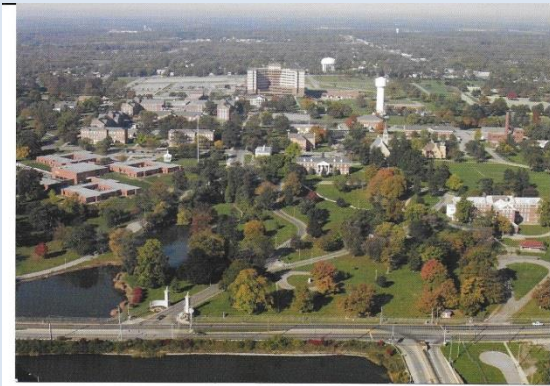


American Veterans Heritage Center

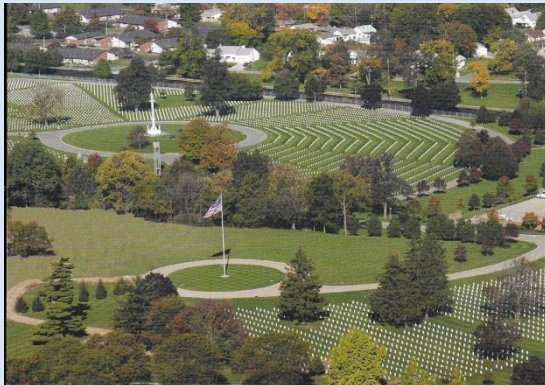
Post Cards

We have a variety of Post Cards for sale at 50 cents each or three for \$1.00. To purchase post cards, please call **(937) 267-7628** or visit us at the Dayton VA Bldg. 120 on Ohio Avenue, (open 9am-3pm weekdays).



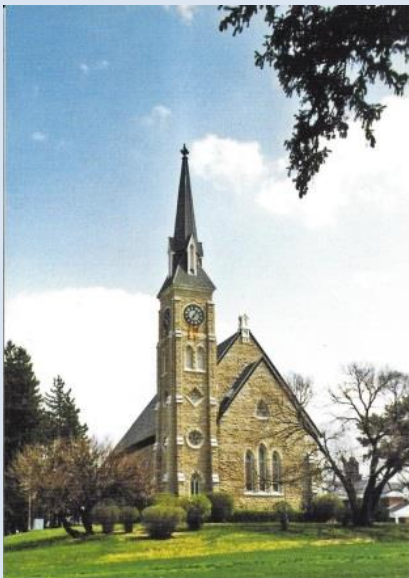
The Dayton VA Medical Center

An act of Congress, signed by President Abraham Lincoln on March 3, 1865, established the National Asylum of Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for relief of the totally disabled officers and men of the volunteer force. Three were authorized; the largest was the Central Branch in Dayton, Ohio in 1867. Initially called the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, the name was later changed to the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers because of the negative connotation of the word "asylum." It was opened in September 1867.



The National Cemetery at Dayton Ohio

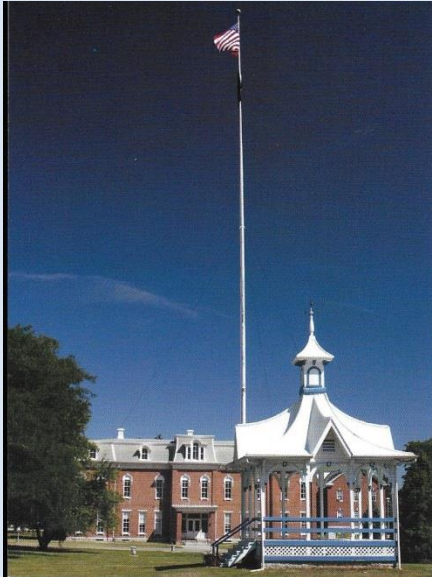
The Dayton National Cemetery was established in 1867 as a place to inter veterans who died while under the care of the Central Branch of the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers and Seamen, located in Dayton. The National Asylum became part of the newly formed Department of Veterans Affairs in 1930 and evolved into today's Dayton VA Medical Center. The cemetery was administered as part of the medical center until 1973, when it was transferred to the National Cemetery Administration. It has the remains of veterans from every major conflict the United States has been involved in dating back to the American Revolutionary War.



Soldiers Home Chapel

Dedicated in 1870, the Soldiers Home Chapel (Building 118) is the oldest building at the Central Branch and the first National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers stand-alone chapel. The Gothic Revival chapel features a bell tower that holds the 1876 "Centennial Bell," which was made in New York from cannons captured from Confederate forces during the Civil War. Both Catholic and Protestant services were held in the chapel until the construction of the Catholic Chapel (Building 119) in 1898.

Band Stand



Pictured is the Band Stand at the National Military Asylum – VA Medical Center, Dayton, Ohio. The Administration Building is in the background.

The Home Band was formed in 1867. The Bandstand was constructed in the early 1870's. The Bandstand is the centerpiece of the Main Campus. This highly ornamental structure was brilliantly illuminated with gas lamps for evening concerts.

The Home Band gave a concert every evening during pleasant weather. A civilian Chief Musician, 7 civilian musicians, and 16 Veteran musicians comprised the Home Band in 1885.

On special occasions, the Veterans would assemble on the parade ground in formation for a general review near the Bandstand. The Home Band created a festive atmosphere for the special occasions attracting many visitors.

The Band Stand is maintained to this day. Special events are still held there including the Opening Ceremony for the annual Patriot Freedom Festival.

Patriot Freedom Festival Collage

The Patriot Freedom Festival, held annually on Memorial Dayton weekend, (Saturday and Sunday), is hosted by the American Veterans Heritage Center and open to the public. All are welcome to attend.

In 2017, the American Veterans Heritage Center celebrates the Dayton VA Medical Center's 150th Anniversary during our 13th Annual Patriot Freedom Festival.

Our goals for the Festival are to educate our communities and our children about the history and sacrifices of our military, promote patriotism and discover the story of our beautiful Dayton VA Campus.

