

The 95th Division Journal

IRON MEN OF METZ

A Publication of The 95th Division Legacy Association



The entrance to the 95th Division IET Headquarters at Fort Sill, Okla., has a new look. Additions to the entrance include new Victory Division signage, a six-foot representation of a 95th shoulder patch and a captured WWII German Heavy Field Howitzer 15 cm (sFH 18). *Submitted by BG Stephen Case*

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from the president



Mike Flora

Hello Friends,

The Association has been hard at work preparing for the next reunion. For the past several months, Tracy McNeilly, Clif Twaddle, Marsha, Ciara at Light Alive Marketing and I have been creating an online reunion registration form. After several tests and tweaking, we've come up with a form

that provides a quick and easy way to register for our reunions. Just as important, if not more so, it provides us with valuable information in real time. Having access to head counts and meal selections quickly will help us immensely in planning this reunion and all future reunions. You can check it out on our website under the Association and scroll down to "Future Events" 2026 Reunion. A huge thanks to Tracy, Marsha, Clif, Ciara and Light Alive Marketing for their creativity and perseverance in making this project a success.

The announcement of our reunion location and dates has been met with enthusiasm, and we expect a healthy number of members in attendance. In addition, two of our WWII veterans have indicated that they plan to attend. We have also had commitments to attend from several soldiers from the 95th Training Division including our 95th

Color Guard. Our 95th Division Drill Sergeant of the Year also plans to join us. Other 95th IET soldiers have tentatively made arrangements for the reunion in Dayton.

Recently, there have been 45 oral recordings of our 95th Division WWII veterans added to our website under the "Audio Archives." These audio recordings are the result of years of work by David Meyer, MG James Archer (Ret) and Col. Terry Earnest (Ret) as they prepared these oral histories of our "Iron Men of Metz," and there are fifty or more yet to be processed. The processing of these recordings is funded by the 95th Division Foundation. This has been a crucial project in that its addition has helped to forge a website that is unique and elite among all other military websites.

Our team continues to serve and promote the members of the Association, our veterans and current soldiers of the 95th Division. The above projects take time, effort and funding. You can help by paying your Association membership dues and supporting the 95th Division Foundation. If you have not already paid your 2026 membership dues, you can do so on our website or use the form on page 6.

We are looking forward to greeting new as well as long-standing members of the Association in Dayton.

Sincerely,

Mike, President

95th Division Legacy Association

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Use the Officer and Council contact information shown above for questions, death notices or other information to share.

C.L.V.M.A. remembers 95th ID soldiers at Saint-Avoid

Sunday, May 24, the annual Memorial Day service was held at the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial in Saint-Avoid. The Lorraine American Cemetery contains the graves of nearly 10,500 war dead and more than 440 names on the Walls of the Missing. Included are the graves of 441 soldiers of 95th Infantry Division, and the names of 20 Iron Men of Metz are inscribed on the Wall of the Missing.



Officials march down the steps from the Memorial to a ceremonial area at the base of the cemetery to begin the annual Memorial Day service in Saint-Avoid, May 24.

Each year the C.L.V.M.A. and the 95th Division Foundation commemorate the sacrifice of 95th soldiers during World War II with flowers at Saint-Avoid. *Photos by Théo Muller*

Victory Belles

Hello Victory Belles!

We are in the final stages of planning the 2026 Reunion in Dayton, Ohio, this coming August. Be sure to register both for the Reunion and with the hotel as soon as possible.

As part of our Saturday lunch and social time, I ask that you try to bring something to share that honors the objective of our Association to maintain and strengthen bonds among those who have served in the Division and/or promote fellowship among Division soldiers and their families through the years. These are NOT meant to be donations, but rather something to share that speaks to your connection to the Association. Some ideas: photos, scrapbooks, books, letters or memorabilia... whatever touches your heart and sparks your memories!

Also, please bring an item to donate for the raffle if you have something appropriate. Your generosity always make this such a delightful experience!!

I look forward to seeing you all in Dayton.

Safe travels!

Susan Feely

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Théo Muller and Marc Dory pay their respects and place a white rose at the grave of Emil Piazza, D Co., 378th Reg., 95th ID on Memorial Day at Saint-Avoid. Piazza was killed in action in Merten, France, on November 29, 1944. *Photo by Marc Dory*

Destination: Dayton

Places to Eat and Things to See and Do

- **Restaurants** near the DoubleTree by Hilton: **The Wright Place** (located in our hotel; open for dinner); **Tandoori Crust Pizza**, 2800 Colonel Glenn Hwy., Fairborn (.2 miles); **Texas Roadhouse**, 2600 Colonel Glenn Hwy., Fairborn (.4 miles); **Wandering Griffen**, 3725 Presidential Dr., Beavercreek (.7 miles); **Insomnia Cookies**, 3800 Colonel Glenn Hwy., Fairborn (.9 miles); **Olive Garden**, 2865 Centere Dr., Fairborn (1.2 miles); **Twin Peaks**, 2661 Fairfield Commons, Dayton (1.7 miles). Numerous fast food restaurants are within walking distance of the hotel.
- Over 360 aircraft are displayed and maintained at the **National Museum of the U.S. Air Force** including a model of the Wright Brothers' first flyer through modern aircraft and spacecraft.
- **Carillon Historical Park** illustrates the stories of Dayton's inventions and contributions to the world in technology and manufacturing. The first movie projector, Cheez-Its, the Yellow Pages, ethyl leaded gasoline, the motorized wheelchair, gas masks, the cash register, the first electric automobile starter, the step ladder, pop-tops on cans and the first practical plane were invented in Dayton.
- The **Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park** pays tribute to Wilbur and Orville Wright and poet Paul Laurence Dunbar. The park includes informative guided tours and sections on parachutes and the Wright Brothers' Bicycle Shop. Admission is free.
- The **Dayton Art Institute** ranks in the top 3% of all art museums in North America. The art museum is an Italian Renaissance-style building, which sits atop a hill overlooking downtown Dayton. The institute's highlights are the museum's Asian, 17th-century Baroque, 18th- and 19th-century American and contemporary art collections.
- For classic car enthusiasts, **America's Packard Museum** is located in an original Packard dealership which was operational from 1917 until 1940. Today the museum manages the largest public collection of Packard automobiles and memorabilia.
- Focusing on science and natural history, the **Boonshoft Museum of Discovery** is a children's museum, science and technology center and zoo in Dayton.
- Twenty minutes from our hotel is **Yellow Springs**, one of "America's Coolest Small Towns." The streets of Yellow Springs are lined with an eclectic assortment of shops, galleries and restaurants. While in Yellow Springs visit **Young's Jersey Dairy Farm** (and taste their great ice cream), **Glen Helen Raptor Center** and the **Yellow Springs Brewery**. Recommended restaurants in Yellow Springs: **Ellie's Restaurant** in Mills Park Hotel (Southern favorites and American staples), **Peach's Grill** (American pub style cuisine), **Winds Cafe** (seasonal local American food) and **Ye Olde Trail Tavern** (Ohio's oldest tavern serving American fare and craft brews since 1827).

This fan-created recreation of a distinctive twin-wing spacecraft is part of the Iconic Starfighters exhibit. Photo by FireWatch Design Studios



National Museum of the U.S. Air Force to display iconic Starfighters

By Cheryl Prichard,

National Museum of the U.S. Air Force • May 11, 2026

Dayton, Ohio -- Visitors to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force™ will be able to experience Iconic Starfighters: Rivals of the Silver Screen beginning May 22, when the temporary exhibit opens in the Museum's fourth building special exhibit space.

The display features two full-scale, fan-created spacecraft inspired by some of the most recognizable designs from the silver screen. Visitors will have the opportunity to view the craftsmanship and detail involved in bringing science fiction-inspired designs to life.

The exhibit offers a unique opportunity to explore how aviation history continues to shape the way flight is imagined on screen.

Iconic Starfighters: Rivals of the Silver Screen will be on display through Dec. 31, 2026.

This temporary exhibit is part of a private collection, on loan from the Center of Science and Industry (COSI), with funding support from the Air Force Museum Foundation. The full-scale recreations were created by FireWatch Design Studios.

Iconic Starfighters features fan-created recreations inspired by the Star Wars franchise. This exhibit is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by Disney Enterprises Inc., Lucasfilm Ltd. LLC, Lucas Licensing Ltd., Lucas Entertainment Company Ltd. LLC, or any of their affiliates. All trademarks, copyrights and other intellectual property rights associated with the Star Wars franchise are the property of their respective owners.

Federal endorsement of named private entities is not implied.

Army Reserve captain stops armed robbery

Stars and Stripes • July 4, 2024

Nearly four years ago, Capt. Steven Drayton, a U.S. Army Reservist, who previously served as the commander of the 3-289th Training Support Battalion within the 95th Training Division, saw an armed robbery in progress. He stepped in and stopped it, which might very well have saved the lives of his 11-year-old son and the other patrons and employees in that barber shop in Killeen, Texas.

Drayton was honored for his heroics, July 3, 2024, when he received the prestigious Soldier's Medal during a ceremony at First Army Division West Headquarters at Fort Cavazos, Texas.

On Aug. 4, 2022, Drayton was visiting a barber shop outside the Fort Cavazos gates when an armed man barged in, pointed a gun at Drayton, his 11-year-old son and everyone else in the shop, demanding money.

Without hesitation, Drayton charged. Drayton quickly overpowered the suspect and took him to the ground. He then removed the handgun and an additional pistol the perpetrator had hidden in his waistband. He restrained the suspect until Killeen police arrived.

Maj. Gen. William Ryan, the commanding general of First Army Division West, paid tribute to Drayton by awarding the medal.

The Soldier's Medal was established by an act of Congress in 1926. It is the highest peacetime award for an act of heroism in a noncombat situation. Fewer than 300 soldiers currently on active duty have been awarded the Soldier's Medal, according to the Army.

Drayton spoke about how his military training helped him in the situation. Faced with an armed man in a peaceful environment, his extensive combat training enabled him to act appropriately in the stressful situation. "As we were going through it, I said to myself, I know what to do, I've been trained to do this," Drayton said. "Just stay in control."



Maj. Gen. William Ryan pins the Soldier's Medal on Capt. Steven Drayton during an awards ceremony on July 3, 2024, at First Army Division West headquarters, Fort Cavazos, Texas. Photo by Bowden Drake-Deese/U.S. Army

Reunion Hotel Information

To make reservations at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Dayton/Fairborn, call (937) 426-7800. To obtain the group rate which includes two breakfast vouchers per room (additional breakfast vouchers may be obtained at check-in for \$12 each), identify yourself as being with the 95th Division Legacy Association. Room rates are \$145 plus local/state taxes (12.75%). Check-in at the DoubleTree is at 4:00 pm, and check-out is at 11:00 am.

Online reservations can also be made at <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/95thdivisionlegacyassociation/>. To receive the group rate, reservations must be made by close of business on Monday, July 20, 2026.

Pick up your reunion packets from 4:00 - 6:00 pm and 7:00 - 8:00 pm Wednesday, August 19.

Separate from the hotel reservations, the 76th Reunion Registration form may be completed and paid at 95divassociation.com. As an alternative, the form is also available on page 7 and may be completed and mailed with payment to 95th Division Legacy Association, P.O. Box 1113, Oklahoma City, OK 73101.

To meet our catering and hotel agreement, Reunion Registration is due by Friday, July 31, 2026.

95th Division Legacy Association Annual Dues - 2026



Please complete a separate application for each member.

FirstName _____ MI _____ LastName _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

95th Unit _____

If you are not a veteran, how are you connected to the 95th? _____

Annual Membership (\$45 per person) _____

Please mail membership applications with check to:

95th Division Legacy Association, P.O. Box 1113, Oklahoma City, OK 73101

Please note: Membership dues for the Association are to be paid on the website at 95divassociation.com or with a check mailed to the Oklahoma City address above.

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Dayton— August 19 - 23, 2026

Registration completed by: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Company/Regiment _____

Names of those attending	Relationship to the 95th <small>(veteran, active duty, spouse, son, daughter-in-law, grandson, niece, friend, etc.)</small>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

	NUMBER	COST	TOTAL
Registration Fee, for each person attending:	_____	X \$80	_____
Wednesday, August 19			
Welcome Reception <i>Hospitality Suite, 6:00 - 7:00 PM</i>	_____	no cost	_____
Thursday, August 20			
Bus to/from the National Air Force Museum <small>(no admission cost to the museum)</small>	_____	X \$15	_____
Friday, August 21			
Bus to/from Carillon Historical Park	_____	X \$28	_____
Tickets for Carillon Historical Park — Seniors (60+)	_____	X \$11	_____
— Adults (18-59)	_____	X \$13	_____
— Children (3-17)	_____	X \$9	_____
Saturday, August 22			
Victory Belles Luncheon (Deli Buffet)	_____	X \$30	_____
Everybody Else Luncheon (Deli Buffet)	_____	X \$30	_____
Formal Banquet <i>Chicken \$38, Prime Rib \$59, Vegetarian \$38</i>	_____	X \$38	_____
<i>Guest Name</i> _____ <i>Entrée Choice</i> _____	_____	X \$59	_____

_____		GRAND TOTAL	<div style="width: 40px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>

Please list anyone in your party who has food allergies, needs a gluten-free diet, is vegetarian or has any other special needs so we can pass this along to the chef:

**95th Division Legacy Association
P.O. Box 1113
Oklahoma City, OK 73101**

Wednesday, August 19 – Sunday, August 23, 2026

76th Reunion

Dayton, Ohio