



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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News Release

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VA Secretary McDonald officially designates Dayton VAMC as home of new National VA History Center

The Dayton VA Medical Center (VAMC) is excited to announce that, in one of his final acts as Secretary of the VA, Bob McDonald has officially established the Dayton VA as the home of the new National VA History Center. The History Center (referred to in previous public discussions as a "VA Archive") will store, preserve and display historically significant photos, documents and artifacts related to the history of the VA and the VA's predecessors.

While the selection of the Dayton VA as the home of the new National VA History Center has been discussed by Secretary McDonald previously, the decision became official with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) today, January 19th, 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 site of the VA History Center. It will house museum exhibition space, a lecture hall, staff offices, an oral history studio, 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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