

Guide to the Peters Township VFW Ambulance Service collection, 1972-2013

Summary Information

Collection No.:	MS 2021-067
Title:	Peters Township VFW Ambulance Service collection
Inclusive Dates:	1972-2013
Authors:	Carolyn Friedrich, Margaret Dietzer and Nancy Martin
Repository:	Peters Township Public Library 616 East McMurray Road McMurray, PA 15317
Creator:	Peters Township VFW Ambulance Service; Margaret Dietzer
Extent:	1 folder; 4 commemorative plates
Language of materials:	All materials are in English.
Abstract:	Records consist of press clippings about the Peters Township VFW Ambulance Service, programs from the Service's 20 th and 40 th anniversary dinners, and four commemorative plates.

Biography/History

The Peters Township VFW Ambulance Service began in the summer of 1963 in response to a fatal accident involving a Peters Township firefighter and his two children. Recognizing the need for ambulance service in the Township, Robert McMurray, a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 764 member, Ralph Barton, Post 764 Commander, along with other VFW members began a community project to provide volunteer ambulance service in the Township.

In the beginning, a converted hearse served as the first ambulance and was driven by a single volunteer. Until the Peters Township Water Department provided the first dedicated ambulance

garage, the ambulance was parked at members' homes. Only VFW members were eligible to become volunteer ambulance drivers and attendants until the late 1960s when the VFW membership requirement was lifted. The Peters Township VFW Ambulance Service received recognition as one of the few ambulance services accepting women as volunteers at this time.

In the 1960s, the VFW started an annual membership drive to fund the ambulance service and this membership drive continues today. VFW Post 764 hosts an annual golf outing with proceeds designated for the purchase of medical equipment such as defibrillators.

In 1975, the VFW Ambulance Service began offering EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) certification to its drivers and attendants. Soon after, members of the Peters Township Ambulance Service participated in Washington County paramedic classes. In October 1977, VFW Post 764 dedicated a new ambulance headquarters. The headquarters was built on land donated by Peters Township School District to the Township expressly for leasing to the ambulance service.

As the Peters Township population grew, the ambulance service transitioned from volunteers to career medics and Emergency Medical Technicians. As of 2021, there are thirty paid and volunteer members of the Peters Township VFW Ambulance Service including paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians, and office staff. The current VFW Post 764 Ambulance Service includes a fleet of three ambulances and a response vehicle.

Scope and Content Note

The Peters Township VFW Ambulance Service collection contains records documenting the history and evolution of the Township's ambulance service from its establishment in 1963 to its 50th anniversary in 2013.

Records include four press clippings relating to the Peters Township VFW Ambulance Service from 1972, 1992, 1997 and 2013. These clippings were collected and assembled into a collection by PTPL librarian Margaret Dietzer. The collection also includes an Ambulance Service uniform patch from the 1970s, programs from the 20th and 40th anniversary dinners of the Service held in 1983 and 2003, and four commemorative plates dating from 1973, 1988 and 1993. The plates have an image of the Service's ambulances on the front, and a history of the Service on the back.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions:

No restrictions.

Acquisition Information:

The Archives acquired the press clippings from the local history files of the Peters Township Public Library. The uniform patch was a gift from Dr. Carolyn Baird in 2026. The 40th anniversary program and three commemorative plates were donated to the Archives by Assistant Township Manager Kyle Thauvette in 2025. The 20th anniversary plate and program were donated by Sandy McMurray on behalf of the ambulance service in 2025.

Custodial History:

The press clippings were originally part of the Peters Township Public Library's local history files. The uniform patch belonged to Carolyn Baird. Prior to being transferred to the Archives, three plates and the 40th anniversary program were stored in the closet of the Caucus Room in the Township building. The 20th anniversary plate and program were in the possession of the ambulance service.

Accruals note:

No further accruals are expected.

Preferred Citation:

Peters Township Public Library Archives, MS 2021-067 Peters Township VFW Ambulance Service, 1972-2013.

Processing Information:

This collection was originally processed by Carolyn Friedrich and Margaret Dietzer in March 2021. Nancy Martin revised the description in March 2025.

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