

## September 2023 Newsletter



MIAMI VALLEY MILITARY HISTORY MUSEUM  
4 E. Main Street, Fairborn, Ohio 45324

Cathy Beers-Conrad, USAF Veteran  
(937) 318 - 8820 main  
(937) 979 - 0075 cell  
[mvmhm2007@gmail.com](mailto:mvmhm2007@gmail.com)

Operating Hours  
9am to 5pm Tuesday--Saturdays  
and Patriotic Holidays  
& by appointment  
closed bank holidays

*Groups of 5 or more - call to schedule your group's visit.*

### 2023 Speaker Series Wednesdays at 6pm

Please consider sponsoring a Speaking Engagement \$50  
You will be included in the Program, advertisements, press releases, newsletter,  
and on Facebook.  
call or email for more information

**September 13th** Nancy Potts, Author "Lesser Known Pioneers in Aviation History"

**September 27th** Frank Alfter "Anatomy of a Shootdown"

no October speaker

**November 8th** Kevin Rosuck, Wright-Patterson AFB Historian who will answer the one burning question about Hangar 18 and are there aliens and their ship.

**December 13th** Military Chaplain

**Special Event September Fri 15th Annual POW/MIA Recognition Day Open House 9am - 6pm 4pm to 6pm** Ray Prater, SON OF, ARMY SERGEANT LACY PRATER, Prisoner of War, who survived the Bataan Death March, will have items, documents, photos of Sgt. Prater's time in the service. Ray will also talk about his father's legacy.

**At 6pm a Special Presentation will be made to Ray in honor of his father Lacy Prater.**

**...shush, Ray doesn't know this part.**

**Tuesday, October 3rd TOYS FOR TOTS BEGINS and runs through Friday, December 1st**

For the 5th year we are an Official Collection Site for the Annual Marine Corps Toys for Tots toy drive. New, unused toys can be dropped off during normal business hours. Thank you

*Become a Supporting Member*

**Contact Jody Prater or Cathy Beers-Conrad at (937) 318 - 8820. You can make your donation via our website [www.mvmhm.com](http://www.mvmhm.com) or make your check payable to MVMHM mail to 4 E. Main St. Fairborn, Ohio 45324.**

*Thank you!!!*

"There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer." James Doolittle

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Thanks to Nancy, volunteer & local author...

### September marks three significant dates in the lives of Americans

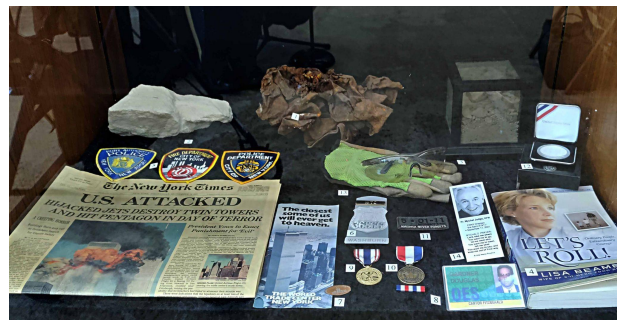
**This year marks 22 years since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.** This was a day that changed more than the skyline of New York City – the attacks changed a generation of Americans. That day's destruction and devastation did not condemn this country to a future filled with fear as profound as it was, did not break the soul of this nation. It made us stronger. That day fortified Americans with pride and patriotism and created a spirit of service in the hearts of a new generation. That day fundamentally changed our nation and our military for the better. We now observe Patriot Day annually on September 11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance for the thousands of lives lost in the 9/11 attacks.

<https://www.911memorial.org/plan-your-own-911-anniversary-observance>

Please join in the National Remembrance by observing a moment of silence for the lives lost at these times:

- 8:46 a.m. Hijackers crash Flight 11 into the north tower.
- 9:03 a.m. Hijackers crash United Airlines Flight 175 into the south tower.
- 9:37 a.m. Hijackers crash American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon.
- 9:59 a.m. The south tower collapses.
- 10:03 a.m. Passengers launch a counterattack on hijackers aboard United Airlines Flight 93. The hijackers crash the plane into an empty field near Shanksville, Pa.
- 10:28 a.m. The north tower collapses.

Our 9/11 Display includes a piece of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and soil from the Flight 93 Crash Site. We are one of the few museums in the United States with artifacts from all three sites. A recording of that day's newscast plays in the background and other artifacts from that terrible day are on display.



We need volunteers to help tell the stories of our nation's heroes



**POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday of September, this year it is on September 15,** to recommit to full accountability to the families of the more than 80,000 veterans captured or still missing from wars that the United States has participated in since World War II.

If you would like one of these posters that are provided free, stop in, we still have a few.

How to observe National POW/MIA Recognition Day: fly a POW/MIA Flag; visit a POW/MIA themed museum; look back at time. Why? It is in memory of loved-ones; it helps us remember the history of our country; and, it helps us value freedom. The official 2023 POW/MIA posters are free & can be picked up during our regular business hours until they last.

<https://www.defense.gov/Spotlights/National-Pow-Mia-Recognition-Day>

On display is a POW/MIA Missing Man Table consisting of symbolic items that help us remember our Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action. We also have a POW Medal display honoring Sergeant Lacy L. Prater who survived the Bataan Death March and three and a half years captivity. You'll see this special display made by his son, Ray, to honor his father by telling his story in the WWII Pacific section. It is important that we tell the story of the Bataan Death March.



A display of artifacts of Second Lieutenant James E. Shawver who was shot down over Greece in 1943 and remains Missing in Action and the Purple Heart of Seaman Second Class Glen W. Pitman who was Missing in Action off the Cape of Good Hope South Africa November 1942 whose ship was torpedoed.

Consider Sponsoring a Piece of History like our 9/11 Display, Sargent Lacy Prater's Display, the display of Second Lieutenant James E. Shawver, or our POW/MIA display.

Sponsoring a Piece of History is your way of ensuring the stories of our military heroes are not forgotten.



### **Gold Star Mother's and Family Day - September 24, 2023**

This is a day for honoring the families of those who have received the Gold Star Lapel Pin - a dime sized plastic lapel pin that helps remind people that no one truly serves alone.

One of the most important things to Gold Star Mothers and Families is ensuring their loved one is not forgotten.

Cathy wears the Gold Star Lapel Pin given to her, siblings, & mother when her father, Jack Blain Beers, was Killed in Action in 1969; Cindy wears the one given here when her husband, Joseph Guy LaPointe Jr. was Killed in Action, also in 1969. Along with thousands of others. We must continue to tell their stories to all who will listen. Remember, they have earned us our bragging rights.

Though oftentimes the meaning of Memorial Day is overlooked, Gold Star Mother's and Family Day reminds us all of the purpose of the holiday. It also raises awareness of the heroism that our military members display regularly.

**We value our volunteers.  
We are an ALL volunteer organization.**

Why volunteer with us? You can make good friends; get out of the house. Everyone has a reason. If you have a love of our nation's history you will love it here. It's a chance to help tell the stories of the contributions made by the men and women who have served since the Revolutionary War.

All we ask is a commitment of 1 - 4hr shift per month. 9am to 1pm and 1pm to 5pm  
We are open Tuesday - Saturday & Patriotic Holidays  
Some folks enjoy giving their time weekly & several days a week.

We need volunteers with these skills: basic computer, office, organizational & attention to detail, enjoy greeting and talking with visitors and being around others in a professional yet relaxed environment.

Our volunteers are Rotrians, Lions, military retirees, members of areal military organizations, from all ranks/branches, men & women, historians who curate their own collections, reenactors, a local retired history teacher & retired school nurse, local author, area business owners, speakers, volunteers who volunteer with other nonprofit organizations, folks with no connection to the military; and those who love American history. Our volunteers range in age from 9 years old (volunteers with her grandfather) to 89 years old. We are lucky to have so many wonderful folks and we hope you'll become one of them.

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**MIAMI VALLEY MILITARY HISTORY MUSEUM  
501(c)3 non-profit Charitable Organization  
ID 46 - 0835261**

We reach thousands of people throughout the Miami Valley every month.

Our newsletter, in its entirety,  
is published in the Fairborn Daily Herald.

Your business can benefit.

Turn your business card into an ad for only \$25.

call Cathy at (937) 979 - 0075

email [mvmhm2007@gmail.com](mailto:mvmhm2007@gmail.com)

Thanks for helping us succeed in telling our nation's military history.

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The past few months have seen an increase in visitors and artifact donations - we're grateful for every item that helps us preserve the stories of the men and women of our Armed Forces. There's still a lot of people who haven't heard about us - please "talk us up" with your friends and family! We are on tack to another successful year of honoring our veterans and their families- with your help we can only get better!

Mark Conrad, President and Curator