



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center

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News Release

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## **Dayton VA Medical Center to host “Signing Ceremony” establishing Dayton as home of future National VA History Center**

The Dayton VA Medical Center (VAMC) is hosting a signing ceremony to celebrate the Dayton community’s accomplishment of officially being designated the home of the future National VA History Center. A goal of the Dayton VAMC for more than ten years in the making (and previously referred to publicly as “The VA Archives”), a Memorandum of Agreement was finally signed on January 19, 2017, between the VA and the Dayton VAMC’s community partners. This ceremony will commemorate the agreement and provide an opportunity for everyone to publicly sign the document. The ceremony will take place on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2 PM, at the Dayton VA Medical Center. The event is open to the public and to press.

While the selection of the Dayton VAMC as the home of the new National VA History Center had been discussed publicly by both former VA Secretary Eric Shinseki and former VA Secretary Robert McDonald during their respective tenures, the decision became official with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017, between the Secretary, Dayton VAMC CEO Glenn Costie, Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, Montgomery County Commissioners, the Dayton Development Coalition, the American Veterans Heritage Center, the Greater Miami Valley MyVeteran Community Engagement Board, Dayton History, and the Dayton Foundation.

This MOA empowers the VA and our community partners to begin the process of staffing, fundraising, and developing the National VA History Center’s program operations and facilities.

Specifically, the MOA states the VA will create a new VA History Office at the VA Department level with funding to lead, advocate, and support a team of professional historians, archivists, and other experts to support the operations of the new VA History Center. The VA will work with non-VA community partners to raise the funding necessary to restore buildings 116 (the old Headquarters building) and 129 (the old Clubhouse building) at the Dayton VAMC to become the collective site of the new VA History Center.

The Headquarters Building will serve as the primary program of the VA History Center. It will house museum exhibition space, a lecture hall, staff offices, an oral history study, and a gift shop. The oral history studio will provide space for Veterans to record their own oral histories in support of the Library of Congress’ Veterans History Project.

The Clubhouse Building will serve as the primary historical archives and artifact storage facility for the VA History Center. It will serve as the central repository for VA historical collections, including materials from all VA Facilities, and will include art, artifacts, records, photographs, audio-visual materials, and other historic documents.

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