

4 E. Main Street
(937) 318 - 8820 9am to 5pm

NEW Operating Hours
11am - 5pm
Tuesdays - Saturdays
& Patriotic Holidays



***** Groups by appointment ONLY 2 weeks in advance ask for Cathy*****
We may be able to accommodate your schedule outside our operating hours.

June/July/August/September 2025 NEWSLETTER

September - 9/11 Patriot Day - a day of service

October Toys for Tots Official Drop Site

Beginning Wednesday, October 1st, 11am through Wednesday, December 3rd, 5pm Toys for Tots Official Collection Site box will be in the Museum - let's have another great year for kids!!!

NEW UNSUED TOYS ONLY

**Beginning November 1st through December 23rd we will have the FISH barrel in our foyer
- all donations stay in Fairborn.**

November Closed for Thanksgiving - Tuesday 25 through Tuesday December 2nd

December

- Fairborn's Annual Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting - We will be open late. We don't close until Santa Claus leaves !!! Hot cocoa, cookies, candycanes, raffles, and lots of fun. *More information is coming.*
- Memory Care/Nursing Home Christmas Gift Bag deliveries mid month.
- Dialysis Christmas Gift Bags delivery dates/times Monday the 22nd & Tuesday the 23rd, 9am and 1pm both days.

*This is the time of year when I start asking for donations for Dialysis Christmas Gift Bags. YOUR GENEROUS donations make it possible to give Christmas to 50 Veterans - for some their only - for their last Christmas.
Make your check payable to: MVMHM and note: for Dialysis
Thank you*

Closed for Christmas - Tuesday, December 23rd through Tuesday, January 2nd

2025 Speakers Series Schedule 2nd Saturday of each Month at 2pm

June 14th Mark Conrad, MSGT, USAF, Retired "Celebrating 250 Years of History of Women in the Military"

July 12th Dan Kirkpatrick, Colonel, USAF, Retired "Medical Ethics in the Combat Zone"

Aug 9th Adnan Secic "The American Allied Veterans & Supporters"

Sept 13th Bob Potts, Captain, USAF, Retired "The Wreck of the Airship USS Shenandoah"

Oct 8th Roger Osorio, National Park Ranger Wright Brothers

Nov 15th Thom Guthrie, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF, Retired "Protocol in the Air Force"

Dec 13th a Chaplain from WPAFB "Christmas in the Military"

2026 Speakers Series Schedule will be published as we get speakers.

We are looking for Speakers for 2026; please email Cathy at
mvmhm2007@gmail.com if you have an interesting military story to share.

Our speaker's schedule fills up fast. Let me hear from you soon.

Website <http://www.mvmhm.com>

Face Book <https://www.facebook.com/mvmhm/>

Official Partner of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration:

<https://www.vietnamwar50th.com> Official Partner of the United States of America World War One

Centennial: <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org> Official Partner of the United States

Semiquincentennial Commission: <http://www.usa250.org>

Member of the Small Museum Association: <https://www.smallmuseum.org>

Member of the Ohio Museums Association: <https://www.ohiomuseums.org>

Member of the American Alliance of Museums: <https://www.aam-us.org>

"Poor is the nation that has no Heroes... shameful is the one having them that forgets."

“Paying it back and paying it forward.”

Here's how the museum supports our Veterans on the Dayton VA:

The Dialysis Unit on the Dayton VA has 50 Vets that will be giving Christmas Gift Bags to for the 7th year. We are only able to do this with your generous donations that are accepted year round and set aside specifically for our Vets in the Dialysis Unit. The Vets really love the largest size compression socks; body washes and lotions, etc.

The Hospice Unit on the Dayton VA, has 15 beds and stays full. What we do is provide holiday brunches for Valentine's Day, Easter (Bob Evans Breakfast), 4th of July (Pizza), Halloween's Reverse Trick or Treat (Museum volunteers dress up and give goodies), Thanksgiving & Christmas Dinners. We also give each Vet a Christmas Gift Bag. We help provide arts & crafts items, books, magazines, etc. Hospice focuses on enhancing the quality of life; that's why the museum has been involved with Hospice for many years doing all it can to help fulfill that focus.

“I have found my joy; I get so much from my fellow vets,” says Cathy, museum's Public Affairs.

*****Easter Sunday Bob Evans Brunch 2025 was a success!!!
We fed Vets, their families, and nurses.*****

The Nursing Home and Memory Care Units...We help provide Christmas Gift Bags and arts & craft items year round, books, magazines, etc. Picture books, especially military, are always needed. Used books & military magazines in good condition are accepted.

We help provide items above and beyond what the VA does. The recreational therapists, like school teachers, were providing items for arts and crafts out of their own pockets. This shouldn't be, especially with our ability to raise funds for these items. We are grateful for the many generous donors who see the value. Helping our fellow Vets is what this is all about.

The museum doesn't bring in enough money to cover the cost of ALL we do; yes, the museum does contribute financially. Everything we do is helping our Veterans have the best possible quality of life. We accept donations year round.

You can donate via PayPal or by check to MVMVHM & mail to 4 E. Main St. Fairborn, Ohio 45324. Be sure to indicate that your donation is for our “Charity” account.

Call me to find about how you or your organization can help (937) 979 - 0075 Cathy



Celebrating 250 Years of History of Women in the Military

Women have served with, and in, the military since the Revolutionary War, although until World War I, they were many times forced to disguise their true identity. Once America entered the "War to end all wars" women were finally allowed to serve as clerks, radio operators and telephone switchboard operators. More women joined the military as nurses during this time as well. With the attack on Pearl Harbor the role of women in the military exploded, with women now flying aircraft, serving as instructors, and ultimately working on Top Secret projects such as the

"Bombe" decoding machine developed and built in Dayton.

With the Korean War and Vietnam War, the role of women continued to expand to a certain degree. However, while there were women's organizations as part of the military (WACs, WAVES, and WAFs) they were not allowed to serve in combat or command men. Pregnancy was the cause for involuntary discharge.

By the end of the Vietnam War, many of these restrictions were lifted, with the exception of the ability to serve in combat roles. This was essentially a moot point as the nature of warfare began to change. From the invasion of Panama and Grenada to Operation DESERT STORM women took on leadership roles in combat, even though technically not allowed to do so.

After September 11th, virtually all restrictions for female service members were done away with. In environments where there are essentially no front lines, and dealing with insurgencies made any such restriction useless.

Throughout the past 250 years women have gone from serving in secret to leading their services as 4-star Generals and Flag Officers; their journey fraught with stereotypes, chauvinism, and at times plain ignorance. They've overcome these obstacles and shown they have always been up to the task of preserving and defending the freedoms we all enjoy today.

Written by Mark Conrad, President & Curator, retired Air Force Master Sergeant, a military history buff for 50 years. During this time, he has contributed to a dozen military periodicals, reference books and a two volume scholarly work on the war in Europe in World War II.





2024 Annual Report Summary

(Other than usual and customary museum practices)

Total Volunteers (Ad Hoc and Core): 37 Core Volunteers: 13

Total service-connected disabled veterans (Ad Hoc and Core volunteers): 49%

Total service-connected disabled veterans (Core volunteers only): 92%

Service to Veterans:

- Provided uniforms, insignia and medals to the Next of Kin (NoK) to fulfill the dying wish of their veteran loved one to be buried in uniform.
- Submitted medal requests to the National Military Personnel Records Center for veterans and their families – typically a 12 month+ process; in the case of advanced-age veterans we provided them their awards in case they were to die before receiving the ones ordered from St. Louis.
- Provided guidance to veterans and dependents on filing claims and appeals with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and put them in touch with Nationally Accredited Service Officers.
- Volunteers drove veterans to their VA compensation and pension exams, as well as the Dayton VA Medical Center to register for their health care benefits.
- Volunteers visited the Dayton VA hospice center on a weekly basis, providing snacks and fellowship. Fulfilled unique requests from patients. For example, an Army veteran who served as a Drill Instructor asked if we had a Drill Instructor “Smokey the Bear” hat for his room, and one was provided within two days. Another patient loved Skittles candy; the museum supplied them every day until his passing.
- Volunteers provided complete Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to the Hospice patients, families and staff, as well as Christmas gift bags for the patients on the VA dialysis ward. The museum also provided magazines and books for the patients.
- Museum provided new cooking utensils, pots, pans etc. to the VA hospice, which had none, as well as craft supplies for the Recreational Therapist's programs.

Service to the community:

- Supported the local FISH food pantry with a donation bin to collect food for local families.
- Supported the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program, collecting enough toys to fill four boxes.
- Made our building available to support the “Fairborn Fly Zone” during each Air Force marathon.
- Provided meeting space for the Fairborn Military Veterans Memorial Project, the Fairborn Military Veterans Coalition and the American Allied Veterans and Supporters (AAVS.)
- Each quarter, volunteers placed new “Medal of Honor Recipient” flags on the graves of the five Medal of Honor recipients buried at the Dayton National Cemetery and new U.S. flags in the veterans memorial section.
- Memorial Day weekend sponsored the third annual Military History Muster, a free 2-day public event with reenactors, military vehicles and weapons, as well as heritage and lineage groups.
- Monthly public Speakers Series where various people and organizations discuss different aspects of military history and/or their organizational missions.
- Official Partner of the United States Vietnam 50th Commemoration and aggressively supported their programs; hosted a Vietnam Pinning Ceremony to give Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans and their families a long overdue “Thanks you, and Welcome Home.” We have presented more than 2,500 lapel pins to date.

Submitted 13 February 2025//Mark Conrad, President & Curator