



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 **August 29, 2026**

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: FMHA's Fall & Winter Lecture Series.

The Fall & Winter Lecture Series is back!

The Fort Miles Historical Association (FMHA) will once again conduct our annual Lecture Series, a multi-part seasonal curriculum focusing on the military history of Delaware and the United States, especially during World War Two and the Cold War. These lectures keep the public engaged with Fort Miles and its history during the winter off-season when the museum operates on reduced hours.

Our theme for 2026-27 is Military Aviation with a focus on the wartime growth of aviation in Delaware during World War Two and later developments during the Cold War.

The monthly one-hour lectures are held mid-month on Saturdays at 10am. The lectures are usually presented in the North Gun Room of the museum in Battery 519 at Cape Henlopen State Park (Lewes, DE).

Admission to the lectures is free. However due to our limited seating, we utilize an online advance registration system. Now would be a good time to put these dates on your calendar so that you won't miss any of these informative and engaging presentations.

As you may recall, Members get "first crack" at registering for lectures, so if you know anyone who might want to attend, please ask them to join FMHA before the lecture series starts. Invitations and registration information will go to our members inbox about 4 weeks before each lecture.

**October 17, 2026 - "Project Recover", Locating Missing Aircraft and their Airmen
Presented by Dr. Mark Moline**

Dr. Moline is Director of the School of Marine Science and Policy at the Univ. of Delaware. This presentation will focus on his passion, "Project Recover", which applies new technologies in the ocean that has transformed our ability to locate these relatively small aircraft associated with missing airman, document the sites, recover and return lost MIAs to their families and help provide closure that has existed for generations. The talk will track a few examples of the work being done to leave no one behind, including planes and flyers from Delaware.

**November 14, 2026 - "85 Years of Service – History of the Dover Air Force Base"
Presented by Brig. Gen. Kennard R. Wiggins, Jr., (DE ANG Ret.).**

Brig. Gen Wiggins Jr is a Regional Historian and Author. This presentation will cover the history of the Dover Air Force Base which opened one week after Pearl Harbor, where it served as an anti-submarine base, then a training base for fighter planes and a secret test site for aerial rockets. Nearly closed after the war, it was revived during the Korean War and eventually became the largest aerial port in the United States. It continues to serve as an air mobility hub for the Air Force as well as the home of the USAF Mortuary. Dover Air Force Base has had a significant impact on Delaware and plays an outsized role in the American defense posture.

**January 16, 2027 - World War II Women in the U.S. Air Defense
Presented by Dr. Anne Dobberteen**

Dr. Dobberteen is a Museum Curator and Historian. This presentation will cover the important role that civilian women and the Women's Army Corps played during World War II in the Aircraft Warning Service (AWS) and Antiaircraft Artillery Command to help keep East Coasters safe from aerial attack. She will also discuss how women served effectively in composite (mixed-gender) antiaircraft gun crews through successful tests at Bethany Beach in 1943.

February 20, 2027 - "Walking in the footsteps of heroes", The rescue of the Doolittle Raiders in China Presented by Larry Kelley.

Mr. Kelley is Executive Director of the Delaware Aviation Museum Foundation. This lecture will cover Larry's May 2025 trip to the sites in China where the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders found themselves after ditching or bailing out of their B-25 aircraft at the end of their Raid bombing five Japanese cities on April 18, 1942. While filming a documentary for Chinese Television, they visited and interviewed many Chinese civilians involved in the Raider rescues at the actual sites in China where these rescues occurred and where the Japanese retaliation campaign resulted in the deaths of an estimated 250,000 Chinese civilians.

March 13, 2027 - Delaware's Aviation Heroes Presented by Mitch Topal

Mr. Topal is an Author, Historian and former Chief of Public Affairs for the DANG's 166th Airlift Wing. This presentation will cover Mitch's book "*Against All Odds*" which chronicles the World War II combat experiences of a Delaware B-17 pilot Ray Firmani. The speech will detail the severe dangers of high-altitude bombing missions over Europe and highlights of other Delaware aviation heroes. His talks use an investigative, narrative storytelling style designed to place audiences directly inside the cockpit or on the front lines.

--> Watch your email for more information coming soon!

Volunteers 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, prepare advertising and could also write newsletters.

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

FMHA volunteers work almost 20,000 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