

## Why Is MAPS Hiring Three Directors?

*By Kim Kovesci, MAPS Executive Director*

Many of you know that I spent part of my career traveling around the country fixing companies that were purchased by an investment company because they got into trouble. I concluded that there were four reasons why these companies had problems; (1) greed, (2) ego, (3) third generation kids and (4) they grew too fast.

At MAPS, we have kept these categories in mind as we directed the path of the organization, primarily identifying with the one that "grew too fast." Over the years, I have been told that our marketing is terrible and that no one knows we are here. Actually, Doug Perry has done exactly what we wanted him to do. We grew the organization in a controlled manner without constantly overwhelming the support staff. I must admit that there are several months, especially April and May when we spend a lot of time here but that tends to slow down after the High School Visits end.

So what causes problems when an organization grows too fast? In our case, the difficulty is not in the complexity of the new activities – it is in the increased number of activities than we are accustomed to doing. We have a lot of experience hosting wedding receptions, fundraisers, boy scout events, bus tours and pancake breakfasts. The problems occur when we fill up every weekend and sometimes have two or three events that need to be set up and torn down in a very short time span. This increase in the volume of activity directly impacts the support staff and volunteers required to cover these events. Also, the complexity of scheduling multiple events becomes very difficult without a good process to follow. Things can get out of hand very quickly. The companies that got into trouble failed to make necessary changes to the organizational structure that directly deals with an increase in activity. It's not the complexity of the activities that must be addressed, it is the amount of work associated with the increased volume of activity.

Here at MAPS, we are at a critical point in our growth. According to our business plan, we would still be working on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the hangar. That has been completed, and we are continuing to recover from the COVID pandemic as well as the positive impact of the new galleries on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. We anticipate that this next growth period will take us to 50,000 visitors per year.

That is the reason we are in the process of modifying the organizational structure, to prepare to meet the next level of visitation and to position the organization for continued success in the next 10 years and beyond.

*Kim's article continued on the following page*

### HOURS OF OPERATION

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

### ADDRESS and PHONE

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

**Phone:** 330-896-6332

### DIRECTOR'S ELECTION EDITION Information and Candidate Bios Pages 4, 5 & 6

### ★ 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...**

Col. Reed Kimball, the current **Education Director** will be retiring in October. For the last 13 years, Reed has spent a tremendous amount of time developing the education program, writing scripts, creating videos for tours, training tour guides and scheduling visitors. It is hoped that whoever is chosen to replace him will take advantage of Reed's efforts as they work to make the job their own.

In addition to the current Education Director position, the new organizational structure has created an Operations Director and a Museum Director. All three positions have been posted, resumes have been received and interviews are being scheduled.

Increasing the activity within the museum has the largest impact on operations. As the organization grows, communication becomes more important than ever. The increased workload requires that diligent attention be given to safety, housekeeping and compliance with government regulations. The new organizational structure includes an **Operations Director** who will address these issues, improve communication and assume other operational responsibilities delegated by the Executive Director.

The third area being addressed is to formally place a **Museum Director** in charge of the displays, museum inventory, library and archives. We are at a point in our growth where it is necessary to formalize all of the museum activities into one central department. We are a museum and we need to have a vision for what that museum will look like and how it will operate in the future. This requires having someone in charge who has the passion and educational background to develop the vision and lead us in the right direction.

Finally, with these personnel changes in place, we will begin to feel comfortable with the new organization. These changes will allow me to continue my effort to delegate responsibilities and ensure a smooth transition when I ultimately decide to retire in a few years.

- Kim



A **BIG MAPS THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in this year's MAPS raffle. We collected \$19,290 - the highest ever, surpassing last year's highest total of \$18,315! Since 2014, this annual fundraising event has contributed significantly to our operational stability.

We also want to thank the **Print Shop of Canton, Inc.** for printing the tickets and also thank **Bob Schwartz** for mailing and tabulating the raffle tickets. Below is a list of our lucky winners.

\$1,000.00	1st Place	Alexis Olinger
\$ 500.00	2nd Place	Scott Swift
\$ 250.00	3rd Place	Clyde Slutz
\$ 125.00	4th Place	James Etherton
\$ 75.00	5th Place	Randy Evans
\$ 50.00	6th Place	Tracy Barzan

**THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

## Annual Veterans Program

This year, MAPS will host the 12th Annual Veterans Program on Saturday, November 9th. Mark your calendars and look for more information about the program on MAPS website in early fall 2024.

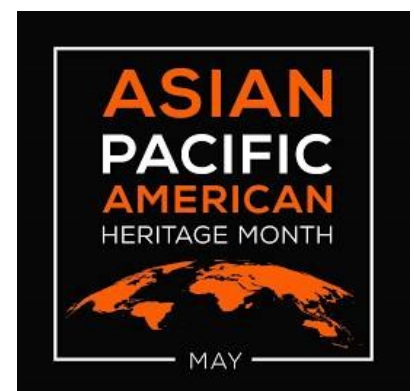


*Fly your Flag proudly!*

*June 14 - Flag Day*

*July 4th - Independence Day*

Since 1990, the U.S. government has designated the month of May as Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month - a time to honor and celebrate the culture of Asian and Pacific Island people in the United States. As actors, journalists, musicians, scientists, astronauts, activists, and more, these inspiring figures have made invaluable contributions to America both in the past and today.





# Restoration Magic!

By Ken Ramsay, Restoration Volunteer, Board Member



**Sometimes when a plane's restoration has been completed, there might be one last little thing that truly makes her complete. The story below is a perfect example!**

Many years ago, before the restoration of our A-26 Invader was finished, Gary Shapiro passed away. As he had worked many years restoring the A-26, I felt it was appropriate to name the aircraft Gary's Lady. At the dedication I asked Gary's wife, Barbara, if it would be ok to add a scantily clad lady as nose art on the A-26. She replied, "Oh Gary would love that".

I contacted a few artists about painting the nose art but the price in each case was way out of our budget. About a year ago a young lady from Columbus, Megan Melquist, contacted Dennis Bachtel about obtaining some old pieces of aluminum sheet on which she could paint nose art and auction them off to support Honor Flight. We found her 3 pieces of used aluminum. She painted nose art on the pieces and each sold for over \$1000!

In talking with Dennis about the success of the pieces, she mentioned that she would love to paint nose art on an actual aircraft at no charge. Dennis contacted me to see if I had any ideas and I replied with an enthusiastic "YES" - the A-26!

I contacted Megan and told her that we had an aircraft that was in need of nose art. It took a few months to arrange for the painting as she has a full-time job and it was winter at MAPS. She emailed me a few ideas and I picked one that fit nicely on the A-26's nose adjacent to the Gary's Lady lettering.

I arranged for her to come to MAPS on Thursday and Friday, March 28 & 29. Upon arrival, Megan traced the design on the aircraft using white tracing paper and began to paint. By early afternoon, using only flesh colored paint, we had a beautiful lady outlined on the nose of the A-26. The nose art was finished on Friday by adding all of the many details. A photo of Gary's Lady was sent to Barbara Shapiro and she was thrilled.

Our A-26 Invader is now complete!



**Gary's Lady  
Before**



**Work begins**



**She's complete!**



**A close-up**

**Megan Melquist  
Is that a "Rosie" pose?**





## DIRECTOR'S ELECTION 2024



At the April and May Membership Meetings, nominations were accepted for the three (3) Director's seats that are up for election at the Annual Membership Meeting to be held on Saturday, June 22, 2024 at 11:00 AM in the Library.

Seats up for election are currently held by **Bill Cody, Val Kinney and Bob Schwartz**. Bill Cody accepted a part-time paid position at MAPS and has resigned from the board per policy. Val Kinney has chosen not to run due to other commitments in her life. Members will be voting for three (3) positions. Four nominations have been received and accepted. The nominees for these positions are: **Peg Deibel, Bob Hollis, Doug Perry and Bob Schwartz**.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Please note that due to the MAPS Car Show being held on Saturday, June 8th, the membership meeting and Director elections will be held on Saturday, June 22nd.**

If you cannot attend the election meeting, proxy votes will be accepted in person or via the MAPS website. In person ballots will be accepted until the start of the membership meeting on Saturday, June 22nd. All website ballots must be received by 4:30 PM on Friday, June 21st.

**IN-PERSON VOTING:** Proxy ballots will be available in the MAPS office starting on Sunday, May 19, 2024. Ballots will be available on Saturday, June 22nd in the Banquet Hall until the beginning of the membership meeting.

**WEBSITE BALLOTS:** Ballots may also be submitted via the MAPS website ([www.mapsairmuseum.org](http://www.mapsairmuseum.org)) under the NEWS/NOTICES link. On the "VOTE ONLINE" page click "VOTE HERE" and you will be directed to the ballot form. Click "SUBMIT" when finished with the ballot. **That link will become active on Saturday, May 18th and will remain active until 4:30 PM on Friday, June 21st.**



## CANDIDATE BIOS



### PEG DEIBEL



Peg enjoys volunteering in MAPS Library and Research Center on activities that include compiling individual military career histories, and researching and writing for the curators in display development. She also regularly helps with MAPS special events throughout the year.

In her 44-year career in education, Peg served as a secondary Language Arts teacher and building administrator, district curriculum and instruction director, and consulted for both educational service centers and the Ohio Department of Education, which included guiding multiple school boards and district teams in developing and implementing systems improvement processes. She has also served as an adjunct professor for various area universities.

A graduate of Carrollton High School, Peg earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Secondary Education from Muskingum University, and Master Degrees in Curriculum Supervision and Educational Administration from Ashland University. She was selected for and trained in Lead-

ership Stark County, and has served on various boards and state-level committees.

Married for 45 years, Peg and her husband Craig have three married daughters and three grandkids, whose athletic events and activities she rarely misses. A regular visitor to historical military sites throughout the US and abroad, she also participates in archaeological digs, primarily at James Madison's Montpelier in Virginia. Peg is also a family historian, with membership in Ohio First Families and the DAR.

When working at MAPS, Peg feels a true affinity with her dad, a Pacific Theater B-17 and B-24 Crew Chief; as well as her brother and brothers-in-law, all Vietnam veterans; grandfather, a World War I veteran; and West Point graduate niece, a two-tour veteran of Afghanistan. She can't think of a better place to spend way too much of her retirement time than at MAPS.

*Candidate bios continued on the following page*

**Candidate Bios *continued...*****BOB HOLLIS**

**Work Experience:** Nearly 50-year career in the IT industry as a computer operator, developer, analyst, consultant, manager, asst. vice president and president/owner. Employed at NIH, Planning Research Corp., CASNET division of Citizens Savings Bank, T-Soft, Inc. (owner) and AIG.

**Military Service:** U.S. Air Force 1965-1969 Computer Operator,

shift supervisor, Staff Sergeant.

**Volunteer Experience:** Youth Soccer Coach; Orchard Hill School PTO Treasurer; Hoover Instrumental Music Association Vice-President; Canton VA Clinic Van Driver.

**MAPS Experience:** PT-19 Restoration Crew, Boy Scout Coordinator, Air Academy and Merit Badge Instructor, served on MAPS Board of Directors from 2013-2021, Gift Shop Manager since.

**Remarks:** I have been a life long lover of aviation. As a 5th grader, I would ride my bike from North Canton to the current MAPS facility to watch the Air National Guard 112th Fighter Squadron F-51s come and go. In high school, I worked at McKinley Air Transport and was a CAP cadet where I met MAPS member Bob Schwartz and fellow CAP cadet Sandy Theis (now Sandy Hollis for the past 58 years).

I received my pilot's license at McKinley Air Transport and always thought I would have a career in aviation. Then I joined the Air Force. In their infinite wisdom they trained me in a field that I had never even heard of at that time (IT) and found I had some talent in that area and actually enjoyed it. The career gave me a good life, decent income and allowed me to continue flying as a pilot and worldwide as a passenger (I always took a window seat).

I initially joined MAPS in the early 1990's but the atmosphere was not to my liking. I stayed away for many years until Sandy (who worked for the Canton VA Clinic) asked me to help her set up a VA booth for an event at MAPS. I went and found that the organization had totally changed. I filled out an application that day and have never looked back.

I am very proud of MAPS, its volunteers and its mission. As a Director, my goal will be to insure that MAPS remains the great institution that it has become and will work tirelessly to continue the progress of making it the finest museum of its type in the country.

**DOUG PERRY**

**Education:** Canton South High School - Studied Academic Industrial Arts; Kent State University - Associate of Arts Degree - study concentration - Business Administration; Kent State University - Bachelor of Arts General Studies Degree - study concentrations in Political Science, Criminal Justice, and Psychology.

**Work Experience:** Timken Company - Steel worker in both the steel and bearing plants; Fair Finance Co. - I worked as a loan and collections officer and Assistant Office manager; Lake Mohawk Property Owners Association - I was the Lake Manager and had the responsibility for 26 miles of roads, a 507 acre lake, pressurized sewer collection system, and a package sewer treatment plant along with several buildings and lake facilities; Canton Board of Park Commissioners - I was the Director/Secretary for the Canton Park System - 62 park locations of around 700 plus acres in total. I was responsible for a 1.25 million dollar plus annual operating budget and an additional capital improvement budget. I managed 23 full time employees along with additional summer workers, including Park Police Officers. I also worked with other governmental agencies and departments, and provided construction project oversight.

**Volunteer Experience:** Stark County Veterans Memorial Committee - Vice President - a 501C3 organization that built the Stark County Veterans Memorial located in Canton's Westbrook Veterans Memorial Park; Canton South Band Boosters - treasurer; Canton Township Historical Society - Board of Advisors; MAPS Air Museum - member for 11 years, Marketing Manager for 10 years and Tour Guide for 10 years. I also monitor and respond to the info@mapsairmuseum.org email address and respond to reviews from Google, Facebook and Yelp. As Marketing Manager I am responsible for placing print ads in various publications, posting information to, and monitoring, the MAPS Facebook page and MAPS Instagram site, working with TV and Radio contacts, posting to various webpages

**Military Service:** US Army - 1971-1974 Regular Army - Obtained rank of Acting NCO. Trained as an Engineer in Heavy Equipment Operation and Maintenance. Also served as a Supply Clerk, POL Property Book NCO, truck driver, as the NCOIC of a CTA50-901 Field Gear Central Issue Facility, and Assistant Platoon Leader in what was then West Germany.

**Candidate Bios *continued...*****BOB SCHWARTZ**

**Work Experience:** Retired from First Energy in 2004 as a Transmission Operations Supervisor with over 34 years of service. Operated the transmission, generation and distribution systems.

**Military Service:** 8-year Air Force veteran, serving as an Air

Traffic Control Ground Radar Technician and a Viet Nam veteran 66-67.

**Volunteer Experience:** I've been a member of MAPS since March of 2006 and on the Board of Directors since 2008. I resigned as Chairman in 2023 and passed the reins to Denny Bachtel but remain an active board member. I am a life member and have participated in many management classes and seminars.

I am on the Membership Committee and am responsible for maintaining our membership data base. I tabulate volunteer hours and last year we had 42,072 volunteer hours. I also provide information and data for our newsletter, the Briefing.

I've also been playing a big part in handling the MAPS Raffle for a number of years, and it is a team effort originally organized by Kent Kleinknecht. Each year we seem to set a new record including the last 3 years in a row. A big MAPS thank you to every one of you that participated.

Previously I was a volunteer fire fighter/EMT and Rescue Squad Chief. Coached and served as umpire with the Northwest Youth Baseball league. I have also volunteered with the Stark County Park District.

**Remarks:** Ever since I can remember I've had a great interest in aviation. I was a pilot, inactive now, with commercial, instrument and flight instructor ratings. I am a HAM Radio Operator and hold a commercial radio operator's license.

My wife, Pat, and I have been married for 61 years this year and have 6 kids, 14 grand-kids and 4 great-grandkids.

This is a great time to be a MAPS member and we have made great strides over the past several years. I really appreciate volunteers taking the time to talk to me, explaining and showing what they are working on and at times they will go into great detail. This tells me they love what they are doing and are happy to be a MAPS volunteer.

## Upcoming Events

**JUNE**

SAT, JUN 1	CRAFT BEER FEST	5 PM - 8 PM
WED, JUN 5	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, JUN 8	ANNUAL CAR SHOW	9 AM - 2 PM
SAT, JUN 22	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM
	ANNUAL MEETING/ELECTIONS	

**JULY**

WED, JUL 10	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SUN, JUL 14	PANCAKE BREAKFAST	8 AM - 1 PM
FRI, JUL 19 & SAT, JUL 20	ASMC MILITARY INSIGNIA SHOW	FRI 12 PM - 5 PM / SAT 8:30 AM - 3 PM

**AUGUST**

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

**SEPTEMBER**

WED, SEP 11	DIRECTOR MEETING	3 PM
SAT, SEP 21	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM
SUN, SEP 15	PANCAKE BREAKFAST	8 AM - 1 PM

**A NOTE ABOUT EVENTS**

Please call MAPS or check our website, Facebook or Instagram for details about events and any updates. Occasionally dates change due to scheduling conflicts. 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!



## Meet MAPS Newest Interns

### Sarah Christensen



Sarah is a sophomore at Walsh University. She is pursuing a double major in Museum Studies and Visual and Performing Arts with the track in music. Sarah is very interested in music and movies and the impact it makes on pop culture.

Sarah grew up in North Canton and is still currently a resident of the area. In her free time she tries to visit as many specialty museums as possible, not just your everyday art museums.

On Sarah's mother's side, she has a rich history of military family members, with someone having served in each of the four branches of the military.

Following graduation, she hopes to find herself working in a specific specialty museum, such as a music or movie based museum.

During her time in the MAPS library, she has been researching the involvement of the Donut Dollies during the Vietnam War and applying that to the upcoming Vietnam War exhibit in the second floor galleries.

### Benjamin Swartz



My Name is Ben Swartz and I was born and raised in North Canton. I am a graduating senior at Kent State Stark and am majoring in history with a psychology minor.

I am interning here at MAPS because I have an active love of history. I have been working on creating a tour guide for the D-Day 80th Anniversary here at MAPS.

My favorite historical topic to learn about is Japanese history during and after WWII. My dream job after graduation would be to work in a prominent museum.

My personal hobbies include playing D&D with my friends and reading.

Many thanks to Sarah and Ben for sharing their talents with MAPS. We wish them both great success in their chosen fields.

*Volunteers are key to our success!*

**THANK YOU!**



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for sponsoring "THE BRIEFING"**

## A 99th Birthday Celebration

At the April Membership Meeting, M.L. Weaver's 99th birthday was celebrated with a cake and many good wishes!

M.L. has been a MAPS member since 2011 when he started working to restore the PT-19. His interest in this plane came from his service as an Army Air Corps pilot from 1943 to 1947. He was stationed in Houston, TX at Ellington Field where he flew training missions in the PT-19 as well as the BT-13.

He also flew the (brand new at the time) C-47. They were delivered in a matter of hours from the production factory directly to Houston. Navigators were being flown from the warfront back to Houston for advanced training and M.L. was flying the C-47 so they could get that training.



We are honored to have M.L., a member of the Greatest Generation, as a member of the MAPS family!

# Operation BODYGUARD

By Reed Kimball, MAPS Education Director

*All warfare is based on deception. Hence, when we are able to attack, we must seem unable; when using our forces, we must appear inactive; when we are near, we must make the enemy believe we are far away; when far away, we must make him believe we are near.*

*Sun Tzu, The Art of War, 5th Century B.C.*

There have been a number of books, studies and papers written about the landings on June 6, 1944. What many do not realize, however, is that D-Day was but a small segment of a much larger operation - one composed of dozens of interlocking pieces that made up the whole. Actual combat operations that were the culmination of all of these subordinate plans lasted for a period of only 93 days. This article will attempt to show how the various plans came together to support what General Eisenhower called the "Great Crusade."

As planning progressed for **Operation OVERLORD**, (D-Day), concurrent planning was started to deceive the enemy as to the timing, weight, direction, and leadership of what the Germans suspected was coming – the invasion of the European continent and the establishment of a second front. The codename for the overall deception plan was **Operation BODYGUARD**. **BODYGUARD**'s main objective was to ensure that the Germans would not increase troop presence in Normandy and to do so by promoting the appearance that the Allies would attack in other locations.

As part of the deception program directed toward the German intelligence services, the Allies developed **Operation BIGOT**.

The program's focus was classifying as "Ultra Secret" a set of false documents and operational plans. Documents dealing with **Operation OVERLORD** were classified with the codeword "BIGOT". Only select individuals were authorized access to any materials under this program. The **BIGOT** program was managed by a score of soldiers on the fifth floor of the Selfridges Department Store in London.



The map above shows the locations of Operations designed to deceive the Germans.

**Operation GRAFFHAM** was intended to imply that the Allies were building political ties with neutral Sweden in preparation for an upcoming invasion of Norway.

**Operation ROYAL FLUSH** was proposed to support other deceptions in the Western and Mediterranean theatres by making political overtures to Sweden, Spain and Turkey and by having ambassadors from the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union demand that Germans be denied access to these countries until after initiation of an Allied invasion of Norway.

Intercepted communications during January 1944 indicated German high command feared the possibility of landings along the Bay of Biscay on the western coast of France, particularly near the city of Bordeaux.

*Reed's article continued on the following page*



## Operation BODYGUARD *continued...*

To play on those fears, the Allies instigated **Operation IRONSIDE**. After a beachhead had been established, the force would then capture Bordeaux before it linked up with **Operation VENDETTA**, another deception operation focused on southern France near the city of Marseille.

**Operation FERDINAND**'s deception painted the story that Allied commanders had decided to focus all of their resources on the Italian campaign with landings in Genoa, on the west coast of Italy.

**Operation ZEPPELIN** was intended to tie down German forces in the area by threatening landings in the Balkans, particularly Crete and Romania.

**Operation COPPERHEAD** was a small decoy operation undertaken just prior to D-Day. It was intended to mislead German intelligence as to the whereabouts of General Montgomery. Actor M.E. Clifton James, who bore a strong resemblance to the general, made public appearances in Gibraltar and North Africa. The Allies hoped it would indicate to the Germans a forthcoming invasion via the Mediterranean.

**Operation FORTITUDE** focused on creating invasion threats from the United Kingdom into various parts of Western Europe. The plan was eventually split into two parts, **FORTITUDE NORTH** and **FORTITUDE SOUTH**.

**FORTITUDE NORTH** was designed to mislead the Germans into expecting an invasion of Norway.

**Operation SKYE** was a deception program based on broadcasting of false radio traffic from Edinboro in Scotland to convince German radio traffic analysts that the Allies had built up sufficient forces to initiate the invasion of Norway at any moment.

**FORTITUDE SOUTH** was a major deception designed to fool the Germans into believing that the landings would take place at Pas de Calais in northern France in July. To implement such an extensive program, **FORTITUDE SOUTH** was divided up into six sub-plans, collectively codenamed **Operation QUICKSILVER**.

It was well known by the allies that Germany had three primary means of collecting intelligence, aerial reconnaissance, spies and signals intelligence, that had to be fooled by **Operation QUICKSILVER**.

Under **Operation QUICKSILVER**, a fictitious First U.S. Army Group was invented. Supposedly located in southeast England, the First U.S. Army Group was under the command of Lieutenant General George S. Patton, whom the Germans held in high regard. The Fortitude South story would be that the First U.S. Army Group was

being prepared to invade the Pas-de-Calais after an initial diversionary invasion in the Normandy area. To support this deception, Patton remained stationed in England until 6 July, thus continuing to deceive the Germans into believing a second attack would take place at Calais.



Patch of the fictitious  
1st U.S. Army Group



General George S. Patton

To support this deception and to provide German aerial reconnaissance flight with what the allies wanted them to see, the allies created a "Ghost Army". Activated on January 20, 1944, the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops was the first mobile, multimedia, tactical deception unit in US Army history.

It was made up of a carefully selected group of artists, engineers, professional soldiers, and draftees. They constructed dummy tanks, trucks, and landing craft, and positioned them near the coast. They created vehicle tracks and set-up and illuminated artificial airfields to include dummy aircraft to ensure the scene appeared real to any observer.

To provide the German radio intercept stations with information supporting the deception plan, broadcasts of fake radio-traffic, attributed to the 1st U.S. Army Group were transmitted from tunnels under Dover Castle. Additionally, genuine radio messages from 21st Army Group were first routed via landline and then broadcast, to give the Germans the impression that most of the Allied troops were stationed there.



On the night before the invasion, in **Operations TAXABLE** and **GLIMMER**, British bombers dropped strips of metal foil, called "chaff" or "window" that German radar operators interpreted as a naval convoy approaching. The illusion was bolstered by a group of small vessels towing

*Article continued on the following page*

## Operation BODYGUARD *continued...*

barrage balloons. On the same night, a small group of Special Air Service operators deployed dummy paratroopers along the Normandy coast. These dummies led the Germans to believe an additional airborne assault had occurred in Normandy, but this was the deception planted by **Operation QUICKSILVER**.

With the deception plans in progress and the command structure identified, it was time to start planning for the actual landings, codenamed **Operation NEPTUNE**.

The Normandy landings were the largest seaborne invasion in history, with nearly 5,000 landing and assault craft, 289 escort vessels, 277 minesweepers and approximately 13,000 aircraft involved. Nearly 160,000 troops crossed the English Channel on June 6, 1944. From then until August 21, 1944, the Allies landed 2,052,299 men in north-western France.



Walsh University interns, Sarah Christensen (L) and Rachel Hirnikl have created a visual and informative display on MAPS mezzanine wall to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.



*Happy Father's Day!  
To all MAPS dads, granddads and  
great-granddads*

## ★ Welcome U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary ★

MAPS is pleased to welcome and begin hosting monthly meetings of Flotilla 6-1, located in Akron and under the leadership of Commodore Ken Jacobs.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed, all-volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard. The Auxiliary was created by an Act of Congress in 1939 and has grown to over 26,000 members. The Auxiliary supports the Coast Guard and acts as a force multiplier in all Coast Guard missions, except military and law enforcement. There are members and units in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Guam.

Auxiliary members conduct safety patrols on local waterways, assist in Search and Rescue, teach boating safety classes, conduct free vessel safety checks for the public, provide boating safety literature to dealers, as well as many other activities related to recreational boating safety.

The Coast Guard considers the Auxiliary its primary resource for recreational boating safety outreach and prevention and each Coast Guard district around the nation has established a senior officer and staff to provide tight liaison and coordination between the active-duty Coast Guard and the various Auxiliary units in that district. And in many inland portions of the country, where the majority of U.S. recreational boating occurs on lakes and rivers, the Auxiliary is the sole Coast Guard presence!

But the Auxiliary is more than recreational boating safety; they regularly serve alongside active-duty shipmates serving as communications watch standers, uninspected passenger vessel inspectors, training resources for air and sea operations, numerous duties related to environmental protection and homeland security, and even as chefs! In fact, there are nearly two dozen "qualifications" open to Auxiliarists willing to put in the time and training. Collectively, Auxiliarists volunteer over 4.5 million hours per year and complete nearly 500,000 missions – a true force multiplier for the U. S. Coast Guard!





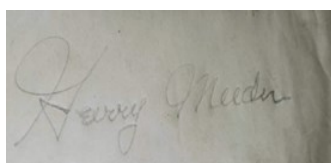
## The Cornered Curator

*The journalistic musings of a disinclined raconteur.*  
by Scott Denniss, MAPS Curatorial Department

I'm fond of saying that every day is like Christmas morning in the Curators Department. We never know what amazing donation will come through the door on any given day.

One of those recent presents is a beautiful silk souvenir wall hanging. It is believed to have been made for an unidentified sailor who was serving onboard the USS Washington in 1909. The Washington was a United States Navy Armored Cruiser (ACR-11). She had quite a storied history which included being part of President Roosevelt's "Great White Fleet". In 1909 the Washington sailed as part of an Armored Cruiser Squadron to "show the flag" in the Far East. The Squadron made several Ports of Call including Nares Harbor in the Admiralty Islands, Manila in the Philippine Islands, Woosung in China and Yokohama in Japan.

This silk and bullion remembrance wall hanging is well over 100 years old. It was found in the attic of a local home, lightly stitched to a paper backing and neatly folded inside a small galvanized metal box. Who knows how many years it sat in that dark, dusty attic but given its condition I'd say it's aged better than Keith Richards.



Unfortunately the donor didn't have any background information on it or the sailor in the photo. There is a hand written name on the back of the backing paper. The actual name is up for debate given that it's written in an ancient code known as "Cursive". We have researched different variations of the name but so far haven't come up with any-

thing. "USS WASHINGTON" can be seen on the tally of the sailor's flat cap.

The wall hanging is constructed in a style of Japanese hand embroidery known as Bunka Shishua. This art form is created by using a unique combination of punch needles and silk-like rayon thread or yarn on a silk background. It also includes some gold bullion thread highlights. Additional features include the B&W photo of the unidentified sailor, a gemstone for the Eagle's eye, and an embroidered rendition of the USS Washington. There are ten national maritime flags embroidered on it, including some European nations. I'm guessing they were added to memorialize prior cruises by the sailor.

It is in its original condition showing no fading with only some minor thread damage. It has been professionally preserved and framed and is currently on display in the Gallery of Heroes. Come see it in person and I think you'll agree that it's the prettiest Centenarian you've ever seen!



MAPS is pleased to announce we will be taking part in the National Endowment for the Arts "Blue Star Museum" program again this year.

Blue Star Museums is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and museums across America, offering free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve.

On average, more than 2,000 museums participate, including nature centers, zoos, and children's museums.

The 2024 Blue Star Museums program begins on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 20, 2023 and ends on Labor Day, Monday, September 4, 2024. Please note that this does not apply to special events held at the MAPS Air Museum.

**We look forward to welcoming our active military and their families to MAPS!**



## MAPS Mourns A Loss

It is with sadness that we inform you of a recent loss to the MAPS family.

### Ron Stanich 1947-2024



Dr. Ronald Stanich, DDS, 76, of Canal Fulton, passed away on March 18, 2024. He was born in Barberton, Ohio, on June 23, 1947, to the late Ralph and Martha (Pavkov) Stanich.

Ron was a 1965 graduate of Barberton High School and was inducted into their Inaugural Academic Hall of Fame in 2006. He continued his education at the University of Akron where he received two degrees. Ron then taught physics and chemistry for the Akron Public Schools.

He then pursued his Doctor of Dental Surgery from The Ohio State University and graduated in 1977.

Ron proudly served his country in the United States Air Force and completed his undergraduate pilot training course. He was an F-100 Fighter Pilot with the 164th Tactical Fighter Squadron of the OHANG, out of Mansfield, Ohio where he was the OHANG base dentist and medical group commander before retiring with 33 years of dedicated service with the title of Colonel.

Ron received many notable awards throughout his life including being inducted into the Distinguished Dental Service Academy of the Stark County Dental Society (SCDS) in 2008 and the recipient of the ODA Distinguished Dentist Award in 2009. The SCDS Rising Star Award, which Ron had also received, was renamed to the SCDS Colonel Ronald Stanich, DDS, Leadership Award in honor of him and to carry on his legacy.

Of all the accolades Ron had accepted, you only heard him boast of being a loving father and beloved Papa.

The family asked that memorial contributions be made to MAPS where Ron had been a member since 2013 and volunteered in the library.

*Sincere condolences from the  
MAPS family to volunteer,  
Debbie Bussinger, on the recent  
loss of her father.*

## Chairman's Notes

*By Dennis Bachtel, Director Chair*

For this addition of the MAPS Briefing I had thought I'd write about the Solar Eclipse event we hosted at MAPS, from my perspective as a volunteer and as a participant.

I knew others would be writing about the Eclipse also and there would probably be some redundancy, but I thought I might be able to add something. The Eclipse was awesome and the event went extremely well. It was one of the most laid back, respectful, pleasant events I've had the privilege to be a part of. Thanks to all the volunteers and staff that helped make that day a great one! Though the Eclipse was great, I was inspired to shift gears and write about something else after listening to Ken Ramsay tell a story about his encounter with a young man who was a past MAPS member and volunteer.

Ken was attending a Super Saber reunion in Las Vegas and while there was contacted by this young man who had worked with Ken and had helped with the restoration of our A-26, six to eight years ago. The young man went on to college in Colorado and participated in ROTC and, upon completion, was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. While he had thoughts of becoming a pilot, with his mechanical skills and aptitude, he gravitated to testing and evaluation of aircraft systems and weapons and is now a respected 1st Lieutenant stationed at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. This young man gave Ken a personal tour of Nellis Air Force Base, which Ken thoroughly enjoyed, with his up-close encounters with F-22s, F-35s, F-18s and many other aircraft in their testing program. While telling his story about the young man, Ken also spoke of how many of our older members have expressed how they felt MAPS has helped extend their lives by as much as 15 years. I attribute this to following ones passion of aviation, military history and the camaraderie we share with other volunteers who share those same passions. Ken and the young man went to lunch after the tour and he proceeded to tell Ken how MAPS saved him. I don't know in what context, but I think it was profound. He apparently made life choices that were at least partially influenced by his experiences at MAPS.

I guess in thinking about Ken's story, it just reinforced what I already knew about the MAPS organization and experience and how we have the opportunity to influence lives. From my perspective of primarily working in restoration, our morning may start with a cup of coffee and a "BS" session, usually catching up on what each other has

*Article continued on the following page*

## MAPS Anniversaries

February 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024

*\*\* designates Family Membership*

### 25 YEARS

Neidert, Don & Leona\*\*

### 20 YEARS

Johnston, Robert & Barb\*\*

### 15 YEARS

Audi Miller, Noelle

Disco, John

Reopko, Mike

### 10 YEARS

Ashley, John

Hutchison, Bob

Hutchison, Tom

Pfromm, Carl

Powell Jr, Ray\*\*

Weber, Raymond

Willis, Tony

### 5 YEARS

Basso, Michael

Conner, David\*\*

Luisi, Mark\*\*

Morris, Ronald\*\*

Orians, James\*\*

Stelea, Barbara\*\*

Van Sickel, Robert\*\*

VanDenberg, Ervin\*\*

## CONGRATULATIONS

Thank You For Your Continued Support!

## New Members

February 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024

*\*\* designates Family Membership*

Anderson, Carter

Barnett, Brandy\*\*

Crock, Craig\*\*

Dickson, Dara\*\*

Dinn, Irwin

Egan, Ed\*\*

Evans, Andrew\*\*

Geis, Matthew\*\*

Gerber, Jonathan

Hoover, Robert\*\*

Jacobs, Kenneth\*\*

Julio, Autumn

Koch, Jason

Koczur, Beth\*\*

Kurlinski, Jason\*\*

Lattimer, Vincent

Lescalleet, Gary\*\*

Luby, James

Massie, James\*\*

Melvin, Kerri\*\*

Nelligan, Michael

Ormiston, Bryce

Seeton, Melissa\*\*

Shahin, Mjed

St Clair, Edward\*\*

Wales, Terry

Welch, Ashwin

Wlotzko, Mark

Yakubisin, Jeff



A Warm MAPS Welcome!



## Chairman's Notes *continued...*

done since our last work day, good natured jabs at each other and a lot of laughs - just being guys. We all have our respective projects and we get to work. At the end of the day, we've hopefully accomplished something to move our projects forward, we've had fun and we've stimulated our minds and bodies in hopes of staying somewhat relevant.

What Ken's story really drove home, is what a great opportunity we have here at MAPS to influence, in a positive way, the young people we come in contact with. What we say and do and the experiences we provide may not show dividends for years and in most cases we will probably never know the results of our influence, but we want to make sure the experience is a positive one.

Thinking back of all the young people we've had come through our various programs, Portage Lakes Career Center students, Stow High School Aviation Program, various Scout programs, WW2 reenactors, Air Academy, high school history students, interns, individual young people with an interest in aviation and history and I'm sure many more not mentioned. Many of these programs have provided the opportunity to try new things, develop some skills and have a chance to fail in a safe environment where you can learn from mistakes.

Many of the experiences we provide to younger people also extend to our older members as well. Many of our volunteers are trying and learning new skills they never had the opportunity to develop in their work life. I have come to realize I'm not a welder, thanks Ron Duplain for allowing me to try and fail, it didn't hurt my ego too much. At the end of the day we're all here at MAPS because we want to be here and be a part of something bigger than ourselves.

Thanks Ken for bringing this story to our attention. Remember to stay positive, be respectful of others and move the mission forward.

## Once In A Lifetime Solar Eclipse!

*By Doug Perry, Marketing Manager  
and Solar Event Coordinator*

Many months ago I walked up to Kim and said, “we should plan an event at MAPS for the eclipse coming up next April 8th”. I am not sure he was immediately sold on the idea but he gave the go-ahead and off to the races we went!

I found out that Bob Hollis had been in Kentucky for the eclipse in 2017 and he told me of his experiences. I looked up information from NASA, got times for the event, and obtained information from other sources like local emergency planning agencies and attended meetings to put a plan together.

After this, I talked to the best people to pull off such an event - the MAPS volunteers. Jim Jackson about parking and how many spots out on the apron we could set up for parking spots (350), Marylou for providing a lunch for folks and Bob Hollis about gift shop staffing, safety viewing glasses and t-shirts to sell. I reached out to our tour guides, Penny for housekeeping, Dave had the hangar under control, Bruce handled the sound system and announcements, and Kim set up the event using Eventbrite which worked great for planning. In other words, this was not our first rodeo and the MAPS group did what we do best and pulled together to make it all happen.

Then I put on my marketing hat and got our event out on Facebook, Instagram, Ohio.org, VistCanton's website, and Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau's website. This information was picked up by other media outlets and Kim got calls and did interviews about our event. I watched the numbers slowly climb. At one point I was fairly certain we would get to 200 spots sold. As the event got closer I tried not to check the weather forecast every day. But as we got closer the numbers continued to climb. Kim said we were getting about 10 a day, then 20, and then SOLD OUT!

What a day it turned out to be! Tour guides were on hand, parking spots had been marked out and property access was controlled. Dave Conner had security and command all set up, the lunch crew was ready, Bruce had the sound system, Penny was on duty for housekeeping, the gift shop was ready, Ted was in his hospital tent, Peg Deibel and her volunteers had a great children's area set to go - we were ready!

People were enjoying the museum, eating lunch, kids were enjoying their area, people were setting up chairs, sitting at picnic tables, kids were playing in the grass, the gift shop was busy, and the weather - was perfect!

Then the eclipse began. As it continued, people got very quiet. Wearing their glasses, eyes pointed skyward. The

sunlight reduced, the birds thought night was coming, the light got weird, the temperature dropped, and then - totality! People yelled, hooted, cheered, took pictures, and applauded.

What a sight! Slowly the light returned.

Well done by all! A spectacular event! A record sales day in the gift shop where Bob had said a \$3,000 sales day would be a record but they ended up doing just shy of \$5,000 in sales. We had people from Washington, Washington DC, California, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Ohio - those are only states we heard about!

A comment from our first guest of the day from New Jersey - “Thank you so much for hosting this! We had an amazing time!! We enjoyed exploring the museum and everyone was so friendly!”

Putting my marketing hat back on, all these folks have now returned home. They will tell their family and friends all about the eclipse. And, they will also tell them about the MAPS Air Museum and the people who made them feel so welcome and offered a great place for the event of their lifetime.

Again - Well done by all!

**A Note:** The Eclipse was the main event of the day but it was augmented beautifully by the playlist that volunteer, Bruce Balough created for the day. As we were approaching totality, Don Maclain's “*Total Eclipse of the Sun*” was playing; when totality began, Pink Floyd's “*See You On the Dark Side of the Moon*” began to play and as totality ended, the Beatles, “*Here Comes the Sun*” played amidst a roaring cheer from the crowd!

See below and the next page for some great pictures!





## MAPS DIRECTORY

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kim Kovesci

### DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Reed Kimball

### EVENT COORDINATOR

Kent Kleinknecht

### DIRECTORS

Dennis Bachtel (Chair)

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 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

Roger Herbst

### WEBSITE & WEBMASTER

Ron Schultz



Dusk at 3:15 pm on April 8, 2024, a warm sunny afternoon.



The pictures below: taken by Scott Denniss, MAPS Collections Manager, using a special lens on his camera.



During a total solar eclipse, the corona (crown) briefly comes into view as the Moon blocks out the light from the solar surface. The corona is wispy, white streamers of plasma (charged gas) that radiate out from the surface of the Sun. Since the corona is such thin gas, we can see it only when the body of the Sun is completely blocked by the Moon.



The diamond ring effect happens at the moment the sun becomes visible and only lasts for 1 - 2 seconds. Just as the moon moves away, the sun's light will burst from the first place that becomes uncovered, shining a little like a diamond that's set on a ring.

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

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 North Canton OH 44720  
 Phone 330-896-6332

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The BRIEFING Newsletter  
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# Mark Your CALENDAR



## North Canton Craft Beer Festival

**Saturday, June 1st** 6 PM - 9 PM

This is the 5th year for this fun festival! Tickets and more information are available online. Log into MAPS website and click on Events Schedule under the Plan Your Visit Tab.

## 14th Annual Don Sitts/MAPS Air Museum Car Show

**Saturday, June 8th**

Car Registration 8 AM Show 9:00 AM - 2 PM

No pre-registration. All makes, models and years welcome! Come and show off your car! The first 300 through the gate receive dash plaques.

Come early to see all the cars! Last year we had over 500 cars on display!

There will be food available and served by Scout Troops 330/335 and 7335, an ice cream truck and a 50/50 raffle with drawings for additional prizes.

## American Society of Military Insignia (ASMIC) Show

**Friday, July 19th** 12 - 5 PM and

**Saturday, July 20th** 8:30 AM - 3 PM

ASMIC is one of the oldest and largest organizations of military insignia collectors in the world. Founded in 1937 by a small group of enthusiastic collectors, the Society is "home" today to 2,000 dedicated collectors in the United States and foreign nations.

## Summer Pancake Breakfast

**Sunday, July 14th** 8 AM - 1 PM

Bring the whole family for a delicious summer event!

As with all our special events, not only do you get to enjoy the event, but you also have full access to the museum - over 50 aircraft, the Gallery of Heroes, the Ohio Military Museum, MAPS Art Gallery and The Super Sabre Gallery.