

Annual Newsletter

Year 2025

Headlines:

- ★ Long time, no visit? Discover what's new in the 2024 exhibit changes
- ★ Join us for the very first Ritchie Boy Family Reunion, happening on July 26
- ★ Get ready for an inspiring research journey! Our new research center starts this year!

Long time, no visit? Discover what's new in the 2024 exhibit update

In May 2024, we undertook a complete transformation of our exhibition area, presenting a new look and an updated perspective on our historical timeline. This new change was brought about by the new immersive "Interrogation Tent" which you will encoutner in the Secret Herore exhibit.

Additionally, we introduced a space for rotating exhibitions, allowing us to consistently incorporate new information about the rich history of Fort Ritchie. The ongoing exhibition delves into the evolution of security efforts from the establishment of Camp Ritchie until the closure of the Fort in 1998.



New entrance to the Secret Heroes Exhibit



A glimpse of the new Security Exhibit

<u>Get ready to join us for the very first Ritchie Boy</u> <u>Family Reunion, happening on July 26, 2025</u>

Come and join us for a day filled with enjoyment, camaraderie, and knowledge as we organize our first Ritchie Boy Family Reunion! We are thrilled to provide a platform for Ritchie Boy families to bond, for individuals eager to discover more about the Ritchie Boys, and, naturally, to engage with our organization. Several Ritchie Boy speakers will be presenting, along with the opportunity to explore the museum, join a guided walking tour, visit the new shops, and view the accomplishments of Ritchie Revival. The day will conclude with a delightful dinner at Lakeside Hall. Tickets are accessible on our website. We look forward to welcoming you to the Fort and spending the day together!



Lakeside Hall, where the officers' club of World War II was situated Photo by: Nick Riley



Annual Newsletter

Year 2025

Get ready for an inspiring research journey! Our new research center starts this year!

Exciting changes are on the horizon for 2025! We will start working on our new research center. The 201 space will provide additional storage for our expanding museum collection, the opportunity to create research space, and the chance to enhance our gift shop! The reseach space will have a library of Ritchie Boy biographies and memoirs and copies of military records for each Rithcie Boy. Visitors can come in and sit and read in the library or rent a research room. The image below is a rendering of the concept we are aiming for.



*Artists Rendering actual build out subject to change

<u>Check out whats new in</u> <u>the Gift Shop!</u>

- New items avaliable in our gift shop and online!
 - Tumblers
 - Camp Ritchie Hoodie
 - Camp Ritchie T-Shirts
 - Flashlight Keychains
- New books coming soon!



*See our online gift shop for more information



Schedule of Events 2025

June 13- Free Walking Tour & Extended Hours

June 9- Museum's 2nd Anniversary- Day of Giving!

June 21- Summer Kickoff

July 11- Free Walking Tour & Extended Hours

July 26- Ritchie Boy Family Runion

August 9- Free Walking Tour & Extended Hours

All December- Fort Ritchie Tree Decorating Contest



A word from the director

It has been a privilege to serve as the Director in the first year of the museum's opening, and I look forward to many more years ahead. I sincerely appreciate the warm welcome I received from so many of you this past year. It has also been a joy to meet numerous new visitors, including many of you who are veterans and their families. Whether you are related to a Ritchie Boy or Girl or served under the 7th Signal at Ritchie, we are committed to honoring the Fort and your history and legacy to the best of our ability.

We are incredibly grateful to the past veterans who assisted us when needed, and I would like to extend a special thank you to Drew Losch for handling the museum's videography needs. I also want to recognize our dedicated volunteers, Ms. Pat Cliber and Ron and Trish Twenty, who generously contribute their time each week to support the museum's mission. We could not achieve what we do without their invaluable help!

We always need more volunteers. If you are interested in helping us, please visit our website!

As you can see from our newsletter, we continue to grow by leaps and bounds. If you can spare time or support by donations, please do. Your support is crucial to our institution and the continuation of interpreting Fort Ritchie's History. Please make any online donations here: https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/4519760 or our website. We are thankful for your support!

Sincerely,

Katy W. Self, Director