

About our Speakers



Capt. Guy Gruters

Guest Speaker: Captain Guy D. Gruters
When: Thursday, Sep. 16, 2021, 5:30 pm
Where: Custenborder Field, 449 Riverside

U. S. Air Force Captain Guy Gruters of Shelby County, OH, flew more than 400 combat missions during the Vietnam War. He was awarded more than 30 combat awards. But it was his faith that carried him to victory in the biggest battle of his life enduring five years and three months in various grueling communist prison camps in Vietnam. Capt. Gruters has turned that experience into a positive in his life and for his country by speaking around the country sharing his unique message combining the horror of his past experiences with the faith that strengthened and sustained him through the torture. He has written a book entitled *Locked Up With God* that details his struggles and those of other brave American servicemen whose accounts should make us all proud to be Americans.

Guest Speaker: David W. Taylor
When: Friday, September 17, 2021 10:00 am
Where: Custenborder Field, 449 Riverside Dr, Sidney

David Taylor is a retired Colonel, Special Forces, US Army Reserve. He served four years on active duty, including combat in the Vietnam War where he was wounded twice, and twenty-two years in the Army Reserve in special operations and counter-terrorism. He is Airborne, Ranger and Special Forces qualified.

He is an author, historian, and publisher, specializing in military history. His book about his infantry battalion in the Vietnam War was published in 2011 and is now in its third printing and his articles about war have been published in national magazines.



Colonel
David Taylor



CMSAF
Steve O'Meara

Guest Speaker: CMSAF Steve O'Meara
When: Friday, Sep. 17, 2021 11:00 am
Where: Custenborder Field, 449 Riverside

Chief Master Sergeant O'Meara served full time in the Air Force from 1983 to 1987 and then continued as a reservist through 2008. He survived two deployments to Iraq in 2003 and 2004 and retired from the Sidney Fire Department in April 2020.

He served as a firefighter, crew chief, assistant crew chief, training assistant, chief of operations, deputy chief and fire chief as he climbed the ranks, first at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, and then at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Fairborn. He was the fire chief on Kirkuk Air Base in Iraq when he earned a Bronze Star.

O'Meara developed an inspection program to quell the spate of building fires caused by electrical problems. He also instituted a training program that gave Iraqis basic first aid, firefighting and EMS skills.