

MAPS Year-End Report 2023

By Kim Kovesci, MAPS Executive Director

I have written several articles about the importance of our three main revenue streams; Museum, Fundraisers and Rentals. The Museum includes all of the revenue associated with the organization such as; admissions, membership fees, grants and donations. The Fundraisers include our three pancake breakfasts, the Don Sitts Car Show and our Annual Cash Raffle. The Rentals include all facility rentals for the hangar, banquet hall or other rooms.

We have been very fortunate to receive several large donations in the past two years. The largest being from Rick Johnston, Sarah Gallagher and Michael Van Ness, MD. Because of these donations we have been able to grow our endowment to a point where the revenue from these investments has become significant and a fourth major contributor to our revenue stream. We want to thank Rick, Sarah and Michael for their generous contribution to the long-term survival of our organization.

Our Financial Chart for 2023 indicates that we have fully recovered financially from the impact of COVID and are approaching all time records for annual revenue. The Adjusted Operating Income indicates the impact of our investments on the total revenue which was significant.

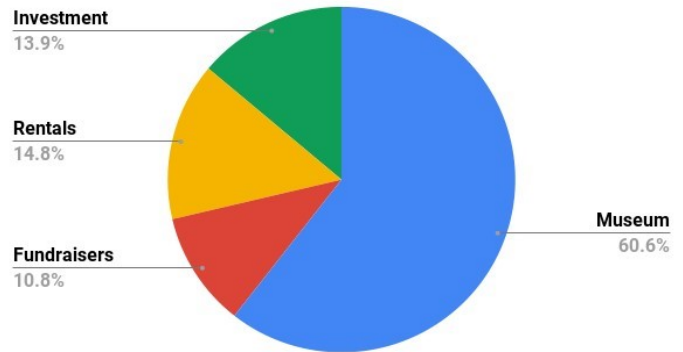
HOURS OF OPERATION

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

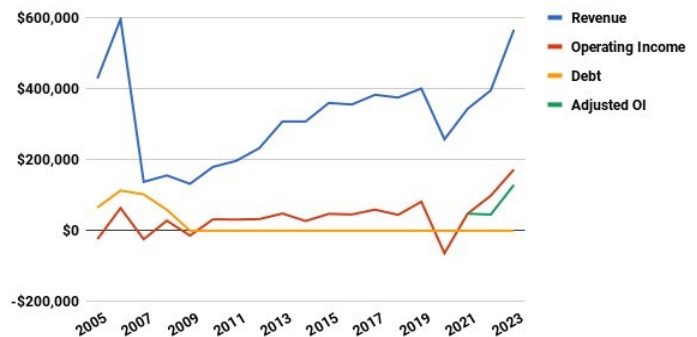
ADDRESS and PHONE

Address: 2260 International Parkway
North Canton, Ohio 44720
Phone: 330-896-6332

2023 Major Revenue Activities



Financial Year-End Results 2023



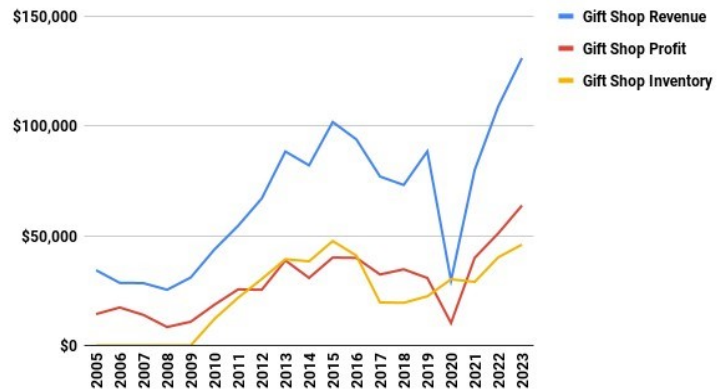
Kim's article continued on the following page

★ Mission Statement ★

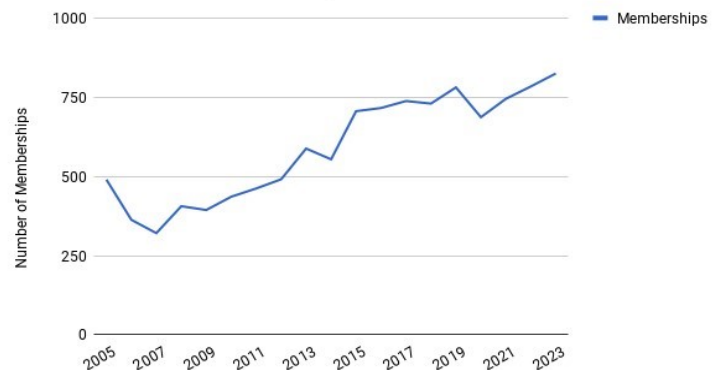
MAPS Air Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating people about the history of aviation and its impact upon society. It accomplishes this mission by acquiring, restoring, preserving, studying and exhibiting the impact of aviation on the culture of man.

Kim's article *continued...***Gift Shop**

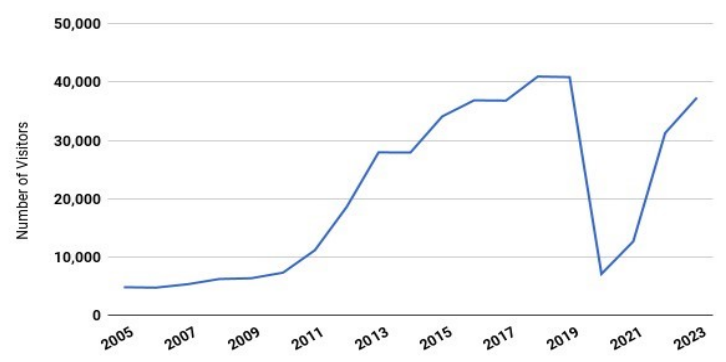
Record Gift Shop sales occurred in 2023 thanks to the dedication of our Gift Shop personnel lead by Bob Hollis and Mary Cody. We received several large donations of models that we sold in the gift shop which improved total sales and profitability. It was an exceptionally challenging year because Bob was forced to implement an entirely new system. He had to look at several systems, make the selection to Lightspeed, learn the new system, write new procedures, reconstruct the database and train everyone. The new system is actually easier to use and the credit card transactions are much faster. I want to thank Bob for doing such a great job of making this difficult transition appear seamless.

Gift Shop Revenue, Gift Shop Profit and Inventory Level**Memberships**

The trend of increasing memberships returned to indicate growth on a continual basis. At the end of 2023, our membership had grown to 825 memberships. This corresponds to 1,294 members because of the impact of families. This growth is very impressive considering the visitation of the Collings Foundation aircraft was the largest contributor to new memberships and they have not visited MAPS since their B-17 crashed in Connecticut in 2019. Some of this growth can be attributed to the increased activity of our youth programs; 3 BSA Troops, the 1944 Reenactor Crew and the Civil Air Patrol.

Total Number of Memberships**Visitors**

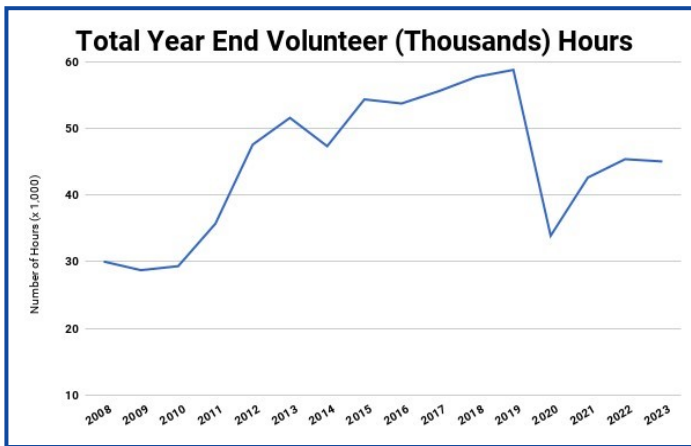
We continue to make progress on returning to pre-COVID visitation levels. Our highest visitation included the Collings Foundation visit where we documented over 2,500 visitors on one weekend. We will have to compensate for the loss of that event going forward. We will continue to improve the process of recording the visitors associated with banquet hall and hangar rentals. This was a problem prior to installation of the new Point of Sale system and we are taking steps to ensure that we count all of our visitors.

Visitor Chart

Kim's article continued on the following page

Kim's article *continued...***Volunteer Hours**

Even though our other metrics are returning to pre-COVID levels, our volunteer hours have started to level out. Part of the reason for this is the loss of Collings Foundation event. This was historically the weekend where we documented the largest volunteer hours because it required so much support. Other possible reasons are because we do not have active aircraft recovery projects. These typically document a significant number of hours by multiple volunteers. Finally, we will continue to encourage our new members to document their hours in order to reflect their actual activity.

**Summary**

In summary, financially we are breaking records and growing at a significant pace. This growth is necessary to support the redesign of the organizational structure. In this structure, there will be more individuals placed on payroll because there will be more delegation of responsibilities. Regarding other metrics, we are returning to or surpassing our membership, visitation and will ultimately increase our volunteer hours.

I think this is the best year we have ever had in general and I want to thank each and everyone of our dedicated volunteers and staff for helping support our mission to educate the public on the history of aviation and its impact on the culture of man.



To all MAPS Mothers, Grandmothers and Great-Grandmothers!

A Little Boy, A Red Balloon and MAPS

By Bill Cody, MAPS Volunteer & Board Member

One day last December, Allen Swain was coming to MAPS on a Saturday and as he pulled into his parking spot, he noticed a red balloon in the parking lot in front of the maintenance building. He picked up the balloon and noticed writing on one side that said \$50 and a phone number. Thinking that was rather strange, he checked the phone number on his computer and discovered that the area code was somewhere in the state of Texas.

Allen showed me the balloon and asked me to call the phone number and when I did, it was answered by an employee at a business called Dip Sticks - an oil change business in Snyder, Texas. The owner, as it turns out, is the grandfather of the 7-year old little boy who launched the balloon.

The grandfather was excited to let his grandson know that the balloon was found here in Ohio at the MAPS Air Museum! The little boy's name is Kreed Eaton. He is a second grader and was thrilled to know that someone took the time to call the phone number. He had launched somewhere between 5 and 10 balloons and we were the only ones who called.

When I told the story to our Board of Directors, all were in favor of sending Kreed some items from the museum gift shop! We sent him a copy of Reed Kimball's 30-Year History of MAPS, some aircraft postcards, a picture of our Cobra, a C-130 T-shirt, a membership name tag with his name on it and a MAPS lanyard, a picture of an F-100 from Ken Ramsay, and several patches. We also sent him back the red balloon.

As it turns out, Kreed wants to be a pilot some day. Of all the places the balloon could have landed, Mother Nature chose to land it in MAPS parking lot!



March - Women's History Month

By Marylou Thompson, Briefing Editor

In 1987, Congress declared the month of March as National Women's History Month. Every year since then, the President signs a proclamation to honor this celebration. It is a time to observe and reflect on the many contributions made to our nation by women.

The legacy of women's service in and with the military is long and storied, covering the entire history of the nation. Three million women have served in or with the Armed Forces since the American Revolution - with courage, selflessness and dedication.

While sometimes disregarded, discredited, and their service fraught with challenges, women persevered and continued to step up - they just wanted to serve.

Trailblazers from across the decades have made it possible for women today to serve in America's Armed Forces at every level and in every job. Today, there are over 232,000 women serving in active duty roles and another 171,000 serving in the National Guard and Reserves.

You don't have to leave MAPS campus to read about and honor local women who bravely served and paved the way for women in the military today.

Lobby and Hangar Displays

Sharon Lane - US Army Nurse Corps and the only woman to die in Vietnam due to enemy action.

WASP/Air Force Pilots - WASP B-17 pilots and USAF F-15 Eagle pilots.

Fallen Feathers - read about the women who gave their lives in the War on Terror

Poly Madden Montgomery - USAF Academy graduate and first female combat commander of a C-130

OMM Displays

Ruth E. Young - one of the first Red Cross nurses to serve in WWI

Phyllis Englert - Nurse, Army Nurse Corps WWII

Nada C. Garn - Dietitian, Army Nurse Corps WWII

Gallery of Heroes Displays

Nadine Harris Bluhm - WASP pilot in WWII and one of 14 founding members of MAPS.

Rosie the Riveter - Women made up 50% of Goodyear Aircraft's workforce, producing a Corsair every 8 minutes.

Shirley Kemp Mahoney - USMC Women's Reserve, WWII

Marcile Elizabeth Young - Flight instructor WWII, USAF and Air Force Civil Service

Upcoming Events

MARCH

WED, MAR 6	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, MAR 16	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM
SAT, MAR 23 &	HUNTING, FISHING,	9 AM - 4 PM
SUN, MAR 24	OUTDOOR SHOW	9 AM - 3 PM

APRIL

SAT, APR 6 &	WRCA KNIFE SHOW	9 AM - 4:30 PM
SUN, APR 7		9 AM - 3 PM
MON, APR 8	SOLAR ECLIPSE	9 AM - 4:30 PM
WED, APR 10	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, APR 20	MEMBER MEETING	11 AM
SUN, APR 14	MILITARY COLLECTORS SHOW	9 AM - 4 PM
SUN, APR 28	PANCAKE BREAKFAST	8 AM - 1 PM

MAY

WED, MAY 8	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, MAY 11	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM

JUNE

WED, JUN 5	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, JUN 8	DON SITTS CAR SHOW	8 AM - 4 PM
SAT, JUN 22	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM

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!

THE WAR IN VIETNAM

Part 3: Chain of Command (1964-1972)

“Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it.”

Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th President of the United States

By Reed Kimball, MAPS Education Director

The operational chain of command for combat activities within the Republic of Vietnam emanated from the National Command Authorities -- the President and the Secretary of Defense. Unlike more recent Presidents, who delegated tactical military decisions to the service commanders involved, Lyndon Johnson kept the reins of power firmly in his own grip. The targeting, in terms of general policy, broad guidelines, and sometimes even specific objectives, came from Washington. In company with a handful of civilian advisers and cabinet members who lunched together almost every Tuesday and talked over national security affairs, President Johnson determined not only which targets would be struck but the weight of effort of the total air war. The specificity of the Washington targeting directions varied, depending upon political circumstances in the White House and the degree of involvement on the part of key individuals in the Pentagon. These arrangements were made necessary by international diplomatic considerations and service doctrine. The Johnson administration insisted that the wars in Laos and South Vietnam, while militarily closely related, be treated as separate conflicts with separate command arrangements. Thai political sensitivities forced the separation of the American military commands in South Vietnam and Thailand and prevented use of Thai-based U.S. aircraft in South Vietnam, but not in Laos and North Vietnam. Decisions made at that level were communicated to the Commander-in-Chief - Pacific or CINCPAC who served as the unified or theater commander. From that point, the chain of command ran in very different directions.

The War on the Ground

For Army operations and certain specific missions, orders were routed through the Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command - Vietnam or MACV who was General William Westmoreland between 1964 and 1968 and General Creighton Abrams from 1968 to 1972. From that point operational authority was further delegated to subordinate service commanders. These commands included United States Army Vietnam, 1st and 2nd Field Force - Vietnam, XXIV Corps, the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force,

Naval Forces Vietnam, 7th U.S. Air Force, 5th Special Forces Group plus additional civil operations and advisory units. The forces assigned to Naval Forces Vietnam were mainly military assistance personnel and the riverine forces.



U.S. Army



U.S. Marines

The War at Sea

The aircraft carriers and their task forces came under a different chain of command, originating with the National Command Authority through CINCPAC stationed in Hawaii, then through the Commander Seventh Fleet. The doctrine of the Joint Chiefs of Staff had for years included a provision for such a chain of command for naval forces. As naval forces typically have responsibilities outside of a specific theater and a wide range of responsibilities from contingency operations to general war plans, they are typically not tied to a specific conflict such as Vietnam. Under this doctrine, naval forces in the Seventh Fleet operated "in support" of MACV.



**U.S.S. New Jersey
(BB-62)**

**U.S.S. Saratoga
(CV-60)**



Reed's article continued on the following page

Chain of Command... *continued...***The War in the Air**

CINCPAC, under close supervision from Washington, conducted the air war against North Vietnam, employing as necessary planes from all the various air forces. Under this arrangement, the Seventh Air Force commander provided planes for operations in North Vietnam under direction of the Commander-in-Chief – Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) while, at the same time, supporting allied forces in South Vietnam under General Westmoreland. The B-52 force upon which ground forces relied on to break up enemy troop concentrations and base areas remained under operational control of the Strategic Air Command. The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing flew its missions under operational control of the III Marine Amphibious Force. The Army's thousands of helicopters likewise were outside the Air Force control system.

**Army UH-1****Air Force F-100****Marine F-4****Navy A-4****S.A.C. B-52****MAPS Mourns a Loss**

Terry W. Baker, 75, of North Canton, passed away January 28, 2024. He was born in Newark, Ohio on September 20, 1948, to Robert and Helen (Ulery) Baker, who preceded him in death. Also preceding Terry in death was his brother, Thomas.

An avid sports fan, Terry was a loyal supporter of the Browns, Indians, Buckeyes, and Bengals. He was a member of the McKinley Eagles #2370 and the Ohio Farm Bureau. Growing up on a farm, Terry was instilled with many qualities such as; hard work, determination, and patience. He served in the Army National Guard during the Vietnam War.

Terry was the owner of Mr. Mike's Catering, located in Canton. The Mr. Mike's Catering family will continue to serve Canton and the surrounding areas in his honor. Mr. Mike's is the preferred caterer of MAPS Air Museum events and will continue to be. Terry generously donated much of the equipment in MAPS banquet hall kitchen.

Terry is survived by his loving companion of 35 years, Charolette Swegheimer of North Canton; son, Chad (Heather) Baker; grandchildren, Caegen and Blake Baker of Winston, North Carolina; and sister, Janet (John) Lazdins. He will be missed by the many friends he made throughout his service to the Canton area.

A Celebration of Life, honoring Terry, will be held at a later date. Terry gave in death as he gave in life and was an organ and tissue donor.

May He Rest in Peace





Restoration Magic!



By Marylou Thompson, Briefing Editor

Our Corsair, built by the Goodyear Aircraft Corporation via license approval, was a Vought-Sikorsky Model V-166B F4U-1D design. She was one of 4,007 manufactured right here in Akron and began Navy service on January 7, 1945.

The F4U Corsair was a high performance fighter aircraft, either carrier or land based. Its primary mission was the destruction of enemy aircraft and the Corsair was armed with bomb and rocket ordnance.

One of the Navy and Marine Corps' finest fighters, Corsairs shot down 2,140 Japanese aircraft during World War II and in the Korean War, a Marine pilot became the first to down a MiG-15 jet while flying a propeller-driven aircraft!

The Japanese considered the plane to be a serious threat and nicknamed it '*Whistling Death*' due to the distinctive high-pitched sound made by wind through the engine vents. The Americans, on the other hand, knew it as the "*Angel of Okinawa*."

Toward the end of WWII, our Corsair was involved in a training accident on a carrier off the coast of Virginia that twisted the fuselage. The Navy deemed it unfit to fly and donated the cockpit section of the plane to Goodyear.

After spending over 60 years in the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company Museum as a display, the museum closed in 2009 and the cockpit was donated to MAPS.

The cockpit was on display at MAPS for the next 9 years before the decision was made to build the full aircraft around the cockpit. Besides the cockpit section, MAPS had an engine, a propeller and a tail wheel. Restoration had to find or create the missing pieces!

Since 2018, 9330 hours have been logged by the Restoration Magicians and they still have a long way to go.

Assisting Crew Chief, Dave Pawski are:

Denny Bachtel

Bill Barracato

Bryan Brubaker

Patrick Campbell

Nai Consruck

Ray Hamlin

Gary Hengstenberger

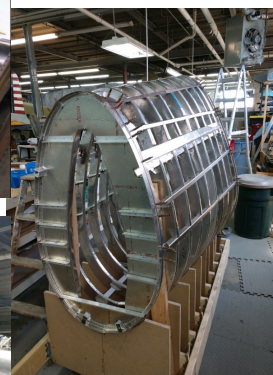
Tod Krino

Tom Thesing

Dan Williman

To the right are pictures that show the progress since 2018. Most of the parts have been fabricated by the crew, using schematics from Corsair technical manuals or from the talents of Dave Pawski, who just happens to be a Mechanical Engineer, who has used CAD tools to recreate the airframe and components based on drawings created over 80 years ago. The pictures don't give justice to the amount of dedication and creativity that have gone into building this plane!

What Restoration started with 6 years and 9330 hours ago!



What she will look like when completed!



A Not So Brief History of MAPS Briefing!

By Rick Johnston, MAPS Volunteer and MAPS Historian

In late October or early November of 1990, founding member Wes Shank asked me if I would be willing to edit (write) a newsletter for MAPS. The general idea was to communicate to members what was happening with the organization, provide general information about MAPS aircraft and restoration progress, and to let members know about things that the group needed for restoration work. If possible, the newsletter was to be published monthly.

My first task was to find a name for the newsletter. Naming something is not an easy task! The name needs to be descriptive and eye-catching. The final idea came from our acronym, MAPS. Mission briefings, particularly for the 8th Air Force in World War II, included a large pull down map showing the mission route and particulars. Why not call it MAPS Briefing?

The first issue, all of two pages, was published in November of 1990. It primarily discussed the aircraft at MAPS - three Dauntless dive bombers and a Beechcraft C-45 (SNB-5) and the progress on their restoration. These aircraft had been placed on loan to MAPS by restaurateur and 100th Bomb Group veteran David Tallichet and his Military Aircraft Restoration Corporation. Interestingly, that first issue notes that we were supposed to get an FG-1 Corsair from Tallichet (Sadly, it was never received).

In those early years, while the intent was to publish monthly, various factors led to the Briefing being published more sporadically. 1991 saw only 6 issues published. Your erstwhile editor was also the reporter and writer for most of the newsletter content. Most of the Briefing issues in the '90s were two pages, although there were occasional three or four page issues.

Towards the end of my tenure as editor, a couple of military style titles were used for recurring topics: Mission Briefs covered MAPS events; the Operations Board covered internal matters such as pleas for tour guides (some things don't change!), membership renewals, or museum hour changes; Roll Call acknowledged new members.

Printing was handled using the MAPS copy machine. Early on, I also took over handling membership, primarily because it made preparing the mailing list for the Briefing easier. With mailing labels printed at that time on a tractor feed printer (ah, technology!), Briefing mailings were handled by setting up a folding, stuffing, labeling and stamping party, typically on our Wednesday meeting night, with a member then dropping the mailing off at the Green Post Office. At the time, emailing copies of the Briefing was not

possible and as editor, I donated the postage.

I continued to edit the Briefing until 2000, when other commitments forced me to step away from the editorship (I was still working a full-time job). It was also in 1999 that the Briefing mailing reached the size to merit a non-profit mailing permit, significantly reducing mailing costs.

A succession of editors have handled the Briefing since I stepped down. Jim Kohan edited the Briefing from 2000 to 2002. In 2003, he teamed up with Bill Jeffries, sharing the editor's job. In 2004, Bill Jeffries was the sole editor until November, when Don Schwartz took over the position and what was called the Newsletter Action Team was formed. This team initially consisted of Erin Schwartz, Lois Mosley, Linda Kendall and Gary Raymond in addition to Don Schwartz. In December of 2004, the team was dubbed the Ministry of Propaganda!

The Ministry of Propaganda continued to prepare the Briefing through 2005, with Gary Raymond dropping away from the Ministry with the October issue. 2005 was the first year in which 12 monthly issues of the Briefing were released. Effective with the February 2006 issue, the newsletter team again became the Newsletter Action Team. The March 2006 issue no longer lists the Action Team, only Don Schwartz as editor. Don left the editorship after the July 2006 issue, with Linda Kendall and Lois Mosley picking the newsletter up as the Action Team beginning with the November issue. In December, 2006, Linda Lippert became the new sole editor.

The Newsletter Action Team remained intact through the June 2008 issue of the Briefing. With the December issue, Jim Kohan resumed the editorship. He maintained that position through August of 2009, when Tony McCune took over the Briefing. Jim Kohan and Jim Cameron resumed handling the Briefing in 2010 up through the June issue, with Jim Kohan finishing out the year.

In 2011, Chris Paprocki became editor of the Briefing, and switched the newsletter to the quarterly format that continues to this day. At this time, The Print Shop of Canton took over the printing of the Briefing and Canton Data took over handling the mailing from the Canton Post Office. Chris remained editor through 2016. In 2017, Marylou Thompson assumed the editorship, a position which she maintains to this day. Under her editorship, MAPS Briefing has become a truly world class newsletter.

OMM Highlights

By James Byerly, OMM Curator



Sgt. Edward P. Elum

One of OMM's newer displays features Sgt. Edward P. Elum, a native of Massillon. Sgt. Elum served with the 37th Division, 145th Infantry that captured the Japanese flag hanging above the display.

The Battle of Munda Point was a battle between the US Army and Imperial Japanese Army forces. It occurred during the New Georgia campaign in the Solomon Islands in the Pacific Theater. The battle took place following a landing by US Troops as part of an effort to capture the Japanese airfield that had been constructed at Munda Point.

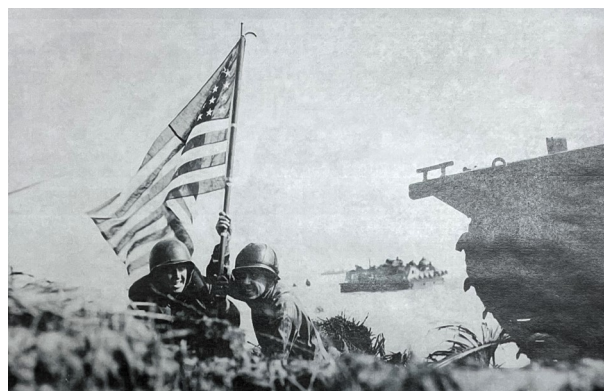
On July 22, 1943, during the Battle of Munda, Sgt. Elum was wounded in his left leg by a Japanese bullet and was awarded the purple heart.

After the war, Edward joined his 4 brothers (who all served in WWII) in the family business known as Elum Music Company in Massillon. Elum Music had been in business since the early 1900s and was a coin-operated amusement business installing jukeboxes, pinball machines, pool tables and other novelty games in restaurants, bars, taverns and banquet halls. It has only recently closed its doors.

Sgt. Edward P. Elum is the father of Judge Edward J. Elum (Lt. USN) of the Massillon Municipal Court of Stark County, Ohio.



Captured Japanese Headquarters Flag



Sgt. Elum is on the right - raising the Flag during the New Georgia Campaign.



"The United States flag does not fly because the wind moves past it... The United States flag flies from the last breath of each military member who has died protecting it."

Author Unknown

Memorial Day 2024

Excerpts from a 2020 "Reflection on the Meaning of Memorial Day" by: Lt. Col. Mark Leslie, US Army, (Ret.)

"This day is not about me, or anyone else that served or is currently wearing the uniform. This day is to honor those that have perished in the service of our nation: Those that have made the ultimate sacrifice; those that are no longer with us; those we were privileged to know."

"Today is not about the veteran or the active-duty Soldier, Sailor, Marine - it is about the men and women buried across this nation in countless veteran and local cemeteries. They are not faceless; they are our friends, and fathers, mothers, sons and daughters - and we miss them."

"Honor them on this and every Memorial Day."

MAPS Anniversaries

November 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024

*** designates Family Membership*

20 YEARS

Barnett, Bob**

Brubaker, Grant

Hamlet, Richard

Starcher, Kenneth

Ziellenbach, Karl

10 YEARS

Bowyer, Theresa**

Debock, Craig

Dunham-Kuhn, Pam**

George, Robert**

Gorman, Jim

Nee, Don

Paumier, Dan

Petschauer, Albert**

Schoen, Joshua

Schoger, Harry**

Sebrell, John

Timken, Jack

15 YEARS

Collins, Dave**

Hoskins, Dennis

5 YEARS

Consbruck, Altynai

Crawford, Terence**

Pindel, Benjamin

Roulett, Connie

Sepesy, Joseph**

CONGRATULATIONS

Thank You For Your Continued Support!

New Members

November 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024

*** designates Family Membership*

Ariza, Marshall**

Baker, Janet

Bonnell, Simeon**

Campbell, Patrick**

Carlson, Beverly**

Coury, Michael**

Cuevas, Louis

Dennis, Chris**

Eades, Doug

Eaton, Creed

Freeman, Tonya**

Garrud, Trevor

Gualtiere Jr, Paul**

Harding, Jeremiah**

Hazaimah, April**

Kimble, Gary**

McCleary, Timothy

Meeks, Beth**

Michalosky, Liam

Pannebaker, Matt**

Pugh, Alexis**

Pugh, Dawn**

Reymann, Daniel

Robertson, Justin

Sarno, Richard**

Smith, James**

Sorensen, Gerald

Spidell II, Terry**

Swartz In, Benjamin

Watts, Corbin

Wurm, Gage



A Warm MAPS Welcome!



Visitors From Around the Globe

According to Trip Advisor, MAPS Air Museum is an internationally known museum of aviation and serves as a center of aviation history for Northeast Ohio. Data from our 2023 visitor log lays testament to this!

Of those who signed the visitor log, in 2023 we had visitors from 23 foreign countries:

Armenia

Austria

Brazil

Canada

Columbia

Czech Republic

Ecuador

El Salvador

France

Germany

Great Britain

Israel

Italy

Kenya

Montenegro

New Zealand

Philippines

Russia

Rwanda

Sweden

Switzerland

Taiwan

Ukraine

We also had visitors from 2 US Territories:
USVI and Puerto Rico.

Within the USA, we had visitors from 48 states (including Hawaii and Alaska) plus Washington, DC. The only 2 states not represented were North Dakota and Montana.

Chairman's Notes

By Dennis Bachtel, Director Chair



It's that time of year again, MAPS annual Cash Raffle. If you're unaware of why we have the raffle, I'd like to take a moment to explain.

During the months of January, February and the first part of March, MAPS goes to a winter schedule of operations, only open four days a week, Thursday through Sunday. During these winter months our visitation to the museum is down but our cost of operation continues - utilities, snow removal and general upkeep of the facility. This slow down in operations also gives our tour guides and gift shop volunteers a break before the busy time, when the school history groups start arriving and events begin. The proceeds from the raffle are a way of supplementing the income lost during these winter months. Your generous support of MAPS through the sale of raffle tickets is greatly appreciated and needed at this time.

Most of us should of received our raffle tickets through the mail by the time of this reading, but if you haven't received them or you need more tickets to sell you can contact Kim Kovesci or Bob Schwartz and they will get them to you.

As in the past, we are asking that each member buy or sell 10 - \$5 tickets. Ticket stubs and money need to be returned to MAPS by April 12th and the **drawing will take place at our Saturday, April 20th Membership Meeting.**

Six great raffle prizes will be awarded: \$1000, \$500, \$250, \$125, \$75 and \$50!

The Cash Raffle also provides an opportunity for members who are not able to volunteer to contribute to the overall success of the organization by selling tickets.

Your support is greatly appreciated!



Last year, one of our longtime members and volunteer, M.L. Weaver was the first place winner of our raffle. M.L. was a C-47 pilot during WWII, near the end of the war, and although he remained stateside, he assisted in training many navigators. M.L refers to his time in the military as being a part of the "Texas Air Force", he never

left the state of Texas! This year's birthday will be a big one for M.L. - he will be turning 99 in April and is the last surviving WWII veteran here at MAPS. If you see M.L on one of his visits to MAPS be sure to take a moment, introduce yourself and wish him a "Happy Birthday".

THANK YOU!



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**Commercial Printing
& Graphic Design**



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

During the year MAPS has numerous events - car shows, weddings, proms, military shows, pancake breakfasts and many more. The Hunting and Fishing show, in March, kicks off this years event season and as always we are in need of volunteers to work these events. Some examples of the tasks the volunteers perform are set up, take down, parking, food servers and monitoring of our guests. The unique thing about working events is it gives you the ability to pick which events you would like to work and there is no daily or weekly commitment. If you are a member and have yet to volunteer or if you volunteer in other areas at MAPS but would like to work any of our events contact Kent Kleinknecht, our Events Coordinator. Your help is always welcome and appreciated.

As with any Volunteer Organization we are only as strong as our membership. Here at MAPS we've been blessed with the strong financial and physical backing of our members.

Thank you in advance for getting out and selling raffle tickets. If you would like to volunteer but feel hesitant, please know you will always be welcome and that there will be someone here to help you find your niche. We can use your help!

Thank you again for your continued support!



Focus on Volunteers



April of 2024 marks the 5th anniversary of Dave Conner's membership at MAPS and in such a short time, he has had a significant impact on the organization!

Dave was born in Akron and grew up in Barberton where he currently lives. His first visit to MAPS was in the fall of 2018 when he attended the Military Collector's show. He struck up a conversation

with Scott Denniss who encouraged him to join and become a volunteer. He joined in 2019 and started volunteering that spring. He started out helping Bill Cody, Jim Jackson and George Reese with whatever they needed him to do. Dave is a very organized person and as he looked around, he saw things that needed to be done and he took the initiative and started cleaning and organizing.

In 2022, Dave accepted a newly created part-time position and is now the Hangar Manager and is also responsible for security. He continues to log many volunteer hours.

Some of Dave's organizational skills undoubtedly came from his military background. He comes from a strong military family that dates back to the War of 1812. He always knew he wanted to be in the military and as soon as he graduated from high school in 1982, he joined the Army National Guard in Ravenna. In 1985, he decided to enlist in the Navy and became a Gunner's Mate. His basic training and gunner's school was at Great Lakes, IL. He was assigned to a Navy Seal Team as a weapon's specialist and provided support for the Team in all weapon systems (firearms, ordnance, explosives.)

After 4 years of active duty, Dave left the Navy and re-joined the Army National Guard in 1989 where he served until 1993.

In 1992, he joined the Barberton Fire Department as a firefighter and paramedic. He served in that role for 28 years and retired in 2020. For 25 of his 28 year tenure, he was also a part-time SWAT Tactical Medic and Medic Team Leader - one of the first in the State of Ohio.

Dave and his wife, Patti truly are high school sweethearts! They started dating during sophomore/junior years at Kenmore High School and have been together for over 40 years - they will celebrate 37 years of marriage this year.

Dave and Patti are the proud parents of 3 children who all live locally - 2 boys and 1 girl and have 6 grandchildren. Their son, Tim, carried on the family military tradition by entering the Marine Corps. (See text box below.)

When not at MAPS, Dave enjoys hiking, biking, reading and target shooting. He and Patti have a 33-foot RV and they both enjoy the camping life.

When asked, "What is the best thing about MAPS?", Dave said it is the volunteers and the people who work here - the veterans, their dedication and their knowledge.

Dave is an avid reader of all things history and he started reading at a very early age. At first he was reading WWII books and then he started reading about Vietnam and those veterans became his heroes growing up. Now he says he is privileged to work with Vietnam veterans every day! He loves being able to meet MAPS visitors - especially the veterans and hear their stories.

Dave says it is an honor and a privilege to work as a volunteer and staff person at MAPS. "It's one of the best and coolest things I've ever done!"

And we are all grateful to Dave for sharing his talents and for his dedication and commitment to MAPS!

Dave's son, Marine LCpl Timothy Conner, was severely injured when on a combat patrol in Afghanistan with his four-man fire team. They were ambushed by Taliban fighters using command-detonated improvised IEDs. As point man for his fire team, LCpl Conner was slowly advancing along the irrigation ditch when an IED explosion struck him with full force, propelling him several feet back into the ditch.

He was subsequently medevac'd to a combat medical hospital and eventually transferred to Bethesda Naval Hospital where he spent the next 8 weeks undergoing 27 surgeries. He spent an additional 6 weeks undergoing intensive rehabilitation.

See his display in the elevator lobby and the vest and hard plate he wore that day that most likely saved his life.

Legacy Awards - 2023

The MAPS Legacy Award was created in 2014 to acknowledge MAPS members who have lived their lives as examples to our young. Beginning in 2014, MAPS has been presenting the MAPS Legacy Award to three members who have made a significant impact on the organization. Since 2018 we have had the ceremony at the MAPS Christmas Party. The previous recipients meet in late October each year and made a decision on who the recipients will be.

For 2023 our Legacy Award recipients are: Ron Duplain, Rick Johnston, Kent Kleinknecht and Les Peine (Posthumously)



L-R: Rick Johnston, Kent Kleinknecht and Ron Duplain

Ron Duplain - Presented by Ken Ramsay

There is a human resources company, named Bambee, that advertises to small businesses as a place to go to for personnel problems. The add goes something like this:

I have an employee that smells bad, what do I do? Call Bambee.

I have an employee that never finishes an assignment, what do I do? Call Bambee.

I have an employee that is always late for work. Call Bambee.

In MAPS Restoration we have a go-to person, also.

We need a rack for storing lift chains and straps. Go see Ron.

We need a tow bar for the F-86 and F-84. Go see Ron.

We need some modification to the upstairs heating duct. Go see Ron.

We need some mobile stands for our large TV sets. Go see Ron.

We need to order some more aluminum sheet. Go see Ron

I'm thinking of buying a new Corvette. Go see Ron.

Ron Duplain is our go-to person for all things metal and is a well-deserved recipient of our 2023 MAPS Legacy Award. This year Ron will celebrate 15 years as a MAPS member.

Rick Johnston - Presented by Bob Schwartz

Rick joined MAPS in September of 1990 and is one of our founding members. He served on the Board of Directors for 15 years.

MAPS is required to provide reports on all military aircraft in our collection that are actually on loan to us from the Army, Air Force, Navy and others. Rick provides pictures and other detailed information to meet these requirements..

Rick is also our historian and tabulates all of our Member information and has copies of every member's application that are stored alphabetically in a couple dozen or more three ring binders. A few years ago, Rick started digitally copying each application and storing the copies in a file folder. The number of copies is up to a little over 2,600 and they are often referred to when the info is needed.

Rick is an active tour guide volunteering 2 or 3 days a week in this role and for various events he can be found on the second floor manning the OMM room which houses our precious Medals of Honor. Rick has also assisted in restoring a number of aircraft over the years and continues in that role.

Rick was also the first Briefing editor in 1990. (See his article on page 9.)

Recently, Rick and his wife, Sarah Gallagher, each made a very sizable donation to MAPS. It is an honor to present Rick with this year's Legacy Award.

Kent Kleinknecht - Presented by Kim Kovesci

Kent Kleinknecht joined MAPS in June 2000. For the past 23 years, he has made a significant contribution to the success that we have experienced here at MAPS.

He worked on the B-26, F-86D, F-101, F-105, Beech just to mention a few. He helped recover the F-84 from Soplat and the P-51 & P-47 from Cleveland. That is just to mention a few.

I met Kent in 2008 when I started working on the A7E Corsair. Kent was on the Board of Directors and was working right next to me on the F-86D Sabre Dog. I think there was a friendly competition to get things done. As I think back, it was the spark that lit the restoration fire that we now have.

He established the MAPS Cash Raffle that helps generate income during the slowest time of the year. We have been able to post a profit of about \$153,000 during the life of the raffle.

Continued on following page

Legacy Awards *continued...*

For many years, Pat and Bob Schwartz were scheduling all the hall rentals and as we grew, it required more time, they yelled “uncle” in 2017! That same year, Kent was hired as the Event Coordinator but there wasn’t enough work so I asked him if he would be willing to solve another problem we had. I wanted the facility cleaned on a biweekly period. He agreed. Kent was promised flexible hours so he and Dorothy could follow their passion of being on their sailboat. He did both jobs until this year when Penny was hired.

In 2023 we had 106 events. There is a lot more to his Event Coordinator position than anyone knows. Contracts, insurance, liquor licenses, event layouts, scheduling, rental visitations, bridezilla moms and an occasional event planner who wants to impress their client to earn their fee. During this time, Kent has increased hall rentals from \$39,681 to \$71,672 this year.

In addition to his duties and work on aircraft, Kent has coordinated the Santa Fly-in for the last two years.

As Navy guys, Dave Conner and I call ourselves “sailors”. Dave was not on a ship very long and I lived on one for 22 months but never touched the water. So, it is my honor to present this year's MAPS Legacy Award to a “real sailor”, one who has a peg-legged partner (Dorothy just had surgery on her achilles and was in a walking cast) - Kent Kleinknecht.

Leslie Peine (posthumously) - submitted by Reed Kimball



Les was born on May 19, 1945 in Painesville, Ohio but lived most of his life in Chardon. He entered the United States Air Force on December 28, 1967 and was sent to officer training school at Lackland Air Force Base where he was then sent to Communications – Electronics Officer School. Upon completion of the school, he was assigned to Otis Air Force Base where he served, among other duties, as the Military Affiliate Radio Station, or MARS, director, responsible for providing “morale” calls connecting families to military members who were deployed to Vietnam.

In February of 1972, he separated from active duty to attend the Methodist Theological School in Ohio and served as a Chaplain at Lockborne, now Rickenbacher Air Force Base in Ohio.

He returned to active duty in 1979 and while serving in Kalkar, Germany, he was assigned to support operations in Saudi Arabia. Unable to openly serve as a Christian Chaplain in this Muslim country, he was officially classified as a “Special Advisor to the Commander”. He conducted undercover worship services at every installation he visited and smuggled pocket New Testaments and Bibles, which were banned in the country, to military members.

When he was assigned to Patrick Air Force Base in Florida and the Kennedy Space Center, he administered to the spiritual needs of astronauts, support staff and launch crews before missions. In this capacity, he also provided support for those impacted by hurricanes Andrew and Hugo.

Les retired from the Air Force in 1995, holding the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He then took up his post at the United Methodist Church in Massillon while also serving as the Chaplain of the MAPS Air Museum.

Legacy award recipient Chaplain, Lieutenant Colonel Leslie Allen Peine passed away on August 10, 2022 after a lifetime of service to his God, to his family, and to his country.

Our previous Legacy Award recipients

2014 Robert Withee (D), Ralph Lynn (D), Don Block (D)

2015 Ted Mathies, Robert Johnston, Jim Boyea

2016 Mac McFarland, Jim Mosley (D), Ken Ramsay

2017 Jim (D) and Mary Ann Cameron, Rick Hamlet, Bob and Pat Schwartz

2018 Paul Gates, Reed Kimball, Jim Jackson

2019 Don and Leona Neidert, Allen Swain, Richard With (D)

2020 Fred Lindsay (D), Joseph Miller (D), Dave Pawski

2021 Betty and Clay Tober, Barb Johnston, Rick Willaman

2022 Bill and Mary Cody, Bob and Sandy Hollis, Lee Keesler (D) and Kim Kovesi.





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The BRIEFING Newsletter
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Solar Eclipse

April 8, 2024
3:15 PM

MAPS Air Museum
North Canton, Ohio



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:

1. A guaranteed parking spot with an unob-

structed 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 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 full 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 during the Solar Eclipse at MAPS Air Museum. Mark your calendars and join us for this extraordinary event!