



Working Together to Preserve History

Fort Miles Historical Association

Since 2003, Fort Miles Historical Association and Delaware State Parks have worked as partners to renovate, operate and expand the Fort Miles Museum and surrounding historical area.

The Bunker Blast

December 15, 2025

A short and frequent communication to keep you, our loyal members, stay informed of what's happening with your association.

In today's Bunker Blast: We celebrate the contributions of our FMHA Volunteers at our Annual Holiday Party, intention to reschedule our Member Day excursion to the Dover Air Museum, we welcome new artillery to Fort Miles and announce our first Lecture of 2026.

Happy Holidays

Happy Holidays to our members and their families. On December 11th FMHA held its annual Holiday Party for volunteers at the Officers Club at Cape Henlopen State Park. This WWII era building was actually the Officers Club for the leadership of the 2500 active duty personnel stationed at Ft. Miles during the war, and then for the smaller numbers of personnel in the decades of cold war activity here at Fort Miles.



90 volunteers and their guests enjoyed dinner catered by Touch of Italy



Tom Tantillo, FMHA President, gives a service award to Gail White, FMHA treasurer and Gift Shop Volunteer. She was one of ten volunteers honored for exemplary contributions in 2025.

Member Day Will Be Rescheduled

As you know the Member Day scheduled for October 8th at the Air Mobility Command Museum in Dover had to be canceled because of the government shutdown. Because they were closed for so long, and the approaching Holidays we have decided for reschedule for the Spring. Stay tuned for more information in the new year.



The 155GPF is Here!!



If you are a FMHA Member, you also receive copies of the Fort Miles Museum Dispatch. In December's issue there was a story about the acquisition of a new piece of artillery, the 155 GPF. This is an example of the first weapon to be placed at Fort Miles at the beginning of WWII. If you missed the December Dispatch, read the article here: <https://fortmilesmuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Dispatch-2025-12-01.pdf>

While the article points to the several organizations that made this acquisition possible, it's important to note that FMHA was the lead. Our volunteers have been actively looking for this gun for over 15 years. Our volunteers made the overture to the American Legion Post in Ohio that had it, convinced them to trade it for another weapon that was on display at Fort Miles, made arrangements through personal contacts with the Mahan Foundation to transport and restore the weapon, prepared the weapon that we traded and funded the whole process, at a cost of approximately \$20,000, not including tens of thousands of other in-kind donations of material and labor.

Your organization, FMHA, made this all happen!! And your membership dues and donations allow us to do this. And, we will keep doing it with your support.

Lecture Series Continues

Our next lecture will be held in the North Gun Room of the Fort Miles Museum on January 17. Your registration notice will indicate that you should come into the museum main entrance.

Remember, FMHA Members get "first crack" to register for our lectures before the general public, so if any of your friends want to attend, please ask them to consider joining FMHA via our website at fortmiles.org. The last lecture was "sold out" before advertising and many nonmembers were disappointed that they could not attend.

January 17, 2026, The Berlin Airlift: First Victory of the Cold War Presented by FMHA Historian Ed Paterline

The talk will cover the history of the Airlift and the impact of the Airlift on subsequent US actions in the Cold War era. Dover Air Force Base is the home of the Air Mobility Command Museum and houses a C-54 used during the Airlift. Ed's father flew the Berlin Airlift and Ed and his father attended the 50th Anniversary celebrations in Berlin and met many of the participants.



Volunteer Wanted

Do you have experience in public relations or communications?

We are looking for a professional in this area to be our liaison with print, television, radio and podcast media, recruiting and coordinating our historians to present our story and promote events. This individual would also write press releases and prepare advertising.

If you are interested please contact our volunteer coordinator at volunteer@fortmiles.org

FMHA volunteers work almost 25,000 hours a year: as Bunker Busters restoring and maintaining the buildings, developing and building displays; as Docents giving tours and guiding visitors at special events; and as Associate Staff managing the gift shop, lecture series, special events, membership, website and electronic displays.

If you would like to volunteer in any of these areas, please send us an [email](#).



Learn More: fortmiles.org

Fort Miles is located in Cape Henlopen State Park.
15099 Cape Henlopen Drive, Lewes, DE 19958