

## The Organization For The Future

*By Kim Kovesci, MAPS Executive Director*

I have been very fortunate to have been around some very smart mentors in my career. One of the first things that I learned was to surround myself with people who know more than I do. I followed that philosophy when Reed was hired as the Director of Education, just eighteen months after I became the Executive Director.

Reed Kimball is retiring in October as the Director of Education and we have all seen the contribution that he has made to the success of our organization. He grew the US History program from 3 schools in Stark County to 23 schools from 5 counties. He wrote all the training manuals for the tour guides and trained them in their duties. He created the self guided tour system using a QR code for each display using a smartphone as the device to run the videos. He created the MAPS Air Museum Channel on YouTube with videos on our displays, aircraft and veteran interviews.

Many of our policies and procedures were authored by Reed. He wrote the History of MAPS book for our 25th & 30th anniversaries. He created the Learning Packages for multiple age levels of visitors, with questions to be answered during their tour.

One of the most impressive contributions was the addition of the Air Academy. Reed created this program to educate a student and their guardian on the basics of flight. The program quickly transitions to practical flight simulator training and concludes with planning/flying missions.

In summary, Reed has his finger prints all over the success that we have experienced over the past twelve years. I want to thank him for his contribution, passion, professionalism and leadership that we have enjoyed. He plans to continue the Air Academy and as a tour guide so he will not be a stranger. He will still be able to tell our visitors the stories that he helped to write.

Reed's announcement triggered us to think about the makeup of our organizational structure and I have written a lot about "Why" we reorganized. What is critical to MAPS's future success is how we match the right people to the positions that have been created. We have been very fortunate to have all three positions filled with volunteers who have a thorough understanding of our culture.

I have always thought that whenever possible, positions should be filled from within. I am a believer that we should minimize risk whenever possible. By hiring someone you know, that risk is minimized. They already know both the formal

and informal cultures that manage the organization. We already have a good understanding of their personalities and anticipate how they will perform in the position.

Each of these individuals have been associated with MAPS for many years and they have demonstrated their passion through their actions and

*Kim's article continued on the following page*

### HOURS OF OPERATION

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

### ADDRESS and PHONE

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

**Phone:** 330-896-6332

### ★ Mission Statement ★

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

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

accomplishments. We know this because we know them. I want to provide some of the bullet points from their resumes that you may not know and introduce you to our new Directors.

**Debbie Bussinger** assumed the new position of Museum Director on July 1, 2024.

- ◆ Office Services, General Accounting and Billing Departments - McMaster-Carr
- ◆ Address data entry - US Postal Service
- ◆ Electronics Technician - Loral Defense Systems - Goodyear Aerospace
- ◆ Avionics Flight Control Systems Specialist - US Air Force
- ◆ Volunteer since 2012 - MAPS Air Museum
- ◆ MLIS Masters of Library and Information Science - Kent State University
- ◆ BA Business Management - Hiram College
- ◆ AS Electrical Engineering Technology - Kent State University



**Dave Conner** assumed the new position of Operations Director on July 1, 2024.

- ◆ Hangar Manager - MAPS Air Museum
- ◆ Firefighter/Paramedic - Barberton, OH
- ◆ Instructor in many areas
- ◆ National Incident Management System, Incident Command System
- ◆ Instructor/Advisor Ohio Emergency Management Agency
- ◆ SWAT Unit Tactical Medic/Team Leader
- ◆ Weapons and Tactics Advisor
- ◆ Tank Gunner/Commander, Reconnaissance Team Leader, Weapons Instructor Army National Guard
- ◆ USN SEAL Team Weapons/Ordnance Technician - small arms weapons instructor/advisor



**Jerry Patton** began training as the new Education Director beginning August 1, 2024.

- ◆ BS Industrial Engineering Technology - Kent State University
- ◆ MS Vocational Education - Kent State University
- ◆ MA Building Principal Licensure - Ashland University
- ◆ Instructor - Portage Lakes Career Center
- ◆ Electrician - Timken Company
- ◆ Aircraft Electronics Technician - US Air Force
- ◆ Pilot and FAA Advanced Ground School Instructor
- ◆ MAPS Volunteer
- ◆ BSA Adult Leader



Debbie, Dave and Jerry are extremely qualified for the positions they have assumed. In fact, most of you know that whenever we need something or someone, it or they show up. We are very blessed here at MAPS. The qualifications of all of our new Directors are so impressive that I can only believe that they were trained for these positions. I believe that they were sent here to help make sure this very special place continues to serve the public and our membership for a very long time. - Kim

## Chairman's Notes

*By Dennis Bachtel, Director Chair*

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our recently elected Directors to the Board, Bob Swartz who was reelected to his longtime position, Bob Hollis who was a past Director, and Peg Deibel who is new to the Board. Welcome to the Board and may your tenure be fulfilling while we transition to our new organizational structure.

I'd also like to welcome some familiar faces who have accepted positions in our new organizational structure. Jerry Patton will be filling the position of Education Director upon the retirement of Reed Kimble. Debbie Bussinger has accepted the position of Museum Director (a new position), and Dave Conner is our new Operations Director (an expanded role from his Hanger Manager position). I wish them much success in their respective positions that will help to move MAPS forward while maintaining our unique culture.

I want to switch gears now and talk about some of our recent visitors. Back in July we had a family visit MAPS from Strasburg, Ohio; it was the grandparents and their five grandchildren. The kids were very well-behaved and interested in what MAPS had to offer, two things our tour guides very much appreciate. One of the things that made this family stand out is the fact that they were all dressed alike, with "Aussie" style hats and matching tee shirts that read, "Mimi and Papa Camp 2024". These grandparents, with a little creativity, made a trip to MAPS not only an experience for their grandkids but an adventure, one that I hope the kids will cherish as an adventure they made with Mimi and Papa.



The next family of interest, visited MAPS August 13th, five adults and one teenager. This family was aviation enthusiasts and loved the C-130 and the fact that they could actually get inside of it and also sit in our other aircraft. The unique thing about this family is that they were visiting family who live in the area and they had traveled from

**THANK YOU!**



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Columbia. While having foreign visitors at MAPS isn't unusual, this is just another example of how the love of aviation is universal. According to Doug Perry, in 2023 we had visitors from 23 foreign countries. We truly are an internationally known museum.



Besides being Internationally known, MAPS is quickly becoming recognized throughout the aviation community for our ability to transform what most museums would consider scrap into restored pieces of art. Some of our major restoration masterpieces are the F-86, B-26, H-19, F-105, F-100 and others not mentioned and still others in the process of restoration or waiting in the wings for some TLC.

None of this could be accomplished without the dedicated group of volunteers we have here at MAPS, in all areas, that makes this work. Thank you and keep up the great work.



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Kim Kovesci

**EDUCATION DIRECTOR**

Jerry Patton

**MUSEUM DIRECTOR**

Debbie Bussinger

**OPERATIONS DIRECTOR**

Dave Conner

**EVENT COORDINATOR**

Kent Kleinknecht

**DIRECTORS**

Dennis Bachtel (Chair)

Peg Deibel

Bob Hollis

Jim Jackson

Ken Ramsay

Bob Schwartz

Marylou Thompson

**MARKETING**

Doug Perry

**MUSEUM DISPLAYS**

Scott Dennis

Drew Maser

**GIFT SHOP**

Bob Hollis

**LIBRARY**

Barb Johnston

**MEMBERSHIP**

Bob Schwartz

**MILITARY HISTORY PROGRAM**

Debbie Bussinger

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Marylou Thompson

**OMM DISPLAYS**

James Byerly

**PR / PUBLICITY**

Mary Ann Nofel

**RESTORATION MANAGERS**

Ron Duplain

Jim Jackson

**SAFETY**

Ted Mathies

**SCOUT COORDINATOR**

Jim Felner

**HANGAR MANAGER / SECURITY**

Dave Conner

**TOUR COORDINATOR**

Jerry Patton

**TREASURER**

Roger Herbst

**WEBSITE & WEBMASTER**

Ron Schultz

# 12th Annual Veterans Program

*By Dave Conner, Operations Director, 2024 Program Coordinator*

Come join us for the **12th Annual Veterans Program** to be held on Saturday, November 9th!

We will be honoring the 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR), Ohio National Guard that was stationed in the MAPS facility from 1961 to 1986.

Our three helicopters: OH-58 Kiowa, AH-1 Cobra and our recently restored H-19 Chickasaw will be featured and in the hangar for viewing. Hear our Crew Chiefs talk about the restoration process.



**Date: November 9, 2024**

**Time: 4:30 PM - 10:00 PM**

**Cost: \$25 per ticket (all tickets purchased together will be guaranteed seats at the same table)**

**The event will be catered by Mr. Mike's of Canton.**

**Beer and wine will be served.**

**Please see MAPS website for ticket information coming soon.**



## A Veteran's Wife

As Veterans Day approaches, we honor and thank our Veterans for their service and their sacrifice in defending our country. All too often we forget about the family left behind. They serve our country also. The poignant poem below is a testament to one wife's service.

Shortly after Heather M. Tabers married her husband Bob, she wrote this poem about being a Veteran's wife and she shared it on Facebook. Staff Sgt. Robert Tabers served our country for 20 years in the US Army. The Tabers and their five children reside in Florida.

### A Veteran's Wife

*A uniform I do not wear  
 A gun I do not carry  
 But I serve my country proudly  
 Through the man I chose to marry  
 I may not wear a dog tag  
 But I have a mission just the same  
 My husband defended freedom  
 And I'll defend his name  
 A purple heart I'll never wear  
 No ribbons adorn my chest  
 But this ring upon my finger  
 Shows that I'm truly blessed  
 My husband is a warrior  
 Both in battle and at home  
 He loves and guards us fiercely  
 No greater love I've ever known  
 When the shadows of his darkest days  
 Come back to haunt his mind  
 His wife will faithfully stand beside  
 And love he'll always find  
 A Veteran's wife I'm proud to be  
 No greater honor could I know  
 Than to proudly love and honor  
 My husband, my hero*

## Upcoming Events

### SEPTEMBER

WED, SEP 11	DIRECTOR MEETING	1 PM
SAT, SEP 14	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM
SUN, SEP 15	FALL PANCAKE BREAKFAST	8 AM-1 PM

### OCTOBER

WED, OCT 9	DIRECTOR MEETING	1 PM
SAT, OCT 12	MEMBER MEETING	11 AM
SUN, OCT 20	FALL MILITARY SHOW	9 AM -4 PM
FRI & SAT/ OCT 25 & 26	POLITICAL SHOW	9 AM -4 PM
SUN, OCT 27	MASSILLON HAMFEST	8 AM -1 PM

### NOVEMBER

WED, NOV 6	DIRECTOR MEETING	1 PM
SAT, NOV 9	VETERANS PROGRAM	4:30 PM -10 PM
SAT, NOV 16	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM

### DECEMBER

SUN, DEC 1	SANTA FLY-IN	1 AM -1 PM
WED, DEC 11	DIRECTOR MEETING	1 PM
SAT, DEC 14	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.



## 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 Part We Play

By Reed Kimball, MAPS Education Director



It has been my privilege, over the past 11 years, to serve as the MAPS Air Museum Director of Education. In that time, I have learned, not only more history than I believed possible, but of the dedication of the directors, staff and volunteers that have made MAPS what it is today. Unfortunately, many still have a tendency to see only “our own piece of the pie”

and have little knowledge of how their efforts support the overall mission of the organization or the role that other volunteers or departments play. How many active volunteers have never taken a guided tour, spent time studying the displays in the display rooms, visited the library, watched an aircraft being restored or attended an evening event?

As most will know, the stated mission of the organization reads “**MAPS Air Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public about history, particularly aviation history, and its impact upon society.** It accomplishes this mission by acquiring, restoring, preserving, studying and exhibiting historical aircraft and artifacts in order to protect and pass on that history and its impact on society.” In this final article, I would like to focus on a few key words in that mission statement that defines who and what I think we are and need to continue to be in the future.

The mission statement indicates that we are “dedicated to **educating** the public about history, particularly aviation history, and its impact upon society”. Education is a key component of everything that we do and the primary task accomplished by both the tour guides who tell the stories of the aircraft and displays to guests and those who staff the gift shop that provide overviews when guided tours are not available or requested. It is also a key role that the curators play as they develop, research, design and present the multitude of non-aircraft displays.

Guests come to the museum, not just to see the aircraft that we have on display, they wish to learn about the history of those aircraft – who designed them, who built them, where they went and who flew them. Each aircraft in this museum is more than a collection of parts, each has

its own story to tell - many involving local men and women.

Guests also come to the museum to view the artifacts and hear the stories of the individuals (particularly local men and women) that we honor with displays or dedicate aircraft to. **It is those stories that make MAPS different from other museums.**

Have you ever stood in front of one of the MAPS aircraft on display and wondered “If this aircraft could speak, what would it say?”

*“I am not just a collection of metal parts that once flew in the skies. Tell them about me and what I was designed to do. Tell them about the places that I have seen, the things that I have done and of the once young men and women that flew and maintained me. Tell them what happened to me when I got too old to fly. Tell them how I got to MAPS and of the men and women that brought me back to life so that my story could be told.”*

Have you ever stood in front of one of the displays honoring men and women who served and asked yourself “If they were here, what would they want the world to know about them?”

*“I am not just a uniform or a collection of photos and medals. Tell them about me, where I was born and about my life. Tell them that I was not that much different from them, that I had goals and aspirations for my life, just like them. Tell them why I made the decision to serve this Nation. Tell them where I went and what I did while wearing a uniform. Tell them about the scars, both internal and external, that I carried throughout my life. Tell them why I died. Tell them why my service and sacrifice should be preserved as a reminder to younger generations. Tell them that what I did and why those in the displays around me, whom I never knew, must be remembered as we served something bigger than all of us. Please, please, do not forget us!”*

The mission statement continues by saying “It accomplishes this mission by acquiring, restoring, preserving, studying and exhibiting historical aircraft and artifacts...”

*Reed’s article continued on the following page*



## The Part We Play *continued...*

The tasks of **acquiring, restoring and preserving** falls to the Board of Directors and the restoration volunteers who, in many cases, take wrecks or partial aircraft and return them to a condition that is not only display-worthy, but in a condition that allows the tour guides and curators to develop and present the stories of the aircraft and the men and women who built and flew them. It also is key to the mission of the curators to acquire, catalog, identify and determine which artifacts are worthy of detailed research and ultimate display – not a simple task.

It also is incumbent on us to continue to maintain and preserve the restored aircraft, displays and facilities in a condition that we can take pride in displaying to the public. This is particularly true for aircraft, artifacts and facilities that we open to the public.

Studying and exhibiting the historical aircraft and artifacts will be coordinated by the new directors (Education, Operations and Museum) as well as the curators and those in the Louise Timken Library. Taking a restored aircraft or collection of artifacts, researching the history of an airframe (by tail number), finding the stories of individuals whose artifacts that have come to us or finding local connections for aircraft or for periods in history takes time and perseverance.

Key to visitor interest is how each one of the aircraft and each of the displays is developed, organized, sequenced, presented and maintained. We are telling the stories of those that can no longer speak for themselves.

The new Museum Director and the staff of the Louise Timken library also serve to accomplish the final passage of the mission statement "...in order to protect and pass on that history and its impact on society" by collecting, interviewing and publishing interviews with rapidly vanishing generations of veterans before those first-person stories are lost.

Each of the volunteers who donate their time and efforts are key to the success of this museum and in supporting the mission of this organization. **More volunteers are needed to continue the work that we have started.**

If we fail to preserve and to tell those stories or as our mission statement indicates "...to protect and pass on that history and its impact on society", that history will be lost to future generations and we will have failed, as an organization, to honor the memory of those that came before us.



### Editor's Note:

Reed Kimball, Colonel, US Army (Ret), our educational "guiding light" for the past 11 years has decided to retire from his position as Education Director.

Reed has set the bar high for all of us. During his tenure, he has provided and coordinated aviation and history education to thousands of high school, middle, elementary and home schooled students.

He has created a multitude of YouTube videos on historical events as well as a video tour of MAPS. (All of these can be viewed on MAPS YouTube channel.)

Reed also teaches the Air Academy which is almost always sold out and happily, he will continue to teach this program as a volunteer after he retires.

I personally have learned much from Reed in my eight year tenure. He magically brings history alive and has given me a great appreciation for "telling the stories." I hope you enjoyed his final article as much as I did! **-MT**

## Happy Thanksgiving

Warm wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving to our entire MAPS family, their friends and loved ones.

We all have so much to be thankful for!

MAPS is especially thankful for all the support shown to us by local organizations, corporations, foundations, local businesses in Stark and Summit Counties, our volunteers, and our visitors from the USA and around the world.

You have all helped us to create this amazing museum. **Thank you!**



## Remember 9/11

2977 American lives were lost and thousands injured when terrorists flew planes into the Twin Towers in NYC, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania after passengers overtook the terrorists.



**The Twin Towers**



**National 9/11 Memorial**



**The Pentagon Memorial**



**Flight 93 National Memorial**

## MAPS Happenings



For the 11th year in a row, MAPS participated in the Football Hall of Fame Parade to the delight of children and

adults alike! They made it back to MAPS just as the skies opened up with a huge downpour of rain!



We said a fond farewell to long-time MAPS member Ray Weber as he embarks on a new chapter in his life. He is moving to North Carolina to be closer to his family. We will miss him but never forget him! Read more about this amazing man in 2 articles in the Vol. 34 Issue 4 of the Briefing.

Can't find your copy? On MAPS website, click on the "About Us" tab and then click "Sign Up for Emails/ Newsletters." Past issues of the Briefing are listed.



Mother Nature was kind to us again this year! The weather was absolutely perfect for the 14th Annual Don Sitts Car Show. We broke our record with 514 show cars and around 1400 people either brought their rides to show or came to see all the amazing vehicles and tour the museum.





## Photo Spot Created for MAPS *By Doug Perry, Marketing Manager*



In the 10 years that I have been the marketing manager for the museum, it has been a bit of an adventure. A bit of an OJT job for me but nothing new for those of us here at the museum. We always seem to find a way to do a job even when we have not done that job before.

Kim did not want the museum to grow too fast and overwhelm both the facility and the staff. Feeling - rightfully so - that to do so would not give our guests the best visit. Good “word of mouth” recommendations are always the best. Even if they are on social media, Google, trip advisor, or the many other ways to do so.

So he wanted me to “fill the seats” but not too many and not too fast. A bit of a tight rope job. The budget I have been given to work with has reflected that line of thought and has been limited to an extent given the mandate and the budget available. So to follow our “cheap is good, free is better” philosophy, I looked and found co-ops with the Visitors and Convention Bureaus in both Stark and Summit counties that allowed us to place print ads at reduced costs, developed a relationship with Public TV, and generally looked for low cost places to place ads and then move on to different places to expand our reach.

I have always thought it would be a good idea to provide a place for people to stick their heads in and take a picture. Kids love it as well as the parents. Not to mention that the spot would say MAPS Air Museum on it. I talked to a couple of people about this over the years but we have been busy growing and there have been many more important jobs to be done so it just did not happen. Maybe in the future?

Which brings us to the new Photo Spot. I take almost all the pictures I use on Facebook and in our ads. So I am always looking for a new one and in doing so, I noticed people taking pictures in front of our aircraft - with nothing to say where that aircraft was or that they were here at MAPS. I also watch during the proms we have here - the kids lining up to take photos and “selfies” in front of screens of various backgrounds. Bingo! Something I could get done by myself so with Kim’s blessing, I contacted The Print Shop of Canton. They said they could produce one. So I was off and running! Using mostly my pictures, and some they obtained, I put together what you see. A backdrop for people to take their pictures that just happens to have our logo, QR codes, and location on it.

Of the 35,000 visitors we had in 2023, of those who signed the guest register, almost 40% hear of us through word of mouth! Our MAPS Photo Spot is one more “word of mouth” opportunity as visitors share photos of their trip with friends and family!

## September is National Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month is a time for the U.S. Military to honor both fallen and active-duty Hispanic-Americans who served in the armed forces. Sixty-one people of Hispanic heritage have been awarded the **Medal of Honor**. Two were presented to members of the U.S. Navy, 13 to members of the U.S. Marine Corps, and 46 to members of the U.S. Army.

The first recipient was Corporal Joseph H. De Castro of the Union Army for his actions at Gettysburg during the American Civil War. The most recent recipient is Sergeant First Class Leroy Petry for his heroic actions in Afghanistan.

Hispanic-Americans have served in all branches of the military and in every war since the beginning of the country. In 2023, just over 18% of active duty military identified as Hispanic.



# MAPS Relationship With Other Organizations

*By Kim Kovesci, MAPS Executive Director*

Many years ago when I was voted in as a director, the first thing I wanted to do was to create a relationship with the Boy Scouts. We created the Boy Scout Campout where we teach the Aviation Merit Badge over the weekend. This relationship has grown over the years and we are currently sponsoring three troops; 330, 335, 7335 (Girls). We also support a Venture BSA Group that are the Reenactors Crew 1944. When the access to military bases tightened due to COVID Security Restrictions, we picked up the local Civil Air Patrol Squadron (CAP). Earlier this year, I received a call from the Coast Guard Auxiliary because they needed a place to conduct their meetings. We immediately opened our doors for their meetings. We also have three bands that practice at MAPS and a monthly safety council breakfast. Our objective to become an integral part of the community has evolved. They know who we are and they get us involved when they need help or advice. Many times I have been told, "Call the guys at MAPS, they will know what to do."

We believe that the relationship with these organizations is critical to the long term survival of MAPS. One of our strategic objectives addresses the relationship with these organizations. We are making a major effort to involve these organizations as support units in our operational activities such as: pancake breakfasts and parking support. In addition to them helping us with our events, we are making an effort to provide them with aviation training. Basically, we want the support and education arrows to flow both ways so everyone wins.

I am very pleased at the results that we have achieved in our relationship with the Boy Scouts of America. An Eagle Scout Project is one of the most important requirements of BSA's highest rank, The BSA Eagle Scout. This requirement is a way to demonstrate all that the scout has learned throughout their time in scouting and includes demonstrating: project management, leadership, fundraising, organizational, and scheduling skills. We are very proud of the fact that we have supported the completion of 30 Eagle Scout projects over the years and have 5 Eagle Scout projects currently at various stages of completion.

One of these Eagle Projects is phase two of the fire pit and involves placing a paver base within the walls of the fire pit that was previously built.

We have two Eagle Projects that will build fence walls around the air conditioning units outside of the main hangar.

The main entrance sign is another Eagle Project that is being worked on. It will be taken apart and reconstructed using plastic lumber, plastic sheet and new aluminum sheet to reconstruct the sign with long lasting materials.

Finally, the last Eagle Project will construct ten stands that will display information about our aircraft. These signs will be constructed with plastic lumber so they can be used outdoors and increase their lifespan.



Fire Pit

**We are grateful to our Eagle Scouts and proud of all they have accomplished!**



Main Entrance Sign



Fencing already done



Area to be fenced



Area to be fenced



## OMM Highlights

By James Byerly, OMM Curator

Highlighting a new exhibit in the Ohio Military Museum.



**Major General  
Robert Dean Haas**

### Military Life

Robert was born March 9, 1928 and graduated from Strasburg High in 1946. In June of 1946, he raised his hand to serve his country in the US Army. He was assigned to a detachment of high-frequency radio transmission stations from the Pentagon to Fort Monroe, VA.

After this enlistment, he attended the University of Akron and enrolled in the ROTC Program. He graduated in 1951 with a BS in Education and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army.

In December of 1951, he was called from inactive duty to active duty and was deployed to Korea where he commanded a 60-man infantry platoon on the Main Line of Resistance. In 1953 he was honorably discharged with the rank of 1st Lieutenant.

On January 1, 1957, he joined the US Army Reserves, serving as commander of the 308th Engineer Battalion. In 1966 he was promoted to Major and served as Liaison Officer at West Point. One of his biggest thrills came when three Massillon boys were admitted to the academy that same year. In 1975 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and retired in 1979 after over 20 years of service.

Not being one to rest after retirement, he joined the Ohio Military Reserves in 1983. The State of Ohio Adjutant General's Department appointed him Commander in 1993. In 1996 Robert retired with the rank of Major General.

One of the highlights of Robert's military career was his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.



**Ohio Veteran's  
Hall of Fame  
Award - 2008**

### Civilian Life

After returning to the civilian sector in 1954, Robert took on the challenge of being a 7th grade teacher and coach with the Strasburg Schools and in 1959 he was hired as Principal of Whittier School in Massillon. He would gather students and staff at the flagpole in the mornings before school to render respect to our country and lead them in the Pledge of Allegiance. Teaching was a labor of love for him.

In 1974, he was promoted to the position of Assistant Superintendent of Massillon City Schools where he served until 1985.

Robert was very involved in his community and one of his proudest moments was when he helped Massillon become a Purple Heart City. He served 10 years on the Board of Directors for the Stark County Veterans Service Commission and retired in 2018.

Robert passed away at the age of 95 on September 28, 2023.

## November is National Native American Heritage Month

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush designated November as the month to celebrate the history, culture, traditions, and contributions of Native people in the United States. Native Americans (American Indian and Alaskan Native) have served in the U.S. military with great honor, dedication and distinction, building a legacy of courage, professionalism and selfless service.

Many of us are familiar with the WWII Navajo Code Talkers, but did you know there was a Native American astronaut? John Herrington (Chickasaw Nation) Commander, USN (Ret.) is a Naval aviator and engineer. In 2000, after two years of training at NASA, Herrington became the first enrolled member of a Native American tribe to fly into space. To honor his Chickasaw heritage, Herrington carried his tribal flag with him on his thirteen-day trip on Space Shuttle Endeavor.



# ★ ★ **Restoration Magic!** ★ ★

*By Marylou Thompson, Briefing Editor*

Did you ever wonder how MAPS obtains new aircraft to add to our impressive collection? Where do they come from? How do we hear about them? And since very few planes are actually flown to MAPS, how on earth do we get them here?

Early in August, MAPS acquired the newest of our planes and here is how it happened...

On February 28, 2024, a tornado ripped through Dayton, Ohio and severely damaged the restoration hangar at the National Museum of the USAF. Planes outside the hangar were also damaged. An F-104D Starfighter was among those damaged.



**Wright-Patterson  
AFB photos**

Kim Kovesci, our Executive Director, heard about the damaged plane and found out that they were planning to scrap her. He contacted them and said we would like the aircraft and could restore it for static display. He requested that she be sent to Government Surplus instead. We managed to acquire her from the General Services Administration (GSA), so now the F-104D is ours!

The next step was information gathering. On July 18, 2024, a crew from MAPS restoration, drove to Dayton to take measurements of the plane and to determine how it would be transported to MAPS.

There are highway restrictions in Ohio that mandate an unescorted transport must be less than 10 feet wide, no more than 13.6 feet high and no more than 60 feet long. If these measurements are exceeded, escort vehicles are required. In either case, travel is restricted to daylight hours. The crew determined that the plane could be transported with no escort.

Before the trip, research was done to determine how and where the plane could be taken apart so it would fit on a flatbed. This step is crucial as each plane is unique.

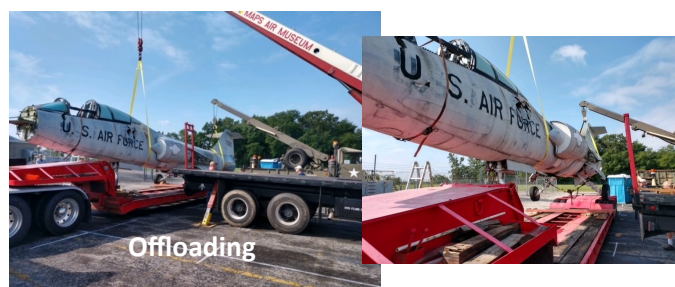
When the crew returned to MAPS, they contacted Jerry Leek who has transported many aircraft for MAPS over the years. He agreed to help us out. His wife, Kathy, obtains all required permits from ODOT as well as the necessary insurance.

On August 8, 2024 at 6 AM, Jim Jackson, Denny Bachtel, Bill Barracato and Chet Starn set off for Dayton to bring our plane home. They started disassembling the plane at 10 AM and were off the base by 2:30 PM. A very busy 4 1/2 hours! The wings were already off, they removed the nose cone and cut off the damaged and curled end of the horizontal stabilizer. The fuselage was then loaded onto the flatbed and the removed parts of the plane were loaded on a separate trailer. As they made their way down the highway, you can imagine the looks from other drivers! The crew and plane arrived safely back at MAPS at 8 PM.



**Arrival at MAPS**

**Photos by  
Denny Bachtel**



**Offloading**



**Awaiting her turn in Restoration**



**Her wings await**

*See next page to learn about the F-104D and what our plane might look like when she is restored.*

## The F-104D Starfighter

The Lockheed F-104 Starfighter is an American single-engine, supersonic interceptor which was extensively deployed as a fighter-bomber during the Cold War.

The Starfighter was also used in the Vietnam War, beginning in 1965. The USAF procured 300 Starfighters for use in the war, and the F-104D was the two-seat model. Only 21 F-104Ds were made. The Starfighter was used in both air-superiority and air-support roles, and its missions included: fighter protection, ground attack and interception.

It was built for the U.S. Air Force but was adopted by a total of 15 NATO and other countries.

The Lockheed F-104 Starfighter was the first operational interceptor capable of sustained speeds above Mach 2. Design work began in 1952 and the first test flights were flown in 1954.

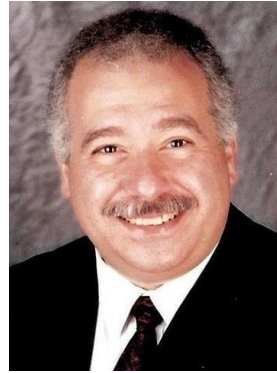
The F-104 had a wingspan of only 21 feet 11 inches and a length of 54 feet 9 inches. Its normal top speed was about Mach 2.1 (about 1,550 miles per hour) at 35,000 feet. In special efforts the F-104 set a series of world records (later broken) of speeds in excess of 1,400 miles per hour and altitudes well above 100,000 feet.



**F-104D on static display at Sacramento Aerospace Museum in CA**

## MAPS Mourns A Loss

### Pete Nofel 1951 - 2024



Pete Nofel was born in 1951 to Blanche and George Nofel. He proudly served in the US Army in Thailand and then had the good sense to marry Mary Ann (nee Oberth) who was blessed to be his wife for 46 years.

After graduating from Kent State School of Journalism he had various positions from newspaper reporter to limited-circulation business magazine editor-in-chief. He enjoyed woodworking (thank you for the porch swing), writing funny emails to his friends, playing with his dog Calliope, and volunteering at the MAPS Air Museum. In addition to his wonderful wife, he is survived by his brothers George (Mary) and Steve (Kim). Pete will forever live in the memories of his nieces Paige Kuri (Bill) and Maggie Skuski (Rob) and his nephew George (fiancé Kim), especially for the outrageous stories he created for them when they were small and so gullible that they believed them. He is also survived by Chuck and Matt, his nephews who live out of town. "If I should live forever and all my dreams come true, my memories of love will be of you."

Pete's wife, Mary Ann continues to volunteer at MAPS doing PR and publicity, sending out the Briefing as well as working in the library.

*May He Rest in Peace*

## Decades in American History 1964 - 2014

September 30, **1954** - The US Navy commissioned the USS Nautilus, the first nuclear-powered submarine.

December 10, **1964** - Martin Luther King, Jr. is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on Oslo, Norway

August 8, **1974** - U.S. President Richard Nixon delivered a nationally-televised speech to the American public from the Oval Office announcing his intention to resign the presidency the following day due to the Watergate scandal.

October 11, **1984** - Astronaut, Kathryn D. Sullivan becomes the first female American to perform a spacewalk.

**1994** was a momentous year for the tech industry. It was the year the World Wide Web was born, a.k.a. the Internet as we know it today.

November 16, **2004** - NASA's hypersonic *Scramjet* breaks a record by reaching a velocity of about 7,000 mph in an unmanned experimental flight. It obtains a speed of Mach 9.6, almost 10 times the speed of sound

November 3, **2014** - The new One World Trade Center (Freedom Tower) building in New York City opens. This tallest building in the United States has a total height of 1,776 feet, referring to the Declaration of Independence that was approved by the United States Continental Congress in 1776.

## MAPS Anniversaries

May 1, 2024 to July 31, 2024

*\*\* designates Family Membership*

### 30 YEARS

Wohlin, Gaye

### 10 YEARS

Martin, Bradley

Miller, Forest\*\*

Johnson, Virgil\*\*

### 25 YEARS

Ries, William

### 5 YEARS

Gottschalk, Ronald\*\*

Nofel, Mary Ann

Bachman, Nathan

### 20 YEARS

Karadin, Larry

Gilbert, John\*\*

Denniss, Adam

Pride, David\*\*

Cooke, Justin\*\*

Miller, Lt Col Thomas

Gadzic, Margaret\*\*

Michelson, Sandra

## CONGRATULATIONS

Thank You For Your Continued Support!

## Benefits of Membership

With a one-year paid membership, you will enjoy:

- ◆ Free access to the museum (except during special events)
- ◆ Ability to checkout books in the library
- ◆ Discounts in the Gift Shop
- ◆ Join the ranks of our amazing volunteers
- ◆ Discount on banquet hall, hangar and classroom rentals for events large or small (after one year)
- ◆ Quarterly newsletter
- ◆ Support NE Ohio's premier aviation museum

**Come join us - you'll be glad you did!**

## New Members

May 1, 2024 to July 31, 2024

*\*\* designates Family Membership*

Albright, Denny

Hill, David

Barber, Brian\*\*

Hoops Cr, August

Bianchi, Jacob

Howdysshell, Bryan

Bradley, Thomas

Jacobsen, James\*\*

Brown, Craig\*\*

Locke, Taylor

Chmielewski, Theresa

Mauger, David

Courtney, James\*\*

Morris Cr, Brandon

Datta, Dr Pratim

Muntean, Ali\*\*

Dimarco, Michael\*\*

Parrish, Susan

Dunaway, Dakota

Pickett, Frances

Egbert, Weston\*\*

Pickett BSA, Jack

Elliott BSA, Karen

Plaster, Mark

Epler, John

Ragle, David

Falls CAP, Andrew

Schenkenfelder, Robert\*\*

Falls CAP, Daniel

Skeriotis, Emily\*\*

Fockler CAP, Luke

Snyder, Alex\*\*

Foradas, James\*\*

Sprang, Irvin

Fye, Dennis

Spurrell CAP, Amanda

Gilliss, David\*\*

Tarantino, Gail\*\*

Gray, Jeffrey\*\*

Thonnings, Kurt

Grow CAP, Lisa

Tomic, Paul

Grow CAP, Kiara

Van Voorhis BSA, Finn

Grow CAP, Patrick

Van Voorhis BSA, Courtney

Hagan, Jessica\*\*

Volk, Daniel\*\*

Halcik, Eric\*\*

Wallace RE, Noah

Hale, Michelle\*\*

Wieland, Loretta

Herchek, Gregg

Wright, Elliott\*\*

**A Warm MAPS Welcome!**



## POW/MIA Flag

By Ken Ramsay, Volunteer and MAPS Board Member

I first noticed the POW/MIA Flag sometime in the late 70s or early 80s. I thought it was a perfect symbol of the plight of our forces in Southeast Asia. Over the years I have wondered where the flag came from, who designed it and how did it come to be.



Last spring, a lady named Pam Cain contacted Dennis Bachtel. She was from the National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum located at Cecil Field (formerly Naval Air Station Cecil Field Master Jet Base) in Florida. They are looking for an A-4 Skyhawk for their collection. The museum is trying to display each of the aircraft from NAS Cecil that saw duty in Vietnam. They have an F-18, an A-7, have located an S-3 and are looking for an A-4. Dennis told me about their conversation and I said that I would be in Florida in early July and would try to visit.

I called Pam and arranged a visit for July 10th. I met Pam, Museum Administrator; Ed Turner, Executive Director; and Rick Thom, Museum Director. The memorial and museum is located on the grounds of the base chapel. The chapel has been restored and is used for memorial services. They have four aircraft pads and a commemorative brick area similar to the one at MAPS.

In another area is the memorial to the 16 aircrews from NAS Cecil that did not return from Vietnam. Pilot, Lt Commander Michael Hoff was shot down on January 7, 1970 flying from the USS Coral Sea. He was never recovered. Mary Hoff, Michael's wife, joined the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia. Recognizing the need for a symbol for POWs/MIAs, she contacted Annin Flag-makers about creating a POW/MIA flag.

Annin subsequently contacted a New Jersey design firm and Newt Heisley created the flag design. The black and white flag is very compelling with its silhouette, tower, barbed wire and the words "YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN".

Evelyn Grubb, wife of a POW, oversaw the flag's development and campaigned to get acceptance and use by the U.S. government, local governments and other organizations.

The POW/MIA flag was first flown over the White House in September 1982. Since then, it has been authorized to fly wherever the American flag is flown.

On August 10, 1990, the 101st Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355 recognizing the POW/MIA flag and designating it as a symbol of our nation's concern and commitment to resolve, as fully as possible, the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

This is the only flag besides the American flag that is authorized to fly over the U.S. Capitol and is the only flag authorized to fly on the same pole as the American flag. Thank you Mary Hoff!



National POW/MIA  
Memorial and Museum



Since 1979, National POW/MIA Recognition Day has been celebrated on the third Friday in September.

In addition to our very large POW/MIA flag that hangs over the 2nd floor balcony, the empty POW/MIA chair and flag on the hangar floor, the picture to the right is of a permanent display in the Louise Timken Library and Research Center.



# MAPS

## AIR MUSEUM

*Where History Takes Flight!*

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The BRIEFING Newsletter  
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**COME FOR THE AIRCRAFT**  
*Stay for the History*

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

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

Please check our Website or Facebook page for current hours.



**WALK-THROUGH TOURS:** (No Reservation Required)  
Adults - \$15 • Children (Ages 6-12) - \$8 • Children under 6 - Free  
Discounts for Veterans, Active Duty Personnel and Seniors.  
Group discount available for 15 or more with prearranged reservation.

**Just 3 Miles off Interstate 77 • Just 9 minutes from the Pro Football Hall of Fame**  
MAPS Air Museum is located on the west side of the Akron Canton Airport in the  
CAK International Business Park • 2260 International Parkway (at the very end) off Massillon Rd. City of Green  
**330.896.6332 • [www.mapsairmuseum.org](http://www.mapsairmuseum.org)**  
Gift Shop • Free Parking • Handicapped Accessible • Over 50 Aircraft on site  
2 Museum Galleries with over 130 displays

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### Fall Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, September 15                      8 AM - 1 PM

### Military Collector's Show

Sunday, October 20                      9 AM - 4 PM

### Political & Pop Culture Show

Sat & Sun, October 25 & 26              9 AM - 4 PM

### Massillon Hamfest

Sunday, October 27                      8 AM - 1 PM

### Veterans Program

Saturday, November 9                      4:30 PM - 10 PM

### Santa Fly-In

Sunday, December 1                      11 AM - 1 PM

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.