRIL MIGHT SEEM LIKE A LONG WAY OFF, BUT MAPS HAS PLANNED THREE EVENTS TO HELP END THE WINTER DOLDRUMS - THE SOLAR ECLIPSE, THE MILITARY COLLECTORS SHOW AND THE SPRING PANCAKE BREAKFAST. CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS!

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!

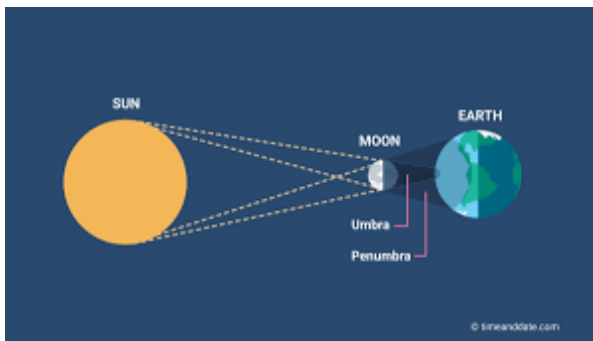


*By Doug Perry, Marketing Manager and Solar Event Coordinator
and Marylou Thompson, Briefing Editor*

Join us for an incredible celestial experience as we witness a **total solar eclipse** at the **MAPS Air Museum** on Monday, April 8, 2024. A total solar eclipse is a rare and spectacular event!

On average, a total solar eclipse happens somewhere on the Earth only once every 1.5 years. Only 21 total solar eclipses have crossed the lower 48 states in the entire existence of the United States. The last total solar eclipse visible in Ohio was in 1806. The next total solar eclipse in Ohio will be in the year 2099.

Why is the 2024 eclipse so special? Because the Moon lies a little closer to the Earth, it will appear just a bit larger in the sky. That means it will take the Moon a bit longer to move in its orbit across the face of the Sun.



During totality, the Sun is completely hidden, revealing the amazing sight of the solar corona. This is the only time we on Earth can see the corona, which is the outermost part of the Sun's atmosphere. It is here that hot gases travel along in wisps and loops that stretch into space around the Sun's surface.

The track of the Moon's shadow across Earth's surface is called the Path of Totality. In North Canton, the partial phase will begin at 1:59 PM. Totality begins at 3:15 PM and will last for approximately one minute. During this time, we will be in total darkness. The temperature may drop as much as 10 degrees, the birds will stop singing and crickets may begin their nighttime chorus.

This will be the last total solar eclipse visible from the contiguous United States until 2044. During the 2044 eclipse, the path of totality will only touch three states: Montana, South Dakota and North Dakota.

* * *

Located in the heart of NE Ohio, the MAPS Air Museum provides the perfect setting for this once-in-a-lifetime event. As the moon aligns perfectly with the sun, creating a breathtaking sight, we invite you to bring your friends and family to share in this awe-inspiring moment.

Get your tickets now on Eventbrite - the number of reserved parking spaces is limited. For a \$40 admission fee + \$2.63 Eventbrite charge, each car will receive:

Continued on following page

Solar Eclipse continued...

1. A guaranteed parking spot with an unobstructed view. No parking lot lights will come on during totality.
2. Two pair of the required viewing glasses per car. There may be extras available in the gift shop on that day.
3. Access to your parking spot and the museum for viewing/tours from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM.
4. Lunch will be available for purchase from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Hot Dogs, Coney and kraut dogs, prepackaged PB&J sandwiches, chips, cookies, granola bars, sodas, water, coffee, and hot chocolate.

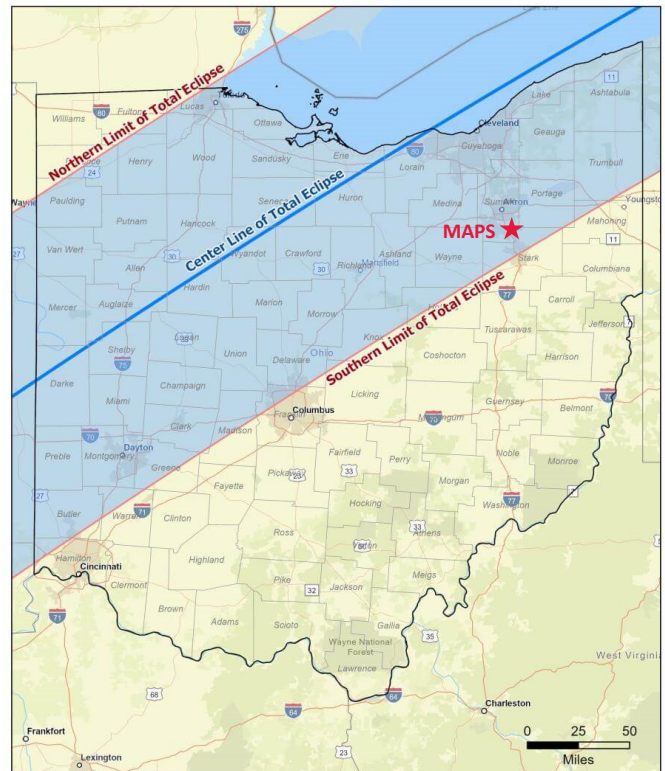
There are no refunds for this event but guests will still have museum access no matter the weather.

No large trucks, RV's, trailers, or bus parking will be allowed. Only cars, pickups and SUV's.

No alcohol, open flame or cooking on the tarmac will be allowed.

This is a special event so coupons or other discounts are not valid.

Get ready to witness the wonders of the universe at the Solar Eclipse at MAPS Air Museum. Mark your calendars and join us for this extraordinary event!



**Total Solar Eclipse Path through Ohio
April 8, 2024**



"A Day Which Will Live in Infamy"

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, December 7, 1941

Pearl Harbor is a U.S. naval base near Honolulu, Hawaii, that was the scene of a devastating surprise attack by Japanese forces on December 7, 1941. Just before 8 AM on that Sunday morning, hundreds of Japanese fighter planes descended on the base, where they managed to destroy or damage nearly 20 American naval vessels, including eight battleships, and over 300 airplanes. More than 2,400 Americans died in the attack, including civilians, and another 1,000 people were wounded. The day after the assault, President Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan which drew the United States into WWII.

On this day of remembrance for those who perished, we honor the spirit of unity and resolve of Pearl Harbor survivors who continued to protect the United States against those who seek to do us harm. This day is also a solemn reminder that our country is capable of achieving great triumphs coming out of dark moments.

Although the Department of Veterans Affairs does not keep statistics on how many Pearl Harbor survivors are still living, the numbers are few. Most would be 100 years old or more and WWII veterans are passing at a rate of about 250 per day. Who will remember when they're gone?

There is only one living survivor of the USS Arizona that was struck by torpedoes that day and sank within 14 minutes. LCDR Lou Conter, USN (Ret.) who is 101 years old.





MAPS Air Museum was a finalist in the Entertainment and Leisure/Event Venue category for 2023!

This was quite an honor for MAPS as these awards celebrate and recognize the best our community has to offer. Only the top businesses in each category made it to the final voting stage.

In this category, Gervasi Vineyard was also a finalist. And the winner in this category was the Canton Palace Theater. We are in good company!

Many of you probably don't know that MAPS has several areas that can be rented for special events. Make MAPS Air Museum, with its unique aviation setting of aircraft and artifacts, the location to make your next event an *exceptional* one. We have hosted wedding receptions, business parties/meetings, car shows, birthdays, reunions, trade shows and welcoming troops home celebrations.

COME FOR THE AIRCRAFT
Stay for the History

MAPS
AIR MUSEUM
Where History Takes Flight!

Find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mapsairmuseum) @mapsairmuseum or 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

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



Mohawk Conference Room

Capacity = 45

Up-to-date meeting room amenities. Wireless and wired internet access, smart TV/projection screen and dry-erase boards. Can be configured to meet your needs.



Louise Timken Library

Capacity = 50

Informal library setting equipped with Smart Technology.



112th Squadron Banquet Hall

Capacity = 273

3-75" TV's with computer connectivity and speakers throughout the hall. Wired or wireless microphones, WiFi and Bluetooth available. Panoramic view of the Akron-Canton Airport and MAPS Air Museum flight line. Booth or window seating and bar facilities.



MAPS Hangar

Capacity = 500

We will work with your event planner!



Visit MAPS website for more information.

Meet Our New Interns

Rachel Hirnikl



Rachel is a junior at Walsh University. She's pursuing a degree in Museum Studies, Professional Writing with a minor in History. She is particularly interested in American history, especially the First World War.

Rachel currently lives in near-by Green and likes to spend her free time reading, drawing, and visiting museums. Both of her parents and her brother are graphic designers.

After graduation, she intends to pursue a career in either curation or archiving. So far at MAPS, Rachel has been assisting the curators with photographing objects from the collection, as well as helping out in the library. She's also been applying her knowledge from WU to help with the upcoming Vietnam exhibit.

Tamar Owens



Tamar was born and raised in Akron and is a senior at Kent State. She will be graduating in May, 2024 with a degree in Digital Media Production and a minor in Communication.

Tamar grew interested in the film industry by watching YouTube videos that were

behind-the-scenes footage on film sets. She dreamed of being a part of a production one day.

Tamar has always loved documentaries and after graduation she has decided to pursue a career in the commercial or documentary filmmaking world.

Tamar's parents were also born in Akron. Her dad is an Army veteran and her mom works in the healthcare field.

Tamar was attracted to MAPS because she knew she would work with people who tell important real-life stories. Her internship has included working with the media crew during membership meetings and transferring 16mm film, VHS tapes and audio cassettes to digital. She is also creating YouTube videos for the digitized audio recordings from the OMM archives.

Many thanks to Rachel and Tamar for sharing their talents with MAPS.

We wish them great success in their chosen fields.

THANK YOU!



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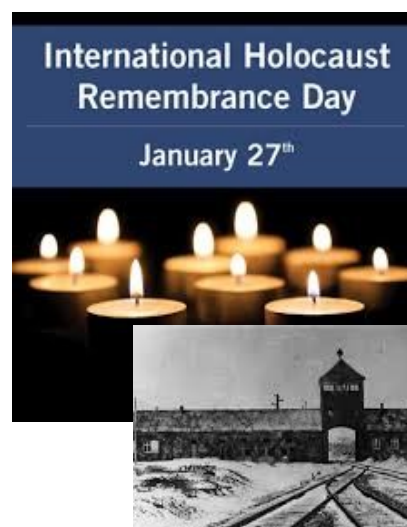


MAPS thanks The Print Shop of Canton, Inc.
for sponsoring "THE BRIEFING"

Holocaust Remembrance Day

January 27, 2024 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The day remembers the killing of six million Jews, two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population, and millions of others by the Nazi regime and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945.

Allies worked together during World War II and liberated the survivors of Auschwitz (one of the most infamous and deadliest concentration camps) on this day in 1945. On this 79th anniversary, we remember the victims and honor our Veterans and Allies for their service.



Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

- George Santayana

Focus on Volunteers

Ray Weber is a humble, quiet man who belies his illustrious career in the USAF, and now shares his love of aviation and talents at MAPS.

His military career began in 1956 right here on the site MAPS now occupies. Ray joined the 112th Fighter Squadron with hopes of becoming a P-51 pilot. But that was not to be - the 112th was transferred to Toledo later that year and he was assigned to attend navigator training at Harlington AFB where he graduated in 1958. Ray was then assigned to the 160th Air Refueling Group flying the KC-97L Tanker Aircraft.



Ray entered pilot training at Moody AFB in 1961 and graduated a year later after earning dual ratings. He flew the KC-97L until 1969 when he transferred to the 164th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Mansfield-Lahm Airport to fly the F-84 "Thunderstreak." One of the aircraft Ray flew (tail #26524) is now on display at MAPS!

By 1972, Ray had achieved the rank of Major. The 164th TFS converted to the F-100 Super Sabre which he flew until 1976 when the unit converted to the C-130 Hercules and became the 179th Tactical Air Lift Group. During his tenure there, he held various command positions, including Squadron Commander of the 164th TFS.

On a nostalgic note - Ray flew the first C-130 into Mansfield and 46 years later, sat in the navigator's seat on the last C-130 to fly out of Mansfield. Ray himself logged over 2000 hours flying C-130s! He says that they're easy to fly and very maneuverable.



In 1983, Ray was assigned to State Headquarters Staff in Columbus in the position of Director of Operations and promoted to Full Bird Colonel. Only 4 years later, in 1987 he was assigned to Deputy Chief of Staff and promoted to Brigadier General. In 1988, he was assigned to the position of Chief of Staff, Ohio National Guard where he was responsible for command and control of nine Air Guard Units encompassing 6 thousand people.

Ray retired from the military in 1990 after 34.5 years of service. He has logged over 17,000 flying hours in the following: T-37, T-33, T-38, KC-97L, KC-135, F-84F, F-100D and the C-130 Hercules.

After retirement, Ray flew as a professional corporate pilot for General Tire & Rubber Company where he was Chief Pilot and Director of Flight Operations at CAK. He was responsible for 7 planes and 40 people and was also a designated FAA Flight Examiner in the BAE 800XP aircraft. He once had the good fortune to fly Bob Hope from St. Louis to the Firestone Country Club! That must have been a dream assignment as Ray loves to play golf!

Ray grew up in Canal Fulton and moved to North Canton in 1967. He and his wife, Judith, have been married for 64 years and enjoy traveling. Hawaii and the Smokey Mountains are favorites. They have 3 children - 2 sons and a daughter, 2 grandsons and 3 great-grandchildren.

Following in his father's footsteps, his one son, Mark, joined the USAF and is now a Maj. Gen. Mark was deployed to Iraq five times and flew a B-1 Bomber. Mark's son, Andrew, also followed in his father's and grand-father's footsteps and is a Lt. in the USAF. In October of this year, Andrew completed his solo flight in an F-15.

An interesting legacy for this Air Force family - 20 years after Ray was flying C-130s, his son was flying C-130s, and 20 years after that, Ray's grandson was flying C-130s!

So, how did Ray end up at MAPS? Almost 10 years ago, Ray drove by and decided to stop in. Carl Bergsneider showed him around and he spotted the F-84 with the tail number he had flown. He was hooked and helped to restore the plane.



Since then, Ray's other talents have come to light. He enjoys cabinetry and had previously built rocking chairs, cabinets and poker tables. For MAPS, he built the large case outside the library where model planes are displayed, the frame for the Corsair mural in the lobby, the cabinet base for the Medal of Honor display in

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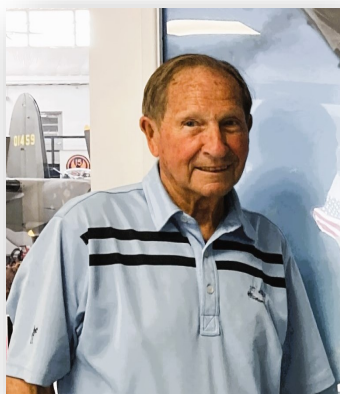
Focus on Volunteers continued...

the Super Sabre Gallery and the liquor cabinet in the same gallery. He also designed and built the bar in the Banquet Hall.

When you see the meticulousness of Ray's work, it's hard to believe the following story! When he was in HS, he was working for a contractor and was tasked with measuring a length of 2X4. Unfortunately, the cut was short and didn't fit snugly between the studs. He was told to go get the "wood stretcher." Ray looked all over and couldn't find it. When he reported this to his "boss" it became apparent that such a thing didn't exist. Measure twice - cut once. A life-lesson learned!!

Ray says he loves the camaraderie at MAPS and has seen the skill level in restoration improve greatly over the years.

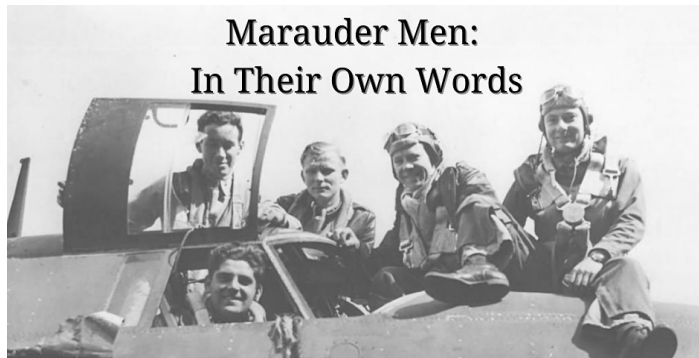
We are grateful to Ray for all he has contributed to MAPS and thank him for his many years of service to our country!



BTW - on May 3, 2024, Ray will celebrate his 90th birthday. Wish him a Happy, Happy Birthday!

A Little Airplane Humor

*A new airplane has been developed that cannot crash.
Made from rubber polymers, it will just bounce.
The aircraft was invented by
Boeing, Boeing, Boeing.*

**Marauder Men:
In Their Own Words**

A new three-episode docuseries, "Marauder Men: In Their Own Words," spotlighting the Martin B-26 Marauder and the brave World War II pilots who flew them debuted on PBS Western Reserve in November of this year.

On November 19th, about 75 local residents enjoyed a free screening of Episode 1 in the Banquet Hall at MAPS and then toured the restored B-26 that proudly graces MAPS hangar. This plane was featured in the production and is one of the rarest military aircraft on display as only six exist today of the 5288 that were made.

After the screening, **Dave Pawski**, Crew Chief and two of his crew, **Bryan Brubaker** and **Ray Hamlin** answered questions from attendees. According to Dave, it took 21 years to restore this plane and in that time, over 90 people helped in the restoration.

MAPS member, **Steve Mitchell** produced the docuseries.



L to R: Bryan Brubaker, Ray Hamlin and Dave Pawski



**MAPS B-26
Marauder**



MAPS

AIR MUSEUM

Where History Takes Flight!

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The BRIEFING Newsletter
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MAPS WINTER HOURS January 1, 2024 Through March 4, 2024

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



To everyone in our MAPS family

Mark Your **SPRING** CALENDAR

Hunting, Fishing, Outdoor Show

Saturday, March 23rd and
Sunday, March 24th 9 AM - 4 PM

Solar Eclipse (See more info on page 10)

Monday, April 8th 9 AM - 4:30 PM

Military Collector's Show

Sunday, April 14th 9 AM - 4 PM

Spring Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, April 28th 8 AM - 1 PM

As with all our special events, not only do you get to enjoy the event, but you also get full access to the museum - over 50 aircraft, the Gallery of Heroes and the Ohio Military Museum. Check us out - take a virtual tour - look under the "Plan Your Visit" tab on our website.