

SOUTH CAROLINA

RECREATION & PARKS ASSOCIATION

2018 SCRPA
MEMBER DIRECTORY

PERSEVERANCE -
DO WE TEACH OUR
KIDS WHAT IT TAKES?

KEEPING
HISTORY
ALIVE

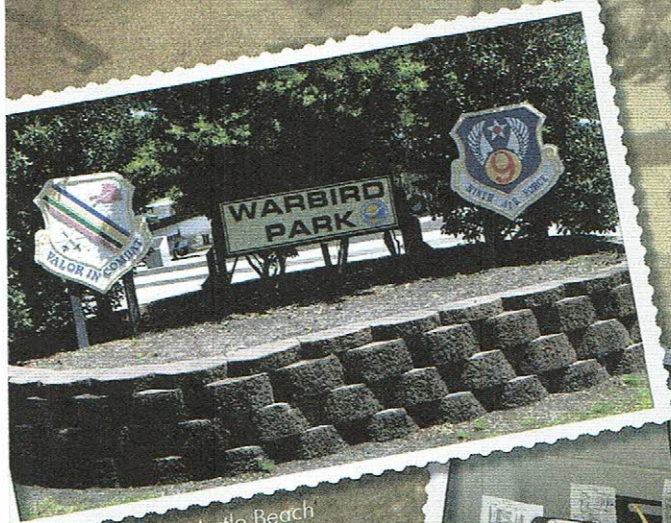
IN SOUTH CAROLINA

TAKE TIME TO
THINK & REFLECT



KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE

IN SOUTH CAROLINA



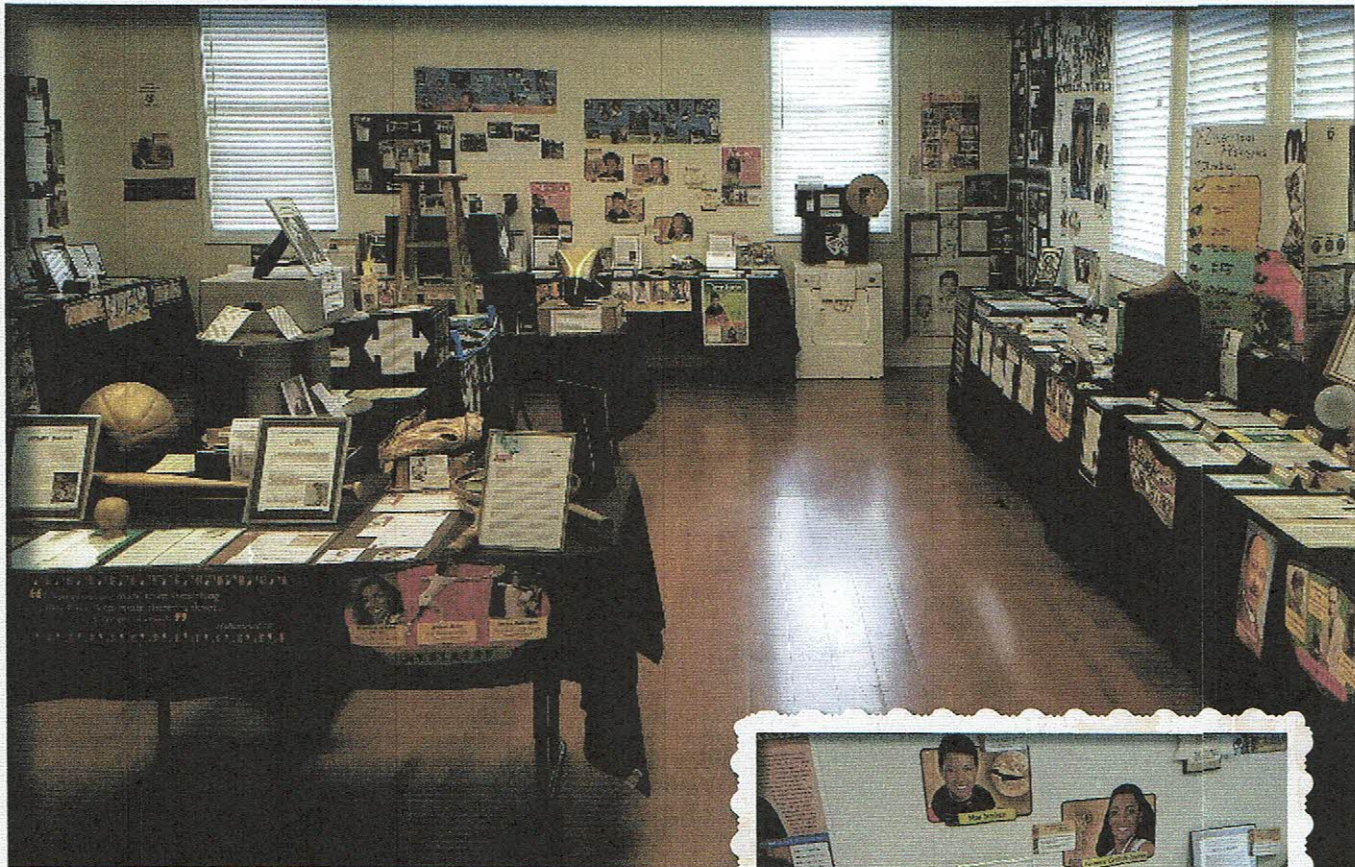
Warbird Park, Myrtle Beach



Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum, Myrtle Beach



Museum of African American History, Myrtle Beach



THE JOURNEY

By Docshee "Doc" Moore, Recreation Supervisor City of Myrtle Beach

Individuals that work in the wonderful world of recreation have the opportunity to conduct a variety of traditional and nontraditional programs that offer visual, mental, physical, and emotional stimulation that can last a lifetime. Do you recall the first time you played in a recreation sports league, or the first time you took part in a recreation summer camp, or maybe the first time you played in the swimming pool all day long during the summer? Most of our fondest memories and life lessons occur at a recreation center.

The Mary C. Canty Recreation Center is rooted in the heart of Myrtle Beach South Carolina. The Center offers a variety of programs and special events throughout the year. One of the educational programs that have withstood the test of time is the Canal Street Museum of African American History. That's right, during the month of February we took space in one of our hallways and converted it into a Museum.

Our goal was simple, we wanted to educate the community on the many impacts African Americans have had on the world. So, it's not just African American History, its World History. The concept was simple, create a time line of significant historical events. On the left half of the hall we started from the 1500's and listed historical events that took place until the 1950's. On the right half of the hall the time line began from the 1960's – the 2000's. We had a lot of information in a very small space; however, the museum was very informative, easy to follow, and the customer loved it!

After 3 years we realize we could not place any more items in the hallway; because, we were simply out of space. As a result we relocated the Museum to the Left ½ of our Banquet Hall for the entire month of February. This gave us the opportunity to add more items to the Museum and that's exactly what we did. We were able to add 138 more artifacts and a significant

amount of historical events to the Museum. The Museum covered African American Inventors, Doctor's, Scientist, Sports Figures, Educators, Entertainers, Teachers, Activist, Local History and The Movement that Change the World.

Today the small museum that originated at the Canal Street Recreation Center in a hallway leading to the main entrance of the pool and relocated to the left half of the banquet hall has a permanent home and a new name. The City of Myrtle Beach Museum of African American History is open year round and located at 901 Dunbar Street in Myrtle Beach SC. It's the only museum on the Grand Strand that will leave you saying, WOW! I DID NOT KNOW THAT!



FEDERAL LANDS TO PARKS: THE MYRTLE BEACH AIR FORCE BASE

By Dustin Jordan, CPRP, CPSI, Recreation Supervisor, City of Myrtle Beach

From 1939 to its closure in 1993, locals and visitors alike knew the area now known as The Market Common District of Myrtle Beach, as the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base (MBAFB). The former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base was a 3,937 acre property located within the City of Myrtle Beach. In 1947, after the ending of World War II, the base was closed and the property was given to the City of Myrtle Beach to be used as a municipal airport. The City donated the land back to the Air Force in 1954 to make way for a new modern Air Force Base with the threat of war with the Soviet Union looming. Military operations began in 1955 and continued until the deactivation of the MBAFB in 1993.

As part of the National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks program, the City of Myrtle Beach has acquired almost 311 acres of land on the former MBAFB. The

Federal Lands to Parks Program conveys surplus federal land to communities, usually at no cost, for public park and recreation purposes. Over 1,575 properties, approximately 178,000 acres, have been transferred to state and local governments for parks and recreation areas since the program's inception in 1949.

The City of Myrtle Beach has repurposed that land into many different types of recreational amenities including passive parks, a recreation center, a gymnasium, athletic fields, a dog park, an enabling playground, and miles of walking and biking trails. The city also acquired the Whispering Pines Golf Course through a separate deal for base property. Although the look of the area has drastically changed since its days as an active base, an initiative was taken during the redevelopment to preserve the military history of the MBAFB that played such a key role in the community during its time.

Throughout the walking trails and facilities of the former base, visitors will find over 150 permanent historical markers. Each marker identifies an individual, event, or place that is of significance to the history of the base and gives a brief description. The General Robert H. Reed Recreation Center, which is named after General Reed who was base commander starting in 1976, and the Crabtree Memorial Gymnasium house

museum items which have been donated by the people that once served at the MBAFB. These items tell the history of the base from World War II through Desert Storm and up to the base closure.

The most noticeable military monuments stand at what is now known as Warbird Park. Warbird Park is home to three combat aircraft on static display. The A-10, F-100, and A-7 aircrafts on display all were in service at the MBAFB during its time. Although not as noticeable as the planes, but equally impressive, stands the MBAFB Wall of Service at Warbird Park. This wall is to commemorate the civilian and military personnel who served at the MBAFB between 1939 and 1993. The Wall of Service has almost 3,000 names on it. The park also includes memorials to the Merchant Marines, Prisoners of War and Missing in Action service members, the Korean Conflict, and the Nuclear and Atomic Veterans.

Today, with most of the beige and brown military buildings torn down or in reuse, many visitors and newcomers to Myrtle Beach may not realize the base once existed. But with the use of dedicated park space, the City of Myrtle Beach has been able to keep its deep military history alive and honor those who served.