



*Home of the  
P-47 Thunderbolt Advocates*

*P-47 'Thunderbolt' Advocates, the organization that honors the WWII P-47 'Thunderbolt' Fighter Plane, recently joined forces with the MAAF Museum.*

*The Museum is proud to maintain and expand the 'Advocates' membership and will keep you informed of its activities. See the 'Advocates' column on page 5.*

## Museum Begins Year-Long Celebration Honoring the 60th Anniversary of the Millville Army Air Base

The Millville Army Air Field Museum is excited to announce its plans for the year 2001 with the theme of "Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of America's First Air Defense Field."

"This will be our year to remember and commemorate the great history that took place at the Millville Air Base and its impact on our country," says Russell Davis, Millville Army Air Field Museum president.

Millville, New Jersey, was chosen as the first air base to defend our country by the United States War Department at the onset of WWII.

Already having an existing grass field built by the Millville Flying Club, which was established in 1939 by 15 aviation-minded men from our community, a groundbreaking was held on February 22, 1941, when the City of Millville learned of the intent of the U.S. Air Corps. Just six months later the dedication of

the nation's "First Defense Air Base" at Millville Airport took place on August 2, 1941.

During its four year existence (1941-1945), more than 10,000 men and women served at the Millville Army Air Field, with 1,500 pilots receiving advanced flight and gunnery training in P-47 'Thunderbolt' and P-40 'Warhawk' fighter planes. They came to Millville from all parts of the United States to train and serve their country. The Museum honors

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## MAAFM Acquires Historic Philadelphia Seaplane Base Museum Mills Family of Essington, PA, Honored

The Millville Army Air Field Museum (MAAFM) is pleased to announce the acquisition of the Philadelphia Seaplane Base Museum — its history and artifacts. In November of 2000, Museum assumed full responsibility for the Seaplane Base Museum from curator, Robert Mills of Essington, PA, who retired and closed its facility which had been located on the Delaware River in Essington for more than 85 years. The Seaplane Museum was founded by Mills' father, Frank Mills, Sr., in 1915.

"This is another very exciting step for our Museum" said Russell Davis, Millville Army Air Field Museum president.

"We are adding artifacts and memorabilia from the Seaplane Museum to our continually expanding permanent collection and will promote the significance of the seaplane as part of our ongoing mission to preserve and promote aviation history."

The Philadelphia Seaplane Base Museum's history and artifacts span the very beginnings of flight. There is a strong focus on the history of the seaplane during WWI and WWII, as well as its continued significance throughout America's aviation history — both military and private — up to the present day.

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*Bob Mills, (center) whose family founded the Philadelphia Seaplane Base Museum was honored by the MAAF Museum for his many contributions to aviation history at a luncheon held in the hangar at Dallas Airmotive at Millville Airport. More than 300 people attended. Pictured here from left to right are: Andy Kondrach, MAAF board chairman; Millville Mayor Jim Quinn; Hugh McElroy, vice president of Dallas Airmotive; Bob Mills; Russell Davis, MAAF president; Lewis Finch, Millville Airport manager; and Rocco Tomanelli, airports director, Delaware River and Bay Authority.*



## MAAFM Participates in CCC Millennium Festival

Cumberland County College in Vineland, NJ, hosted a Cumberland County Millennium Festival on Saturday, October 21. Members Jim Vertolli and John Flint manned the C-47 Nose for the day-long celebration of the county's heritage and diversity. More than 75 organizations, businesses, and schools joined in the day's activities with exhibits and demonstrations. The festival's theme was *"Respect the Past, Admire the Present, and Plan for the Future."*

## MAAFM Officers / Board of Directors

**Andrew Kondrach**, *Chairman*

**Russell Davis**, *President, Vice Chairman*

**Jim Vertolli**, *Vice President, Curator*

**Sandra Ernst**, *Secretary*

**Edwin Ernst**, *Treasurer, Tourism Council*

**Donna Vertolli**, *Historian*

**George Curio • Lewis B. Finch, Jr. • Henry Wyble**

**Kim Warker • Doug Smithson • Hugh McElroy**

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**William Rich**, *WWII Army Fighter Pilot,  
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**Dominic J. Romano**, *CPA,  
Certified Financial Statements & Tax Preparation*

**Frank DiDomenico**, *Esq., Attorney, Legal Advisor*

**Sam Donovan**, *Artist—Wall of Remembrance*

**Dave Schill**, *Military Liaison*

**John Diorio**, *Membership Services, Tourism Council*

**John McCabe**, *MAAFM Store Manager*

**Norman Gluckman**, *Librarian*

**Jack Gebhard**, *P-47 Advocates Advisor,  
Liaison to MAAFM*

**James Hyett**, *Tuskegee Airman Liaison*

**Mike Hale**, *Information Technology*

### 'Thunderbolt' Newsletter Staff

**Donna Vertolli**, *Editor*

Contributors: Russell Davis, Sandra Ernst, Andy Kondrach, Jack Gebhard, Bill Rich, Dave Schill, Bill Hogan, George Curio, Jim Vertolli

## President's Report

### *Expanding and reaching out in 2001*

Beginning 2001 as President of the MAAFM for my third year brings an era of excitement! Like most volunteers, I don't know for sure how I got so deeply involved. But in my heart of hearts, how could I not respect the patriotism and bravery of my father's generation, exemplified by those P-47 Thunderbolt pilots who trained here at Millville, NJ, and died fighting in WWII.



*Russell Davis*

Now, fully committed with a growing group of volunteers and a dedicated board of directors, we are determined to move closer to accomplishing our mission statement of "historical preservation for future generations."

Many concrete steps are being taken to assure our longevity. Although no one volunteer can do it all, as a group we are making notable progress. The group I'm referring to includes you, the reader of this newsletter, as you continue to show interest in our resolve. Please help us as a volunteer, with continued financial support or just by sharing your memories.

We are focused on numerous projects as we begin the year 2001. They include:

- Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Millville Army Air Field, dedicated on August 2, 1941.

- Holding three special events during the year: 'Vettes & Jets'—A Corvettes and Classic Jets Show, our 9th Annual Wheels & Wings Sounds of Thunder Airshow, and the MAAF Veterans' Reunion 2001. These events will allow us to continue to educate and entertain the community, honor and salute our WWII veterans, help us raise funds, and bring an ever-increasing tourism audience to our Museum.

- Apply for grants from the Cumberland Empowerment Zone and the NJ Historical Commission.

- Expand our charitable trust campaign. Gifts bequeathed the Museum from personal wills assure our perpetual existence.

- Historically preserve digital oral histories through our ongoing program with Cumberland County College

- Reach more and more school children and young adults with our student tours, class trip incentives, and certificates of merit for answering questions being submitted by a world wide audience on our [p-47advocates.com](http://p-47advocates.com) Web site.

- Expand the existing Museum display space by 2,000 square feet to include a special area for the recently donated artifacts from the Philadelphia Seaplane Base Museum.

We are dedicated to the improvement and continued implementation of our long term plan. We thank you for your past support and look forward to continuing to be a place for WWII aviation historical preservation. Little things become big things and keep us going. Like the little boy who recently asked if we could tell him the correct colors of his grandfather's P-47 Thunderbolt aircraft so his school drawing could be authentic. It was our pleasure to be of service!

Duty. Honor. Country.

Respectfully,

*Russell Davis*

Russell Davis  
MAAFM President

# MAAFM Entrusted with Philadelphia Seaplane Base Museum

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## Bob Mills Honored

The MAAFM honored Bob Mills and the Mills Family, who operated the Philadelphia Seaplane Base since its inception, at a luncheon which was held on Saturday, November 18, 2000. More than 350 people attended. The honorary luncheon was hosted by Dallas Airmotive, Inc., and was held in their main Hangar at Millville Airport.

At this time, Bob Mills was recognized for his outstanding career in aviation as well as his contributions to the greater Philadelphia community through his work with seaplanes and the role that they played in U.S. aviation history. The event also served as the official announcement of his donation of the Philadelphia Seaplane Base collection to the Millville Army

Air Field Museum, where a permanent display is being created.

“Robert Mills, who has been affectionately referred to as ‘the Old Man and the Seaplanes,’ is now 80 years old and is a wealth of interesting information,” noted Davis. “We enjoyed acknowledging his many accomplishments and those of his family. Seaplanes are a very specialized area of aviation history and there are very few true authorities on the subject, but Mills is one of them. We were proud to sponsor an event to honor him and are looking forward to promoting his seaplane legacy for generations to come!”

*Anyone interested in making a donation exclusively to the Museum’s Seaplane Base Fund may call (856) 327-2347.*



*Bob Mills, whose father founded the Philadelphia Seaplane Base Museum in 1915, was recognized by Museum chairman Andy Kondrach and president Russell Davis. The Seaplane Museum artifacts and history will now be proudly displayed at the Millville Army Air Field Museum. Bob gave a wave to hundreds of his comrades and admirers from the cockpit of a TBM ‘Avenger’ torpedo bomber at a luncheon honoring his family’s legacy. Bob flew the TBM in WWII.*

## New Jersey Plans for the 100th Anniversary of Powered Flight

Andy Kondrach, MAAFM Board Chairman, is pleased to announce that Millville Airport will be one of the historic sites recognized by the State of New Jersey to honor the 100th Anniversary of Powered flight in the United States which will take place in 2003.

Kondrach, who has been named chairman of the Aviation History Subcommittee of the New Jersey Aviation Education Council, was instrumental in creating the official logo (show here).

The new logo, designed by Robert Rioux of Lavallette, NJ, has been accepted by James Weinstein, Commissioner of Transportation, and



Assemblyman Alex DeCroce, chairman of the Assembly Transportation Committee.

DeCroce is introducing legislation to formalize an official State Commission on the 100th Anniversary of Powered Flight.

“Several other states, including Ohio and North Carolina, have already established their commissions to work along with the federal commission which is already in place,” notes Kondrach.

“Planning is underway around the country to celebrate the Wright Brothers achievement at Kill Devil Hill on Dec. 17, 1903,” continued Kondrach, “We do not have much time to plan events to celebrate man’s ascent.”

The Aviation History Subcommittee, chaired by aviation artist Michael O’Neal, has tentatively decided on four major events to be held at New Jersey’s aviation museums in 2003. The MAAFM will be host to one of them.

“As always, volunteers are welcomed to assist with the staging of the celebration events,” notes Kondrach. “Please contact the Museum if you are interested.”

# Profile: James J. Hyett

What can we possibly say about the Museum's own 'Tuskegee Airman' flight instructor Jimmy Hyett to let everyone know how much we value him and his contributions to aviation history?

Jimmy has been a part of the Museum for more than eight years and is an absolute treasure! His contributions to WWII are to be forever recognized and his ability to overcome racial bias to be always commended.

As a young man, Jim Hyett loved flight and yearned to become a pilot. He was one of the early 'barnstormers,' learning to fly at the Boulevard Airport in Philadelphia and later at the Old Star Airport in Langhorn, PA.

As a student at the University of Pennsylvania in the late 1930's, Jim learned that the US Army was looking at colleges to train men to become pilots

at the onset of WWII. He made his application but was told that their program was only for white applicants. However, the college informed him that if he was truly interested he should contact the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama where minority students received training. Jim was not familiar with the school but his interest in flying was so great that he sent his application and was accepted. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps Reserves as instructed.

Jim had to overcome a multitude of obstacles simply to get to Alabama to begin training. But once there, he became part of the world he loved — the world of flight! He trained under the AAF Enlisted Reserve CPT Program.

Beginning with primary training in a Boeing Stearman PT-17 Biplane at the Tuskegee



*James J. Hyett, flight instructor for the Tuskegee Airmen of WWII, is shown here in front of a T-6 Trainer and a P-T 17 Stearman Biplane.*



Institute, Jim moved to Moton Field for basic training, flying the North American T-6, a bigger plane. Jim soon became a flight instructor who trained fighter and bomber pilots at the Tuskegee Flight School 2164B.

Tuskegee pilots saw action flying P-40 'Warhawk' fighter planes as members of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, destroying enemy supply buildings, railroads and the like, with high explosive bombs that were fitted under the fuselage. They were called 'fighter bombers.' Later, Tuskegee Airmen flew the Bell Air Cobra P-39, then the P-47 'Thunderbolt' and then the P-51 'Mustang'. Hyett proudly points out that "... these great aircraft and the Tuskegee Airmen who flew them never lost a bomber that they escorted."

Jimmy could tell you of the many obstacles that minorities have had to overcome — both during WWII and throughout their lives — but he'd rather just tell you that he is proud to be an American.

Jim Hyett continued flying after WWII. He upgraded his commercial certificate to qualify for airlines, giving him ratings of pilot, commercial

single and multi-engine land and sea instrument flight instructor. He taught flying at Texas Air University in Cuero, Texas where he prepared veterans of WWII to qualify for their pilots' licenses under the GI Bill.

Returning to his home in Philadelphia, Jim taught flying at the Philadelphia Skyport Seaplane Base, where he flew Piper Cubs with floats, the Republic SeaBee, and the Grumman Widgeon.

Yes, Jimmy Hyett had an interesting career in aviation and enjoyed teaching flying as much as the flight!

Jimmy Hyett is a very active 86 year old volunteer for the Millville Army Air Field Museum. He devotes many hours giving tours to children and adults — telling them the aviation history of Millville along with the story of the Tuskegee Airmen of WWII. He also goes out into the classrooms and to community functions to speak about his experiences as a minority aviator.

The MAAFM is very proud of and grateful to our personal WWII 'Tuskegee' Flight Instructor — James J. Hyett.

## Wartime memories...

Dear Editor,

During WWII I became a "Rosie the Riveter," making parts for the P-47 'Thunderbolt' at Republic Aviation Corporation in Farmingdale, New York. My two sisters also worked there. We were dubbed the "Homefront Sisters" — with Sara, sharpening drills and Theresa, executive secretary. Our father joined the war effort as an Auxiliary Policeman in West Babylon.

Somewhere, Dad met Sgt. Dom Remedio, who was in charge of the motor pool, stationed at our Republic Airfield and, before too long, Sgt. Remedio was invited to our home for Sunday dinners. Along with him, joining our family of seven, came Duffy McNally, Hixson, Louie the cook, and a young man named Mercantini. Dom kept in touch until his death in 1996. I wonder where the others are?

Sincerely,

Josephine Rachiele  
Babylon, NY

*Thank you, Josephine, for your note! Maybe one of these fellows will read this and respond. Or, if someone has heard of any of these men, please contact the Museum.*

*Send your brief stories or letters for 'Wartime Memories' to: Donna Vertolli, MAAFM, 1 Leddon Street, Millville Airport, Millville, NJ 08332.*

*If you've never been to Dayton...*



*These pictures were sent to us from MAAFM member Baird Foster with this note...*

My wife and I recently visited the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. As we walked through the lovely Memorial Park outside of the Museum, we saw the monument for the P-47 'Thunderbolt' and thought of the MAAFM. Regards.

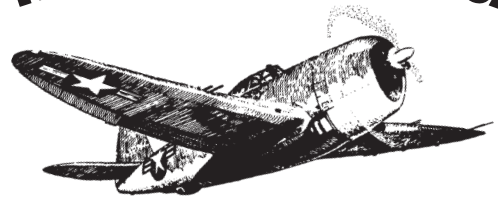
***Thanks, Baird! The photos are great and it's good to know you were thinking of us!***

## **Do you have a story to tell about your experiences during WWII?**

We have a guest book on the Museum's Web site where you can submit all kinds of information and anecdotes about yourself, your comrades or just about anything you'd like to have others know about aviation history, WWII, warbirds, the homefront, etc. We welcome your input and you'll enjoy seeing what others have submitted. Check out our Web site at: [www.p47millville.org](http://www.p47millville.org).

If you're specifically interested in the P-47 'Thunderbolt' WWII Fighter Plane, check out the P-47 Thunderbolt Advocates Web site at: [www.p47advocates.com](http://www.p47advocates.com). This site has been established for a number of years and the guest book is full of interesting commentary.

# **P-47 THUNDERBOLT ADVOCATES**



## **P-47 Thunderbolt Advocates find a welcome home at the MAAFM**

The Millville Army Airfield Museum is now sharing its administrative facilities with a welcomed tenant, the P-47 Thunderbolt Advocates. It was unanimously agreed that the Museum was a logical place for this many-faceted aviation fraternity to call home. During the war years of 1941 through 1945, the Millville Army Airfield was host to this famed fighter aircraft with which multitudes of pilots trained in the deadly art of low level bombing and strafing. The Museum buildings, remaining structures of that wartime era, echo the memories of that hallowed past.

The Advocates group was founded by the late David R. Eldridge, a former P-47 flyer, and member of the P-47 Pilots Association. Dave shared a deep affection for this unique aircraft among other pilots as well as with non-pilots, and through their combined enthusiasm and determination, the group materialized. It was Dave's fervent desire that the P-47 Advocates group would some day have a home worthy of its merit. His dream has come true.

Registered with the New Jersey Department of State as a non-profit organization, the association became a tax-exempt Corporation during July 1992 under Section 501(C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The purpose for which this corporation was organized was to perpetuate the memory of the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt

aircraft through Educational, Scientific and Charitable means, and to promote and encourage public understanding, appreciation, support, participation and interest therein. Individuals of all ages and from all walks of life are encouraged to become members of the P-47 Advocates. Among the many aspects which can be enjoyed by being associated with this active P-47 Thunderbolt organization are Special Interest Groups (SIG's) whose functions embody exchanging information about P-47 current activities and history. These fields of study include: The P-47 as an Operational Aircraft, Museum Displays of the P-47, Thunderbolt Films and Videos, Art and Photos of the P-47, Books and other Publications on the P-47, Building P-47 Scale Models, and Thunderbolt Crash Site Discovery & Documentation.

Membership applications may be obtained by visiting the Millville Army Airfield Museum, or by calling 856-327-2347. Interaction with the P-47 Advocates can also be facilitated via Web sites, [www.p47advocates.com](http://www.p47advocates.com) or [www.p47millville.org](http://www.p47millville.org). Annual regular Membership Fee for adults is \$25.00. The yearly Membership Fee for Students, under 18 years old and attending school full time, is \$15.00.

Jack Gebhard  
*Vice President/Advisor*

Bill Rich  
*Advisor*

# Museum Begins Year-Long Celebration Honoring the 60th Anniversary of the Millville Army Air Base

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its WWII veterans and the memory of the 14 pilots who died while training at Millville.

## 2001 Events Slated

In honor of the 60th Anniversary of the Millville Army Air Field and its historic importance, the Millville Army Air Field Museum has three major events scheduled for the year 2001.

"We plan to give the public an opportunity to appreciate our history with both a taste of the past, a view of the present, and a look to the future of aviation," explains Andy Kondrach, MAAFM Board Chairman. "Our first scheduled event is called **'Vettes & Jets — A Corvettes and Classic Jets Show.'** This is a new endeavor for us, but we expect it will be a huge success."

**'Vettes & Jets'** is a joint effort between the Museum and the Lakes Corvette Club of Medford, NJ. It is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, 2001, at Millville Airport, rain date Sunday, April 29.

"The Lakes Club is the largest Corvette Club in the greater Southern New Jersey area, with

more than 1,000 members," explains Kondrach. "They will be displaying hundreds of beautiful new and restored Corvettes on the airport ramp. We'll be matching their style and speed with a jet aircraft exhibit that includes privately-owned vintage warbirds, business jets, and jet-powered military displays.

"We are certain **'Vettes & Jets'** will be a unique and popular event for the Museum. It's an opportunity to bring modern-day aviation and automobile technologies together for the enjoyment of the public," Kondrach continued. "The Museum will serve as the link from the past that laid the foundation for the technology of today and the future."

The Museum's second major event will be the **9th Annual "Wheels & Wings — Sounds of Thunder" Air Show.** This year's 2-day event will take place on Saturday and Sunday, July 14 & 15, 2001.

**"Wheels & Wings"** is our annual weekend to display military and historic airplanes

in both static and aerial displays, along with a huge exhibition of beautifully restored antique cars and trucks on the runway ramps," explains Kondrach.

"Once again we will have the fine people from the Garden State 50's Auto Club to help sponsor our event and this year we plan to include the Cohanzick Antique Auto Club to our roster.

"In addition, we've contracted David Schultz, of David Schultz Airshows, who will put together a 2-hour aerial extravaganza of military and civilian aircraft each day that will dazzle the audience with flying feats and aerobatics," continued Kondrach.

The third major event planned by the MAAFM is a **MAAF 60th Anniversary Reunion Weekend**, slated for Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 20 & 21, 2001.

"We are inviting back our Millville Army Air Field Veterans of WWII," boasts Russ Davis. "And this is our opportunity to commemorate and honor our true history along with the people who made it happen! Daring pilots, dedicated

ground crews and base personnel who kept the MAAF running smoothly will return to revisit a place and time very special to them."

The **MAAF Reunion Weekend** will feature a banquet dinner-dance with a 1940's 'big band' theme, to be held in the hangar at Dallas Airmotive. The Museum plans to have an original P-47 'Thunderbolt' Fighter Plane fly in for display during the weekend.

The Museum's major events for 2001 will have the assistance of sponsors Dallas Airmotive, the Delaware River & Bay Authority, and Big Sky Aviation.

"More sponsors and volunteers are needed," points out Davis. "Making these exciting and educational events available to the community is a huge responsibility and we've been fortunate to find dedicated individuals to make them happen. But, as our events grow larger in scope and numbers, so must our volunteer staff. We welcome anyone interested to contact the Museum."

## A Real B-17 Pilot...



WWII veteran Harry C. Josephson, LTC USAF (Ret.) of Linwood, NJ, flew 45 missions in a B-17 in Europe. He was then sent to Hawaii where he flew P-47 'Thunderbolts' for three years.

Harry told us that, when he got to Hawaii, he was handed a book to read about the P-47 'Jug.' Later, an instructor asked him where each instrument/control was while he sat in the cockpit. If a pilot was unable to locate it, the instructor placed the pilot's hand on the instrument or control. After this simple test, he was pronounced ready to fly the 'Jug' without further instruction or flight time!

One of the EAA guys told us that this gentleman (Harry Josephson) had visited the B-17 when it was here two years ago, but he wouldn't go near it because he had the shakes remembering his wartime experiences. After 25 missions, pilots were allowed R & R time, but if they stayed to complete 45 missions, they could go back to the States permanently. Josephson had elected to stay for the 45 missions. By the 30th mission so many of his buddies had been killed, that he became terrified. He overcame his fear gradually by the time he had reached his 35th mission. Harry C. Josephson completed his 45 missions. And, fortunately for us, he came to Millville to see the B-17 in October and tell us a bit of his story. Our heartfelt thanks to you, Harry!

*Museum volunteers Sandy and Ed Ernst submitted this story.*

# Original WWII B-17 “Flying Fortress” Enlightens the Community

A flying example of one of the greatest military airplanes ever built, the Boeing B-17 “Flying Fortress,” visited Millville Airport in October 2000, as part of a national tour sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) and the EAA Aviation Foundation. The visit was sponsored by the EAA Chapter 216 of Cross Keys, New Jersey, and the Millville Army Air Field Museum.

The World War II four-engine heavy bomber, “Aluminum Overcast,” on tour from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, arrived in Millville on October 1 and was open for public tours and flights through October 5.

“The EAA had an extremely successful visit,” boasts Russell Davis, Millville Army Air Field Museum president. “More than 60 individuals had flights in the warbird and hundreds experienced a ground tour. We were happy to have them visit us and continue to help us promote awareness of WWII aviation history in our community.”

In addition to enabling people of all ages to experience first-hand the historic B-17 bomber, the tour and its mission helped increase awareness of the EAA,



MAAF Museum members take a moment out to pose in front of the B-17 ‘Aluminum Overcast’ along with its pilot, ground crew, and members of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and local EAA Chapter 216 from Cross Keys, NJ, sponsors of the warbird visit.

its programs and local chapter affiliates. Funds generated during the tour helped finance the ongoing maintenance of the B-17 and future restoration projects.

“Aluminum Overcast,” which is painted in the colors of the 398th Bomb Group, was flown by members of the EAA Warbirds of America Division who are experienced in the operation of WWII airplanes.



Ed Ernst, MAAF treasurer (left), was one of the ‘happy campers’ who took a ride in the WWII B-17 ‘Aluminum Overcast’ during its recent visit to Millville Airport. Ed was quick to thank members of EAA Chapter 216 of Cross Keys, NJ, for their role in bringing the historic bomber to Millville. Pictured on the right (l. to r.) are: Joseph Arsenaunt, EAA event coordinator; Ed Ernst; and Dan Marchetti, EAA past president and project director.

**Vettes & Jets**  
Corvettes & Classic Jets Show

To benefit the Millville Army Air Field Museum

**Saturday, April 28, 2001**  
Raindate: April 29  
**9am to 4pm**  
**Millville Airport, Millville, NJ**

Sponsors & Hosts

**DallasAirmotive**

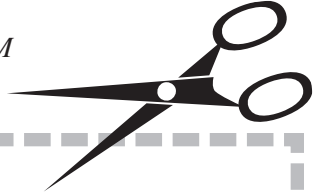


## Has anyone seen this trophy?

In September 1944, Millville Army Air Base received the prestigious Thunderbolt Gunnery Trophy, after winning the First Air Force Fighter Gunnery and Bombing Meet held at the Suffolk County Army Air Field in Westhampton Beach, New York. The trophy was presented to Capt. Carl L. Beggs of Christopher, Illinois, who was stationed at Millville and participated in the meet. The competition included high and low altitude gunnery, dive and skip bombing and ground gunnery.

***We'd love to have this trophy on display at the Museum! If anyone has any leads to its whereabouts, please contact Jim Vertolli, Museum Curator.***

*Brig. General J.R. Hawkins, Commanding General of the 1st Army Air Force Fighter Command, awards Capt. Carl L. Beggs with the 1st AAF Interbase Gunnery Plaque / Trophy. Cpl. F.M. Devins and Sgt. Elven Gayton, members of the winning MAAFAM crew, were also lauded for their contributions.*



### Don't let their sacrifice be forgotten!

**Yes!** I want to help preserve Millville's unique heritage through the Millville Army Air Field Museum. I want to help keep alive the memory of those who sacrificed so much for our freedom!

### Millville Army Air Field Museum

1 Leddon Street  
Millville Airport  
Millville, New Jersey 08332

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:  Initial Membership *or*  Renewal Membership

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Would you like your donation to be in Memoriam?

For whom? \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to MAAFAM. (All gifts are tax deductible.)

Please send me information on how I can put MAAFAM in my will.

MAAFAM is already in my will.

### Membership

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (12-18) — \$15   | <input type="checkbox"/> Squadron Leader — \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member* — No charge | <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian Angel — \$500  |

### Corporate Sponsorship

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Pilot — \$1,000               | <input type="checkbox"/> Top Gun — \$25,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Element Leader — \$2,500      |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flight Leader — \$5,000       |   |

\*WW II Millville Army Air Field military personnel.

If possible, provide Military Serial # \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any special interests or talents that would benefit the Museum?

Do you wish to donate WW II memorabilia to the museum?

If so, please tell us: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### ----- For Museum Use -----

Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note:**  
If there is an asterisk (\*) after  
your membership number —  
your dues are due.

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**"America's First Defense Airport"**

**MILLVILLE ARMY AIR FIELD MUSEUM**