



Millville Army Air Field Museum

'America's First Defense Airport'

June 2019

Home Depot grant helps restore historic WWII Building 31 at Millville Airport

The Millville Army Air Field Museum (MAAFM) proudly received a project grant from The Home Depot Foundation for restoration renovations to one of the historic WWII buildings at Millville Executive Airport. Improvements were made in coordination with volunteers from area Home Depot stores as a "Team Depot" project.

Following an application process and site review that took place in July 2018 by The Home Depot Foundation officials, the museum was notified on August 15 that it would receive \$22,400 designated for improvements to Building 31, located at 31 Reeves Road, across from the Henry E. Wyble Historic Research Library and Education Center and the original WWII base Link Trainer Building.

Work began on October 12, 2018, with Home Depot crews of more than 50 members of Team Depot employee volunteers taking their personal time to assist with the restoration. Crews were on site each Friday through November 9, when the bulk of the work was completed and a special dedication ceremony was held.

The project at Millville Executive Airport was part of The Home Depot's eighth annual *Celebration*

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Home Depot volunteers and museum officials celebrate the dedication of Building 31 on November 9, 2018.

Millville's "Wall of Remembrance" Mural gets a face lift

It had been more than ten years since its last restoration, but the mural on the three-story north wall of Millville City Hall on High and Main Streets has once again had a "face lift" done by mural artist Sam Donovan of Woodstown, NJ. The restoration took place in early November 2018.

The City of Millville's "Wall of Remembrance" Mural was the vision of George M. Curio, a WWII veteran B-24 gunner and community leader who passed away in 2002. It was designed and painted by Donovan and dedicated in 1997, and fully restored during its 10th anniversary year in 2007.

The mural recognizes the important World War II history that took place at the Millville Army Air Field which was dedicated America's First

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Lisa Jester, Millville Army Air Field Museum executive director (left), thanks Rich Gess, retired Home Depot senior director, for his assistance with the Team Depot project. Pictured with them are Paul Blackstock, MAAF board member, and Mike Lodge, Home Depot store manager and Foundation representative.

Lisa Jester, MAAF executive director (second right), thanks Matthew Pisarski, Cumberland County Assistant Planning Director (center), and John Ruga, president, Northeast Precast (right), for their assistance with the restoration of the Wall of Remembrance Mural. Also pictured are mural artist Sam Donovan (left) and Millville Mayor Michael Santiago (second left).



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RUSSELL DAVIS

Much has been accomplished by the Millville Army Air Field Museum's leadership team and volunteers over the past 30 years since we registered as a New Jersey non-profit organization in 1988. Our staff, board of trustees, and an outstanding team of volunteers can take great pride in how far we have come! We will continue to use our positive energy to move forward to promote our mission to preserve and honor the WWII history that occurred here at Millville Airport.

Important Accomplishments:

- Our museum, based in the Millville Army Air Field's Base Headquarters Building — one of 25 original WWII Air Field buildings including two hangars at *America's First Defense Airport* — is part of the New Jersey Historic Register.
- A collection of valuable historic artifacts helps tell the Millville WWII Air Field story and has grown in quantity and quality with improved preservation management.

Chairman's Message

- Museum displays and guided tours by WWII veterans have received regional recognition for excellence in presentation and performance.
- The museum has kept its promise to the WWII P-47 Thunderbolt Pilots Association to be the official home base of their P-47 Advocates Association.
- The museum accepted and proudly displays the many historic artifacts of the Bob Mills Philadelphia Seaplane Base Museum that was once located on the Delaware River in Essington, PA.
- We encourage youth participation by offering training through our Aerospace Research Center, teaching local students aviation history and science through model building — utilizing classes, displays and hands-on experience.
- The museum educates youth through our special Veteran Interview Project where high school students learn history first hand and gain technical audio visual skills while

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Executive Director's Report

Looking back at the many accomplishments of 2018 and forward to an exciting future, I am extremely proud to lead the Millville Army Air Field Museum on a daily basis!

On behalf of the museum, I offer very special thanks to Matt Pisarski, director, and the entire Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission for the organization's assistance with funding two more murals in our historic district at Millville Executive Airport. One will be located on the southern end of the Henry E. Wyble Library and Education Center with a theme that honors the Millville Army Air Field Fire Department that was located here during WWII. The second will be located on the newly renovated historic Building 31, which was the Quartermaster Building during the war. Restorations to Building 31 took place in the fall of 2018 as you will read in this newsletter and we are extremely grateful to The Home Depot Foundation for awarding the grant and to its many employee volunteers for taking on this major renovation project with dedication and enthusiasm.

Education is a primary focus of the museum and we're proud to welcome our new Rowan University interns and thank them for their assistance with social media and membership

services as they gain experience in museum marketing and public relations. We are also grateful to the many Millville High School students who participate in our Veteran Interview Project and volunteer for our veterans events. We're thrilled that you are learning about local and national WWII aviation history while you are giving volunteer hours to assist us with our programs and events.

To all of our volunteers who assist us in so many ways throughout the year, we salute you and thank you for your continued support! We are so fortunate to have you!

And lastly and very importantly, I want to thank all of our museum members who are either new or renewals, and to the many of you who have upped your membership status. You are the lifeblood of this organization. Without our interested and supportive members, the museum could not endure.

Here's to an exciting future for the Millville Army Air Field Museum as we continue our mission of preserving our WWII history, honoring veterans and our military, promoting aviation, and helping to educate both young and old.



LISA JESTER



Supported in part by a grant from
New Jersey Department of State,
Division of Travel and Tourism.



MAAFM received an operating
support grant from the New Jersey
Historical Commission, a Division
of the Department of State.



“Wall of Remembrance” Mural gets face lift Continued from page 1

Defense Airport by the United States War Department in 1941. The design illustrates two P-47 Thunderbolt fighter planes flying before the ghosted image of a WWII fighter pilot. Thunderbolts were the primary training planes used at the Millville Army Air Base during WWII. The pilot represents and honors all who made the ultimate sacrifice for America's freedom, and commemorates the lives of the 14 pilots who died while training here.

“We are honored to keep this mural in good repair,” said Chuck Wyble, MAAFM president. “Its story is a very important part of the history of the City of Millville and its impact on the homeland and around the globe.

“We thank Sam Donovan, the original mural artist, for his fine work and genuine interest in the project,” continued Wyble. “We also offer a special thank you to Northeast Precast of Millville, NJ, for their generous donation supplying the crane lift needed for the restoration. This donation alone saved the museum thousands of dollars off of the total restoration cost.”

Restoration of the “Wall of Remembrance” Mural was paid for by the Millville Army Air Field Museum with assistance made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Cumberland County Board of Chosen Freeholders through the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission.



Mural artist Sam Donovan working on the mural restoration.



Northeast Precast of Millville, NJ, generously supplied the crane lift.



Millville “Wall of Remembrance” Mural artist Sam Donovan from Woodstown, NJ



Millville Mayor Michael Santiago takes the lift up with Sam Donovan to inspect the restoration of the mural on City Hall.

MAAFM recognized by New Jersey Wing Civil Air Patrol



The museum was recently recognized by the New Jersey Wing Civil Air Patrol for its long-standing partnership, expressing gratitude for the support that the MAAFM has provided to the Civil Air Patrol over the years. The museum was also commended for its continued vision and leadership, upholding its mission to preserve and promote the WWII aviation and military history of America's First Defense Airport at Millville Executive Airport (MIV). Presenting the award were Vice Commander for Operations Lt. Col. Robert E. Jennings, far left, and Lt. Col. Zachary Z. King, government relations advisor, fourth from left.

Pictured left to right: Lt. Col. Robert E. Jennings; Russell Davis, MAAFM board chairman; Lisa Jester, MAAFM executive director; Lt. Col. Zachary King; and Chuck Wyble, president, MAAFM

‘Thunderbolt’ Newsletter Staff

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A very important contribution of historic photos and documents of Millville Airport's creation and dedication presented to the MAAFM

The Millville Army Air Field Museum was very honored to receive an exceptionally valuable and extensive group of original historic photos and documents from Leon Henderson's personal collection, donated by Bill Hoover of Mauricetown, New Jersey.

Bill Hoover, along with Jack Wood (deceased), was given Leon Henderson's personal album of photos by his sister Nellie. The photos are from the dedication of the Millville Army Air Field, America's First Defense Airport, in August of 1941, and of documents between the US government and the City of Millville that led up to the building of the WWII air base at Millville.

Leon Henderson, a Millville native, who served in the US Army during World War I, was the administrator of the United States Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply (OPACS) in 1941 and an economic advisor to President Franklin Roosevelt's administration prior to that. Henderson was instrumental in locating the first Army Air Field at Millville, citing its central east coast location as ideal for defense of the Atlantic coastline.

The MAAFM is extremely thankful to Bill Hoover for this valuable donation to the museum that documents the important WWII history that took place here at Millville Airport and is our mission to preserve.



Photos from Millville Airport Dedication on August 2, 1941



Photos and documents from the Bill Hoover donation

Mike Trout Nike display captures the interest of visitors



The museum is proud to display some artifacts of a modern day hero — Mike Trout, the baseball superstar who hails from Millville.

We are so honored that both Mike Trout and Nike designers are keeping alive the important history of the P-47 Thunderbolt WWII airplane. Thunderbolts were the training planes here at the Millville Army Air Field during WWII and in 1945 Millville's sports teams were nicknamed to honor the famous fighter bomber.

The new Nike Trout 5 Elite baseball cleats were designed to recognize the P-47 Thunderbolt, one of the most reliable and successful air-to-air combat planes of WWII, and its modern-day equivalent, the F-22 Raptor, the fastest, most stealthy and powerful air-to-air fighter jet in the world today.

Mike Trout signed and donated a pair of the new cleats specifically for the museum. They are displayed in a showcase with the history of the design.

Museum chairman Russell Davis, president Chuck Wyble and executive director Lisa Jester with signed Mike Trout baseball cleats



The new Nike Trout 5 Elite baseball cleats



MAAFM tours the Air Mobility Command Museum in Dover



MAAFM board members and friends were excited to visit the Air Mobility Command Museum in Dover, Delaware, in the spring of 2018. Our group received an outstanding personal tour led by retired US Army Col. Bob Leicht, who is part of an all-volunteer aircraft restorationist group at the museum. Dover was a sister air base to the Millville Army Air Field during WWII.



Left and below: Bob Leicht described the C-47A Skytrain, Turf and Sport Special, which saw action on D-Day — the invasion of Normandy — dropping paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division into St. Mere-Eglise, France, and has undergone an extensive restoration,

Bob and his friend Bob Dalessandro, both from New Jersey, are assisting the MAAFM with restoration of our C-47 nose.



Bob Leicht offered incredible insight into the many historic aircraft and related displays at the Air Mobility Command Museum in Dover, DE. We thank him for his time and the expertise he shared.



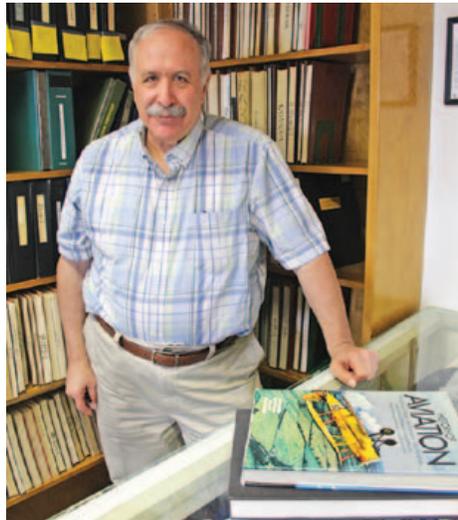
Norm Gluckman provides enhancements and innovations to MAAFMs Wyble Library collections

The MAAFM is proud to report numerous enhancements, documentation and updates to our collections in the Henry E. Wyble Historic Research Library and Education Center, thanks to dedicated volunteer Norman Gluckman, who is a retired director of the Avalon, New Jersey, Public Library. Norm is offering a wealth of library expertise to help keep our library relevant.



The Wyble Library, which opened in 2007 in one of the historic WWII buildings, houses an extensive collection of books, documents and videos with a focus on WWII history and aviation, along with many from other American military conflicts.

Here's a bit of the backstory: While the museum library opened in 2007, work began in 2005. At that time Norm was director of the Millville Public Library, and Hank Wyble, the museum library's namesake, was on both the library and museum



boards. Norm told Hank that there were numerous books on shelves and in boxes scattered throughout the museum, and suggested that the library could help organize them. Hank got both boards to approve a memo of understanding, and initial cataloging got under way later that year.

In early 2018, Norm began the task of reviewing, cataloging and classifying the museum's collection of books for integration with the Millville Public

Library (MPL). At year's end 2018, 3505 books — approximately 87% of the collection (4047 items) — were inventoried. The process is ongoing in 2019.

Additionally, Norm applied for and was accepted to participate in a poster session at the New Jersey Library Association Convention in Atlantic City in June 2018. The poster session, titled *Innovative Collaboration Between Millville Public Library and the Millville Army Air Field Museum Results in Shared Catalog and Programming*, was interesting and well received.

In collaboration with Millville Public Library, Norm is presenting another poster session at the 2019 New Jersey Library Association Conference. The poster project is entitled *Pilot Project Between Millville Public Library and the Millville Army Air Field Museum Identifies Conventions and Procedures for Cataloging the Museum's eContent*.

Millville Public Library is currently involved in cataloging the museum's extensive library of books related to general and military aviation with an emphasis on World War II. These bibliographic records of the museum's collection are searchable through MPL's catalog. Norm is also working to add the museum's veteran interview videos by inserting their URLs into the bibliographic record, so that subject search results integrate similar print content with information-rich personal narratives, and make this eContent immediately available with a click.

The MAAFM extends a big thank you to Norm Gluckman for sharing his time and talent to enhance our Wyble Library.

Volunteer Susan Davis connects with veterans



The MAAFM is pleased to introduce you to and put a face to the voice of our veteran liaison and volunteer Susan Davis, from Millville, NJ. Susan is the voice behind the many phone calls that are made to our WWII and other veterans whose accounts of service are preserved and treasured at our museum. As a special volunteer, Susan can often be seen at her desk chatting with vets, keeping an ongoing log of their stories, and recording the dates of the calls. She also volunteers at many of our events throughout the year.

We thank Susan for her dedication to our veterans and to the museum!

MHS history students visit museum

A student tour for Millville High School history students took place on June 5, 2018, arranged by teachers Jessica Kauffman and Michael Schenck.

Students enjoyed hearing WWII veteran Owen Garrison (*top right*) talk about the history of the Millville Air Field — America's First Defense Airport — and his first-hand accounts of experiences on the USS *Monterey* during Halsey's Typhoon.

Tours of the museum buildings and aircraft and explanations of its displays and artifacts were presented by US Navy veteran Dave McCarthy (*bottom right*).



Museum proudly displays Bob Leicht's US Army paratrooper gear

The MAAFM is now exhibiting a special US Army paratrooper display donated by Bob Leicht, a native of New Jersey who now lives in Middletown, Delaware. Bob is a retired US Army colonel, a career soldier who served in the infantry, the Airborne Division, and in Special Forces assignments across the United States as well as three tours in Asia over his 27-year career. Our museum offers special thanks to Col. Bob Leicht for sharing his uniform and jump equipment for display at our museum.



Above: Bob Leicht (left) with WWII veteran museum volunteer Walter Kocielski



Left: Joan Legg, MAAFM display coordinator, puts the finishing touches on Bob Leicht's US Army paratrooper display.

Museum recognizes outstanding student volunteers

Millville High School seniors Gavin Watts and Justin Stellweg were recognized as Student Volunteers of the Year for 2018 by the Millville Army Air Field Museum. Watts and Stellweg were presented certificates and given gifts by the museum at our December 2018 World War II Speaker and Movie Night event.

Gavin Watts has been involved with the museum's Veteran Interview Project, a partnership between the Millville Public Schools and the museum, since he was in middle school. He participated in numerous interviews with veterans and offered many volunteer hours to the museum. Gavin has great interest in knowledge about aircraft and aviation. He volunteered at the Millville Wheels and Wings Airshow and other museum events. Gavin has joined the United States Air Force and will begin his career following graduation.

Justin Stellweg has special interest in and significant knowledge of World War II history, which he used while interviewing veterans with the project. He was part of the summer programs at the museum and volunteers each year at Veterans Appreciation Day. Justin will be attending Cumberland County College in the fall.

Both students have an interest in law enforcement.

The MAAFM Student Volunteer Awards are given annually to high school students who have devoted time and talent to helping the museum achieve its mission of educating youth and preserving the important history that took place at the Millville Army Air Field during World War II.



Millville High School seniors Gavin Watts and Justin Stellweg, Student Volunteers of the Year for 2018. Pictured left to right: Robert Trivellini, MAAFM vice president and educational coordinator; Gavin Watts; Justin Stellweg; and Russell Davis, MAAFM board chairman.



The MAAFM was thrilled to welcome Art Martone (second from left), a WWII pilot from Spring Lake Heights, NJ, who flew both the P-40 Warhawk and P-47 Thunderbolt during the war. Martone, who was 94 when this photo was taken, flew 166 missions out of Italy and North Africa.

Art was joined by Lee Porter from Columbia, South Carolina (far left), whose father, George Porter, was also a P-47 pilot; Owen Garrison, WWII US Navy veteran and longtime volunteer at the museum; and Joe Secino from Fredericksburg, Virginia (right), a professor at the War College in Carlisle, PA, whose father trained at Millville and was also a P-47 pilot.

Art Martone was with the NJ National Guard for 38 years and flew many types of aircraft during his career. He is a retired colonel.

Lisa Jester named GMCC Outstanding Citizen

Lisa Jester, MAAFM executive director, was given the Greater Millville Outstanding Citizen Award for April 2018 at a luncheon meeting held at the New Jersey Motorsports Park. Lisa was recognized for her community service and volunteerism, and for doing things that fulfill great needs in helping make our community a better place.

Congratulations, Lisa, and thank you for all you do!



Larry Malone, then-president of the Greater Millville Chamber of Commerce, Lisa Jester, and Chuck Wyble, GMCC board member

LoBiondo's 2018 Congressional Youth Advisory Council hosted by MAAFM



Congressman Frank LoBiondo's Congressional Youth Advisory Council met at Millville Airport on March 17, 2018, for one of its 2018 quarterly conferences to discuss events in government. The meeting was once again hosted by the Millville Army Air Field Museum.

The students who attended represent more than 20 southern New Jersey high schools from the second congressional district. They met for a two-hour workshop in the museum's Henry E. Wyble Historic Research Library and Education Center, and then toured the museum.

This was the eleventh year for this informative and interactive program and sadly the last one for Congressman LoBiondo, as he retired at the end of this term. *The museum has been proud to host this special educational event for young people and thanks Congressman LoBiondo for his years of service!*

German exchange students explore the museum

The MAAFM was once again happy to give tours to 19 exchange students from Heidelberg, Germany, on October 23, 2018. The students were in the United States for two weeks and lived with host families here in Millville.



Stacey Musey, an administrator with the Millville School System (right), with her German exchange student, Alekandras Valaitis

The exchange student program was coordinated by Graham Gant, German teacher at Millville Senior High School, and Jason Harrington, German teacher at Millville Memorial High School. Their counterpart in Germany each year is Silke Gerdau and this year she brought her colleague Brigitte Hilsenbeck.

The group spent three days in New York City before coming to Millville. They had a day trip to Philadelphia and another one to Washington, DC. They enjoyed a boat ride on the Maurice River. Their host families also took them on many day trips, such as Ocean City, Wildwood, Pennsylvania Dutch country, and Great Adventure.

The students were enthusiastic and interested in learning more about WWII history from an American viewpoint.

We thank Donna Pio, museum member and program host each year, for always making sure these students have an opportunity to visit MAAFM.



German exchange students with teacher Brigitte Hilsenbeck (third from left) enjoyed a special tour of American history from Owen Garrison, the museum's WWII veteran volunteer (left).



German exchange students at Millville Executive Airport

Veteran Interview Project continues to document oral histories for the Library of Congress



The MAAFM is proud to continue its documentation of important WWII history through our Veteran Interview Project — a partnership between the MAAFM and the Millville Public Schools.

Since its inception in 2001, more than 130 interviews, primarily of WWII veterans, have taken place. Original videotaped interviews, produced by high school students, are sent to the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

DVD copies of these interviews are available in the museum's Henry E. Wyble Historic Research Library and Education Center for research, used in history classes in area schools, and given to the veterans for their families to treasure.

Veterans who were recently interviewed include:

Andre Bourgeois

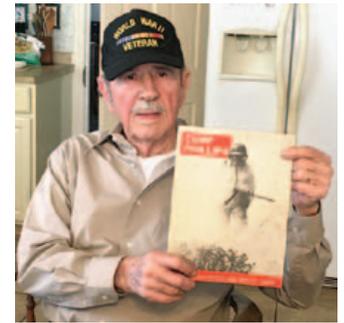
Andre Bourgeois, of Cedarville, NJ, immigrated to the United States from Montreal as a child. He served in the United States Navy from November 2, 1942, to December 26, 1945. Andre achieved the rank of Signalman Third Class while on the aircraft carrier USS *Essex* in the 3rd Fleet in the Pacific Theater of World War II. The ship participated in many major battles and campaigns, including Saipan, South China Sea, New Hebrides, and the Solomon Islands. Among his duties as a signalman, Andre handed messages directly to the admirals on board.



On November 25, 1944, the *Essex* was struck in the flight deck by a kamikaze, causing extensive damage. Fifteen sailors were killed and 44 were wounded in the attack. Andre also shared important personal accounts of surviving Halsey's Typhoon and about the instructions given on the *Essex* the day the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

Stan Friday

A resident of Pennsburg, PA, Stan Friday was a US Army infantry scout in World War II. He was inducted into the service on October 7, 1942, and discharged on October 21, 1945. As a member of the 80th Infantry Division, he participated in the Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe campaigns. They fought their way across Europe, including the Battle of the Bulge, before finishing in Austria when the war ended. Stan had the important and dangerous job of going alone behind enemy lines to locate and report back on German troop positions.



During his interview, he shared the techniques he learned to find the Germans and obtain vital reconnaissance information. Stan was wounded twice and received the Bronze Star. He earned the rank of Technician Fifth Grade Corporal.

Alfred "Bud" Maser

Alfred "Bud" Maser, from Haddon Heights, NJ, served during World War II in the Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1946. He was a navigator on a B-17 and flew four missions out of Debach Airfield with the 8th Air Force, 493rd Bomb Group. He participated in the important Operation Chowhound, which dropped food in Holland while it was still under German occupation.

His plane also picked up French prisoners who were held for years by the Nazis in Austria and flew them back to France. He was called back to service and served stateside during the Korean War.



Art Martone

Art Martone, from Spring Lake Heights, NJ, served as a P-40 pilot in the 12th Air Force, 324th Fighter Group, 316th Squadron during WWII. He participated in the Naples, Foggia, Rome, and Arno campaigns.

Serving in North Africa and Italy, he flew 166 missions, including one in which he shot down a German Focke-Wulf FW-190. On another mission, he was forced to parachute from his burning plane and was then hidden from the Nazis by the Italian underground. Among other medals, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Legion of Merit, and two Purple Hearts.

After the war, Art also flew 1500 hours in P-47s. He later served in the New Jersey National Guard for 33 years, retiring with the rank of Colonel. As special recognition of his aviation career, he was named to the New Jersey Aviation Hall of Fame in 2018.



Home Depot grant Continued from page 1



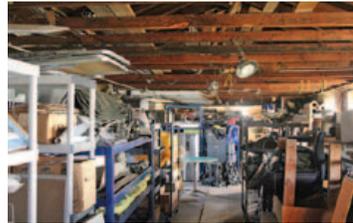
of Service campaign to improve the homes and lives of US military veterans and their families. As part of this campaign and for the first time ever, Team Depot temporarily traded their traditional orange for military-green T-shirts to honor the service of men and women who served.

The MAAFM signed a ten-year lease from the Delaware River and Bay Authority, Millville Executive Airport managers, in April 2018 to utilize the historic building for museum purposes. Building 31 was an administrative/quartermaster office during WWII and one of 23 buildings that were named to the New Jersey Historic Register in May 2010. The museum will use this building as a maintenance and model shop for ongoing work on artifacts and displays, and also for educational purposes. Veterans, students, visitors, and museum volunteers will utilize this facility in the future.

“We were extremely excited to have received The Home Depot Foundation grant to help us move forward with improvements to historic Building 31 and delighted to see the beautiful outcome that will benefit both the museum and the airport,” said Russell Davis, MAAFM board chairman. “This project, with grant support from The Home Depot, along with the hard work of many veterans, museum staff, and both Home Depot and community

volunteers, will help us fulfill our promise of supporting development and making facility improvements at Millville Executive Airport.

“The museum is honored that The Home Depot Foundation recognized the value of this historic restoration that further allows us to continue our mission of preserving Millville Airport’s unique WWII history as America’s First Defense Airport,” continued Davis, “and we sincerely thank them for this important grant funding and the hard work of all their many volunteers.”



Inside Building 31... before restoration began (top) and after Home Depot volunteers removed all the old debris (bottom)



Home Depot officials visited the Millville Army Air Field Museum on August 22, 2018, to evaluate WWII historic Building 31 at Millville Executive Airport for restoration. Pictured l to r: Home Depot store manager and Foundation representative Mike Lodge; Lisa Jester, MAAFM executive director; Home Depot assistant managers Steve England and Tom Dolgos; Rich Gess, retired Home Depot senior director; and Paul Blackstock, MAAFM board member, who was instrumental in making the project happen.

Exterior of Building 31 during WWII...



before restoration began in May 2018...

and after Home Depot restoration was completed in November 2018



October 12



L-R: Mike Stowe, MAAFM founder; Steve England, Home Depot project manager; Lisa Jester, MAAFM executive director; and Mike Lodge, Home Depot district community captain



October 19



Lisa Jester, Millville Army Air Field Museum executive director, and Rich Gess, retired Home Depot senior director, shown here with Glidden Paint representatives Jose Acosta, Mike Longo, Eric Hjalte (kneeling), and Tim Makin, Paul Lesser and John Masella (standing). PPG Paints-Glidden donated all of the paint and offered volunteer time on the Team Depot project to renovate historic Building 31 at Millville Executive Airport.



October 26



November 9 • DEDICATION DAY



Left to right: Bob Trivellini, MAAFAM vice president; Chuck Wyble, MAAFAM president; Paul Blackstock, MAAFAM board member; Cindy Wilkie, district manager for Home Depot; Steve England, project manager, Home Depot; Lisa Jester, executive director, MAAFAM; Mike Lodge, district community captain, Home Depot; and Rich Gess, retired Home Depot senior director



November 2



America's military heroes honored at MAAFM 17th Annual Veterans Appreciation Day

The museum was very fortunate to have WWII veteran George Washington Whitehouse of Emmaus, PA, as the featured speaker at the Millville Army Air Field Museum's 17th Veterans Appreciation Day held on November 3, 2018, from 10 am to 3 pm. More than 300 visitors attended the event to honor the service of all veterans.

Whitehouse, 98, served at the Millville Army Air Field for nearly 15 months during WWII. He flew in B-26 Marauders while stationed as a flight engineer. The B-26 aircraft at Millville were used to pull massive mesh tow targets. P-47 Thunderbolt fighter pilots who trained here would practice their gunnery skills by shooting at these tow targets for accuracy.

"Each year the museum proudly salutes America's veterans of all wars at our special commemorative ceremony at Millville Executive Airport," said Robert Trivellini, MAAFM vice president and educational coordinator. "This year, we presented special tribute to the men and women who served in the US Air Force and Army Air Corps. As America's First Defense Airport, the Millville Army Air Field was host to the First Air Force of the Army Air Corps. The United States Air Force became a separate military service in 1947."

Whitehouse's stories about the history of the Millville base helped honor the service of those who served in the Army Air Corps and later in the US Air Force.

"We were very honored to have George Washington Whitehouse speak and tell us first hand about his experiences here at Millville during the war," continued Trivellini. "This was a very special presentation for all of our veterans and guests. On behalf of the museum, I thank George for his service and for sharing his personal stories of Millville during WWII to help us better understand the important history that took place here."

The museum was proud once again to have more than a dozen area WWII veterans attend and be recognized. Numerous other veterans of all Ameri-

can conflicts were part of this special day. Keeping with tradition, the event also featured student re-enactors and participants from Millville High School and youth members of the Cumberland Civil Air Patrol.

"We offer special thanks to our students and young people who helped us 'entertain the troops' and took part in the commemorative ceremony," said Joan Legg, MAAFM student program coordinator. "Students dressed in WWII-period uniforms, presented readings at the commemorative ceremony, greeted visiting veterans, and took oral histories. Members of the Cumberland Civil Air Patrol assisted with veterans and took part in the ceremony."

The 11 am ceremony included a presentation of the colors by Semper Marine Detachment 205 of Vineland, and the National Anthem and Taps were performed by Millville High School students. Prayers were offered for veterans both alive and deceased. In commemoration, there was a wreath laying and moment of silence.

During the ceremony a special presentation was made to Congressman Frank LoBiondo to thank him for his support of the Millville Army Air Field Museum and its mission throughout his many years in public service. Congressman LoBiondo retired in January 2019.

"The Millville Army Air Field Museum is honored to commemorate our veterans while educating and entertaining the community using the talents and energy of our young people," said Lisa Jester, MAAFM executive director. "Together we recognize America's veterans and thank them for their many contributions and sacrifices."

Veterans Appreciation Day featured a FREE "Canteen Lunch" for all visitors, sponsored by Verna's Flight Line Restaurant and Catering, who donated all of the food and drinks for the event. Special thanks to Verna's and to South Jersey Paper Products for donating the paper products.



Lisa Jester with the Whitehouse family (l-r): David from Bethlehem, PA; Lisa; George from Silver Springs, MD; George Washington Whitehouse; Lynn Birney from Coopersburg, PA



Donut Dolly MHS student Jadelyn Veney



Visiting WWII veteran Mario Polidori from Medford, NJ, holding his separation papers, was in the 3rd Army in France. He served from 1942 to 1946.



Joseph Affriseo, from Galloway Township, US Army, served for 22 years (1949 to 1972) in Korea and then Vietnam; 95 years old.



Left: Fred Schade, Marine from 1960 to 1968, Army from 1983 to 1996, from Millville but originally from Jersey City; Matt Jordan, Marine from Vineland NJ; Walter Kocielski



Carrying the wreath: WWII vets Andre Bourgeois from Cedarville and Jerry Gillespie from Vineland with CIAIC Tadden Remple (l) and CIAIC Harrison Bruck (r)



Presentation of the colors by Semper Marine Detachment 205 of Vineland



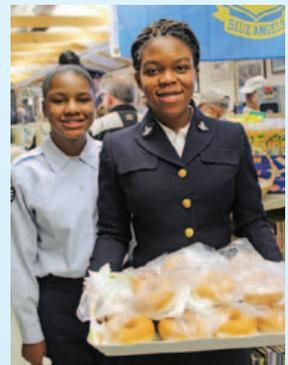
Bagpiper Jim Rembisz played a tribute to all branches of the armed forces.



More than 300 people enjoyed the camaraderie at the free canteen lunch!



Guest speaker George Washington Whitehouse, 98, talked about his experiences at the Millville Army Air Field during WWII.



MHS student Donut Dollies Tanyha Smith and Tashina Romelus



Congressman Frank LoBiondo (l) was honored for his many years of support for the museum. During the VAD ceremony he was presented with a special commemorative drawing done by local artist Diane Roberts. The presentation was made by Lisa Jester, executive director (r) and Bob Trivellini vice president (center), on behalf of the entire museum membership and staff. Congressman LoBiondo retired from Congress on January 3, 2019, after 24 years of service.



MHS student Latonya Johnson in uniform



VAD Commemorative Cake



Millville Mayor Michael Santiago with WWII veterans Charles Osborne from Laurel Springs, NJ, and George Washington Whitehouse from Emmaus, PA. Both veterans served at Millville during the war.



Kayla Grablow and Alicia Slimmer welcome WWII veteran Warren Kepner from Columbus, NJ.



MHS students (l-r) Alexandra Kukal and Amanda Stellweg



Eight-year-old Angelia Deaver sang God Bless America for the crowd of 300. Angelia is a third grader at Olivet Elementary School in Pittsgrove, NJ. Pictured on the right with her mom Michelle Deaver (right) and Grandmom Rose Deaver (left).



Reverend Gerritt Kenyon, LoBiondo and Clark Katz



US Navy veteran Rich Faunce from Merchantville, NJ, stands in front of the museum's A-4 Skyhawk. Rich served on the USS Independence for four years in the early sixties.



Bob Trivellini, vice president of the museum, introduced WWII veteran and guest speaker George Washington Whitehouse, from Emmaus, PA, who served at the Millville Army Air Field during the war.



Left to right: MHS students Alicia Slimmer, Amanda Stellweg and Kayla Grablow



MHS Student Tanyha Smith (right) with WWII veteran Owen Garrison from Bridgeton, NJ



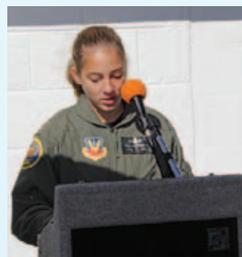
Alicia Slimmer welcomed veterans with a commemorative ribbon as they arrived.



Michelle Malave, museum volunteer, welcomes Dale Horn, Marine, who served in Okinawa. Originally from Williamstown; just moved to Millville.



MHS student Joshua Sooy played taps during the ceremony.



MHS student Alexandra Kukal read the names of the 14 airmen who died while training at Millville during WWII.



Ed Cox, US Navy, Vietnam veteran from Millville, was welcomed by Lisa Jester.



MHS student Zephaniah Rivera sang the National Anthem.



Bob Philbin, US Army veteran and museum volunteer, played the Mess Call on his bugle.



Members of the Cumberland County Civil Air Patrol (left to right): C/AIC Harrison Bruck, C/AIC Luke Thompson, C/Amn Joshua Bloom, C/MSgt Victor Morales, C/Amn Rustem Kultanov, C/AIC Zaria Watkins



(L-r) C/AIC Tadden Remple, C/MSgt Victor Morales



MHS students Kayla Grablow, (left) and Alicia Slimmer (r) greet WWII veteran Tim Kiniry from Minotola, NJ.

MAAFM hosts twenty-eight WWII veterans for Collings Foundation warbirds event

The MAAFM was honored to welcome twenty-eight area WWII veterans as our guests at the museum for the Collings Foundation's "Wings of Freedom Tour" 2018. The veterans visited on August 30, and the warbirds were on display at Millville Executive Airport from August 29 through September 1.

WWII veterans, both air- and ground-crew members and others, had the opportunity to share their experiences, enjoy refreshments, see the museum and tour the vintage aircraft which included a B-17 Flyer Fortress, a B-24J Liberator, and a B-25 Mitchell — all WWII bombers — and a P-51 Mustang fighter plane.

The twenty-eight WWII veterans who attended ranged in age from 92 to 98. They represented four branches of the military — US Army Air Corps, US Navy, US Army and US Marine Corps.

"It's truly an awesome experience to have so many veteran heroes of WWII attend and be honored," said Bob Trivellini, vice president of the MAAFM and program coordinator with Millville Public Schools. "There is such a camaraderie among these gentlemen and genuine respect for one another. And to hear them share stories of WWII is simply amazing! We were honored to have them here at the museum, to hear about their experiences, and to thank them for their service."



WWII veterans and guests fill the conference room at the MAAFM.



WWII Army veteran Arthur Coppee from Egg Harbor Township



MAAFM executive director Lisa Jester (3rd from left) and museum volunteer Ed Possenti (right) welcomed then-Miss Cumberland County Olivia Cruz at the arrival of the Collings Foundation WWII warbirds. Olivia flew in from Philadelphia on the B-17 with her brother, Brandon Cruz (left.) She streamed live video on her Facebook page before, during, and after her flight. Thanks, Olivia!



WWII Army veterans Tim Kiniry from Minotola, NJ, and Stanley Tarquinio from Bridgeton, NJ



WWII Navy veterans of the Pacific Owen Garrison from Bridgeton, NJ, and Ed Turner from Leesburg, NJ



WWII veteran Chuck Kunes was a plane captain with VMF-214 Black Sheep and VMF-533 Nighthawks. He worked on Corsairs, Hellcats and Tigercats. He spent more than four years in the South Pacific and from all accounts is the only living member of the Black Sheep.



B-25 Mitchell bomber *Tondelayo* arrival



Steve Kunes (right) flew in from Atlantic Aviation in NE Philadelphia, with his father, 93-year-old WWII veteran Chuck Kunes, and Miss Cumberland County 2018, Olivia Cruz.



Collings Foundation's B-17 *Nine-O-Nine* lands at Millville Executive Airport for the 2018 *Wings of Freedom* Tour.



WWII veterans Walt Kocielski (Marine), left, from Millville, and Edward Turner (Navy) from Leesburg, NJ



WWII Navy vet Mike Jordan from Vineland shares some photos with other visiting WWII veterans.



Dr. Bill Holdcraft, right, was a P-47 Thunderbolt mechanic during WWII.



Lisa Jester shows WWII Navy veteran Jack Williams to his seat.



WWII USAF veteran Rocky Gannon from Ocean City, NJ, was interviewed by SNJ Today reporter Kimberly Kerr.



WWII Army Air Corps veteran Dr. Bill Holdcraft examines one of the museum displays.

The WWII veterans who attended the event included:

Andre Bourgeois
US Navy
Cedarville, NJ

Herbert Budd
US Navy

Loren Chard
US Army Air Corps
Penns Grove, NJ

Arthur Coppee
US Army
Egg Harbor Township

Edward Corker
B-17 radio operator,
US Army Air Corps
Mickleton, NJ

Walter Devine
Ground crew,
US Army Air Corps
National Park, NJ

John Ferguson
US Army Air Corps
Mickleton, NJ

Rocky Gannon
B-17 pilot,
US Air Force
Ocean City, NJ

Owen Garrison
USS *Monterey*,
US Navy
Bridgeton, NJ

Louis Gerlack
B-17 engineer and aerial
gunnery instructor,
US Army Air Corps
Glassboro, NJ

Jerome Gillespie
US Army Air Corps
Vineland, NJ

Dr. Bill Holdcraft
P-47 Thunderbolt
mechanic,
US Army Air Corps
Mickleton, NJ

Mike Jordan
US Navy
Vineland, NJ

Tim Kiniry
US Army medic
Minotola, NJ

Walt Kocielski
US Marine Corps
Millville, NJ

Art Martone
P-40, US Army Air Corps
Spring Lake Heights, NJ

Charles "Ozzy" Osborne
P-47 Thunderbolt pilot,
US Army Air Corps
Laurel Springs, NJ

Walter Sierocinski
P-51 Mustang
ground crew,
US Army Air Corps
Carney's Point, NJ

Morris Spector
US Army Air Corps
Toms River, NJ

Stanley Tarquinio
US Army
Bridgeton, NJ

Joseph Thomas
Ground crew,
US Army Air Corps
Pitman, NJ

Charles Titone
US Army Infantry
Burlington, NJ

Walter Todd
US Navy
Sewell, NJ

Edward Turner
US Navy
Leesburg, NJ

George Washington Whitehouse
B-26 Marauder,
US Army Air Corps
Emmaus, PA

Charles Wilcock
US Army
Blackwood, NJ

Jack Williams
US Navy, USS *Peto*
Hopewell Township, NJ

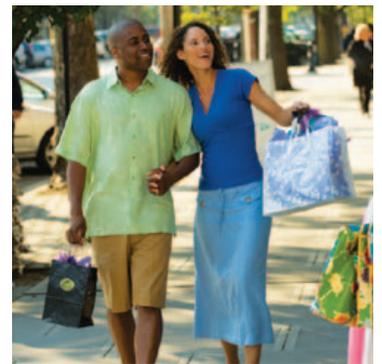
Herbert (Ralph) Williams
B-17 ground crew,
US Army Air Corps
Brigantine, NJ



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2018 MAAFM Movie Night Stars

Movie Nights, sponsored by the P-47 Thunderbolt Advocates, are held quarterly in the Wyble Library and feature veteran speakers who offer incredibly interesting accounts of their military experiences.

We proudly honor them for their service and thank them for being the "stars" of MAAFM Movie Nights!

Pete Fantacone ★ March 13

WWII veteran Pete Fantacone, from Mays Landing, NJ, graduated from high school on June 6, 1943, and enlisted in the United States Navy at the age of 17. Exactly one year later, on D-Day, June 6, 1944, he was aboard the USS LCI 492 (Landing Craft Infantry) landing troops on Omaha Beach. Pete was a Radioman 2nd Class.

After setting up the first Navy radio stations in Cherbourg and then in Le Havre, Pete was sent back to the USA and assigned to heavy cruiser USS Columbus CA-74 and served in the Pacific Theatre ending up in China and Japan.



WWII veteran Pete Fantacone



Pete during WWII

Pete received numerous awards for his service. In 2015, he was named a "Chevalier" of the French Legion of Honor by the government of France. Pete Fantacone has devoted more than two decades helping to honor those who died on Normandy Beach on June 6, 1944. Pete authored a DVD: *D-Day in Memory of the Fallen*, produced by Museum board member Steve Graham.



Sherry Stiles (right) and her sister Kathy Millard (left) from Millville were excited to meet WWII veteran Pete Fantacone and hear his story. Their late father, William Whildin, was in the same flotilla as Pete on D-Day morning. He was on the USS LCI 350 and Pete was on the USS LCI 492.

Richard Young ★ June 12

Richard Young joined the US Navy on February 25, 1943, and was called up for active duty at Brown University on November 1, 1943. Richard served with the important Joint Intelligence Center Pacific Ocean Area (JICPOA) as a photographer's mate 3rd class. As part of the US Strategic Bombing Survey, they processed and reviewed aerial photographs taken by P-38 Lightning aircraft prior to island landings in the Pacific.

Richard was stationed in Hawaii while working for the JICPOA and was at Pearl Harbor for the celebration when the Japanese surrendered and WWII ended.

He then served as part of the occupation of Japan where he visited Hiroshima and photographed the devastation just three months after the atomic bomb was dropped. Richard was honorably discharged on February 25, 1945.



WWII veteran Richard Young



Richard during WWII



Richard Young with Bob Trivellini, museum vice president (left) and Jerry Benfer, museum secretary (right)

Dr. Marlene DeMaio ★ September 11



Dr. Marlene DeMaio, US Navy veteran

Dr. Marlene DeMaio was a United States Navy Captain and physician in the Medical Corps (retired) who served for 20 years, from 1992 to 2012. Marlene grew up in Vineland, NJ, and went on to attend Brown University and Hahnemann Medical College. Throughout her extensive military career, Dr. DeMaio received countless awards and honors for her work as an orthopedic surgeon including clinical care, research, and education. She was even selected to assist with President Clinton's knee surgery in 1997.

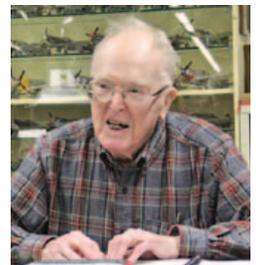
For the museum's movie night recognizing the anniversary of 9/11, Dr. DeMaio spoke about her personal experiences as she assisted at the scene of the attack on the Pentagon after hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 was flown by terrorists directly into that building. She gave a fascinating account of what was happening as the attacks were unfolding.



Dr. Marlene DeMaio and her father, Dr. Frank DeMaio of Vineland (left), are welcomed by Russell Davis, museum chairman, and Bob Trivellini, museum vice president.

Dr. Bill Holdcraft ★ December 11

Dr. Bill Holdcraft, from Mickleton, NJ, was a Thunderbolt ground crew member who was stationed at the 56th Fighter Group base in England. He shared a little-known part of P-47 history as he led a mobile unit that travelled all over England repairing damaged planes that were coming back across the English Channel after grueling missions but were too damaged to return to base. He worked on Thunderbolt "Ace" Hub Zemke's damaged plane. Dr. Holdcraft donated to the MAAFM a copy of a photograph autographed by Zemke.



WWII veteran Dr. Bill Holdcraft



Bill during WWII

Dr. Holdcraft had been working at DuPont prior to entering the service. After the war, he enrolled in college on the GI bill at the urging of his brother Harvey. He later received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical School. He spent 52 years as a well known family physician, delivering countless babies at Underwood Hospital. He fully retired at age 80.



Dr. Holdcraft with Tim Kiniry from Vineland, NJ; both WWII veterans, age 97

In Memoriam



Joseph Hampton

Died February 7, 2019, at age 87

Joseph Hampton, of Vineland, NJ, was a longtime member of the Millville Army Air Field Museum and was the master of ceremonies for the museum's annual Veterans Appreciation Day for many years. He also volunteered at our Millville Wheels and Wings Airshow and many other museum events. Joe served in the US Army during the Korean War. He was the Commander of VFW Post 9112 and also the past district Commander of the VFW.



Dan Theokas

Died May 17, 2018, at age 95

Dan Theokas, from Vineland, NJ, was navigator on a B-17 in the 15th Air Force during WWII. Flying 49 missions out of Foggia, Italy, his plane bombed important German military targets in several countries. His last mission was over an oil refinery at Rhuland, Germany, where his plane came under heavy attack by enemy fighters and was eventually shot down. He was captured, beaten during his interrogation, and taken to Stalag Luft I where he was held for the remainder of the war. Dan was a Movie Night speaker and honored guest at a special POW reunion event organized by the museum where he was able to talk with Bill Hogan, long-time museum volunteer, who was also a prisoner of Stalag Luft I.



Jack W. Trevethan

Died December 13, 2018, at age 97

WWII veteran Jack Trevethan, from Vineland, NJ, was a 1st Class Machinist Mate in the US Navy. He joined the Navy in 1939 and served on the USS *Hank* DD702 destroyer and the USS *Memphis* CL13 scout cruiser. Jack always claimed 13 to be his lucky number because the USS *Memphis* left port one day prior to the bombing of Pearl Harbor and was ordered to return after the devastating attack. Jack also served on the USS *Alaska* CB1 in the Korean War. He received numerous medals and ribbons for his service. Jack was part of a panel of World War II veterans that presented at a museum seminar for area history teachers about the war in the Pacific. He attend many museum events over the years.



Marilyn Goldstine

Died March 17, 2019, at age 71

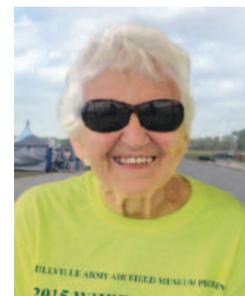
We are saddened by the loss of our good friend Marilyn Goldstine, from Millville, NJ. Marilyn was a retired special education teacher at Millville Senior High School who was active in the community and her church. A longtime member at the MAAFM, Marilyn volunteered at all of our events including every Millville Airshow and Veterans Appreciation Day. She also volunteered countless hours with her brother Wayne Bump to organizing and documenting book titles in the Henry E. Wyble Historic Research Library and Education Center. Marilyn was the wife of Dick Goldstine, also a longtime member and volunteer, who gives countless hours to the maintenance, electrical, and mechanical needs of the museum. Many thanks to them for their dedication to the MAAFM.



Peter J. Fantacone

Died April 25, 2019, at age 93

Peter Fantacone, from Mays Landing, NJ, was a WWII US Navy D-Day veteran. He served aboard the USS *LCI 492* that landed infantry troops in the first wave at Omaha Beach. He was "dedicated to keeping alive the memory of all those who died on D-Day." This was an important mission to him as he authored the DVD *D-Day in Memory of the Fallen*. Along with sharing his experiences with civic organizations, schools and universities, he was published in numerous newspapers and magazines, and was a mentor to many. Pete was a tour guide at the Battleship New Jersey and Atlantic County Veterans Museum, and was a member of the Knights of Columbus and VFW. Peter was awarded France's highest decoration, the Insignia of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. The MAAFM was honored to have Pete Fantacone as a special guest speaker at our March 13, 2018, movie night.



Joan Frantz

Died May 19, 2019

Our museum family was also saddened to learn about the recent passing of Joan Frantz, wife of Ron Frantz, from Millville, NJ. We will truly miss her smile and the many generous ways in which she supported the MAAFM throughout the years, including volunteering at many of our museum events. Our thoughts and sympathies go out to our good friend and museum volunteer Ron Frantz.

Museum hosts another successful golf tournament fundraiser

More than 80 golfers participated in the "Best Ball" rounds of the MAAFM's 7th annual golf tournament fundraiser on September 7, 2018. Held at the White Oaks Country Club in Newfield, NJ, the golf tournament event was once again organized by Sebastian Arrigo, former MAAFM board member, who continues to assist the museum at all events. Thank you again, Seb!



Board member Rick Adams with MAAFM prez Chuck Wyble. Rick made the arrangements for the Lilliston hole-in-one prize.



Gary Davis, Russell Davis, Art Liggo, and Dan Dalton



Domingo Lopez, Kelly Hill, Steve Thorpe, Tom Rentz Sr.



John King, Chuck Wyble, Jim Cimino



Don Fransco, Todd Moore, Tony Diorisio, Kevin McShane



Fred Christie, Eric Soring Sr., Scott Friebe, Bill Buchanon



Lisa Jester and Seb Arrigo



Bob Dalessandro, Ryan Harbinson and Steve Graham, MAAFM board member



Congratulations to the Northeast Precast team, First Place winners of the tournament! Pictured left to right: Matt Hicks, operations; Peter Gorgas, engineering; Mark Gorgas, general manager; Todd Cleary, purchasing.



Russell Davis, MAAFM board chairman, right, with his brother Gary Davis of Washington, Township, NJ

Special thanks to our golf tournament sponsors Northeast Precast and Big Sky Aviation, hole sponsors, and all of our golfers as well! Special thanks to Lilliston Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep-Ram for providing the hole-in-one prize of the 2018 Jeep Renegade. We are pleased to announce that profit from the golf tournament fundraiser was over \$7,000! Thank you to all for your support!

Mark your calendars! Our next MAAFM golf tournament is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 6, 2019 at White Oaks.

Details: Twelve noon check-in and 1:00 pm shotgun start. Cost is \$100 per person. Space is limited to 120 golfers, so register soon! Cost includes greens fees, carts, dinner and a raffle ticket. Dinner only is \$25. There are hole sponsorships available for \$100. **To reserve, register or get directions, please contact Seb Arrigo at sebarrigo@aol.com / (610) 809-9485 or Lisa Jester at ljester@p47millville.org / (856) 327-2347.**



Kevin McShane takes his putt as Tony Diorisio holds the flag and Todd Moore prepares to celebrate.



Lisa Jester with Theresa Fooks and Shirley Chew, museum members and volunteers

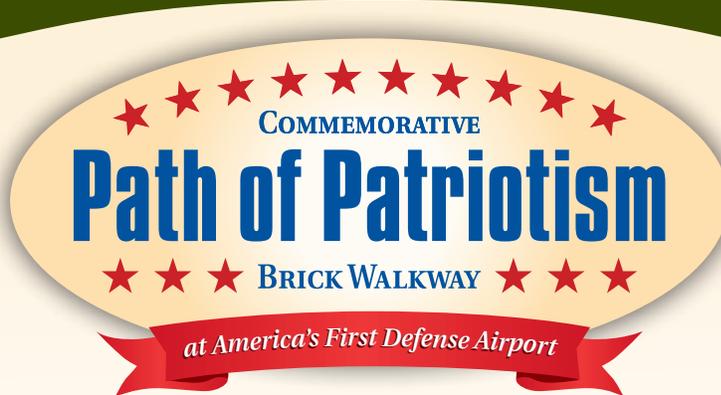


Nate Sharp, John Knoop, Adam Seitz, Steve Pierce

Happy scenes from the museum's 2018 Christmas party



HONOR SOMEONE IN A PLACE WHERE AMERICAN HEROES ONCE STOOD!



Buy a brick paver and leave your legacy to forever honor someone deserving in a tranquil, historic setting called the "Path of Patriotism."

Path of Patriotism brick pavers are permanently displayed in front of the **Millville Army Air Field Museum** (the original base headquarters building) at **America's First Defense Airport** on a commemorative, historic walkway surrounding the original WWII flagpole and air base monument. Our mission is to see this walkway be as far reaching as possible to always honor America's freedom!

Recognize an individual, family or business! Or surprise someone with an impressive and memorable gift that lasts a lifetime and beyond.

Commemorative laser-engraved bricks cost just \$100.



Contact the museum at (856) 327-2347 or e-mail ljester@p47millville.org for assistance.

MHS students learn about history and aviation at summer camp

The museum, in conjunction with Millville Public Schools, created a mini-camp for high school students. Nineteen Millville High School students visited the museum for three days of history- and aviation-related activities from June 26-28, 2018.

Throughout these days, students had the opportunity to interview World War II veterans as part of the Veteran Interview Project, a joint project of the museum and the school district. There was a focus on the Holocaust, including the amazing opportunity to interview 96-year-old Tim Kiniry. He was an Army medic who treated

the prisoners at Buchenwald Concentration Camp shortly after liberation. All students viewed various Holocaust materials and were given a book about Ravensbruck Concentration Camp.

The group of students who participated learned about aviation in many different ways. Millville Executive Airport manager Tom Berry arranged a tour of the airport for the students where they were able to learn all that is entailed in airport operations. When the students interviewed B-17 crew member Bud Maser, he provided great detail on the navigation of the aircraft.



The Millville High School Aviation Summer Program in July 2018 included experiencing museum displays, buildings and grounds; an interview with WWII veteran Alfred "Bud" Maser; and a tour of Big Sky Aviation, the full-service FBO (fixed base operator) at Millville Executive Airport — a designated Cessna Pilot Center — with opportunities to experience their Redbird MX-2 full-motion flight simulator.

A team of museum volunteers helped make the mini-camp a success. Students were given a formal tour of the museum by board member Dave McCarthy and WWII veteran Owen Garrison. Both then shared their experiences in the Navy. Roy Wilson and Bob Philben taught the students about the fundamentals of flight while showing them how to build model airplanes. The students then had a great time flying their planes. Bill Olivero led a tour of the courtyard area and the Link Trainer Building.

A highlight of the three days was a tour of Big Sky Aviation. Owner Beth Smithson had reached out to the

school district offering for students to tour their new facilities and use their recently acquired state-of-the-art flight simulator. The goal was to expose students to aviation and potential career opportunities in the field and other related fields such as engineering.

A tour was set up during the mini-camp and Smithson arranged for a pilot from their flight school to demonstrate the simulator and provide details on what is required to become a pilot. Students then had the unique opportunity to use a flight simulator that is normally only flown by pilots.



MAAFM member **Ralph Thomas** from Elmer had a flight in a P-51 Mustang on his bucket list. He signed up for a flight at Millville when the Collings Foundation warbirds visited here in August 2018. Unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate when his flight was scheduled, but Ralph was able to have his flight a few days later at Cape May Airport. Congrats, Ralph. We sure hope you enjoyed the experience!



Three Cumberland County WWII veterans receive Quilts of Valor

Three area WWII veterans from Cumberland County received Quilts of Valor in recognition of their service to our country at a special ceremony held on Thursday, July 12, 2018, at the Millville Army Air Field Museum.

Each veteran was wrapped in a quilt that was hand made by area quilters dedicated to honoring America's soldiers and veterans. The quilts are signed and dated, and information about each recipient is documented.

The three WWII veterans who received quilts are:

Owen Garrison, from Bridgeton, who served in the US Navy between May 1943 and November 1945. Owen trained and fought as a loader of twin 40mm guns on the USS *Monterey*. He was in the 4th Division gunnery and took part in many missions including attacks on the Japanese in the Central Pacific and the Battle of the Philippine Sea. He received eight service bars and 13 stars for his service.

Tim Kiniry, of Vineland, who served in the US Army from 1942 to 1945 with the 45th Evacuation Hospital attached to the First Army and then



Veterans receive Quilts of Valor. Left to right: Lisa Jester, executive director of the museum; WWII veterans Owen Garrison, Walter Kocielski and Tim Kiniry; Crystal Smith, co-chair of South Jersey Quilts of Valor; and Bob Trivellini, vice president of the museum.

the Third Army at the end of the war. He was a medic during the Battle of the Bulge and other European Theater battles. Kiniry treated camp prisoners at the Buchenwald Concentration Camp after it was liberated.

Walter Kocielski, from Millville, who served in the 4th Marine Division, 25th Regiment, 3rd Battalion, I-Company, 1st Platoon. He enlisted in April 1944 at the age of 18 and achieved the rank of corporal. Walt fought on Iwo

Jima where he was involved in some of the fiercest fighting of WWII. Only six of 56 men in his unit survived the first week. Walter was a student in Millville High School less than a year before landing at Iwo Jima.

Quilts of Valor Foundation is an international organization whose mission is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

MAAFM 50-50 Raffle winners win BIG for a worthy cause!



WWII veteran and museum volunteer Walter Kocielski chose the winning tickets for the museum's 50-50 Raffle that took place on November 7, 2018.

First prize was \$10,000 and five additional prizes of \$500 each were awarded.

The MAAFM 50-50 Raffle for 2019 will take place on November 6, 2019. Only 500 tickets are sold so your odds of winning can't get much better! Tickets cost \$50 each.

Get your tickets now!

To purchase tickets please call the museum at (856) 327-2347 or e-mail Lisa Jester: ljester@p47millville.org.

D'Ippolito Elementary Adopt-a-Soldier Club toured the MAAFM on May 25, 2018



WWII veteran Owen Garrison with students from D'Ippolito Elementary School in Vineland



US Navy veteran Dave McCarthy with D'Ippolito School students

Special guests at the Collings warbird and WWII veteran event on August 30



Fran DiBacco and his nephew, Vinnie, from West Deptford, arrived in a vintage Cadillac Eldorado that Fran uses to recognize and honor America's veterans. The car has been in many 4th of July and veterans parades and once drove astronaut Buzz Aldrin!



Lisa Jester and WWII veteran Jerome Gillespie from Vineland, NJ



Fran DiBacco takes a peek at some of the museum artifacts.



Fran DiBacco and his nephew Vinnie DiBacco enjoyed their visit to the museum. Fran is the owner of the Vintage Magazine Shoppe in Paulsboro, NJ, www.vmsshoppe.com.

Chairman's Message *Continued from page 2*

personally interviewing WWII and other veterans whose stories are recorded for family and museum archives as well as submitted to the US Library of Congress for preservation.

- We created and maintain the nationally recognized Henry E. Wyble Research Library and Education Center which is maintained by a certified librarian.
- The museum has restored two additional buildings in the historic district: the original WWII Link Trainer Building with a fully operational Link Trainer, and the Quartermaster Building (Building 31), that was recently refurbished thanks to a grant from The Home Depot Foundation.
- The museum created an active website and social media resources that promote MAAFM and its activities.
- We have an excellent museum management team. Costs are controlled. Operations run smoothly. Fundraising is successful. Our Millville Airshow fundraiser event management is outstanding.
- The museum has a strong, talented, and dedicated Board of Directors and Advisory Board.

Future Goals

- Secure future financial stability through endowment funding

- Improve annual fundraising through social media and events
- Enhance community relations and teamwork with Millville Executive Airport operation management and the Delaware River and Bay Authority, along with the City of Millville, County of Cumberland, New Jersey legislators and Historic Preservation Office, and Federal legislators
- Network with historic district tenants to promote the Millville Airport Historic District as a regional tourism attraction
- Involve additional young people in MAAFM activities.

These points touch on the museum's many accomplishments and future goals. We as leaders on the Board of Directors, along with staff, management, and volunteers, strive to support the mission of the Millville Army Air Field Museum.

Our team is dedicated to preserving the important local WWII history for future generations to experience. The Millville Story told well preserves WWII heroic realities of a war that impacted the entire world, and as a result we honor the veterans who served here at Millville Airport and all of America's veterans.



America's First Defense Airport

MILLVILLE ARMY AIR FIELD MUSEUM

MEMBERS & FRIENDS



Lisa Jester presented WWII veteran **Tim Kiniry** from Vineland with his veteran trading cards at Veterans Appreciation Day.



Museum members with the Whitehouse family on VAD 2018. (L-r): **Dick Goldstine**, museum member and volunteer; son **George** from Silver Springs, MD; son **David** from Bethlehem, PA; **George Washington Whitehouse**; daughter **Lynn Birney** from Coopersburg, PA; and **Bob Trivellini**, vice president, MAAFM. George served at the Millville Air Field for 15 months during WWII as a flight engineer for the B-26 Marauder.



John McCormick, from Millville, points to his father's name on the MAAFM Life Member Plaque. John's father, Robert E. McCormick, trained at the Millville Army Air Field in 1944. Robert was a sergeant in the US Army Air Corps in the 123rd AAF Base Unit. He was an airplane propeller mechanic who received numerous medals while serving during WWII. Our thanks to John McCormick for sharing his father's history



Congressman Frank LoBiondo with local artist **Diane Roberts** who is the director of the Riverfront Renaissance Center in Millville. Diane created the beautiful commemorative drawing which was given to the Congressman by the museum on VAD 2018.



The museum celebrated the birthday of **Joe Bush** (right) at a membership meeting on April 4, 2018. His actual birthday is April 1. Joe is pictured here with museum secretary **Jerry Benfer** holding the cake. A longtime museum member, Joe Bush is the museum's official Sunday docent. He opens the museum doors every Sunday at 10 am and closes them at 4 pm. Joe meets and greets visitors, offers valuable information about the history of Millville Airport during WWII, provides tours, and explains artifacts and displays. We can't thank Joe enough for his generous volunteerism!



Lisa Jester accepts a plaque for the MAAFM from **Robert Sharp** of the Exchange Club of Bridgeton, NJ, for proudly and appropriately displaying the American flag.



The MAAFM is happy to report that **Millville High School's new mascot** recognizes the WWII aviation history of Millville Airport — flight jacket, goggles, and all!

Happy 50th!



Deacon **Russell Davis**, MAAFM board chairman, and wife **Susan** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by renewing their vows and hosting a reception with family and friends at the museum on July 23, 2018.



Birthday Celebrations



Joan Legg, museum donations and displays coordinator, received birthday wishes and a cake on Veterans Appreciation Day.



Celebrating **Flo Garrison's** 86th birthday on Jan. 27, 2019. Flo and husband **Owen** are the museum's amazing volunteers who open the doors nearly every Saturday. A very special thank you goes out to them!



Luncheon for WWII US Navy veteran **Owen Garrison**, celebrating his 93rd birthday on July 11, 2018



WWII veteran **Walt Kocielski**, from Millville, celebrating his 93rd birthday with museum friends **Patty Oliver**, left, and **Lisa Jester**



Happy Birthday celebration for museum volunteers **George Lods**, seated, and **Bill Oliver**, second left, with their wives **Debbie**, left, and **Marianne**, right, in September 2018



Millville Army Air Field Museum Membership Application



Preserving History • Honoring Veterans • Educating Youth

Yes! I want to help the Millville Army Air Field Museum recognize the history of America's First Defense Airport and support its mission of patriotism, preservation, and education. I want to help keep alive the memory of those who sacrifice so much for our freedom!

PLEASE PRINT

Date: _____

Check One: New Membership *or* Renewal Membership

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

- Check here if this is a new address
- Check here to receive newsletters and notifications by e-mail

Please make checks payable to MAAFM and mail to:

Millville Army Air Field Museum
1 Leddon Street, Millville Airport
Millville, New Jersey 08332

MAAFM is a federal non-profit 501(c)(3). Your donation is tax deductible.

- Please send me information on how I can put MAAFM in my will.
- MAAFM is already in my will.

Matching Opportunities: Check with your employer. Some employers will match your donation!



Membership

- Individual – \$25
- Family – \$40
- Student – \$10
- Life Member* – **No charge**
(Donations appreciated)
- Booster – \$100
- Patron – \$250
- Guardian Angel – \$500

Friends of the Museum

- Pilot – \$1,000
- Element Leader – \$2,500
- Flight Leader – \$5,000
- Squadron Commander – \$10,000
- Top Gun – \$25,000
- Group Commander – \$50,000
- Endowment/Naming Opportunity – \$100,000

*WWII Millville Army Air Field military personnel.

*If you served here at the Millville Army Air Field during WWII, you are considered a **Life Member** and there is no membership fee. However, if you would like to make a donation, it will be greatly appreciated.*

If possible, provide Military Serial #

Volunteers, including airshow volunteers, are encouraged to become members

----- FOR MUSEUM USE ONLY -----

Membership Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____