

AVIATOR



PUBLISHED BY THE MUSEUM OF AVIATION FOUNDATION AT RAFB, GA.

JANUARY 2024 | ISSUE 7

FOUNDATION FOCUS

WRITTEN BY COLONEL JEFFREY E. BRETT, USAF, RET.
PRESIDENT AND CEO, MUSEUM OF AVIATION FOUNDATION

Museum Friends,

Happy New Year! We are anticipating an exciting year at the Museum with a packed calendar and an enthusiastic staff that is looking forward to bringing the Museum alive for you. I write this while returning from the National WWII Conference at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. While it is fascinating to see how other Museum's operate, it was most enlightening to see the impact on their community. It was a stark reminder as to the importance of telling the "story" to new generations as only one WWII veteran was in attendance. He was celebrating his 100th birthday! Time takes a terrible toll on our veterans, whether WWII, Korea, Vietnam or Desert Storm; it does not discriminate and slowly but irretrievably erodes the stories and memories. It is our duty as a museum to record, retain and tell these stories; known as Preserve, Inspire and Educate at the Museum of Aviation. The alternative is the sacrifices, stories and memories of these incredible women and men from all conflicts are lost forever to future generations. While we do not know the price of this loss until after the fact, the cost to relearn is always more sacrifice. President Roosevelt said it best when he described the four reasons why we fight for democracy; Freedom of Worship, Freedom of Speech, Freedom from Want and Freedom from Fear.

In a world as volatile as today, these reasons are still valid and it is imperative we remember our past, present and future. The cost is too great to relearn. Join us today with your time, talent and treasures as we seek to **Preserve, Inspire and Educate!**
Time marches on...



Respectfully,

President and CEO
Museum of Aviation Foundation



MUSEUM MUSINGS



HERITAGE SERIES

Remembering the
Greenland Expedition



Feb 2, 2024
Information

FREE Reservation!



**The Return
Beatles
Tribute Band**

Catered by the Butcher Shop



Feb 10, 2024
Information

Tickets



**FAMILY AVIATION
Day**

Mar 9, 2024
Information



FREE FAMILY EVENT



HERITAGE SERIES III

"REMEMBERING THE GREENLAND EXPEDITION"

FEBRUARY 2, 2024 | 2:00-4:00

In 1942, the United States military initiated what became known as Operation BOLERO. This plan set in motion the large military buildup of US forces in Great Britain. An integral part of this plan was the buildup of USAAF men and aircraft. Plans were developed to fly aircraft to Great Britain two ways, the northern and southern routes. The southern route flew to South America, Ascension Island, Africa and then north. The northern shorter route was to the Maritime provinces in Canada, Iceland and Scotland.

Part of this force included P-38Fs of the 94th Fighter Squadron, 1st Fighter Group. The plan called for a single B-17 to lead three P-38s across the northern route and the unit would reassemble in England. The first B-17 and P-38s, led by Paul Tibbets who later famously piloted ENOLA GAY, made it across uneventfully but delays were inevitable impacting the next two launches. In an effort to stay on time the next launch, led by Carl Rudder, combined making it two B-17s and six P-38s.

Launching on 15 July 1942, this formation quickly ran into poor weather. Unable to reach Iceland, they turned back toward Greenland. Running low on fuel, the decision was made to attempt landings on the ice cap. Miraculously, this was accomplished without injury. For nine days, the 25 men survived on supplies air dropped by rescue aircraft until rescue crews arrived.

Year later in 1981, the Greenland Expedition Society was founded. Led by Pat Epps, its mission was the recovery of the aircraft left behind. Arriving on the ice cap in 1988, they began their search and using sub surface radar, they identified the aircraft two miles from their original location and under 260 feet of ice! Now the challenge was how to get them out of that much ice.

One of the innovative team members and Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame member, Don Brooks, helped develop the "Gopher." This four-foot wide, 500-pound cone used heated liquid to bore through the ice. In 1992, after several trips, P-38 41-7630 was brought to the surface piece by piece. Using a hot-water cannon, the crew carved out a 50-foot-wide cavern around the P-38, which they took apart and sent piece by piece to the surface. They had to sink five shafts to excavate a hole wide enough to lift the last piece of the airplane, the 17-foot-long, three-ton center section. It came up on August 1, 1992.

On February 2, come hear three members of the team as they recall the planning, recovery and later restoration of what is now known as GLACIER GIRL.

*Recovery of Lockheed P-38 Lightning
underneath the Greenland Ice Cap*
<https://soar.kennesaw.edu/handle/11360/2284>
Louis A. Sapienza (2017-10-13)



Super Gopher/Greenland Ice Cap
<https://soar.kennesaw.edu/handle/11360/2284>
Louis A. Sapienza (2017-10-13)

These photographs come from the collections of
Greenland Expedition Society, circa 1986-2010s

**RESERVE YOUR
FREE SEAT TODAY!**



LOCAL VETERANS CELEBRATE LIVING HISTORY DAY

BY JENNA WATKINSON

HERITAGE GUIDED TOURS & VISITOR EXPERIENCE COORDINATOR

On Veterans Day, the Museum of Aviation hosted a **Living History Day** for veterans to share their service stories. Local veterans were able to foster a sense of community and strengthen veteran bonds through this community event.

The Museum of Aviation campus is composed of four climate controlled buildings and military veterans were posted in multiple locations to share their service experiences and aircraft knowledge with visitors of all ages. Living History Day became an opportunity to bring their history alive and honor those who have served our country by writing bios that were located throughout the Museum.

Alan Kimball, a veteran and volunteer of the Museum, stated, "After I left military service, I found I most missed the people who had shared many good and bad times. The Living History Day was an exciting opportunity to be with people who had served their country, regardless of length of service, and share our experiences, stories, and memories of those with whom we had served."

Ken Smith, another Museum veteran volunteer, was excited by this event saying, "The idea of having actual veterans having a part on Veteran's Day at the Museum of Aviation is a rather unique thing. The fact some of them took part in the events represented by the exhibits there truly makes them a living part of our history. The veterans bring a perspective to the public that can only be gained through actual experiences. The interaction between the veterans and the public has been unbelievable, and we look forward to doing it again next year."

The Museum was honored by the community's participation and looks forward to hosting similar events in the coming year.



John Kerns shares his military experience with visitors.

★ LIVING HISTORY DAY ★



*Hunter, Ken and Jenna - Heritage Tour Guides
Ready to Greet Museum Visitors!*



*Heritage Guide Alan Kimball
Telling stories about his service.*

CHECK OUT OUR
HERITAGE TOURS

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>



JUST THE ARTIFACTS BY ERIN TAPP - MUSEUM OF AVIATION, COLLECTIONS MANAGER

American photographer Edward Henry Weston (1886-1958) once said "The camera sees more than the eye, so why not make use of it?" I like to think our early Army Air Forces leaders shared a similar sentiment that propelled the birth of aerial reconnaissance in the United States military. In the years between 1939 and 1945, Europe and the United States experienced unparalleled growth in the technology and tactics that led to the development of this new discipline. By the end of World War II, aerial reconnaissance was recognized as a vital, invaluable aspect of air power in the USAAF.

The year 1941 was a turning point for American forces: for the first time, they began to understand from their British counterparts that aerial reconnaissance was a much needed and valuable technical component of warfare. Prior to 1939, reconnaissance in the American military had become overshadowed as a mission type by the practice of aerial mapping. With the dawn of WWII, a new doctrine of strategic bombardment came into practice. Soon after this shift to a new kind of weapon of war, the American military began to recognize that bombing alone could be rendered ineffective without the support of aerial reconnaissance.

The United States used the K-series designation for their aerial cameras as well as the F-series (derived from the Navy). These were produced by Fairchild. Sherman Fairchild, a businessman and inventor, developed the first K-3 camera out of his experience in World War I. As technology and need developed in tandem, the K-series grew to include a wide range of diverse cameras: the K-17, which produced a 9 x 9 inch image using several different lenses; the K-18 used for higher altitude aircraft and produced a large image plane of 9 x 18 inches; and the small K-20 used at night for low-level obliques, producing a small 4 x 5 inch image. As the technology evolved in the United States, the Americans also frequently used already established British cameras such as the F24 or K24.

Over the years, the Museum of Aviation has collected significant aerial cameras from all periods. The earliest camera in the Museum's collection is a Fairchild F-8 focal plane shutter camera, designed in 1929 and released in 1930, used for oblique aerial photography. The Museum's significant World War II cameras include a handheld Fairchild K-10 and a K-20. The K-20 was used between 1941 and 1945 and equipped with a high-speed shutter. This type of camera was used by the tail gunner position of the Boeing B-29 Enola Gay that caught the infamous image of the nuclear mushroom cloud over Hiroshima.

The Museum possesses a significant holding of early U-2 Dragon Lady cameras including several examples of the K-37 which was designed for medium- to high-altitude night reconnaissance as well as Model A-2 camera set, developed in the late 1950s. The Model A-2 set was comprised of Hycon model 732 cameras that could "see" and record objects as small as two feet across from a height of more than 12 miles. Today, the U-2S Dragon Lady flies with a sophisticated sensory package whose mission will be ending soon. As the Optical Bar Camera comes out of service, the Museum is making plans to acquire the current U-2's highest resolution camera. The OBC is a long focal-length panoramic camera that oscillates back and forth, capturing sweeping images. Its story began in the 1950s, and it has been used on other platforms like the SR-71 Blackbird and the Apollo spacecraft.

The Museum's present-day collecting strategy includes forward-thinking preservation goals that consider the importance of acquiring aerial reconnaissance technology that reflect the current and immediate past of our USAF.



K-37 Camera



Flight Lieutenant L H Abbott, British Air Ministry official photographer, pictured holding a Fairchild K-20 hand-held aerial camera in front of a Douglas Dakota, World War II.
<http://media.iwm.org.uk/iwm/mediaLib/55/media-55490/large.jpg>
This photograph CNA 3416 comes from the collections of the Imperial War Museums.



K-10 Camera

Thank You!

RUN FOR AVIATION
USATF BOSTON QUALIFIER

JAN 13, 2024

What a great turnout for the 28th Annual Marathon, Half Marathon, 5K and Para Athletes Race! Seasoned runners and casual walkers showed up in full force to kick off their New Year with a patriotic workout. Family and friends took the opportunity to tour the Museum campus before cheering the racers across the finish line. All of this was made possible by Run for Aviation sponsors. Special shout out to Presenting Sponsor Jeff Smith Automotive for giving so generously! Proceeds from the race help the Museum educate and inspire our visitors, recruit a future workforce, and honor those who have contributed to Air Force history. Thank you for making this year's **Run for Aviation** an incredible success!

GOLD

FOX24 abc16 SinclairDigital

SILVER

A-OK Portable Services | The Lodge

TOP GUN

Leidos | Dan Perdue - County Commissioner
Georgia Military College Warner Robins Campus
Papa Johns | Executive Residency / Best Western+
Macon Coca Cola Bottling Co.

PRESENTING SPONSOR



WINGMAN

Central Georgia Technical College
Curry Maffett Insurance | Graphic Guys of Georgia
Houston Healthcare | Middle Georgia State University
Andy Thomas - State Farm | Warner Robins CVB

TROOP

Georgia Golden Olympics | HM Advisors
The Imaging Center of Warner Robins
Kroger | Macon Tracks / OrthoGeorgia
Robins Services | Walmart

2023 FESTIVAL OF TREES

BY KATE ZIDEK

DIRECTOR OF ENGAGEMENT AND FUND DEVELOPMENT



This year's Festival of Trees event and reception on December 12 was not to be missed. Our Tree Sponsors went ALL OUT to decorate the most patriotic, humorous, elegant and creative Christmas trees we've ever seen. The People's Choice competition was fierce and the community broke voting records with over 550 votes.

The Museum staff want to thank reception co-sponsors, Real Estate South & Associates and BP Cleaning, and each of our 27 Tree Sponsors and their decorating teams for transforming the Eagle Building with festive holiday joy.

THANK YOU TO OUR TREE SPONSORS



Visit with Santa
Rep. Shaw Blackmon
Mayor LaRhonda Patrick



Scan to
see trees

Advanced Project Consulting
Apexx Family Business
Century 21 Homes & Investments
Dolly James Boutique
City of Warner Robins
Epic Health Advisors
F3 Solutions
Flint Energies
GA Golden Olympics
HALO Group of Mid GA
Houston Church
Houston County Extension Office
Houston County Friends of the Library



Imaging Center of Warner Robins
Joy Roberson Agency, Allstate
Kim Hamlin Team, Academy Mortgage
New American Funding
Peacock's Performing Arts Center
Perry Area Historical Society Museum
Robins Airmen & Family Activity Council
Raytheon, RTX Business
Real Estate South & Assoc.
Rigby's Entertainment Complex
Southpaw Fitness
STARBASE Robins
Turner's Furniture
Yourwood Creations

2023 People's Choice Awards winners:

1st: Advanced Project Consulting 2nd: Century 21 Homes & Investments 3rd: Real Estate South & Assoc.

NATIONAL STEM ACADEMY HONORS STEM AMBASSADOR EDUCATORS

BY GINA CLARK
INNOVATION & RESOURCE CENTER DIRECTOR



The Museum of Aviation Foundation's National STEM Academy proudly announces two local educators as their 2023-2024 **STEM Ambassadors of the Year**. Cassandra Ashley and Tina Perkins have been selected for their commitment to integrating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics into their lessons by creating an interactive and engaging learning environment for students and for using the **National STEM Academy's FREE** educational resources, facilitating the Academy's educator workshops, and serving as inspirational STEM mentors in their communities.

Cassandra Ashley teaches at Southwest High School. She encourages her students to explore STEM concepts and helps ignite a passion for learning. Tina Perkins is a retired Bibb County teacher who travels from school to school with her STEM show spreading her love all things STEM!

Each teacher was surprised by the awards. Gina Clark, Director of the National STEM Academy's Innovation and Resource Center, and Melissa Spalding, Vice President of the Museum of Aviation Foundation visited the teachers to share the good news of their awards. Each STEM Ambassador was gifted a check for \$1,000 made possible by the generous donors supporting the Museum of Aviation Foundation and its education programs.

Ashley and Perkins are scheduled to facilitate educator workshops at the National STEM Academy during the upcoming year. All educators are encouraged to take advantage of these free Professional Learning opportunities through the Educator Resource Center at the Museum of Aviation.



For more information on these resources, please visit the **EDUCATE** tab at MuseumofAviation.org.



STEM Ambassador Tina Perkins, in middle



STEM Ambassador Cassandra Ashley, on left

MUSEUM UPDATE

WRITTEN BY COLONEL KEN EMERY, USAF, RET.
DIRECTOR, MUSEUM OF AVIATION



It's 2024 already and the Museum wrapped up last year with over 340,000 visitors. Now that we are open on Sundays 1-5pm and all Federal holidays we're looking for that number to increase significantly this year. Recapping 2023 saw some of the most significant Museum events: The MQ-1 "Predator" was installed in the rotunda. The F-117 "Nighthawk" arrived, a fully restored WWII L-2M "Grasshopper" aircraft was donated by the Fitch Family, a NIKE air-defense missile arrived, the A-7D got painted, and the B-17G "Flying Fortress" and HU-16 "Albatross" are nearing the end of their restorations. What a year!



**Museum of
AVIATION**

1984 ★ 2024

The Museum will celebrate its 40th year open to the public this year, 2024. You'll hear more about how we'll celebrate later in the year. Looking forward, we have several projects in the works and more about them next time. We continue to grow and improve what we have.

As always, we appreciate and need your support. Our volunteers are indispensable and there is always room for more help of all types. So, if you have time to spare come see Dan Hart our volunteer coordinator to see how you can help. Have a great New Year!



**VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES**

PLEASE BE A FRIEND TO THE MUSEUM OF AVIATION BY MAKING YOUR ANNUAL FUND GIFT TODAY.

Friends, we need your help.

The Museum of Aviation Foundation strives to offer a superior visitor experience by preserving history, and inspiring and educating through high quality, year-round public events, often FREE. While the Air Force provides basic sustenance costs, we must raise funds from friends like you to cover everything else.

That's why we are asking you for help. Would you consider making a gift to our Annual Fund today? A gift of any size is welcome and sincerely appreciated. All donations are tax-deductible.

Your donation will help the Museum:

- Continue offering FREE admissions and parking, and excellent events every month.
- Acquire new aircraft and artifacts, and enhance educational exhibits.
- Fund restoration projects like the F-117 Nighthawk and B-17 Flying Fortress; and,
- Deliver award-winning National STEM Academy programs, scholarships, and outreach.

Thank you for being a friend to the Museum of Aviation Foundation!

**GIVE
TODAY!**



For more information about how you can support the Museum of Aviation Foundation, please contact Kate Zidek, Director of Engagement and Fund Development at 478-926-2791 or kzidek@museumofaviation.org.