



UN-SCRAMBLE



The Official Newsletter of the Valiant Air Command, Inc.
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website: <http://www.valiantaircommand.com>
email: warbirds@valiantaircommand.com

3rd Quarter Review - July, August & September • 2022

Fly-in/Drive-in breakfast - August 13, 2022 - Largest attendance to-date



One of the more unusual arrivals

MUSEUM AND GIFT SHOP - OPEN WED, THUR, FRI, SAT & SUN - 9AM TO 5PM

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day

Adults \$22.00 - Senior 60+ or Military \$20.00 - Students 13 to 18 years old \$10.00

Children 5 to 12 years old \$5.00 - Children under 5 years old FREE - Special Group Tour Rates Available

Statement of Purpose

The Valiant Air Command Inc. was formed to perpetuate the history of aviation, to encourage gathering of men and women in camaraderie, research and Warbird restoration, to serve as an educational tool for young and old alike; and to assure that the memory of those who gave their lives in service to their country shall not perish.

501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization Museum Recognized by the Internal Revenue Service

Future Events • October, November & December • 2022

Oct 8	Fly-In / Drive-In Breakfast, Museum, 8-10	Dec 10	VAC BOD Meeting, Library, 12 Noon
Oct 11	VAC BOD Meeting, 12 Noon	Dec 25	Christmas Day, Warbird Museum Closed
Nov 11-13	Veterans Day Open House, No Fly-in/Drive-in Breakfast	2023	
Nov 25	Thanksgiving Day, Museum Closed	Jan 1	New Year's Day, Warbird Museum Closed
Dec 3-4	C-47 to Cayman Islands		
Dec 10	Fly-In / Drive-In Breakfast, Museum, 8-10		

Please check the VAC website or with the event for last minute changes before going!!!!
(www.valiantaircommand.com)



Commander's Report

Norm Daniels, Commander
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Greetings members, volunteers, and friends. In the past 3 months, your museum attracted more third quarter visitors than in previous years. There are 3 reasons for the increases: 1) The Florida Department of Transportation installed two new signs on I-95, both North and South identifying "Warbird Museum Exit 212", thanks to David Shores and the Florida Department of Transportation. 2) We have contracted with LOCALiQ to send updates and information to various social media sites about the museum and its activities. 3) Aggressive advertising is the other factor that is driving traffic. Additionally, the VAC along with LOCALiQ is developing a new website (www.warbirdairmuseum.com) that is user-friendly. Volunteer, Martin Pring is coordinating this complex effort.

Our volunteer core of people working in the Restoration Hangar has made significant progress in work on the F-104 Starfighter, RU-21 and the F11F-I. We have received, a donated Cessna 337 to add to our collection of Warbirds. By the time this issue of the Unscramble is published we will have received as a donation a Vaultee BT-13 due to the efforts of Bob Boswell. The RU-21 is due to be finished this month. Larry Mathis and Tom Wilke have transformed a sad-looking aircraft into a showpiece. Larry Knox and Bob Fillipe attacked the metal issues and the repair of fiberglass parts.

The heat in the hangars and ramp areas has been especially oppressive this summer. A special thank you to the Restoration Crew and the Tour Guides who have continued to support the museum and its goals. Visitors have commented positively about the restoration activity and the attention paid to them by the Tour Guides.

As to the expansion, here is where we stand; the new connector and pad along with complex stormwater drainage piping are completed except for a

4-inch covering of asphalt. The delay in paving the pad and connector is due to the shortage of asphalt in the quantity needed. The aggregate used in the asphalt mix is the same as used in mixing concrete and is in very short supply; paving this large pad will take 1,000 tons, approximately 50 truckloads of asphalt. We expect to complete this portion of the project by the end of September or early October.



The next phase of the expansion is the Event Center. This project is in the early stages of design. Soon we will be publishing a brochure to be sent to potential donors, companies, and corporations to help with funding. This publication will include a host of "naming rights" items for the building and all the parts and pieces that make up the project.

XO, Bob Boswell continues to grow the number of event bookings that add to our revenue stream. Supporting Bob and Jolene Clark (Events Coordinator) a Venue Event Group out of Orlando, Florida. Bob also continues his work with the Museums of Brevard and the various Chambers to keep our name in front of Chamber Leaders and their staff support groups. Bob and Kenita Bushee are working on all the requirements for the Veterans *Continued on pg 3*



The Official Newsletter of the Valiant Air Command

1st Quarter - Jan, Feb & Mar • **Submission deadline - Mar 24th** NL Published - April 1st
 2nd Quarter - April, May & June • **Submission deadline - June 24th** NL Published - June 30th
 3rd Quarter - July, Aug & Sept • **Submission deadline - Sept 24th** NL Published - Sept 30th
 4th Quarter - Oct, Nov & Dec • **Submission deadline - Dec 22nd** NL Published - Dec 31st

Editor: Phyllis Lilienthal

Unscramble Crew: Louise Kleba and Lorraine Juhl

Photo Credits: Randy Black, Marvin Juhl, Lorraine Juhl and Phyllis Lilienthal

Please note: Items submitted after the submission deadline will not be published or will be published the next quarter if applicable.

The Editor reserves the right to not publish submitted items.

Commander's Report

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Day Weekend Open House on November 11-13, 2022. This includes vendor selection, advertising, marketing, flight and ground activity, a volunteer list of tasks to be performed to make ready for this event.

David Shores, Marketing Officer has negotiated an agreement with the TUI Group in Great Britain and Germany to sell Museum Admission Tickets to travelers heading for the US.

Marvin Juhl, Procurement Officer negotiated the donation of the Cessna 337 currently residing in



the Restoration Hangar. Marvin also is overseeing progress work on several aircraft and working to solve space issues in the Restoration Hangar.

Leigh Lewis, Flight Operations has worked out an agreement with US Aviation Training Solutions (USATS) to utilize the North LZ off Route State 50 in Titusville for parachute drops by the Round Parachute Groups that utilize our C-47 TICO Bell.

Terry Rush, Aircraft Maintenance Officer and Pilot (C-47, C-45) continues to fine-tune the Beechcraft C-45, currently replacing the cracked and glazed windows. Once completed the aircraft will look like it came off the factory assembly line.

Tom Etter, Facilities Officer along with crew (Charlie Hammer, Hawk Moore, Joel McGinley, Terry Nies, Tom Wilke, David Shores, Greg Goetz) trimmed palm trees, cut grass, patched roof, fixed air conditioning unit, repaired rolling equipment (tugs, man lift) and moved several aircraft to make room for upcoming events. Except for the final paint, Charlie Hamer fabricated a custom viewing stand allowing visitors to look directly into the complete cockpit of the Mig 17.

Tracy Bohrmann, Finance Officer continues to monitor and control purchases and expenditures as well as preparing monthly financial reports. She reconciles monthly bank statements and keeps track of

mortgage reduction payments. Tracy also works with Ron Davis to provide the financial information required for the various grants Ron applies for. Tracy has also been instrumental in funding major grant applications with complex key financial information with the Tourist Development Councils Capital Grant Program and the North Brevard Economic Development Zone. These numbers are used to justify the grant awards and include projections on costs, revenue, labor and income streams, and the economic impact for Brevard County and the museum. As a result of Bob Boswell's creation of presentation materials showing justification for grant awards and his presentations along with Tracy Bormann's numbers and projections incorporated into presentations, David Shores continuous interfacing with NBEDZ and members of the Brevard County Commission, we are keeping them informed of our goals for growth and how this will benefit the economics of this area.

As a result of the efforts of Bob, Tracy, David, and myself we were awarded \$500,000 from North Brevard Economic Development Zone and \$750,000 from Florida's Space Coast Office of Tourism Capital Grant Fund for the design and construction of the Event Center. This represents a substantial increase over past awards.

Richard Jones, Personnel Officer continues to upgrade our reporting and tracking systems and keeps track of all personnel activities including upgrades. He has successfully negotiated donated IT equipment at no cost to the VAC. Thanks to Richard and the Volgistics Program he installed that tracks volunteer hours showing that YTD we have over 25,000 hours of Volunteer time that includes Tour Guides, BOD, Restoration, Maintenance, Facilities, Procurement, and Flight Operations. Louise Kleba, Recording Secretary continues to support the Board and Richard Jones. Louise among other duties manages the FAST program for Formation Pilots both Jet and piston aircraft.

I am sad to report that long-time member Tom Etter, Facilities Officer has decided to resign his position to travel and spend time with family members scattered around the country. Tom has been the glue that holds many parts and pieces of the museum together. His work with individuals, companies, corporations, and others along with our Events Coordinator holding their events in our hangar has been very successful. When a client wants to reconfigure a space

Continued on pg 4

Commander's Report

Continued from pg 3

in our hangar and theme the space Tom worked out the details. As a result, many first-time users have returned to host their events in our hangars. Tom developed a team that moved aircraft to accommodate a client's specific needs and offered help to anyone who needed assistance. As Commander, I respect Tom, his ethics, and his willingness to step up to any problem and find solutions.

With Tom's resignation, two members had filled out a "letter of intent" to run for this position during the election cycle this year. One of the members, Roger Tonovitz who submitted a "letter of intent" has since decided not to run as he will be available only part-time. As a result, the position of Facilities Officer is uncontested and no election is required as our By-Laws state that a candidate for any uncontested position may be appointed by the BOD. The other individual who filed was Christopher "Hawk" Moore was appointed as Facilities Officer by the BOD at its September meeting. Since there were no other candidates for this position, Hawk will continue to hold this position until the next election cycle.

Hawk Moore brings a wealth of experience in facility infrastructure and has worked with Northrup Grumman Defense Systems Division as Compliance Officer at the Citadel in Charleston SC. He also was Chief Supreme Allied Powers (SHAPE) Joint Operations Center Communications and Operations Planner.

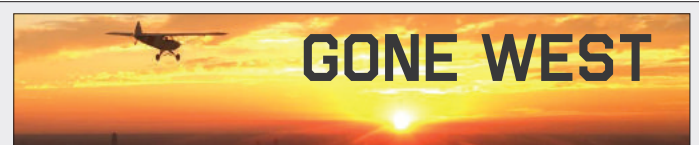


Jem Golden, Curator along with Malcolm Cater and Christine Reynolds has continued to enhance the memorabilia areas with enhanced displays of artifacts and items that tell the story of those who served their countries and the part they played in history.

Kathy Lowe has stepped up to manage the STEM program here at the museum. She has developed many contacts with firms and people ready to participate in teaching and presenting hands-on classes for young people at no cost.



I also want to recognize Phyllis Lienthal for her support in editing our Rack Card and Brochure handouts and for her editing and publishing the Unscramble.



Frans Johan Erik Kramer

8/26/1936 - 8/11/2022



Frans Johan Erik Kramer, age 85, of West Melbourne, Florida passed away on Thursday, August 11, 2022, in Miami, Florida. Frans was born August 26, 1936 in Jakarta, Indonesia to Frans and Francijna (Huese) Kramer.

Erik was a Life Member of the Valiant Air Command Warbird Air Museum where he served as the Museum's Historian and Tour Guide for many years. Rest in peace Erik, you will be missed.

A private family service was held at Riverside Gordon Memorial Chapel, N. Miami Beach, Florida.



F-104 Starfighter in the restoration hangar



RU-21a UTE almost ready for display



F11F-1 being restored to be displayed at the Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center Museum in California



Executive Officer's Report

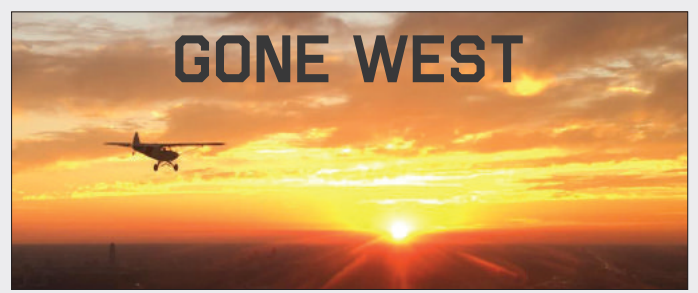
Bob Boswell, Executive Director
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Since my last report, the entire staff has been remarkably busy bringing the museum out of the virus shut down and working on our museum expansion plans. Opening days have been expanded to 9 to 5, Wednesday thru Sunday, and tourist visits have increased. The museum visitation has been exceptional during the Kennedy Space Center Rocket launches. The new Florida Department of Transportation "Warbird Air Museum" highway signs are helping bring visitors to the museum. Thank you, David Shores. David has also established a great relationship with both a commercial advertising/social media company and an international tour company that is expanding our advertising reach. Additionally, our much-improved web site should be unveiled shortly.



For those who have been following our museum expansion plans, we achieved a major boost with the approval of significant funding from both the North Brevard Economic Development Zone and the Brevard County Tourist Development Council. Read the Commander's report for funding details. We are now in a position to complete the Architectural and Engineering design for the new hangar that will also serve as a large Convention Center for North Brevard. We will also restart our fundraising efforts that were stopped by the COVID-19 pandemic. Expect to hear more about sponsorship opportunities shortly. Part of our expansion plan was to provide a large, 300' X 300' parking ramp behind the Vietnam Hangar, with a connector to "A" taxiway. The ground has been prepared and surface paving should be in progress as you read this report. This will provide space to bring our C-123 over from the other side of the airfield.

Jolene Clark, our Events Coordinator, has opened a commercial catering business for the public. She is also providing the breakfast for our second Saturday Fly-In/Drive-in event. Join us for an outstanding breakfast at our next event on Saturday, October 8th, 8-10:00 am.



Jerry Kerr - Age 80, passed away on August 27, 2022 at Addington Place in Titusville, Florida.



He was born in Washington D.C. Jerry is survived by his wife of fifty-nine years, Patricia (Brannigan).

Jerry was in the United States Navy aboard the USS Shangri-La CVA-38 with Fighter Squadron VF-62. During his working career, he was in sales to the U.S. federal government and aerospace industry. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed spending time guiding tours at the Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum in Titusville.

A celebration of life will be held at Divine Mercy Catholic Church 1940 N. Courtenay Pkwy, Merritt Island, FL on September 26th at 10:00 am. A military committal service, will follow, at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery 5525 US-1, Mims, FL 32754 at 1:00 pm.

Our Annual Veterans Day Museum Open House will be Friday-Sunday, November 11-13th, 9-5 daily. We will not have a Fly-in/Drive-in breakfast Saturday Morning, November 12th, but will have a fly-in lunch instead that day. As always, we are looking for volunteers to support this event. The Train Club, Model Club, RC Club, and others have been invited. We have several vendors and are looking for more. The Big Red Blood Bus will be there. Several of the Veterans Service Organizations will also be there.

Mark your calendar and make your reservations for our Members Appreciation Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 17th. Social Hours with a cash bar from 5:30 to 6:30, followed by a fabulous dinner. Drawings will be held for door prizes. Bring an unwrapped gift for our Toys for Tots support program. VAC Members in good standing plus one other person are admitted free. Non-member VAC Volunteers are invited to attend for a minimal charge of \$10 per person. Reservations are required with the Gift Shop. This is an adult event, no children.



Facilities Officer's Report

Tom Etter, Facilities Director
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The Facility Crew worked with Jolene Clark moving aircraft in/out and setting up/down the venues. It looks like the 2022 fourth quarter will be very busy with almost every weekend filled with activities. We are changing how we are parking aircraft in the Vietnam Hangar due to the need for better venue worker access. The T-2 can't be where it has been for years and we need room for our F-104B.

We have had a series of air conditioner problems due to mold or wear. The B-52 air conditioner looks to be working now that Hawk Moore worked on it. The cockpit is still very hot but the air outlet is cold.

Our ADS sprinkler system gave false alarms that required me or thankfully Marvin Juhl to go down to check that they were false; I stopped the fire trucks once we saw a pattern. Each evening at about 2300 hours there would be a waterline surge. ADS threw people and parts at the system but I am not sure that it was not a surge external to our buildings. Anyway, the issue went away.

Hawk Moore has been helping Tom Wilke by learning to mow, freeing Tom up to work on aircraft or trim the yard.

The aircraft outside are tied down with steel cables for the hurricane season in answer to a question.

Joel McGinley has had to work long hours chasing problems on the man-lift, low-boy tug, various golf carts, green tug, and the floor cleaner. I do not know what we would do without him. Terry Nies, David Shores, Hawk, Roger Tonovitz, Jim Bowers, and I have been helpers (but mostly supporters). Joel can do it all.

Hawk went up on the roof in two places. The leak over the conference room is better but still there, the leak over the C-45 seems stopped. Tracy and I re-tiled the conference room ceiling; we now know it was too soon.

We moved the F-14 out for a special event. Do not do this except with great effort in the future. We did learn how to get the canopy up and down (also with great effort and time). We moved the XP-82 from the VN Hangar to the North Main Hangar to ease maintenance efforts on it as it is brought back to life. The F-86 and Mig17 had to go to the VN Hangar to make room for the XP-82.

Hawk Moore, David Shores and I trimmed 3 palms (6 pick-up loads). The rest will await a cool day.

Terry Nies, Charlie Hammer, David Shores and I cleaned and greased the RU-21 wheels

Roger Tonovitz has been replacing old or burned-out lighting and squaring away items so that we can pass the next Fire Marshal Inspection. Roger is our backup/go-to guy when we are moving aircraft. He is also a better helper for Joel than the rest of us.

We hired a door company to come in and work over our Main Hangar doors that were so hard to move. They replaced bearings and lubricated the wheels (we had over-greased them attracting dirt). We now can move all but 2 doors with one person; those two doors have issues with cement alongside the tracks or their height adjustment which we will get next.

I have started killing weeds again. They have gotten worse with the increased rains of late.

This is my last report as Facility Officer as I have been replaced by Hawk Moore so I can chase my Bucket List. Hawk (his call sign), a retired USAF Colonel, will bring strong organizational and management skills to bear. Hawk, with his aircraft background and high energy, will ensure we have a strong museum as we continue to grow. Please give him the excellent support you all have given me. I will still be working with Hawk and the VAC when I am in town. This is my last chance to say thank you to some of the people that specifically and continuously gave me much joy and kept me out of trouble:

-Norm Daniels has always supported me. I couldn't ask for a better Leader.

-Norm Lindsey mentored me on the C47 airframe and engines and maintenance.

-Jim Towe partnered with me on the TBM and C47. A good buddy and teacher.

-Tracy Bohrmann is a great advisor for mind and body for myself and my wife.

-John Makinson kept our crew on a safe path.

-Joel McGinley has been indispensable making me look good equipment-wise.

-Terry Nies and Charlie Meyer can replace me on anything we do.

-Charlie Hammer is who we all go to when we are having trouble fixing something.

-Marvin Juhl has been a great supporter and backup. He and Lorraine are a great gift to the VAC.

-Phyllis Lilienthal who corrected my poor grammar and spelling on the Quarterly Reports.

The VAC is full of so many people that go the extra mile. We are so lucky to have the VAC team of Volunteers: Docents, Restoration mechanics, PX Staff, Board of Directors, Administrative ladies, STEM, Curators, Facility Crew, PR Experts, Pilots, History buffs, and Venue Staff.

Thank you for your support. Long live the VAC.



P R Officer's Report

David Shores, Public Relations Director
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We hosted the local representative of TUI this Quarter and we are now on their website in Europe so that their travelers can buy admission tickets to the Museum online. TUI is the world's largest tour company and it is headquartered in Germany.

We are working with "Proudly She Serves" an organization that tells the story of women who are serving or who have served in our Armed Forces. We are planning to display their photos and stories during our Veterans Day Weekend.

We are continuing to update our new website www.warbirdairmuseum.com and are looking for any comments or corrections that you may have.

We doubled the area where our rack cards are distributed with our vendor FPIS. Our rack cards will now be distributed throughout all of Brevard County.



VAC sign on I-95



Our ad at the international baggage claim at Melbourne Airport



September 10, 2022 - Phase 2 progress report - Base for the asphalt is nearing completion



Procurement Officer's Report

Marvin Juhl, Procurement Director
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These past few months have put a hard toll on our volunteers with the heat index that put many of us in low gear when it comes to working in aircraft restoration and other multiple tasks throughout the museum requirements. Our volunteers have been trying to escape this heat by heading north or seeking an air conditioning environment, or just waiting for cooler weather. This has caused our manpower to be short-handed which is quite understandable. For sure it's been tough working in this summer heat. In the meantime, we instruct our volunteers to DRINK WATER, drink plenty of it... even if you are not thirsty, wear a wide brim hat, and avoid the midday heat. When our weather becomes more under control, many more of our volunteers will be coming back in. But even with this heat, we have accomplished many of our goals while working, even with fewer hours during the summer heat.

Through the summer months, exterior repairs and preparations for painting have now reached their completion on the RU-21A, excluding the landing gear. It's time now for all the exterior decals to be installed and I might add there are many to be installed. Most of the decals can be made in-house and there are some that will need to be purchased locally. All of the exterior has been carefully scrutinized for water, bird, and bug proof (make that "resistant proof"), along with making sure all proper drain holes have been cleared and new holes installed where needed. The overhead and side window escape hatch were repaired with new weather-type seals installed. It's now sealed tight, hope we don't need to open it any time soon, but we should be able to open it for air circulation when needed. The interior

was cleaned and the flooring panels repaired and new ones made where needed. The interior has no furnishings as of yet. This will have to be done when we can obtain the correct items as it was configured back in the days of its covert operations. This I'm sure will take time and research to find. There are a lot of items missing on the interior. And yes the windows have been cleaned and polished. The RU-21A will roll out of the restoration by the end of this month for display. **(See photos page 9)**

We have moved the F-11 from one side to the other side of the hangar, the paint shop area. This will allow for easier preparation in painting which has now been started. One can now see some of the Blue Angel blue paint on its vertical stabilizer. We've come a very long way in getting this aircraft in shape from its devastating corrosion and repairs, and yet still working on it. From the start of this project, all items that can be removed including landing gear were removed to save weight and access to corrosion removal. Holding brackets were installed in place of the landing gear to secure this display aircraft, hanging it upside down at its final destination out west. The interior cockpit with ejection seat with seat cushions, instruments, and with its new canopy has long been completed for show. It is the primary consensus of all that the F-11 will be completed this year. **(See photos page 10)**

Since the last newsletter, we have received two aircraft for our museum, Cessna 337 H and a BT-13. The Air Force 02 A and B model, Vietnam FAC aircraft, is a Cessna 337. The Cessna 337 H that we received has served in many covert operations in many countries with a fleet of other 337 H's, most have very little knowledge of its mission profile. More information will be forthcoming. The BT-13 was built in 1942 as a training aircraft for the U.S. Army Air Forces. Research will be done to get its past history.



Cessna 337 in restoration



BT-13 as shipped - hard to believe this will be a plane

RU-21A Restoration Project



F-11 Restoration Project





Finance Officer's Report

Tracy Bohrmann, Finance Director
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I would like to send out a big thank you to all the BOD members who worked tirelessly on securing two large grants from Brevard County. Norm, Bob, and David worked for many hours on presenting our case to obtain critical funding for future expansion.

I would also like to thank Leigh Lewis for doing an outstanding job in Flight Operations. Keeping the C-47 flying is a major focus of our efforts here at the museum. As with everything else this year, the cost of maintaining this warbird in flying condition and as safe as possible has gone up quite a bit. However, the aircraft flying for paratroopers and in airshows and events have considerably lessened the burden on the museum, thus allowing us to undertake efforts in multiple areas to improve the museum. The response from paratrooper groups has been amazing, and many find it to be a unique and once-in-a-lifetime experience to jump from this D-Day veteran. Leigh, along with Terry Rush and John Makinson have done a great job balancing the stewardship of this aircraft with the ability to keep her flying.

As many of you know Kathy Lowe has taken

over STEM Program Leadership and we expect great things for this program year. We received an excellent grant from the State of Florida to fund this program and take it to the next level. My thanks to Ron Davis who worked on writing that grant as well as one for Brevard County Cultural Affairs. The State of Florida and Brevard County have been excellent in their support of the museum.

Overall, the museum is doing very well given the economic environment in the country. We are beginning to see tourism increases in both the state and the county. I would anticipate being able to open full-time in November of this year. While we have some great attendance days surrounding the anticipated first launch of the Artemis program, we are still having some low attendance days. The trend, however, does seem to be heading upward.

Just as a reminder, new boosters for COVID are out and should be available soon.



Operations Officer's Report

Leigh Lewis, Flight Operations Director
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Flight Operations has been very successful since I last reported. I have managed to partner up with USATS (flight school on our airfield) to secure their auxiliary practice airfield, which they use for helicopter training. It is located approximately 7 miles west of our museum and is 32+ acres. We have an agreement to drop parachute jumpers into the field. Phantom Parachute Club will meet once a month at our museum and we will drop them in the auxiliary field. I also have an agreement with USATS to rent their FAA-approved flight simulator for our STEM students at a

greatly reduced rate. I am working with Kathy Lowe to make this happen. I also am inviting our other regular parachute clubs that we service (RCPT in Palatka, Bob Mathews Group, and others) to join us here to jump from our C-47 and C-45. This greatly reduces their costs because the relocation costs are no longer applied.

We have a busy schedule for the next 3 months, including participating in an airshow in the Cayman Islands. Because our flight ops has achieved such a great reputation for reliability and professionalism we are getting constant requests for repeat events. As usual, my primary job is to accomplish these events with the greatest safety and benefit to our Museum.

Thank you for your continued support.



My Honor Flight

By Patti Champion

First, a little background. An Honor Flight is a free trip for veterans to Washington, D. C. to visit all the military memorials. I have volunteered with Space Coast Honor Flight for almost three years and have met numerous veterans. I love to listen to the stories of their service during their orientation and to hear about their trips when they return at their trip's reunion. I kept putting off submitting my application to go. Everyone kept urging me to get my paperwork in but, I figured I had time and wanted to find a way that my husband Larry and I could both go, taking our daughters as Guardians. That all changed when the Volunteer Coordinator told me last spring that they were trying to get as many female veterans as possible on the June 11th flight. I submitted my paperwork the next day! I also tried to get my Army veteran friend to submit it so we could go together and, although we mailed it the next day, the flight was already booked. In retrospect, I was glad that I had delayed.

On Sunday, June 5th, I received my orientation. This involved receiving medical clearance, getting a current photo taken, turning in a photo taken when I was in the Air Force, and receiving a backpack with a t-shirt, jacket, name tag, and other items related to the trip. A veteran going on the flight is escorted by a volunteer and not allowed to do or carry anything. As I was a veteran, I had to allow my Escort to do everything – carry my items, take me through the stations and carry my food. We were given a Sound Off number based on alphabetical order---this was very important because it ensured that no one was left behind wherever we went on the journey. Normally, my Guardian would have their orientation at the same time but, since my daughter, Bear was traveling from Vermont, her orientation needed to happen a half hour before getting on the bus on the day of the flight. A Guardian can be a relative, a friend, or someone who just volunteers and is responsible for his or her veteran and carries the backpack and pushes the wheelchair all day even when the veteran is not sitting in it. They must be always within arm's length

of the veteran. This caused some comical times when Bear needed to ask someone to “watch my mom.”



Patti and Her Guardian, Bear

The Flight - On Saturday, June 11th, at 12:30 a.m., we had to be ready to go to the Wickham Park Senior Center. Patrick Space Force Base Honor Guard performed, officials made presentations, and snacks, fruit, and coffee were provided. When it was time to board the buses, there were 30 Veterans, 30 Guardians, and about 10 Space Coast Honor Flight board members. A full police motorcycle escort rode with us all the way to Orlando Airport. What a thrill ride!

We ate boxed breakfasts at the airport. Numerous Honor Flight ground crew expedited our trip to the gate and it was mandatory that all veterans were in wheelchairs, and we went as a group, passing all other passengers. We were allowed to bypass TSA and we were on our honor not to be carrying anything prohibited. (On our return flight, we went through TSA in Baltimore.) We boarded Southwest Airlines ahead of the rest of the passengers and flew to Baltimore-Washington International (BWI) Airport where we boarded buses to take us to Washington, DC.

Our first stop was at the newly reopened Military Women's Memorial. (This was another reason I was glad I had delayed going as I would have missed this stop. While this memorial was being built, we lived in Maryland and now I am a charter member.) We were allowed to wander about and briefly visit the gift shop. The women veterans in our group were presented with a folder with a photo of the memorial and a history of our service. *Continued on pg 13*

My Honor Flight

continued from pg 12



Military Women's Memorial

The second stop was at the National World War II Memorial, where Congressman Bill Posey, U.S. representative for Florida's 8th congressional district, gave a welcoming speech and a group photo was taken. This memorial is huge, and there was much to see. Due to time constraints, it was impossible to see everything, but we were given more details to read in our backpacks. Thirdly, it was a short walk to the Korean War Veterans Memorial, where we posed for another group photo. I was eager to see this memorial after seeing the videos of previous Honor Flights.



World War II memorial

From the Korean War Veterans Memorial, we next walked to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

I did not see the names of the crew members that I remember briefing or meeting while in Vietnam on the Wall and I am sure that there are some that I don't remember. Also, there were none of those in Larry's squadron in Vietnam that I had met.

Back on the bus, we ate a box lunch and were driven to The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where we all were required to be in wheelchairs. We were escorted silently to a roped-off area in the front. While there, we watched the changing of the guard, and it was explained to us that as the guard passed us and slightly scuffed his shoes, he was giving us a silent salute of honor for our service. We were honored to view two wreath presentations, a school group, and our Honor Flight wreath.



Korean War Veterans Memorial

We boarded the bus for a drive through Arlington National Cemetery and a visit to the Air Force Memorial. Due to lack of time, we were unable to stop at the National Iwo Jima Memorial but drove very slowly past it. Finally, we were bused back to BWI Airport where we were given money to purchase our dinners before boarding the flight back to Orlando.

The Return - Everywhere we went there were people who wanted to thank us for our service, shake hands, and have a picture taken with us. This was magnified back at Orlando Airport, where the Patrick SFB Honor Guard and hundreds of people came out to welcome us home with cheers and THANK YOUS. These same people come out to welcome home and honor every Honor Flight!



Air America

CIA's Secret Airline

Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum Presents Air America, the CIA's Secret Airline at the museum's annual Open House on 11-13 November 2022.

In 2022, the Warbird Museum received a sizable donation of Air America-related items from a 2nd generation Air America Brat, namely Pamela Franks Crone. Pamela's items were donated in the name of her father, the late Garret Donald Franks, a CWO3 Army Airborne rotor-wing pilot, who served with Air America from mid-1966 to the end of 1974. Garret was stationed in Saigon, Vietnam, and Udorn, Thailand.

Pamela will present donated Air America items in our Vietnam Hanger during the Veterans Day Open House event. These items include artwork signed by many Air America Veterans that was specifically commissioned for presentation to the CIA Museum, Langley Va.; a framed canvas reproduction of the Civil Air Transport "CAT/Air America Memorial Plaque"; a "An Air Combat First Shoot Down of a North Vietnamese Air Force AN-2 Colt"; a "The Airman's Bond-Rescue on the Plain of Jars", and artwork commissioned by others. There will be video presentations including the History Channel documentary Air America - The CIA's Secret Airline, and the Netflix series Medal of Honor, Episode 7, which highlights events surrounding the Battle of Lima Site 85 in Laos, and the presentation of the Medal of Honor to the family of CMSgt Richard L Etchberger.



John Carter of Clermont, Florida, a former Air America fixed-wing aircraft maintenance supervisor who served in Vietnam from November 1967 to April 1974, plans to be on hand to answer questions and present his personal collection of items. John and Pamela, both experienced in the display and presentation of Air America for more than 10 years, look forward to meeting the museum's staff, members and visitors.

Eventually, the Air America display items will be in or around the Fairchild C-123K Provider, Serial No. 54-0674, when it is moved to the museum from the southwest corner of the airport.

Gift Shop News

Maureen, Rich, Lorraine, Darlene
Email: VAC-PX@valiantaircommand.com
(321) 268-1941 ext. 4112

We're back! Hope everyone has been healthy and doing well.

Our gift shop has a new cashier, her name is Darlene. Always smiling and happy to welcome our visitors. Come by and say hello to her.



Gift Shop Crew, l to r: Darlene, Maureen, Lorraine, Rich

New and in stock, children's t-shirts for both boys and girls. They have been selling really well. We are always getting in new adult t-shirts and our new selection of Hawaiian shirts too. All would make great Christmas gifts. Remember it's always free to come and shop here.

Hope to see you for our annual Open House for Veterans Day. Free to all US Military and Veterans, past and present. Free to family members accompanying Veterans, and Florida residents. We do ask that you please bring a non-perishable food item, so we can give back to our community. The dates are November 11th, 12th, and the 13th from 9 am to 5 pm. You will also get 20% off one regular-priced item in our gift shop.

Below are photos of our gift bag winners. There were lots of items from our gift shop and free admission tickets for adults. Thank you for your support!

Gift Bag Winners - Brevard Zoo Teachers Open House Event and Challenger 7 Elementary School Event, PSJ



From left to right, The winners are Denise Warren, Central Middle School, West Melbourne; Jaimee Antinore, Westside Elementary School, Palm Bay; Stephen Jones, Challenger 7 Elementary School, PSJ

Fly-in/Drive-in breakfast



Long lines caused by the largest attendance ever



The guests enjoying the food and camaraderie



John Musselman, Author of The Shinning Sword and Undaunted They Flew was there to sign his books



Dave "Bio" Baranek, former Topgun instructor and F-14 RIO was there to sign his books

Randy Black with his steady hand and long lens captured some of the hungry pilots



Mark Your Calendar



WARBIRD AIR MUSEUM
OPEN HOUSE - 9 AM TO 5 PM
NOVEMBER 11TH - 13TH

Flybys • Displays • Memorabilia
 Food & Drink Available For Purchase
 Car Clubs • Model Trains & Planes
 Radio Controlled Airplanes
 Combat Pilots On Hand • And More

VETERANS DAY WEEKEND OPEN HOUSE
PLANES - TRAINS - AUTOMOBILES

Free* FOR ALL US MILITARY & VETERANS (PAST & PRESENT)
 Free* FOR FAMILY MEMBERS ACCOMPANYING VETERANS
 Free* FOR ALL FLORIDA RESIDENTS

20% OFF one regular priced item in the Gift Store
(GOOD FOR VETERANS DAY WEEKEND ONLY)

Please bring a non-perishable food donation for a local food bank

Friday
Saturday Sunday
9am to 5pm

\$25 Discount on All New Museum Memberships
 Warbird Air Museum, 6600 Tico Road, Titusville, FL 32780
 (321) 268-1941 • www.valiantaircommand.com




FLY-IN / DRIVE-IN BREAKFAST
 2nd Saturday Every** Month
 Warbird Air Museum

You can now fly-in or drive-in, pay \$12 for each person*, have a Chef prepared breakfast and then see the Museum FREE

Offer good day of the breakfast between 8 am & 10 am ONLY
 Cannot be combined with other discounts



20% OFF of one regular priced item in the Gift Store
(GOOD FOR THE DAY OF FLY-IN ONLY)

• Drive-in •
 Warbird Air Museum, 6600 Tico Rd, Titusville, FL
 • Fly-in •
 Warbird Air Museum • Space Coast Regional Airport • KTIK
 Wristbands will be issued • No sharing food

* Children under 5: Breakfast and Museum \$5
 ** Check the Valiant Air Command's official website or call the day before to check for any cancellation
 www.valiantaircommand.com • (321) 268-1941

RR 16r 27-16-21

Happy Halloween!

October 31st



December 25

Merry Christmas

VAC Closed



November 25, 2022 - VAC Closed

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JANUARY 1, 2023 - VAC CLOSED





TRIBUTE TO THE DC-3

**In fifty-one they tried to ground the noble DC-3
And some lawyers brought the case before the C.A.B.
The board examined all the facts behind their great oak portal
And pronounced these simple words "The Gooney Birds Immortal"**

**The Army toasts their Skytrain in lousy scotch and soda
The Tommies raise their glasses high to cheer their old Dakota
Some claim the C-47's best, or the gallant R4D
Forget that claim, they're all the same, the the noble DC-3.**

**Douglas built the ship to last, but nobody expected
This crazy heap would fly and fly, no matter how they wrecked it.
While nations fall and men retire, and jets go obsolete
The Gooney Bird flies on and on at eleven thousand feet.**

**No matter what they do to her, the Gooney Bird still flies
One crippled plane was fitted with one wing half the size
She hunched her shoulders and then took off (I know this makes you laugh)
One wing askew, and yet she flew, the DC-3 and a half.**

**She had her faults, but after all, who's perfect in every sphere?
Her heating system was a gem, we loved her for her gear
Of course, the windows leaked a bit when rain came pouring down
She'd keep you warm, but in a storm, it's possible you'd drown.**

**Well now she flies the feeder lines and carries all the freight
She's just an airborne office, a flying twelve-ton crate
They patched her up with masking tape, with paper clips and strings.
And still she flies, she never dies, Methuselah with wings.**

Anonymous



VAC MEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY

Vietnam Hangar - Saturday, December 17, 2022

**Happy
Hour**
5:30pm to 6:30pm

**Cash Bar
Dinner
to
Follow**

**Free For
Members + 1**
**Non-Member
Volunteers \$10**
**All others
\$20**

**Door
Prizes**

DON'T FORGET TO BRING
YOUR UNWRAPPED TOYS



**Tickets are available in advance at the Gift Shop or pay at the door
Reservations are required by 7 December - 321-268-1941 ext. 4112**

Bell UH-1H Iroquois (Huey) Static Display



VAC Guests can now climb on board and get the Huey experience

Tico Belle has been invited by the Governor of The Cayman Islands and we are going December 3rd & 4th

The Governor of the Cayman Islands invited us to participate in their 2022 Airshow featuring our C-47 Skytrain, Tico Belle which will drop parachutists several times from a height of 6,000' over the course of the event.

C-47s, ours included, left bases in England on June 6th with paratroopers and gliders to the beaches of Normandy; the D-Day Invasion. After the D-Invasion, our C-47 participated in other noteworthy events; Market Garden, Battle of the Bulge and the Berlin Airlift.

Dates of Airshow 12/01/2022 through 12/04/2022.

***Background info:** The Cayman Islands are a group of three Caribbean Islands, Grand Cayman, Little Cayman and Cayman Brac, situated to the south of Cuba and to the west of Jamaica. Together they form the Cayman Islands, a British Overseas Territory with an independent legislature and a democratically elected parliament. The Islands have strong ties with the United Kingdom and the King is the Head of State. The Crown is represented in the Cayman Islands by the Governor, Mr. Martyn Roper. The last Air Show was held in the Cayman Islands over 20 years ago and it is hoped that a safe and successful event will be the precursor to the return of what was a very popular annual attraction.*

Valiant Air Command, Inc.

6600 Tico Road, Titusville, Florida 32780 - 321-268-1941

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