

Veteran's Day at Louisville High School

By Kim Kovesci, MAPS Executive Director

I had the opportunity to attend a program on Veteran's Day at Louisville High School with Doug Perry, MAPS marketing manager. Some of the members of the student council made us breakfast. One of the girls asked me how the bacon was because she had never made it before and was hoping she made it right. It was perfect!

After breakfast, all the veterans were split into three groups so they could rotate the students through all of the panels. Doug and I were sent to the band room with about five other veterans.

Each Veteran told the students what service they were in, when they served, and what their job was. The diversity among the veterans was amazing. We had an Army Ranger who spent four tours in Iraq and his son who is currently in the 101st Airborne. We had a Marine who scheduled the helicopters for President Bush and is currently a State Highway Patrolman. Another veteran served in Panama for two years. Doug spent some time in Germany and I had two cruises on the USS Saratoga, in the Gulf of Tonkin and the Mediterranean.

The students asked us some questions and we were able to tell our stories.

Was there anything that you remember from your experiences?

Doug mentioned that when he was in Germany, the Israeli athletes were killed in Munich during the 1972 Olympics and also during the bomb attacks by the Red Army Faction that killed an American Lt. Col. in West Germany. He said they were targeting Americans and it was very dangerous in West Germany at that time.

My response: VA-105, an Attack Squadron of the U.S. Navy, was attached to the USS Saratoga for two cruises when I was in the Navy. My job was to repair Radar, Navigation and Weapons systems. This required that someone from our shop be located on the flight deck during flight operations. The flight deck is a very scary and dangerous place. We were told that every hazard known to man is located in that very cramped space.

There is moving machinery, cables that can break, chains that can trip you, engines that can suck you up or blow you down the flightdeck. There are open flames, bombs, missiles, bullets, jet fuel, gasoline, propellers, liquid oxygen and people who cannot hear anything. It is so orchestrated that it is sometimes referred to as, "The Dance." Because of this danger, safety was drilled into us - especially two words, Complacency and Incompetence. I saw Complacency when we were in Vietnam (72-73) and flying every day. We lost our fear of the flightdeck and sometimes people paid the price. I saw Incompetence in the Mediterranean (74-75) when during a gas shortage, we hardly ever flew. We were an accident waiting

Kim's article continued on the following page

MAPS WINTER HOURS

January 1, 2025 To
March 4, 2025

HOURS OF OPERATION

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

ADDRESS and PHONE

Address: 2260 International Parkway
North Canton, Ohio 44720

Phone: 330-896-6332

★ Mission Statement ★

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

Kim's article *continued...*

for a place to happen and I truly did not think I would make it home alive.

Was there anything that you considered losing?

I answered, "My adolescence." I went into the Navy as a very naive kid who just turned 18 and had never been away from home for more than a week. I went to boot camp and aviation electronics school in Memphis which was hard but not much different than my friends who went to college. I had just finished the "A" school, was home on leave but on my way to Jacksonville, Florida to attend the "C" school on the A7A Corsair II. It was a Sunday afternoon when I checked into VA-174 at Cecil Field Jacksonville. We had been seeing messages on the TV, "Attention All Ships company USS Saratoga and All Squadron Personnel attached to Carrier Air Group 3! All leaves are Cancelled! You are to report back to the ship IMMEDIATELY!" The meaning of the message became very clear. "Son, your orders are cancelled, you are going to VA-105, take him to the ship." I asked where I was going? The answer was that they didn't know. Over the next 10 months, I changed from an 18 year old innocent kid to a full blown adult with a tremendous amount of responsibility.

When I came home, my friends in college were still the same. My pendulum swung to adulthood a little bit farther and faster than most. I think this happened to many of our MAPS members who are also veterans.

These were just three of the questions addressed to the veterans. Doug and I were honored that Louisville High School invited us and we hope the students appreciated and understood the stories they heard from us and all the veterans.

What do you have to say about the impact of teamwork and what you learned about its importance?

I didn't get a chance to answer this but here is what I would have said. I played sports at Canton South High School for some really good coaches and as a result, I was lucky to be on some really good teams.

When I was in the Navy, I was part of a team where perfection was required. If someone messed up, it could cost you your life and possibly the lives of everyone around you.

So what did I learn from all my experiences? In a crisis, we were taught not to panic. Put the fire out, minimize the danger and then fix the problem that caused the crisis. I learned that there are not many situations that are as dangerous or as hectic as working on a flight deck, so don't panic. The problem you are dealing with may be important but usually no one is going to die if you mess up.

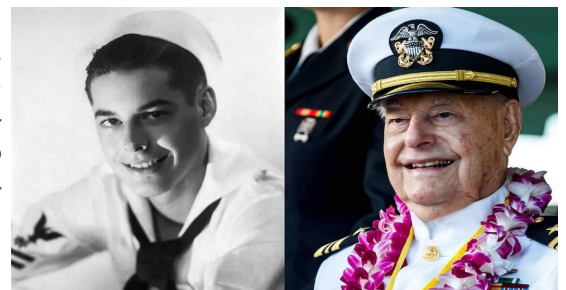
Another lesson learned deals with acceptance. Leave your ego at the bottom of the hill. If you are truly part of a team, you may not have the authority to make decisions that you want. If there is a decision that doesn't go your way, then DWIGOWL. (Deal With It & Get On With Life) If it's not your call, let it go. Finally, don't sweat the small stuff and almost everything is small stuff.

Remember Pearl Harbor - December 7, 1941

On that infamous day, most of those who died were from the U.S. Navy with 1177 sailors and Marines dying on the USS Arizona when it sank after a bomb hit its ammunition stores. Only 335 Arizona crew members survived.

The last living survivor of the Arizona, Lou Conter, died in his sleep on April 1, 2024 at the age of 102. He was 20 at the time of the attack and was knocked over by the blast, landing on a deck that was rapidly filling with water. He spent almost 35 minutes trying to secure the quarterdeck and saved almost 20 sailors from certain death. Conter participated in many rescue operations to recover the bodies of his fellow crew members in the chaotic days that followed the attack. He was the last person to leave the ship.

Conter survived the war, despite being shot down twice over the Pacific, and went on to serve in Korea as an air intelligence officer. Upon returning home, he worked to establish the Navy's first SERE - Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape - program and served as a military adviser to Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. Conter retired from the Navy as a lieutenant commander after 28 years of military service. May he rest in peace!





The Cornered Curator

The journalistic musings of a disinclined raconteur.

By Scott Dennis, MAPS Curatorial Department

The Vietnam War Gallery Update

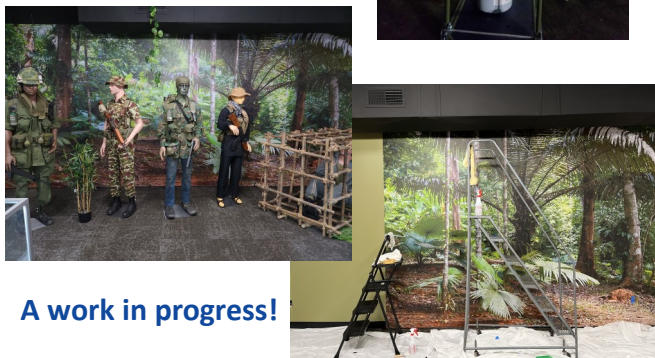
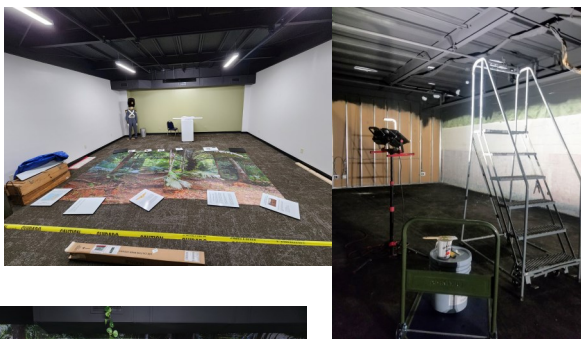
Work on the three Vietnam Galleries on the upper level began during our COVID shutdown. The rooms were demolished and rebuilt, and work continues on the project. However, due to a manpower shortage in the Curator's Department, I've only able to focus on one project at a time. Higher priority projects, asset redistribution, Museum events, and day-to-day operations are just a few reasons progress has been slower than any of us wanted.

With the addition of Drew Maser to the paid staff and increased volunteer assistance, I have been able to focus a little more on the galleries.

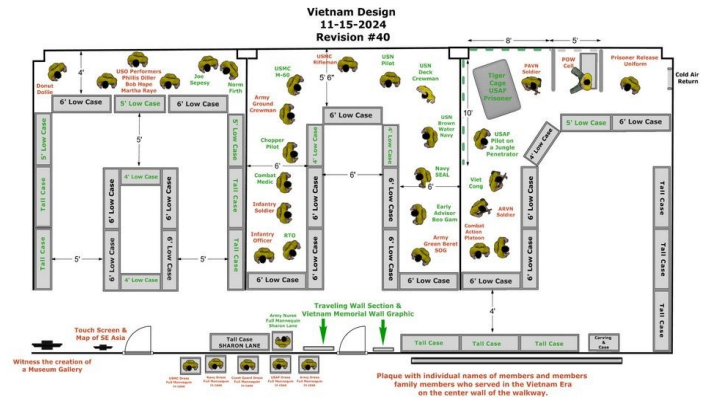
Replacement showcases have been ordered to replace those moved to the Super Sabre and Bob Hope galleries. They should arrive by the middle of December, if not sooner. Once they do, they will be assembled and placed in their final positions. Having the showcases in place will allow work to be done safely and securely.

Have you ever wondered how MAPS creates displays?

Once the showcases are in place, the unfinished galleries will be opened to our visitors. The target date for this is the reopening of the Museum after the winter hours end - March 4, 2025. It will allow Museum visitors to see how a gallery is designed, built, and evolves. This is a unique opportunity for visitors to see progress in action!



A work in progress!



I have learned that a new display or gallery evolves. There is a base plan, but it is continuously changing. New artifacts, alternate ideas, and improved resource utilization are just a few reasons for this. Notice in the design above, it is revision #40!

Many tasks must be accomplished, including case assembly, display design, and light construction. In addition, other Museum projects require attention.

If any MAPS members would like to be involved in any of this, they should contact me. I will also be reaching out to some of you for your specific knowledge and skill set.

This will be an exciting time for all of us as we work to create these three galleries to honor those who served in Vietnam and Southeast Asia.



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

Beverage Bar Gets New Look!

By Marylou Thompson, Briefing Editor

MAPS beverage bar that has sometimes been known as “Rosie’s Bar” was in sad need of refurbishing. It had been years since it had been painted and it just looked tired!

I approached **Denny Bachtel** one day and asked if restoration could make a frame that looked like it had been riveted to match the stainless steel top. He said that might be a good project for one of the interns.

It was only a couple of days later, he and intern, **Myles Spear** showed up with the finished project! Myles is a graduate of Kent State with a BS in Aeronautical Studies and is working toward his Aircraft Maintenance License. **Lydia Ure** from Green High School also helped.

Since they did not want to actually rivet through the stainless steel top, they made the front look like it had been! A little industrial glue and some clamps adhered it beautifully.

All it needed now was a fresh coat of paint (color: Gull Grey recommended by **John Gilbert**) and it was ready to be used for the Veterans Program!



Denny Bachtel & Myles Spear



“Rivets”



MAPS 12th Annual Veterans Program

Thank you Myles, Lydia and Denny!

MAPS Cleaning Day!

By Debbie Bussinger, Museum Director

November 19th was designated a cleaning day at MAPS! After so many large events, our 500 white chairs and many tables were in need of some serious TLC. Sixteen volunteers showed up with their own buckets and cleaning supplies. We turned up the music, everyone worked very hard and had a lot of fun too! Pizza was ordered to everyone's delight! The chairs and tables now look great!

Many thanks to:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Chyme Burnham</i> | <i>Diane Reese</i> |
| <i>Peg Deibel</i> | <i>Rick (Dave's assistant)</i> |
| <i>John McMasters</i> | <i>Robert Coleman</i> |
| <i>Lana Dorffer</i> | <i>Phyllis Mahaney</i> |
| <i>Steve Kunkle</i> | <i>Chet Starn</i> |
| <i>Carl SeEVERS</i> | <i>Ron Gottschalk</i> |
| <i>Sandy Hollis</i> | <i>Dave Conner</i> |
| <i>George Reese</i> | <i>Debbie Bussinger</i> |



Upcoming Events

DECEMBER

WED, DEC 12	DIRECTOR MEETING	1 PM
SAT, DEC 15	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM

JANUARY

WED, JAN 8	DIRECTOR MEETING	1 PM
SAT, JAN 11	MEMBER MEETING	11 AM

FEBRUARY

WED, FEB 5	DIRECTOR MEETING	1 PM
SAT, FEB 8	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM

MARCH

WED, MAR 5	DIRECTOR MEETING	1 PM
SAT, MAR 8	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	11 AM
SAT, MAR 22 &		
SUN, MAR 23	HUNTING, FISHING & OUTDOOR SHOW	
SAT, MAR 29	COIN SHOW	

A NOTE ABOUT EVENTS

Please call MAPS or check our website, Facebook or Instagram for details about events and any updates. Do not rely on any other internet sites as they may not have the most current information.

★ MAPS ★ Endowment Fund

A message from Kim Kovesci, Executive Director

Our Endowment Fund has been set up to ensure the long term survival of the organization. If you plan to have a financial review done, MAPS Air Museum would appreciate being considered in your plans. Thank you!

Greetings to Everyone At MAPS!

By Jerry Patton, MAPS Education Director

I know that the last edition of “The Briefing” gave a brief introduction of me to the membership, but in this, my first article, I felt it necessary to take it a step further and not only reintroduce myself to the organization, but discuss some of the current happenings in the education department here at MAPS.

I could not begin this article and would be remiss if I did not again express my appreciation and gratitude to Reed Kimball for his years of dedicated service to this organization. His importance to MAPS can and never will be overstated. I would also like to personally thank him for his patience and guidance as he attempted to train me for this position. As I began my training with him, I was just amazed at the number of things at MAPS that are his responsibility. Many do not realize it, but I can tell you first hand that his signature will remain here at MAPS for a very long time. While overwhelmed, there is solace in the fact that, thankfully, Reed will continue to volunteer at MAPS.

Along with my professional work experience, I am an Air Force veteran, and my wife and I have both recently retired from teaching. We have four children and nine grandchildren. Our oldest daughter is a professional musician who lives in nearby Medina. Our two sons, Major Mark Patton (Colorado Army NG) and Major Ryan Patton (USAF), are both currently serving on active duty, and our youngest daughter lives and works in Florida.

While I may be new to this position, I have been around MAPS for some time. As many of you know, I taught the Aviation Technology Program at Portage Lakes Career Center when it was housed at MAPS. The program allowed high school students interested in an aviation career the opportunity to attend for two years and study an introduction to aviation. It also gave them the chance to work in the restoration building on several projects which they completed. Most important, while being students, it gave them a sense of belonging to an organization such as MAPS.

From this beginning, many of those students went on to become airline pilots, mechanics, enlist in the military, enroll in ROTC in college, and one even became the lead blimp mechanic at Wingfoot Lake for Goodyear.

During this time, my volunteer hours at MAPS involved



doing electrical installations of the museum’s second floor while it was being constructed, and changing the restoration building lighting to LEDs. However, an administrative decision was made to close the PLCC program, and I was relocated back to the career center to return as the Electrical Technology Program instructor.

From what we learned previously, one of my first new objectives is to once again put high school students in the classrooms at MAPS. Because of the unique environment for students to learn at MAPS, we are currently in meetings with Kent State University and Green and Jackson high schools to host college classes in aviation through the College Credit Plus program. The college classes would offer qualified high school students a career pathway for several of the Aerospace programs at Kent State, while again taking advantage of everything that MAPS has to offer. As of the writing of this article, Kent State is working on the exact list of courses, while the high schools are working out the time blocks in which the courses will be offered. MAPS has offered the use of the Mohawk and Prowler classrooms to accommodate the students as well as helping to promote the classes to parents of the students in early 2025. Both high schools would like to have Board approval before the end of this year. If all goes well, we can expect classes to begin in the Fall of 2025.

One of the primary functions as Education Director is to continue to work with tour guides on scheduling the tours and recruiting new guides. As I myself go through the training, I am thankful for their dedication, knowledge, and their representation of MAPS. Not only are they the “face” of MAPS, but it is impressive how they can shift their presentations on the fly to accommodate different ages and backgrounds. When I visit other museums now, I am more attuned to the tour guides, if any, that are present. It solidifies my opinion of our dedicated and professional group. Of course the high school history tours continue to be a focus. The spring tour dates are almost full for April and May, with several high schools coming this fall.

Jerry’s article continued on the following page

Greetings *continued...*

Another project that I have put together is a safety course for all new students who desire to work in the restoration building. This class was requested by the Restoration Manager to make it easier for the restoration workers to know which students have the basic safety information they need to keep safe. This course is a two hour safety orientation and quiz along with a tour of the facility. It gives students basic knowledge of Personal Protective Equipment, Shop Practices and Emergency Procedures. The course is in conjunction with the new Restoration Building Practices Policy in which students ages 16-18 or 14-16 (with parent/guardian) can work. We currently have four high school students here on Wednesdays and three new students on Saturdays.

Again, I would like to thank the members of MAPS for their welcome and patience with me as I transition into this role. Everyone here has been so gracious in offering information, ideas, and advice. I will do my best to continue the current programs as well as coming up with some new ones.

**From everyone at MAPS -
WELCOME JERRY!**



**Do you know the answer?
Where is the only American Flag located that is never raised or lowered?
See page 9 for the answer!**

THANK YOU!



**Commercial Printing
& Graphic Design**

6536 Promler Ave. NW
North Canton, Ohio 44720
330-497-3212
Fax: 330-497-6306
print@printshopinc.com



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

Christmas Shopping at MAPS



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

We have t-shirts, sweatshirts, bomber jackets, mugs, hats, books, puzzles, model planes, tote bags, toys and lots of stocking stuffers. Plus we now have Corsair t-shirts and sweatshirts.

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

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

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

Chairman's Notes

By Dennis Bachtel, Director Chair

Often times I'm asked, how does MAPS acquire aircraft and how do we find out what aircraft are available? The answer to that question is as varied as the aircraft we have in our collection. Most of our planes are owned by the various military organizations that they represent and are on permanent loan to MAPS. Some of our aircraft are owned by private individuals or corporations and are stored at or on loan to MAPS. The remaining aircraft are owned by MAPS and have been acquired by purchasing them from the government, through the General Services Agency (GSA), from private individuals or have been donated to MAPS.

The planes at MAPS that are on loan from the various military branches requires us to maintain them to the standards of the military. We must maintain insurance on each aircraft and we file a report every other year to those military organizations pertaining to the condition of the aircraft. Examples of aircraft on loan to MAPS from the military are the EA6B Prowler (Marines), F-14 Tomcat (Navy), OH-58 Kiowa (Army) and the F-16 Fighting Falcon (Air Force). A couple of planes on loan to us from private entities are the B-26 Marauder the MiG-15 and the S-2 Tracker.

In the past couple of years MAPS has been fortunate enough to be able to purchase two aircraft through the GSA, our single largest purchase being the C-130 Hercules. Our C-130H was the last plane left at the Mansfield Air National Guard and was flown to MAPS by her ANG flight crew in January of 2022. We were able to obtain this plane for a very nominal price, especially considering that she is nearly 100% intact and needed no restoration.

The second aircraft we purchased through GSA is the F-104 Starfighter. This plane was slated to be scrapped by the Air Force after it was damaged by a tornado in March 2024 at the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio. Again, she was obtained at a nominal price from GSA, saved from the scrap yard and will start restoration in December 2024.

The last category are the planes we own that have been donated to MAPS. Our largest single donor is the Walter Soplatka family. From Walter's extensive Portage County collection the family has donated several aircraft, the F-84 Thunderstreak, H-19 Chickasaw and a 1/3 scale model Gemini space capsule (one of six built). MAPS has also purchased the F7U Cutlass from Walter's family.

Our most recent donation came from Donald and Nancy Nieser's Commodore Aerospace from Oklahoma City. Don and Nancy were visiting family in our area this past summer and while here they visited MAPS. During their tour of MAPS they noticed we didn't have a Cessna O-2A Skymaster in our collection and proceeded to tell one of our members they would like to donate one. The O-2A was used in Vietnam as a forward air control aircraft (FAC). After leaving their contact information and several phone calls later, arrangement were

Denny's article continued on the following page



Correction and Apologies

In the last issue of the Briefing, an error in the article about Major General Robert Dean Haas erroneously noted that in 1975 he was promoted to Lieutenant General. In fact, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

The entire paragraph is reprinted below with the correction.

“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 Colonel and retired in 1979 after over 20 years of service.”



**Red Tail pilots escorting a B-17
by Aviation Artist Richard Taylor**

Black History Month

By Marylou Thompson, Briefing Editor

Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month.

Why was February chosen?

February is the birth month of two figures who loom large in Black history: U.S. President Abraham Lincoln (born February 12), who issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and African-American abolitionist, author, and orator Frederick Douglass (born February 14).

Black Americans have served in large numbers in the U.S. military throughout its history, participating in every major conflict, including the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, and World Wars I and II. Despite facing segregation and discrimination, their contributions have been significant.

The U.S. military was desegregated on July 26, 1948, by President Harry S. Truman. Before this date, Black soldiers were only allowed to serve in segregated units.

The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of approximately 1,000 African-American military pilots (fighter and bomber) and airmen who served in World War II. They formed the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group of the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF).

As escorts, flying P-47s and later P-51s, they were responsible for protecting larger bombers (B-17s and B-24s) from German fighter planes. The Tuskegee Airmen flew more than 15,500 sorties between May 1943 and June 1945.

Bomber crews often requested to be escorted by these “Red Tails,” a nickname acquired from the painted tails of Tuskegee fighter planes, which were a distinctive deep red. Though sixty-six Tuskegee Airmen died in combat, they had one of the lowest loss records of any escort fighter group.

In all, the Tuskegee Airmen earned eight Purple Hearts, fourteen Bronze Stars, three Distinguished Unit Citations, and 96 Distinguished Flying Crosses.

There are many books, as well as DVDs, in the Louise Timken Library and Research Center on African-Americans’ contributions in the military. These can be checked out for two weeks by MAPS members as in any lending library.

MAPS honors the contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen in a permanent display in the Gallery of Heroes.

Veterans Day 2024

Following is the speech given by Col. Reed Kimball, US Army, (Ret.) at MAPS 12th Annual Veterans Program

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Allow me to thank you for attending our Veterans Day celebration where you, once again, get to listen to this demented old soldier make a speech.

Veterans Day is a celebration where we pause to honor not only those who have served our nation in its armed forces and those who still protect our freedoms today, but also the families and loved ones of those that serve.

A group of men gathered in a railroad car near Compiègne, France at 5:00 on the morning of November 11, 1918. Ending three days of hurried negotiations, the participants were gathered to finalize an Armistice agreement that would become effective at 11:00 that day. At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, the guns fell silent, the fighting stopped and the conflict that came to be known as the "Great War" ended. That armistice ended a conflict that had raged across Europe and the Middle East for almost 53 months. Contemporary Europeans also referred to it as "the war to end all wars" due to their perception of its then-unparalleled scale and devastation.

In this celebration of Veterans Day, pause and remember the origins of the day, what Armistice Day represented and the price paid by the millions on both sides of the conflict that never came home. One hundred and six years ago, the guns fell silent, if only for a few short years. As subsequent events would unfortunately verify, that war did not prove to be the "war to end all wars" as conflicts continue to the present day. It would be hard to believe that the men who fought the "Great War" could have ever imagined that young American men and women would be asked again and again to fight and die for freedom in foreign lands.

We should also constantly remind ourselves that those that founded this Nation, conceived in liberty, never used the words "I" or "Me" or "My" in the Constitution of the United States, but rather started it with a short paragraph that read: "WE THE PEOPLE of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the United States". It often appears that we have strayed somewhat from what our forefathers envisioned.

Still, we persevere as a Nation, despite our differences. In today's complex, highly polarized country, too many people think of freedom as the right to do, say and act as they please and not as the opportunity to do what is right. Where freedom of speech too often equates to freedom to promote racism, radicalism or to communicate lies or threats in public or on social media platforms, we often fail to see the good in or to even define the term "WE THE PEOPLE". The foundation of the freedoms that we enjoy were forged and protected, not by those Americans that simply believe that they are entitled to those rights, but rather by the ones that stepped forward to win them and then to preserve them.

We join here today, not to just to remember, but to honor those young men and women that have earned the right to the title "Veteran". While continuing to emphasize our differences instead of the equality for all that our founding fathers envisioned, we join here to celebrate all those that have served together in a common cause.

For those here tonight who have never served, here are some basic facts about Veterans. For the Veterans in the audience, they should bring back a number of memories.

We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.

We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.

We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.

We learned the basics and then we scattered in the winds to the far corners of the Earth.

We found new friends and a new family.

We became brothers and sisters regardless of color, race or creed.

We had plenty of good times and plenty of bad times.

We didn't get enough sleep.

We smoked and drank too much.

We picked up both good and bad habits.

We worked hard and played harder.

We didn't earn a great wage.

Reed's speech continued on the bottom of page 13

MAPS Helps Victims of Hurricane Helene

The country was horrified by news reports of the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene in September of this year. Patrick Burch, a friend of Dave Conner's son, Sean, who is a Sergeant with the Norton Police Department and a member of Summit County SWAT, put together a team to travel to Burnsville, NC to volunteer. Patrick asked Dave to go because of his background as a firefighter and a paramedic. Dave was immediately on board and Kim Kovesci told him to take as much time as he needed.

The group arrived on October 13th, the beginning of the 3rd week after the hurricane and were shocked by the devastation they saw. Helene's flooding washed away homes and roads, and destroyed bridges.

Many volunteers arrived from all parts of the country to help but they had to be totally self-sufficient as there were no hotels, restaurants or electricity.

The Burnsville Fire Department was the base camp and local churches were used as distribution points for donated food, water, clothing, medical supplies, and many other needed items. Dave and his group spent two days doing resupply runs, welfare checks and helping to clean up basements - whatever was needed. The most challenging was trying to find ways to get to people who were totally cut off because of roads being washed away and bridges destroyed.

In December, Dave will be going back to Camp Miller which is a 24-hour forward operating base camp located just south of Burnsville. The only road in and out of the small town was washed away by a wall of water when the Cane River rose to a level of 15 feet as it headed downstream.

Dave was invited by the town manager of Burnsville to attend a business meeting on December 7th to talk about his group's volunteer efforts.

In the meantime, back at MAPS, Kim Kovesci arranged for a LaFlavour Concert to be held at MAPS on November 23rd, with proceeds benefiting the hurricane victims.

MAPS collaborated with local emergency organizations in NC to identify the most pressing needs. A list of needed items was posted on the MAPS website and on our Facebook page. Cash donations will support the heating fund, helping families afford heating oil as winter approaches.

We are happy to report that 48 MAPS members and 221 visitors attended the LaFlavour Concert and generated over \$6,500.00 in donations as well as many of the items listed on our website.

Many thanks to Dave, Patrick Burch and the rest of the team, and the giving spirit of MAPS members and our community for making a huge difference in the lives of people they have never met!

A Picture is Worth 1000 Words



Volunteers setting up small "tent cities" - Dave's truck far left



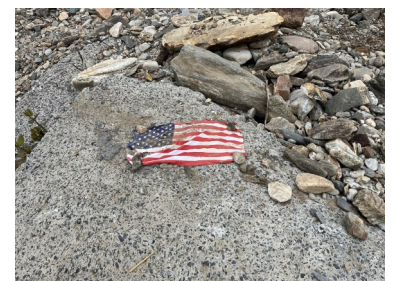
Burnsville Fire Department accepting donations



The SC National Guard bringing much needed portable generators.



This resident, cut off from rescue efforts, placed an American Flag on the ground in hopes that a helicopter would see it and know they were there.



See more of Dave's pictures on the following page

Pictures *continued...*

**Once a highway...
A road no more...**



**Debris fields and
destroyed homes**

***Reed's speech continued from page 11***

We experienced the happiness of mail call, the devastation of Dear John letters and the sadness of missing important events.

We didn't know when, or even if, we were to ever see home again.

We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.

We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others.

Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.

Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.

Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.

We have seen, experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain.

We participated in time-honored ceremonies and rituals, strengthening our bonds with fellow Veterans.

We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.

I would like to finish up tonight with some of my own memories. While they may not mean much to a majority of those here tonight, they will live within me forever.

I left my small home town and saw a world that most today will never see, understand or appreciate – a world that, in many ways, no longer exists. I learned not just who I was, but what I could be. I learned that while rank may give you authority and responsibility, it is the person that wears the rank that earns trust, respect and loyalty. I learned that I did not have all of the answers, but that WE had most of them.

I still see the faces of those that I served with despite that fact that I have not seen them for years and may never see them again. I still remember the good times and the bad times. I can recall the joys and sorrows with a clarity that many of us never found again once we left the service. We all dressed alike, ate the same food, faced the same long hours and despite differences in rank, knew that, when the chips were down, we could count upon each other. Most of us realized that our service, whether it be two years, four years or over twenty were some of the most important of our lives as we served something bigger than any one individual. These are just a few of the things that have become part of me and memories that re-surface, particularly on Veterans Day.

Thank you for listening and thank you for attending our ceremony.

★ → **Focus on Volunteers** ← ★

Bill Cody, US Army Vietnam Veteran and 11-year MAPS member and George Reese, USAF Vietnam Veteran and 8-year MAPS member, experienced the trip of a lifetime when they boarded an Honor Flight at Cleveland Hopkins Airport this past October.

How did it all start? Six years ago, Bill signed up as a veteran for an Honor Flight out of either Cleveland or Columbus. He was sent updates every year but it wasn't until 2024 that he was chosen and was asked if he had a veteran friend who would also like to go. Bill could think of no one better to choose than George. You see, Bill and George work in tandem on many projects large and small around MAPS.

On October 25th, they had to be at the airport by 4AM for the flight to Washington, DC. The weather was perfect! There were 28 veterans scheduled for the flight, 20 of whom had guardians to assist them. The Army, Navy, Marines, USAF, and Coast Guard were all represented.

When they arrived at Baltimore-Washington International airport, the BWI airport firetrucks saluted the plane with a water cannon. As the group began their trek through the terminal, they were greeted with smiles, waves and cheers from those awaiting other flights as well as volunteers who came out to greet them.

Now the Veterans were ready to experience the nation's war memorials that honor their service. They boarded a bus and were given a tour of DC. They stopped at the Navy Memorial where Bill and George had their picture taken with the 7-foot tall Lone Sailor statue. They visited the Vietnam Memorial Wall and the Korean War Memorial. Next was the WWII Memorial. The group then had a police escort to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia where the group witnessed a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. While there, they learned the history of the Tomb. Twenty-four hours a day, soldiers from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, known as "The Old Guard," stand watch over the Tomb. Tomb Guards march 21 steps down the black mat behind the Tomb, face east for 21 seconds, face north for 21 seconds, and then take 21 steps back down the mat. They then execute a "shoulder-arms" movement to place their weapon on their shoulder closest to the visitors. The Tomb is guarded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



George and Bill

Bill and 3 other veterans (two from the Korean War and one from the Vietnam War) were randomly chosen from the Honor Flight group to participate. Bill was told he would lay the wreath. There is no picture of the actual wreath laying as George said he couldn't salute and take a picture at the same time. Saluting was a priority!

Bill is pushing the wheelchair on the right.



The four Veterans salute as Taps is played after the wreath laying.

After such an emotional experience, the group headed back to the airport for the return trip home. They arrived back at Cleveland Hopkins just after midnight. How they were greeted astounded them! A bagpiper led them through the terminal and a huge welcoming committee of volunteers welcomed them home! Truly a trip of a lifetime!



MAPS Anniversaries

August 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024

*** designates Family Membership*

30 YEARS

Wohlin, Gaye

25 YEARS

Bell, David

Guilliams, Dave

Hamlin Sr, Raymond

Neidert, Don

Nelson, James

Ries, William

Stahl, Richard

Weber, Chris **

20 YEARS

Johnston, Robert

Karadin, Larry

Lewis, Larry

Miller, Lt Col Thomas

Pride, David

Ramsay, Ken

15 YEARS

Audi Miller, Noelle

Campbell, Sharlene

Collins, Dave

Disko, John

Duplain, Ron

Hoskins, Dennis

Hubbs-Shapiro, Nancy

Klise, Don

Milano, Anthony **

Milich, Robert

Repko, Mike

Sanders, David

Steele, Robert

Wigle, Robert

Willaman, Dan

Wilson, Ellen

10 YEARS

Ashley, John

Bowyer, Theresa **

Dunham-Kuhn, Pam

Gorman, Jim

Holloway, Bruce

Hudgin, Michael

Hutchison, Bob

Hutchison, Tom

Indorf, Daavid

Johnson, Virgil

Kovesci, Kevin

Lautzenheiser, Bruce **

Martin, Bradley

Marston, Tucker

Miller, Forest

Muckensturm, Gary

Nee, Don

Patton, Jerry

Paumier, Dan

Petschauer, Albert

Pfromm, Carl

Powell Jr, Ray

Sebrell, John

Weber, Raymond

Willis, Tony

New Members

August 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024

*** designates Family Membership*

Amiot, Jodie

Amirault, Ann

Archer, Thomas

Baker, Sierra **

Barnett, Benjamin

Biltz, Sara

Branch, Ronald

Briggs, Kayla **

Bryant, Laura **

Burnham, Chyme

Canning, Perry

Carnes Cr, Chase

Chastain Sr, Rodolfo

Cline, Kevin

Coleman, Robert

Conley, David

Coyne, Josh **

Deckler, Daniel

Elliott, David **

Fahey, Chris

Fuss, Jennifer **

Georges, Timothy

Gerstenslager, Keri **

Getz, Lori

Glover, Joshua

Guesman, Cristal

Guidone, Guy

Harman, Glen

Hart, Richard

Hilts, Glenn

Hynes, Robert **

Jones, Jay **

Kazakis, Pete

Keller, Wilma

Kircher, Mark

Kountz, David

Kurtz, Robert **

Lehnert, Harrison

Listerman, Miles

McCallion, Alex **

McFeely, Anne

McHenry, McKenna **

McPherson, Charles

Meluch, Bernard **

Metcalf, Tanya

Meyers, Richard

Michel, Owen

Miller, Jessica **

Montbach, Erica

Nees, Paul

Nieser, Don - Nancy

Niinisto, Michelle

Raber, Brian **

Rankl, Donald **

Rowland, Jonah

Sands, Dustin **

Saracina, Anthony

Simms, Sabrina **

Spear, Myles

Ure, Garrison **

Walczak, Elizabeth **

Wang, Hongji **

Zielen, Wendy

MAPS

AIR MUSEUM

Where History Takes Flight!

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*The BRIEFING Newsletter
Copyright © 2015, MAPS Air Museum*

IMPORTANT NOTICE

MAPS will be instituting WINTER HOURS again this year, beginning January 1, 2025 to March 3, 2025. We will be closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

We will be open Thursday through Saturday 9AM - 4:30PM and Sunday 11:30 AM - 4:00PM.

Regular hours will resume on March 4, 2025.

MAPS will remain open for our volunteers to come and work in their areas on days we are closed to the public.



Merry Christmas to all MAPS members, their families, friends and loved ones.

We wish you all a happy, peaceful and healthy 2025!