



Millville Army Air Field Museum

'America's First Defense Airport'

July 2021

MAAFM boasts two significant historic unveilings at Veterans Appreciation Day in 2020

C-47 Nose dedicated to 436th Troop Carrier Group

The Millville Army Air Field Museum proudly unveiled two unique historic projects at its 19th annual Veterans Appreciation Day that was held at Millville Executive Airport on Saturday, November 7, 2020.

The outdoor commemorative ceremony featured the debut of the C-47 Nose restoration honoring the history of the C-47 Skytrain during World War II, and also the unveiling of the museum's newest mural documenting gunnery practice and the role of the B-26 Marauder in air-to-air gunnery training at the Millville Army Air Base during the war.

Guest speaker Bob Dalessandro, from Woodbury, NJ, a US Army veteran, related the interesting and important history of the C-47 Skytrain during World War II. The museum's C-47 Nose honors Bob's father, 2nd Lt. Anze Dalessandro, a Skytrain pilot, and all those who served in the 436th Troop Carrier Group of the 9th Air Force out of Western Europe. Also speaking that day was Col. Michael Peeler, the current 436th Operations Group commander – 18th Air Force 436th Airlift Wing stationed at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware.

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Millville Army Air Field volunteers unveil a new mural in the historic complex at Millville Executive Airport. The mural documents the important World War II history that took place at the Millville Army Air Base and recognizes the B-26 Marauder aircraft and its role in air-to-air gunnery training for P-47 Thunderbolt pilots.



The US Air Force F-22 Raptor and US Army Golden Knights will headline Millville Airshow 2021

Part of the 80th Anniversary Celebration of the dedication of Millville Airport as America's First Defense Air Field

Pandemic aside, everyone is ready to be outdoors and enjoy the return of another exciting Millville Wheels & Wings Airshow!

After two postponements, and with the opening of the State of New Jersey to unlimited attendance for outdoor events this spring, the Millville Airshow will take place on Labor Day Weekend, September 4 and 5.

The US Air Force F-22 Raptor Jet Demonstration Team and the US Army Golden Knights Parachute Team will headline an extensive list of exciting aviation performers as the museum salutes America's military and veterans. The event will honor the 80th anniversary of the dedication of Millville Airport as *America's First Defense Airport*.

The Millville Airshow will also feature vintage warbirds, modern military and civilian aircraft, exciting aerobatics, dozens of static aircraft, a classic car show, vendor displays, great food, fun activities for children, and of course, a visit to the museum and historic complex.

For more information or advance ticket sales — MillvilleAirshow.com



Andrew P. Kondrach
1949–2020

**Remembering & honoring
Andy Kondrach**

*A driving force for
the Millville Army Air
Field Museum*

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Steve Graham, Lisa Jester, Joan Legg, Bob Trivellini, Donna Vertolli



JERRY CAREY

President's Message

Welcome to our museum and to the amazing history preserved here as we celebrate the 80th anniversary of the dedication of America's First Defense Airport!

We all have lots of connections in our lives. Aside from your own family, I hope that the Millville Army Air Field Museum is one of the connections that you value.

The MAAFM is more than buildings, air shows and artifacts. Everyone who visits can experience their own connection to the incredible aviation and military history on display here. The opportunity to connect to the history of those who passed through these original buildings 80 years ago is one reason we pledge to never charge admission to this unique and treasured space.

When you visit our museum and see images of the men and women we honor here, please take

a moment to remember who they were. Most were just 20-something kids who stood in the path of history and, literally, saved the world. Saved it for you and me, and the future generations who will visit the MAAFM to learn of the bravery and patriotism of those kids.

So, I invite you to connect with us and to your shared history with the Greatest Generation.

If you are a current member, I thank you for your support of this amazing organization. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining us or supporting our mission in any way you can. If you have a story about your connection to the Millville Army Air Field or to World War II, we want to hear it. And if you are a veteran of any era, please know that the MAAFM family welcomes you with humble hearts and grateful arms.

Thank you, once again, for your support and interest in the MAAFM.

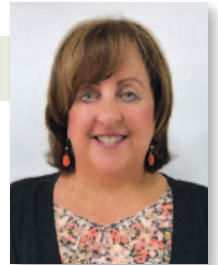
I hope to see you soon!

Executive Director's Report

Throughout its 33+ years, our museum has faced numerous challenges, but certainly none that even came close to those we all faced in 2020.

After being closed for five months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to reopen our doors on July 7 to once again welcome visitors. Temperature checks, mandatory protective masks, and disinfecting after each visitor left became the new normal. We are proud to report that our doors are still open and visitor attendance continues to increase. I thank our museum staff and volunteers for their help and dedication during these difficult times.

It was a huge disappointment to have to cancel our Millville Wheels & Wings Airshow that was scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend 2020. Our Millville Airshow is the museum's major fundraiser and we count on it to keep our doors open. It was even more disappointing to have to reschedule the Memorial Day Weekend 2021 date. But we are now very excited to say that our Millville Airshow is taking place on Labor Day Weekend — September 4 and 5, 2021. We hope to see you all there.



LISA JESTER

I am pleased to have this opportunity to welcome our new museum president, Jerry Carey. Jerry has served on our board of directors for many years and we are honored that he has taken on this leadership role. He is a true professional with deep roots in the history of our organization. Thank you, Jerry, for stepping up.

Special thanks also to our past president, Chuck Wyble, who did a great job for many years. We are happy that he will continue serving as a board member and vice chairman.

Many thanks to all of our volunteers, especially our World War II veterans, who come out and show their support daily — you are a crucial part of our organization and we are so fortunate to have you. And, of course, special thanks to all of our museum members. Your support keeps our museum moving forward.

I am grateful to have such a rewarding job and look forward to our museum's exciting future.



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MAAFM received an operating
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Millville Army Air Field Museum

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Mural honoring the history of the Millville Airport Fire Department unveiled

The Millville Army Air Field Museum unveiled a very special mural on Saturday, November 2, 2019, at its 18th annual Veterans Appreciation Day at Millville Executive Airport. The mural, located in the airport's historic district, honors the Millville Air Field Fire Department that was active during World War II at America's First Defense Airport.

"Our museum is very proud to once again bring local history alive with this mural that documents an important part of WWII history that took place at the Millville Air Base," said Lisa Jester, MAAFM executive director. "This mural honors the group of trained Millville civilian firefighters who stepped up to serve as the base fire department from 1943 to 1945, and with it we honor all Millville firefighters for their dedicated work protecting our community."

During World War II, the Millville Air Field Fire Department responded to aircraft crashes, on-base fires, and fires in the surrounding woods that were started by gunnery training. In addition, base firefighters were first responders to the crashes that took the lives of each of the 14 pilots who died while training here. When not responding to fires, crews focused on fire prevention and fire safety education.

"We are extremely proud of all of our murals that tell the story of the WWII history of Millville Airport, including the Wall of Remembrance mural on Millville City Hall, and our mural



Museum volunteers unveil the new mural.

depicting the historic boresight range that is located on the property of New Jersey Motorsports Park," continued Jester. "All of our murals were designed and painted by mural artist Sam Donovan from Woodstown, NJ. Sam has done a phenomenal job helping people visualize our base history and honoring all who have served. We can't thank him enough for his creativity and dedication to the museum's mission."

Of special interest within the new fire department mural, artist Sam Donovan used the likeness of local photographer and Millville historian Dale Wettstein. While Wettstein is not a WWII veteran, he was a US Army veteran of the Vietnam War who also served as a Millville volunteer fireman for many years. Wettstein was honored at the unveiling ceremony for his many years of support for the museum, providing countless copies

of historic photographs and donating frames and framing. Dale also gave his time and talent taking photos at all of its air shows and events.

"Today, while there is no longer a Millville Air Field Fire Department, this mural still reminds us of the many individuals who stepped up to serve when the call went out," added Jester. "We thank all of our local firefighters for their service then and now."

The new Millville Air Field Fire Department mural was 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 Commissioners through the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission.



Retired firefighter Dale Wettstein (left), whose image is on the new mural, with mural artist Sam Donovan



Dale Wettstein, Millville firefighter (retired), whose likeness represents all Millville firefighters who serve

Lisa Jester, MAAFM executive director, with Dale Wettstein and Russell Davis, MAAFM chairman, right, welcomed Millville Fire Chief Mike Lippincott, left, as the museum unveiled its new mural.



Millville firefighters who attended the unveiling of the new mural, left to right: Firefighter Michael Hallquist; Lieutenant John Garton; Fire Chief Mike Lippincott; Firefighter Dale Wettstein (retired); Deputy Chief Joe McMahon (retired); and Firefighters Alexander Hess, Ryan Gandy and Bryce Lippincott

MAAFM receives State of New Jersey Proclamation

The MAAFM was extremely honored to provide a tour of the museum to New Jersey 1st Legislative District representatives Senator Michael L. Testa, Jr., and Assemblymen Antwan McClellan and Erik Simonsen on January 6, 2021. Former museum board member and US Navy veteran Dave McCarthy served as tour guide as the district representatives learned more about the important aviation history that took place at Millville during World War II.



Senator Testa presented a State of New Jersey proclamation commending the museum for its 30+ years of dedicated work in preserving history, educating youth, and honoring veterans.

Pictured above, left to right: Assemblyman Antwan McClellan; Lisa Jester, MAAFM executive director; Senator Mike Testa, Jr.; Assemblyman Erik Simonsen; and Dave McCarthy



MAAFM Aviation History Logbook documents more than 30 years of the museum's history

During 2020, our museum was able to create a photo book of events, programs and projects that have enabled us to keep the history of the Millville Army Air Field alive and revered for more than 30 years.

The 200-page book begins in 1988 when the museum was incorporated with the State of New Jersey and follows through to year 2020, with a multitude of photos that chronicle interesting and exciting milestones in its history.

We are extremely proud that the MAAFM has and continues to fulfill its mission of preserving aviation history, honoring veterans, and educating young people. In addition we are pleased to have made so many contributions to the community and shared history and aviation with so many people.



A copy of the book is available to view at the museum and will soon be posted to our website, p47millville.org.



Millville Army Air Field Museum volunteer donates 5K

Ron Frantz (center), longtime member and volunteer of the museum, made a \$5,000 donation of support in 2019. Frantz, a retired electrician and US Army veteran of the Cold War era from Millville, was the director of the Link Trainer, an early flight simulator and one of the museum's most valuable historic artifacts, located in the original WWII Link Trainer Building in the historic complex at Millville Executive Airport.



Pictured left to right: Dick Goldstine, volunteer; Lisa Jester, MAAFM executive director; Frantz; Tim Jacobsen, volunteer; Ron Frantz' daughter Vikki Scotti from Portland, OR; and Ed Cox, volunteer

Museum's historic C-47 Skytrain Nose restoration project initiated and dedicated

Aircraft's role during World War II recognized on the 75th Anniversary of Operation Market Garden — the Liberation of Holland



Kicking off the sponsorship campaign for the C-47 Nose restoration project was Jay Cipriani, owner of Cipriani Remodeling Solutions of Woodbury, NJ (left), who is handing his check to Lisa Jester, executive director of the MAAFM, and volunteer coordinator Bob Dalessandro (right). Ultimately the museum was able to raise more than \$6,700 for this important project. Many thanks to Jay Cipriani for his generous donation and to all those who sent in the contributions that brought this meaningful historic project to fruition.



Prep work began in August 2019.



C-47 Nose being prepped for painting in 1994. The nose has been on loan to the MAAFM for more than 25 years from the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, VA.



Sam Donovan, mural artist from Woodstown, NJ, works on the nose art for the C-47 Nose restoration, working from historic images from WWII.



The Millville Army Air Field Museum held a very special ceremony September 17, 2019, honoring a World War II aircraft, an important date in history, and the countless veterans who served on that day.

The museum's commemorative event recognized the 75th anniversary of Operation Market Garden — the Liberation of Holland — by unveiling its historic WWII C-47 Skytrain Nose, which was beginning a full restoration, and by honoring the memory of 2nd Lt. A. Dalessandro, from Woodbury, NJ, who was a pilot during that operation, and all those who served on that mission.

Operation Market Garden was the largest airborne operation up to that date during the war. Thirty-four thousand Allied paratroopers and glidermen — American, British and Polish — were delivered into Holland by air that day to secure a northern route over the Rhine River for ground forces, which could have ended the war by Christmas.

"It was a tough fight with mixed results," said Bob Dalessandro, whose father will be commemorated on the MAAFM's Skytrain Nose. "On that day in history, ninety C-47s of the 436th Troop Carrier Group departed RAF Membury, England, for the 625-mile flight to their drop zone in Holland. My dad piloted one of those C-47s. It was his first combat mission of the war."

Bob Dalessandro, from Woodbury, NJ, who served in the US Army from 1972 to 1980, and Col. Bob Leicht, retired Airborne Infantryman, from Middletown, DE, were project leaders for the restoration of the C-47 Skytrain Nose. Leicht has a distinguished



The team of restoration volunteers under the direction of Bob Leicht (second from right) and Bob Dalessandro (right), and left to right: Ed Cox, US Navy veteran; Tim Jacobsen, retired educator and on-site project commander; Dick Goldstine, US Air Force veteran; and Jim Crispo, all from Millville, NJ.

military career of 27 years with the 82nd Airborne and Special Forces. Tim Jacobsen, retired educator from Millville, NJ, was the on-site commander of the project, overseeing technical work and painting.

Dalessandro and Leicht started the restoration of the C-47 Nose in summer 2019, and with the help of a team of volunteers from the museum, the anticipated completion date was set for spring 2020, in time for an unveiling at the scheduled 2020 Millville Wheels & Wings Airshow on Memorial Day Weekend.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Millville Airshow was cancelled and rescheduled for Memorial Day Weekend 2021, so the unveiling of the C-47 Nose took place at the museum's Veterans Appreciation Day ceremony on November 7, 2020.

The C-47 Skytrain Nose underwent a full exterior and cockpit restoration and displays the insignia and historically accurate paint scheme of the 80th Troop Carrier Transport, 436th Troop Carrier Group of the European Theatre of Operations, WWII. The nose is on long-term loan to the MAAFM from the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

"On behalf of the Millville Army Air Field Museum, we are honored to display this important historic artifact and excited about this restoration project," said Chuck Wyble, museum president. "We offer heartfelt appreciation to Bob Dalessandro and Bob Leicht for their commitment to overseeing this project and to all of our museum volunteers for their dedication and hard work on the C-47 Nose restoration."



Bob Dalessandro and retired US Army Col. Bob Leicht, project leaders, show a detailed display of the C-47 Skytrain WWII aircraft at the dedication on September 17, 2019.

Remembering and honoring Andy Kondrach

A driving force for the Millville Army Air Field Museum

It's hard to know how to express our extreme sadness in announcing the passing of Andy Kondrach, MAAFM past president and chairman emeritus, on May 10, 2020, at the age of 70.

Andy was our longtime friend — one of the original members of the Millville Army Air Field Museum, a lifetime promoter of aviation, a man with a wealth of knowledge, a great gift of gab, and a huge heart.

Andy Kondrach came on the scene at Millville Airport in the mid-1980s and by chance met Michael Stowe, the original founder of the museum — a young man who collected artifacts from P-47 crash sites that marked the graves of the 14 pilots who died while training at the Millville Army Air Field — America's First Defense Airport. Stowe's collection marked the beginning of documenting the history that laid the groundwork for the creation of our museum.

When Andy met Mike Stowe, their mutual love of aviation sparked a camaraderie in support of recognizing the important history that took place at Millville during World War II. A few years later Jim Vertolli joined in with his love of aviation, and together, along with a nucleus of about eight like-minded individuals, they formed the museum. It became incorporated with the State of New Jersey in 1988.



Press of Atlantic City, July 25, 1989

Andy was there. He was always there, thankfully for us, supporting the museum and all aspects of aviation — historic, current and everything in between.

With his countless volunteer hours, Andy was truly a humble leader, speaking eloquently to crowds of aviation enthusiasts and later in the day mopping the floors of the museum at the end of an event. Andy did it all! We already truly miss that 6'5" personality and have to search harder for the information about the history of the Millville Army Air Field that Andy could so quickly recall for us.

Then there were the many gifts of aviation that Andy brought to our museum...

- In the early years of the museum Andy orchestrated a special aviation event featuring Col. Robert Morgan, the original pilot of the *Memphis Belle*, who flew the B-17 bomber to Millville Airport for a 1992 warbirds event.



Publicity for the MAAFM in the Newark Star-Ledger on February 25, 1990

- Andy's contacts brought honors for the museum at Camp Boardwalk — a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of World War II in Atlantic City in the summer of 1993.
- In October 1993, Andy arranged a visit from Frances Gabreski, the World War II Ace of Aces fighter pilot for the museum's veterans reunion and warbird fly-in.
- Andy arranged for a visit from the Confederate Air Force for a warbirds event in 1994.
- He coordinated a fly-in of warbirds from the National Warplane Museum in Geneseo, NY, for the 3rd Annual Wheels & Wings Weekend in 1995.
- Andy's connections with the Berlin Airlift Foundation brought the *Spirit of Freedom* C-54 to Millville for numerous warbird displays and airshows.
- Proudly, when Andy Kondrach was president of the Millville Army Air Field Museum in 1995, he was recognized for his contributions to aviation and preservation efforts at the museum with a prestigious award from the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation for **Outstanding Service to Civil Aviation**.
- Andy, along with museum volunteer and US Navy veteran Will Reha, played an integral role in acquiring the MAAFM's first airplane for static display — the A-4 Skyhawk — which had to be



Father and son teams worked together to grow the Millville Army Air Field Museum in 1990. Pictured left to right: Elmer and Keith Thomas; Walt and Mike Stowe; Jimmy and Jim Vertolli; Chris and Andy Kondrach.



Andrew P. Kondrach
1949–2020

transported in pieces from Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Andy gathered a crew of six museum volunteers to make this happen in December 1995.

- In 1998, Andy once again organized a project which brought the museum's US Army transport plane, the "Short" Sherpa SD3-30, to Millville Airport from Lakehurst, NJ, to become part of the museum's permanent display.



Andy with Col. Bob Morgan, original pilot of the Memphis Belle, at Millville Airport in 1992

- In addition, Andy's connections with historic aviation brought Bob Mills' historic Philadelphia Seaplane Base Museum to the Millville Army Air Field Museum, to become its permanent home after Mills' retirement in 2000.
- In 2001, it was Andy Kondrach who created an aviation event called Vettes & Jets, a Corvettes and classic jets show at Millville Airport, to benefit the museum.
- Also in 2001, Andy helped coordinate the 60th Anniversary Reunion Weekend with veterans who served and trained at the Millville Army Air Field during WWII. Andy was the museum's board chairman at this time. He played an integral role in getting Neil Melton, from the Tennessee Aviation Museum, to fly in with his P-47 Thunderbolt. Andy also connected with the Experimental Aircraft Association from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and local EAA Chapter 216 from Cross Keys, New Jersey, to sponsor the event and display its B-17 *Aluminum Overcast*.

The list of Andy Kondrach's accomplishments for the MAAFM spans the years of 1985 through his passing in 2020 and are far too many to list here. Each contribution made by Andy to the museum helped lay a solid foundation for its continued success throughout the years.

The Millville Army Air Field Museum truly owes Andy Kondrach a debt of gratitude. We thank his wife Marylee and family for sharing him with us for all of those years.

Andy, we salute you and thank you for all of your contributions to aviation and to our museum. We know that you are flying with angels and keeping an eye on our museum.

— Donna Vertolli

On behalf of the MAAFM and all of the lives you touched, both living and now deceased

Andy was born in Newark, NJ, and lived in Hammonton, NJ, for the last 40 years of his life. He was employed by Eastern Aero Supply of Millville. He was a member of the Hammonton Lions Club where he once served as King Lion and Zone Chairman. Andy was also a former Hammonton Airport Administrator. He was one of the co-founders of the Millville Army Air Field Museum and served as president and board chairman. Andy had a passion for aviation, airshows, flying and remote controlled airplanes.

Kondrach Receives Prestigious Aviation Award from the State of New Jersey



1995



In 1995, the Millville Army Air Field Museum acquired its first airplane for static display, an A-4 Skyhawk from Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, VA. Andy Kondrach shown with Jimmy and Jim Vertolli.



With much thanks to Andy Kondrach, the US Army transport plane "Short" Sherpa SD3-30 came to Millville from Lakehurst, NJ, in 1998, to become part of the museum's permanent display.



Year 2000 — Andy Kondrach thanks Bob Mills for entrusting the Millville Army Air Field Museum with the extensive and valuable collection of aviation artifacts from Philadelphia Seaplane Base Museum.



Andy Kondrach welcomes Neil Melton of Luttrell, TN, who brought his P-47 Thunderbolt Hun Hunter to Millville to add to the 60th anniversary veterans reunion festivities in 2001.



Bob Mills (center), whose father founded the Philadelphia Seaplane Base Museum, was honored by the MAAFM for his many contributions to aviation history. Pictured left to right: Andy Kondrach, MAAFM board chairman; Millville Mayor Jim Quinn; Hugh McElroy, Dallas Airmotive vice president; Bob Mills; Russell Davis, MAAFM president; Lewis Finch, Millville Airport manager; and Rocco Tomanelli, Delaware River and Bay Authority airports director.



Andy Kondrach, right, and Jim Vertolli, left, with members of the Berlin Airlift Foundation in front of the C-54 Skymaster Spirit of Freedom



Andy Kondrach, MAAFM Chairman, presents the two new logos which were created to promote the commemoration of 100 Years of Airshows in 2010.



Farewell, Andy! Thank you!

Veterans Appreciation Day 2020

Continued from page 1

Also highlighting the Veterans Appreciation Day event was the unveiling of the latest mural documenting the important World War II history that took place at the Millville Army Air Base. The MAAF Gunner Practice Mural recognizes the B-26 Marauder aircraft and its role in air-to-air gunnery training for P-47 Thunderbolts that took place at the Millville Air Field from 1943 to 1945, preparing pilots for missions overseas in the European Theatre.

Special visitors at the unveiling of this mural, which is located on historic building 31 on Peterson Street, were two World War II veterans who served at Millville — George Washington Whitehouse, 100 years young, flight engineer for the B-26 Marauder, from Emmaus, Pennsylvania, and 96-year-old Charles “Ozzie” Osborne, P-47 pilot, from Laurel Springs, NJ.

“We were extremely honored to have both George Whitehouse and Charles Osborne attend this special mural unveiling,” says Lisa Jester, MAAF executive director, “and we thank them for their input in its creation.”

The mural was designed and produced by Sam Donovan, mural artist, from Woodstown, NJ, who also created the Wall of Remembrance Mural on Millville City Hall and several other murals located in the historic complex of the museum at Millville Executive Airport — each mural documenting a specific aspect of the World War II history of the Millville Army Air Field — America’s First Defense Airport.

Funding for the new Gunner Practice Mural project was 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 Commissioners through the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

“We invite the public to come out to the airport and see the outdoor displays that tell the history of Millville Airport through incredible, dynamic visuals,” continues Jester. “We remind everyone that our museum is open, six days a week, Tuesday through Sunday from 10am to 4pm. All COVID-19 precautions are in place for public safety and it is simply a quiet, interesting, educational place for families, aviation enthusiasts and history buffs to visit.”



Veterans of the Millville Army Air Field during WWII and who assisted with details on the mural design — George Washington Whitehouse, 100, a flight engineer for the B-26 Marauder (left), and Charles “Ozzie” Osborne, 96, a P-47 Thunderbolt pilot (right).



Crowds of more than 200 visitors practiced social distancing and wore masks during Veterans Appreciation Day 2020 outdoor ceremonies.



A moment of silence for all veterans



Semper Marine Detachment 205 from Vineland, NJ



Re-enactors from Air Mobility Command Museum of Dover Air Force Base escorted 100-year-old WWII veteran George Washington Whitehouse as he carried the commemorative wreath forward during Veterans Appreciation Day ceremonies.



A special debut was of the museum's C-47 Skytrain Nose, restored by a group of volunteers and dedicated to the father of guest speaker Bob Dalessandro, who related some of the interesting and important history of the C-47 Skytrain during WWII.



Bob Dalessandro, left, with Col. Michael Peeler in front of the Millville Army Air Field Museum's restored C-47 Skytrain Nose

Col. Michael Peeler, the current 436th Operations Group commander – 18th Air Force 436th Airlift Wing stationed at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, left, with Bob Dalessandro in the cockpit of the Millville Army Air Field Museum's restored C-47 Skytrain Nose



Bob Dalessandro makes a special presentation to Col. Michael Peeler, 436th Operations Group Commander, from Dover Air Force Base.

The new Cole Mobile van stopped by with Chris and Cole the Deaf Dog, who is the official mascot of the New Jersey Veterans Home, along with Angelic Healthcare of New Jersey.



The Millville Army Air Field Museum offers many thanks to EDM Americas for their generous contributions.

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East West Museum seeks location at Millville Executive Airport

The East West Museum, a non-profit organization dedicated to global exploration and discovery of historical events, has plans to locate at Millville Executive Airport.

The East West Museum is negotiating with the Delaware River & Bay Authority (DRBA) to make its home in the original WWII Green Hangar 8, in the airport's historic district. This foundation, among many other projects, supports efforts to reunite forgotten and lost members of our US military forces from past wars with their 20th Century families. The museum will house and restore artifacts including aviation and maritime items recovered from sites all over the world.



MAAFM president Chuck Wyble, left, and executive director Lisa Jester, second left, welcome Yury Zharov, president, right, and Dwight Barnell, executive director of the East West Museum, second right, to the museum.

"We are excited to bring our organization to the Millville Airport, where history abounds," says Dwight Barnell, executive director. "The East West Museum is committed to supporting and maintaining its collection of historical assets, and working side by side with the Millville Army Air Field Museum. Our museum is also dedicated to honoring the memory of those who served so bravely."

Two of the East West Museum's current projects include the ongoing search for missing US Army soldiers from World War One, in Russia; and the recovery of the USS *Herring* submarine which sank during World War II near an uninhabited volcanic island near the center of the Kuril Islands chain in the Sea of Okhotsk in the northwest Pacific Ocean.

The Millville Army Air Field Museum welcomes our new comrades in exploring and preserving history!

MAAFM hosts Russian television correspondents as East West Museum announces historical joint venture

Our museum was pleased to host a visit from a Russian TV crew on July 22, 2019, as the East West Museum announced joining forces with the Russian Ministry of Culture and the Russian Military History Society in Moscow in forming a new alliance and expedition.

All parties will jointly explore the burial locations of missing US Army soldiers of the 335th Regiment, American North Russia Expeditionary Force (ANREF), aka the Polar Bear Expedition, and other nations' soldiers gone missing in 1919 in the Archangel region of Russia.

The television segment was videotaped at the MAAFM and on the Millville Executive Airport site, for Russia TV Channel One, the largest TV news organization in Russia and eastern Europe, with over 240 million viewers. The news story aired on four separate occasions.

The group toured our museum taping the news segment, and visited the historic Green Hangar 8 where the East West Museum hopes to soon be operating.



Pictured in front of the historic Green Hangar 8 at Millville Executive Airport, are, left to right: Yury Zharov, president of the East West Museum; Lisa Jester, executive director of the MAAFM; Dwight Barnell, executive director of the East West Museum; and Andrew Kondrashov, news director from Russia TV Channel One.



Above: Russian TV Channel One tapes interviews and looks at various historic artifacts at the Millville Army Air Field Museum.

Left: Dwight Barnell describes the East West Museum's potential plans for using the interior of Hangar 8.

Millville High School honors 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge with WWII veteran Tim Kiniry as part of MAAFM's Outreach Program

In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in December 2019, Millville High School students had the opportunity to hear from World War II veteran and US Army medic Tim Kiniry, age 97, from Minotola, NJ. He shared his experiences and stories about the cold winter months at the battle. Kiniry was also present when the Buchenwald concentration camp was liberated. Nearly 100 students from four history classes were able to see Kiniry's presentation, ask him questions, and examine artifacts he brought.

This program is part of the museum's outreach connecting WWII veterans to area schools to educate young people about World War II history.

The Millville Army Air Field Museum is so proud to have Tim Kiniry as a volunteer and ambassador for its mission to preserve WWII history and honor all who have served. Thank you, Tim!

Right: World War II veteran Tim Kiniry answers questions about the Battle of the Bulge from Millville High School students.



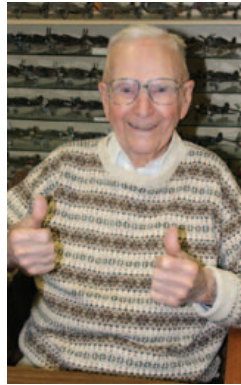
2019 MAAFM Movie Night Stars

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!

Tim Kiniry ★ March 12

Tim Kiniry, from Minotola, NJ, served in the US Army from 1942 to 1945 with the 45th Evacuation Hospital attached to the First Army and then later the Third Army at the end of the war. He was a medic at the Battle of the Bulge and at other European Theatre battles where his group treated thousands of prisoners in field hospitals located just behind battle lines.

At the end of the war, the 45th set up operations inside the Buchenwald concentration camp for two weeks after it was liberated. Here, they treated many gravely ill prisoners and saved numerous lives. Kiniry described the horrific conditions in the camp and praised the valiant efforts that were made at that time.



WWII veteran Tim Kiniry (above and left) with MAAFM student interns from Rowan University: Kristen Maiorini from Blackwood, NJ, and Enzo Ronchi from Ventnor, NJ. The Rowan students were juniors studying Public Relations.

Owen Garrison ★ June 11

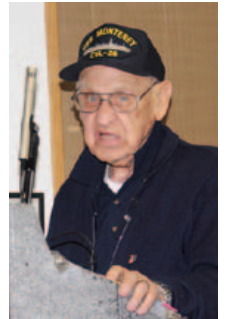
Owen Garrison, US Navy veteran from Bridgeton, NJ, told the story of his unimaginable experience aboard the USS *Monterey*, an aircraft carrier in the Pacific that found itself, along with a number of other naval ships, in the middle of a typhoon that hit at midnight on December 17, 1944.

The typhoon was later named after Admiral William Halsey, Jr., who made the decision to send the 3rd Fleet battleships into the storm — Halsey's Typhoon.

Owen's ship took a 39° roll in the raging ocean and everything on the flight deck went into the water — aircraft, jeeps and equipment.

Owen credits future president Lt. Gerald Ford for saving his ship. Ford led a group of men into the engine room and was able to repair one of the engines enough to have it limp to safety at a nearby island. Other ships were not so lucky. Three destroyers sank and a total of 790 lives were lost in Halsey's Typhoon. The USS *Monterey* lost just eight of its 1,800 aboard but there were many injuries.

Thankfully, Owen survived to tell us about this incredible event in WWII naval history.



Special guest speaker Owen Garrison (above and middle right) was welcomed, along with wife Flo, by Bob Trivellini, MAAFM vice president.

Art Martone ★ September 10



Art Martone, from Spring Lake Heights, NJ, served as a P-40 pilot in the 12th Air Force, 324th Fighter Group, 316th Squadron, during World War II. 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.

The MAAFM was honored to have Art Martone share his history.

Art Martone (above and right) was greeted by MAAFM historian John Flint (right), along with Jerry Benfer, museum secretary (left) and Bob Trivellini, vice president (second from right).



Stan Tarquinio ★ December 11 with Bob Leicht

Stan Tarquinio, of Bridgeton, NJ, is a US Army veteran who served across Europe during WWII including at the Battle of the Bulge and Hürtgen Forest. Stan, who served from 1943 to 1946, was a PFC with the 78th "Lightning" Infantry Division.

During the Battle of the Bulge, Stan's unit was surrounded by the Germans on both sides when attacked. This led to them being strafed twice by P-47s since they were behind enemy lines. In addition, they were also strafed twice by Focke-Wulf 190s. The 78th were the first foot soldiers to cross the Rhine River along with the 9th Armored Division tanks. Stan told fascinating stories about taking German prisoners.

The museum was pleased to have Stan Tarquinio speak of his experiences as we honored the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

Along with Stan, Bob Leicht, from Barnegat, NJ, shared a slideshow presentation about the Battle of the Bulge and other experiences of his father, Bill Leicht, who fought during WWII with the 11th Armored Division. The presentation included photos and recollections from their trip to Europe that retraced his steps during the war. Bob is a retired US Army Colonel, a career soldier who served in the infantry, Airborne Division, and in Special Forces assignments across the United States as well as three tours in Asia during his 27-year career.

A special thanks to both Stan Tarquinio and Bob Leicht for helping us honor the history of the Battle of the Bulge.



WWII veteran Stan Tarquinio (right) and retired US Army Colonel Bob Leicht

Thirty-five World War II veterans visit the MAAFM for the Collings Foundation warbirds display

The MAAFM was extremely proud to welcome thirty-five World War II veterans and their families as special guests at the museum for its Gathering of WWII Vets event that took place during the Collings Foundation's Wings of Freedom Tour. The veterans visited on August 29, 2019, and the warbirds were on display from August 28 through August 30 at Millville Executive Airport.

Visiting World War II veterans had the opportunity to share experiences, enjoy refreshments, tour the museum, and see the vintage aircraft out on the runway ramps, including the B-17 Flying Fortress *Nine-O-Nine*, the B-24 Liberator *Witchcraft*, and the B-25 Mitchell *Tondelayo*—all World War II bombers; the P-51 Mustang *Toulouse Nuts* and a P-40 Warhawk, both fighter planes.

Veterans ranged in ages from 93 to 100 years old and represented all four branches of the military — US Army Air Corps, US Navy, US Army, and US Marine Corps.

"We were very honored to have so many WWII veteran heroes attend this event and be recognized for their service to our country," said Bob Trivellini, vice president of the MAAFM. "These gentlemen have such genuine respect for one another, and varied and unique military experiences. Hearing them share stories is awesome! We were thrilled to have them come together at the museum and we continue to thank them every day for their many contributions that secured our nation's freedoms."



World War II veterans and their family crowd into the MAAFM conference room for its Gathering of WWII Vets event.



Volunteer greeter Andrea Petito, a student at Paul VI Catholic High School in Haddonfield, welcomes WWII veteran Jack Williams.



Lisa Jester with Dr. Richard Beck, US Navy/US Army, Millville, NJ



US Navy WWII veteran Jack Williams with family members



US Navy WWII veteran Jim Dunham, from Woodstown, NJ, with Bob Trivellini, MAAFM vice president



Bob Dalessandro, from Woodbury, NJ, explains the C-47 Nose Restoration Project taking place at the MAAFM. The museum's C-47 Nose honors Bob's father, 2nd Lt. Anze Dalessandro, a Skytrain pilot during WWII, and all those who served in the 436th Troop Carrier Group of the 9th Air Force out of western Europe.



Walter Kocielski, US Marine from Millville, NJ, with museum volunteer Ed Possenti



WWII veteran Herbert "Ralph" Williams, US Army Air Corps B-17 ground crewman from Brigantine, NJ, with Rich Walzak, a longtime friend of the museum who is an advocate for Honor Flight



WWII veteran Owen Garrison, from Bridgeton, NJ, who served in the US Navy, encouraged all veterans to tell the stories of their experiences during the war.



Longtime MAAFM friend Peter Galetto, Jr., was one of the fortunate few who were able to fly in a Collings Foundation WWII warbird at departure from Millville to landing at Cape May Airport. He took this photo of the B-25 Mitchell *Tondelayo* from his spot aboard the B-24 Liberator *Witchcraft*.



US Army Air Corps WWII veteran Herbert "Ralph" Williams, from Brigantine, NJ, flew in the B-17 during the war and was proud to stand with the Flying Fortress *Nine-O-Nine*.



The Three Amigos from Woodstown, NJ — World War II veterans, L-R: Dick Young, US Navy; Jim Dunham, US Navy; John Ferguson, US Army Air Corps

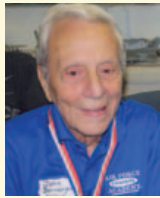


George Rubin, WWII US Army Air Corps B-17 waist gunner from Medford, NJ, visited the Collings Foundation's B-17 Flying Fortress *Nine-O-Nine* to relive a few memories.

Visiting World War II Veterans



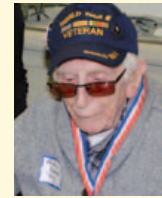
Dr. Richard Beck
US Navy, US Army
Millville, NJ



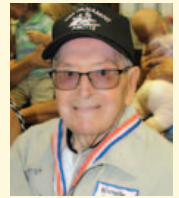
John Bernardini
US Navy
Vineland, NJ



Andre Bourgeois
US Navy
Cedarville, NJ



Arthur Coppee
US Army
Egg Harbor Twp., NJ



Nicholas DiLella
US Navy during
WWII/US Marine
during the Korean
War Conflict
Paulsboro, NJ



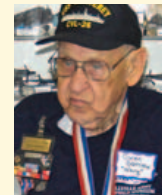
Jim Dunham
US Navy
Woodstown, NJ



Carlton Fairchild
US Army Air Corps
Deptford, NJ



John Ferguson
US Army Air Corps
Woodstown, NJ



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



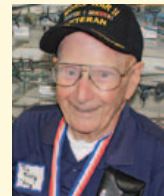
Louis Gerlack
US Army Air Corps,
B-17
Glassboro, NJ



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



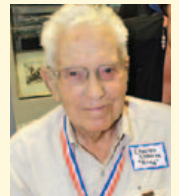
Mike Jordan
US Navy
Vineland, NJ



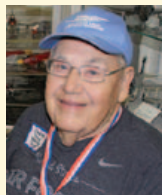
Tim Kiniry
US Army
Minotola, NJ



Walter Kocielski
US Marine
Millville, NJ



Charles H. Osborne
US Army
Bridgeton, NJ



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



Charley Pierce
US Army
Cedarville, NJ



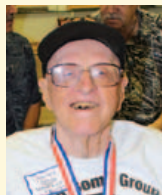
George Rubin
US Army Air Corps,
B-17
Medford, NJ



Walter Sierocinski
US Army Air Corps,
P-51
Carneys Point, NJ



Bob Vance
US Army Air Corps
Cherry Hill, NJ



Charles "Sandy" Wentzell
US Army Air Corps,
B-17
Salem, NJ



Herbert "Ralph" Williams
US Army Air Corps,
B-17
Brigantine, NJ



Jack Williams
US Navy, USS *Peto*
Hopewell Twp., NJ



Pat Witt
USO "Girl"
Millville, NJ



Dick Young
US Navy
Woodstown, NJ

Not shown:

Richard Andrews
US Army Air Corps, B-17
Voorhees, NJ

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

Carl May
US Army Air Corps, B-26
Delran, NJ

Herb Souders
US Navy
Westville, NJ

Joseph Thomas
US Army Air Corps
Pitman, NJ

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

Jerome Gillespie
US Army Air Corps
Vineland, NJ

Nick Silvestro
US Army Air Corps, B-24
Cherry Hill, NJ

Morris Spector
US Army Air Corps
Toms River, NJ

Richard Watkins
US Navy
Leesburg, NJ

MAAFM's 2019 Veterans Appreciation Day pays tribute to the United States Navy on the 75th anniversary of Halsey's Typhoon

Area high school students, community groups and more than 300 guests paid tribute to our nation's veterans on Saturday, November 2, 2019, for the museum's 18th annual Veterans Appreciation Day at Millville Executive Airport.

"The museum was once again proud to salute America's veterans of all wars at our special commemorative ceremony," said Robert Trivellini, MAAFM vice president and educational coordinator. "And for this celebration we honored the men and women who served in the United States Navy and recognized the 75th Anniversary of Halsey's Typhoon."

Guest speaker for the event was World War II veteran Owen S. Garrison, Jr., 94, of Bridgeton, NJ. Garrison was a Seaman 1st Class who served on the USS *Monterey* during Halsey's Typhoon. Lt. Gerald R. Ford (President) was his division officer and Garrison attributes the heroic actions of Ford for saving his ship and its crew during the infamous Typhoon Cobra, more commonly known as Halsey's Typhoon, a monstrous storm in the Pacific in December 1944 that took the lives of 790 American seamen.

"We were very honored to have Owen Garrison speak and tell us first hand about his extraordinary experience on the USS *Monterey*," added Trivellini. "This was a very special presentation for all of our veterans and guests."

Keeping with tradition, the event featured student re-enactors and youth members of the Cumberland Civil Air Patrol.

The ceremony included a presentation of the colors by Semper Marine Detachment 205 of Vineland and a musical salute to veterans by bagpiper Jim Rembisz. The National Anthem and Taps were performed by Millville High School students, and the Millville Women's Club choir offered a patriotic medley of songs. A moment of silence was offered for veterans both alive and deceased.

The day's activities featured a free 'Canteen' lunch for all visitors, sponsored by Verna's Flight Line Restaurant and Catering, that donates all of the food for the event. Special thanks to Verna's Flight Line, and to Bottino's ShopRite for donating desserts and beverages; and to South Jersey Paper Products for donating paper products.



World War II veterans, front row (left to right): Tim Kiniry, Mike Jordan, Andre Bourgeois, Walter Sierocinski, Walt Kocielski and John Bernardini, with MHS student re-enactors and members of the Cumberland Civil Air Patrol surrounding them



L-R: Davon Browne, Samantha Saul, an unknown re-enactor and Adria Cotler



Millville High School student re-enactors with WWII veterans. Left to right: Autumn Craig, Cecely Dominguez, Walter Kocielski, Angelina Smith, and Owen Garrison



Millville High School student re-enactors Kayla Grablow (second left) and Ella Rivera (left) welcome visiting veterans.



Carrying the commemorative wreath forward were World War II veterans (left to right) John Quinasso, Mike Jordan and John Bernardini, all from Vineland, NJ. Looking on from the left: WWII veteran Owen Garrison from Bridgeton, NJ.



World War II veterans were saluted by members of the Cumberland Civil Air Patrol.



World War II veterans Owen Garrison (seated) of Bridgeton, NJ, and John Quinasso of Vineland, NJ



"Donut Dollies" for the event were MHS student re-enactors (l-r): Autumn Craig, Angelina Smith and Cecely Dominguez.



Jessica Berry, Millville High School student re-enactor, sang the National Anthem.



Mike Jordan and his sister Mary Ann



Veterans Appreciation Day audience watches as the new MAAF Fire Department Mural is unveiled.



WWII veterans John Bernardini, Mike Jordan, and John Quinesso from Vineland, NJ



The Millville Women's Club choir offered a medley of patriotic songs.



Members of the Cumberland County Civil Air Patrol, left to right: C/SSgt Hayden Smith, C/TSgt Rusteum Kultanov, C/CMSgt Shawn Ronan, C/Lt Jacob Currey, with group leader Jamie Curry



Dale Wettstein, Vietnam veteran and Millville fireman, is recognized by the crowd, with members of his family surrounding him.



Sami DiGiacinto, MHS alumna and Widener University graduate. She played Taps two times at the museum's VAD when she was a high school student.



WWII veteran Mike Jordan from Vineland, NJ, shows us his walking stick with the US Navy motto "Non sibi sed patriae," which means "not for self, but for country."



WWII US Navy veteran Owen Garrison, 94, speaks about his experience on the USS Monterey during Halsey's Typhoon.



Christopher Chin, district director/veterans outreach coordinator for the 2nd Congressional District of NJ, represented by Congressman Jeff Van Drew, presented the MAAFM with a proclamation of recognition to Lisa Jester, executive director of the museum.



Millville High School student re-enactors welcome World War II veterans.

Dale and Joanne Wettstein. Dale is a Vietnam veteran and former Millville fireman. They owned Steelman Photographics in Millville and often donated photos and framing to the MAAFM. Dale also served as the museum's events photographer for many years. Many thanks to them!



MAAFM executive director Lisa Jester welcomes more than 300 guests to the ceremony to honor all veterans at the 18th Annual Veterans Appreciation Day.

Lt. Col. Bill Bonelli takes his first flight in a B-17 in more than 75 years, from Millville to Cape May



98-year-old World War II veteran pilot Lt. Col. William Bonelli, from Radnor, PA, flew from Millville to Cape May in the Collings Foundation B-17 Bomber on August 30, 2019. It was his first flight in a B-17 since 1945, and was part of a documentary being created about his life.

Bonelli was an aircraft mechanic turned hero-pilot. He was at Pearl Harbor on December 7 and fortunately survived the attack. Shortly after, he was deployed to Fiji. As luck would have it, a man to whom he had given a hands-on demonstration of the B-17 slipped his pilot application to the top of a pile and Bonelli soon was on a ship to the US where he got his wings. Being a mechanic gave him a leg up. When asked what airplane he wanted to fly, he put down No. 1: B-17, No. 2: B-17 and No. 3... you guessed it, he said.

Lisa Jester, executive director of the MAAFM, was delighted to make Bonelli and his family members comfortable at the museum and give him a tour. Members and volunteers were happy to sit and hear about his incredible experiences during the war.



World War II US Marine vet Walter Kocielski gets to fly in a P-51 Mustang



It was a completely unexpected gift for our museum WWII veteran/volunteer Walter Kocielski when he was offered a ride in the visiting P-51 from the Collings Foundation. When the invitation was given, Walt said, "Damn right I will go!"

Walter was a US Marine who was on the beach at the battle at Iwo Jima in 1945 and saw horrific tragedies and some of the fiercest fighting of the war. Only six of 56 men in his unit survived the first week.

The MAAFM was super happy that our World War II hero/volunteer Walter had this incredible opportunity and flew at age 93!



Walt with P-51 pilot Steve Coutes, who flies for the Collings Foundation

Vets, volunteers and special friends of the museum get flights in WWII warbirds at departure to Cape May Airport



Barry Smith and Michelle Jackson



Dave McCarthy and Ed Possenti



Peter Galetto, Jr.



Matt Pisarski, Jesse Pisarski, and Lisa Jester

Museum welcomes Angelic Health

The Millville Army Air Field Museum is proud to welcome and partner with Angelic Health with the opening of the Angelic Health Outreach Center in the Henry E. Wyble Historic Research Library and Education Center. Angelic Health provides the community with palliative, hospice, and other health-related education and volunteer programs, including ones for veterans such as the museum's Veteran History Project. It also provides TeleHealth, Primary House Call medicine and other services throughout New Jersey, and in Pennsylvania and South Carolina. The MAAFM welcomes you!

Right: Kayla Montoro, Angelic Health Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, at the Angelic Health Outreach Center. Kayla is currently hosting volunteer activities.



Stop by and see our museum's special quarterly displays...



First quarter 2021 featured medics and medical items used during World War II. Special thanks to Joan Legg, display coordinator, above, who puts these interesting and informative displays together.

The second quarter theme (below) was entitled "Sweethearts" and documented some of the romance that went along with World War II — quick courtships, weddings and long-distance relationships — all about love.



Vietnam-era jeep added to museum's collection

Our museum received a wonderful donation of a 1967 M151A1 Jeep from past MAAFM historian John Flint of Williamstown, NJ. This vehicle had been sitting in storage for many years and museum volunteers are excited to be working on its restoration.

The M151 Jeep was called a MUTT, Military Unit Tactical Truck. It was the principal jeep used during the Vietnam Conflict, and played an active part in American military operations well into the 1980s.

As the United States celebrates the 80th anniversary of the first military jeeps, our museum hopes to complete the restoration to have on display for our Millville Wheels & Wings Airshow on Labor Day Weekend, September 4 and 5, 2021.

Donations for this restoration project are more than welcome and greatly appreciated. Please contact the museum.



US Navy Vietnam veteran Ed Cox shows an original M151 Jeep manual that is being used to check authenticity during the restoration.



Jeep restoration crew, June 2021 (sans masks): (l to r) Dick Goldstine, Ed Cox, Ed Possenti and Jim Crispo, along with John Flint, past museum historian from Williamstown, NJ, who donated the M151 Jeep.



Jeep restoration volunteers in March 2021 (l-r): Ed Cox, Dick Goldstine and Jim Crispo



In Memoriam

Owen Garrison 1925–2021

There are some people who leave an indelible impression: Owen Garrison was one of them. His history as a US Navy veteran of WWII, his contributions to the community, his genuineness, and his heart, are just some of the things that impressed me throughout the years that I knew him.

When I first heard the story of Owen's experience on the USS *Monterey* in the South Pacific during Halsey's Typhoon in 1944, it made me instantly appreciate his service to our country. But more importantly, the fact that he described the conditions at sea during this storm that cost the lives of 790 men made me yearn for more information. Whether Owen knew it or not, his personal account was one of the best history lessons I had ever learned. And thankfully, Owen was willing, in his years as a museum volunteer docent, to share his story and inspire countless others to learn more of the lessons that history teaches us.

Owen Garrison, from Bridgeton, NJ, passed away in April 2021 at age 95. He left a legacy of sharing his experiences and knowledge with the Millville Army

Air Field Museum and all who had the opportunity to visit with him there. He also shared his story with young and old alike at numerous outreach events.

Owen's wife Flo (Florence) said that she knew little of her husband's World War II experiences until very late in life, after he visited the museum. We are so thankful he felt comfortable enough to share.

On behalf of the museum, I want to recognize and thank Flo as well. She and Owen were our "Saturday Officers" for many years. They opened the doors, welcomed visitors, gave tours and served as our museum ambassadors, always promoting the history that took place at Millville during World War II and honoring veterans. Truly, Owen and Flo were a fine example of the greatest generation and Flo continues to give her support.

To US Navy Seaman 1st Class Owen Garrison, we honor your memory and remember you in our hearts.

— Donna Vertolli
MAAFM Board Member



John McCabe 1921–2020

John McCabe, a longtime Millville Army Air Field Museum member from Millville, NJ, who served on its board of directors for many years, passed away on February 28, 2020, at the age of 98.

John was a US Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, who served as an armorer tail gunner in the B-26 Martin Marauder. He saw active duty in England, France, and other parts of the European Theatre, and later in his career, in the US Air Force Reserves, in Korea. John served from 1943 to 1953.

In John's words... *"We bombed bridges, rail yards, railroads and a synthetic oil plant, among other things. Our Marauders, along with B-24s, supported General Patton on D-Day and in the Battle of the Bulge."*

John also told us this about his experience with the P-47 Thunderbolt — *"In another mission, after the bombs cleared, we realized we had lost our right engine and couldn't keep up with the formation. As I looked out, a P-47 Thunderbolt came up on our wing. It escorted us and protected us back to our air base. As I looked back, the P-47 wagged its wings and away it flew."*

John volunteered at the MAAFM from 1992 until just a few years before his passing. He offered a wealth of knowledge about World War II from his experience and from his love of history, and countless volunteer hours helping to keep the museum's doors open to the public.

The museum recognizes, honors, and thanks Staff Sergeant John McCabe for his many contributions.



John McCabe with grandsons Jared and Zachary Martorana in front of a B-24 Bomber in August 2019



Remembering these special individuals...

Timothy Roswell Jacobsen, PhD

Died January 17, 2020, at age 69



It was with great sadness that the Millville Army Air Field Museum had to say goodbye to our good friend Tim Jacobsen from Millville, NJ. Tim was a longtime museum member and volunteer extraordinaire for nearly 20 years, taking part in a multitude of projects to which he offered his brilliant mind and mechanical expertise.

A chemical engineer and teacher by profession, Tim shared his interest in history to the museum's benefit with projects such as the restoration of the Deuce and a Half 1973 2.5 ton military cargo truck and the original WWII Millville Air Base fire truck, a 1941

Ford rescue/crash fire truck that was donated to the museum in the 1980s; the rebuild of an M2 50 caliber machine gun to offer a safe hands-on museum display; the painting of a vintage WWII cannon in 2014; and most recently, in 2020, the restoration of the museum's C-47 Skytrain Nose for which he was the on-site project director, among so many other projects. He was a hands-on intellectual whose generosity and technical skills will not be forgotten by his many friends at the MAAFM.

Thank you, Tim, for all that you gave us!



Harold G. Rich

Died January 20, 2020, at age 94

Rear Admiral Harold G. Rich, from Harpswell, ME, proudly joined the US Navy eight days after graduation from high school in 1943. He completed flight training and was commissioned as a naval aviator in June 1946. His 35 years of active service included flying 127 missions to Berlin, Germany, as part of the Berlin Airlift, and serving as Operations Officer on the recovery ship USS Wasp for the Gemini 9 and Gemini 12 spacecrafts. He retired from the Navy in 1978 and returned to Maine. Harry was a founding member of the board of directors and then director emeritus of the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum in Brunswick, Maine.



Admiral Rich had longtime ties to the MAAFM through big brother Capt. Bill Rich, who was a veteran of the Millville Army Air Field during WWII and served as the museum's chairman. Artifacts from the Rich family of veterans are on display at the museum.



Brothers Bill and Harry Rich, representing the US Army Air Corps and US Navy respectively, pose in uniform during WWII. A third brother, Walter Rich, was in the US Army.



Walter Johnson

Died October 1, 2019, at age 95

Walter Johnson, from Millville, NJ, served in the US Army from 1943 to 1946 as an infantry soldier and jeep driver/observer with the 16th Armored Division serving in France, Germany and Czechoslovakia during WWII. Walt was an observer for the 11th Armored Division in



France. Later he became part of the 16th Armored Division of General Patton's Third Army that liberated the city of Pilsen from Nazi Germany. Walter received the Combat Infantry Badge and the Bronze Star for his service.

Walter is an honorary Life Member of the museum because he served at the Millville Army Air Field during World War II while recuperating from an injury he sustained before his deployment to Europe. A longtime museum member and volunteer, Walter offered many interesting stories, gave a multitude of tours, and provided everyone with many smiles along the way.



James V. "Jimmy" Robinson

Died April 4, 2021, at age 82



Jimmy Robinson, from Millville, NJ, was a longtime member, friend and past board/advisory board member of the MAAFM. Jimmy loved aviation and aviation history and was a flight instructor at Millville Airport for many years. He began flying in 1969, flew many different types of planes, and continued to fly until he sold his personal airplane in 2020. As a master machinist, Jimmy took great pride in his work and often worked on parts for airplanes.

Jimmy was also an avid reader of military and aviation books. No one close to the museum loved flying and knew aviation, airplanes, and aircraft history better than Jimmy Robinson. We are so very thankful to have been able to tap into his aviation knowledge over the years. Jimmy also offered many volunteer hours at the museum's air shows and extended support to the museum in countless ways.

Jimmy will be sadly missed at the museum but we feel his spirit is flying in the skies above Millville Airport and keeping watch over us.



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 145 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 interviewed recently include:

John Christman, of Leesburg, NJ, served in the US Army from March 1943 to November 1945. He was with the 406th Combat Engineers of 23rd Headquarters Special Troops as a member of the incredible Ghost Army. They used inflatable tanks, sound effects, and extensive deception to fool the Nazis in Europe. The unit, which contained many well-known artists, deployed various theatrics to make German units think they were

an entire division and not attack or defend certain areas. The Ghost Army is the subject of a recent book, a PBS documentary, and a planned feature film starring Ben Affleck. Christman was a Private First Class who fought across Europe and ended up in Germany as the Ghost Army used their deceptive operations at the crossing of the Rhine River.



WWII veteran John Christman, left, describes his experiences in the Ghost Army to MHS students Braydon Bock, center, and Zachary Nolter, right.

John Christman, seated, with Millville High School students Zachary Nolter, left, Ewan Wickward, second from left, and Braydon Bock, right, along with museum intern and Rowan University student Steven Landick (second from right).



Charley Pierce, of Cedarville, NJ, is a US Army veteran who served in both the European and Pacific Theatres of World War II. He achieved the rank of T5 while serving with Company F of the 375th Engineers. He was wounded at the Battle of the Bulge as his unit moved along the battle lines through Belgium. They held and transported German prisoners on many occasions. Charley was involved in a number of other fascinating experiences, including his unit being part of a diversion on D-Day and later spending the end of the war in the Philippines. His dates of service were from October 1, 1942, to January 1, 1946.



Charley Pierce with Millville High School student interviewers Daycee Ryan, left, and Aurora Ryan, right

Mario Polidori, from Medford Lakes, NJ, served in General George Patton's Third Army in the 95th Infantry Division. He joined the US Army in 1936, seven years after being an immigrant from Italy. He landed six days after D-Day and served as a gunner in a mortar gun crew. He told several fascinating stories related to their participation in a number of campaigns in Europe, including the first to attack in the Battle of Metz. He achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant.



Upon retirement in 2006, Mario wrote his autobiography, *My Path to an American Dream*, hoping to inspire immigrants to become entrepreneurs.



Mario Polidori pictured with Millville High School students Ewan Wickward, left, and Josh Schaffer, right, along with teacher Mike Canino, second right, and Veteran Interview Program director Bob Trivellini, second left

2020 Movie Nights become virtual amid the COVID-19 pandemic

...but World War II veterans continue to tell their stories



MARCH

Battle of the Bulge 75th Anniversary Commemoration

Charley Pierce, US Army Combat Engineer,
and Gary Luderitz, *Presenters*

Three US Army WWII veterans of the Battle of the Bulge shared their important experiences at the museum's first Quarterly Movie Night of 2020. Charley Pierce, 97, of Cedarville, NJ, was guest speaker and presented details of his time as a construction engineer. His unit moved along the battle lines through Belgium from December 1944 to January 1945.

Gary Luderitz, from Linwood, NJ, made a presentation on behalf of his uncle, Tim Kiniry, 98, of Minotola, NJ, who was a medic during the Battle of the Bulge. They recently returned from the 75th Commemoration of the Battle

of the Bulge in Europe where Kiniry was honored. They shared a detailed presentation completed by Luderitz about the trip and the battle. During the presentation, both Kiniry and 95-year-old Stan Tarquinio of Bridgeton, NJ, an infantry artillery man at the Battle of the Bulge, shared little-known historical facts and offered insights from their individual experiences there.

Pictured left to right are Tim Kiniry, Stan Tarquinio and Charley Pierce, with Robert Trivellini, museum vice president and educational coordinator.



JUNE

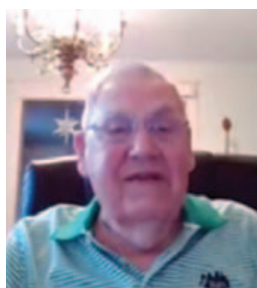
B-26 Marauder Air-to-Air Gunnery at the MAAF during World War II

George Washington Whitehouse

US Army Air Corps Staff Sergeant

B-26 flight engineer who served at Millville

Staff Sergeant George Washington Whitehouse, from Coopersburg, PA, was a flight engineer for B-26 Marauders at the Millville Army Air Field for 15 months from the end of 1943 to early 1945. The B-26 was used to pull massive mesh tow targets as P-47 Thunderbolt pilots would practice their gunnery skills by shooting at them. Sgt. Whitehouse was later sent to Hawaii but the war soon ended.



SEPTEMBER

P-47 Thunderbolts at Millville

Charles "Ozzie" Osborne

US Army Air Corps

1st Lieutenant

P-47 Thunderbolt pilot with 26 combat missions, who trained at Millville during WWII

Charles "Ozzie" Osborne, from Laurel Springs, NJ, was a P-47 Thunderbolt pilot in the US Army Air Corps during WWII. He was with the 9th Air Force, 373rd Fighter Group, 410th Squadron. Their job was to support the ground troops as they advanced across Europe against Nazi Germany. He flew 26 combat missions from airstrips in Belgium, Holland and Germany in 1944 and 1945. Charles received his advanced gunnery training at the Millville Army Air Field.



DECEMBER

P-47 Thunderbolts Overseas

Selwyn Lurie

WWII veteran who flew Hurricanes with the Royal Air Force then the majority of his missions in a P-47 Thunderbolt against the Japanese in the China-Burma-India Theatre.

Selwyn Lurie, from San Diego, CA, flew in two theatres of the war. He was with the 135th Squadron of the Royal Air Force, which was located in Chittagong, Bangladesh. Among other operations, he was involved in the mission to capture the air field and deep sea port on Akyab Island and flew long-range missions against the Japanese in Rangoon in 1944. He survived five crashes caused by weather or mechanical malfunctions.

Veteran P-47 pilot and longtime special museum friend Charles “Ozzie” Osborne wrote this fun story for the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II.

My affair with Piper Heidsieck began when I was a 20-year-old P-47 pilot. I had learned to fly the Jug (our name for the P-47 Thunderbolt) at Camp Springs, MD, which is now Andrews Air Base. After becoming a competent pilot, they sent me to Millville, NJ, for aerial gunnery training, along with training in strafing and dive bombing too. Following my time at Millville I was finally ready to join my outfit in Belgium, a group of the 9th Air Force.

We were flying missions that involved extensive dive bombing, to support the troops on the ground. I was grateful for all that time spent learning how to do this at Millville. It sure helped.

Each month the pilots would be given a ration of alcohol. This consisted of a bottle of scotch, some variety of local drinks, and a bottle of champagne. I was barely 21, and didn't drink that much. The champagne was usually Piper Heidsieck since we weren't far from Reims, France, where it is made. My squadron CO and his exec really liked scotch. He went to those of us who didn't drink much and bargained for our scotch, offering to trade a bottle

of champagne for this stronger spirit. As mentioned above, I was barely 21 but I acquired a taste for champagne. Our monthly trades provided me a dependable supply.

After the war's end in May 1945, we were shipped back to the States, given a 30-day leave and given orders to report to Sioux Falls, SD, and in preparation for the coming invasion of Japan, to start training on the new model of the P-47.

While on leave I got married on August 11. Soon after the ceremony, my bride and I traveled to the Pocono Mountain Inn in Pennsylvania for our honeymoon and met a Navy Ensign flyer and his bride who were also honeymooning at the Inn. While we were in the Poconos, the negotiations that followed the Air Force's dropping of atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki led to the quick capitulation of Japan on August 14.

When the war in Japan ended we wanted to celebrate. However, all the bars in PA and around the country closed, including the bar in the hotel

where we were honeymooning. I said not to worry, I had brought two bottles of Piper Heidsieck champagne home with me from Europe in my B-4 travel bag. We opened those two bottles and we celebrated, with others, by the side of the hotel's pool.

My orders were changed. Pilots were no longer needed. I went to Seymour Johnson field in North Carolina, was discharged, and began another chapter in what has become a very interesting life. This chapter, a long one, ended in 2010 when my wife, Barbara, died after 64 years of marriage. We had two wonderful daughters, Barbara Anne and Patricia Ellen. They have been a joy to my life that continues to this day.

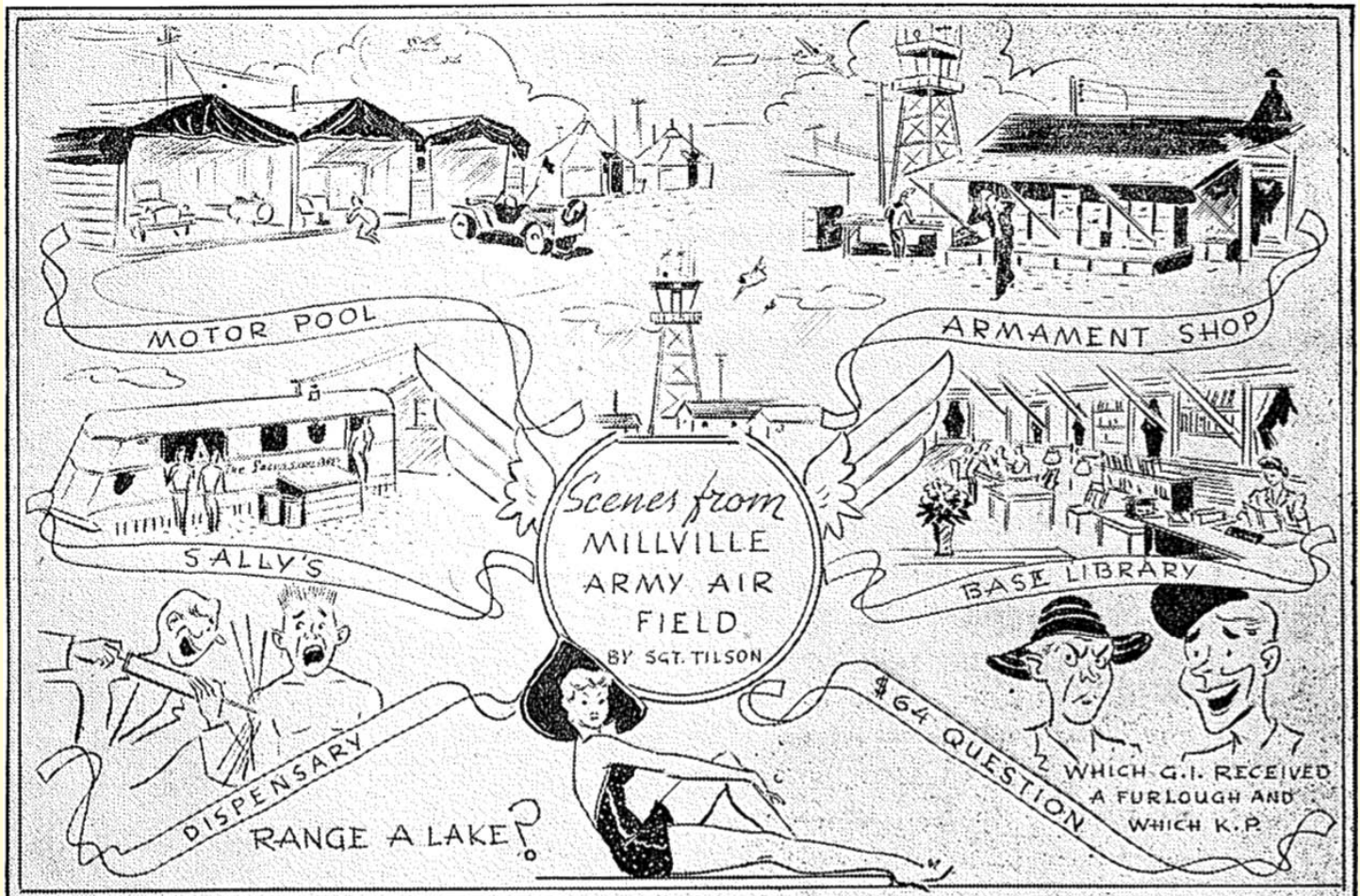
I am now 96 and will be happy to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of the war in the Pacific by raising a toast to the memory of acquiring a taste for Piper Heidsieck champagne in 1945.

— Charles Osborne

Scenes from Millville Army Air Field...

This illustration appeared in the Thunderbolt Newspaper that was published on September 16, 1944. It was created by a Sgt. H.W. Tilson, who was the art editor of the base newspaper that was published bi-weekly by the Public Relations and Special Service Office for the benefit of the military and civilian

personnel of the Millville Army Air Field. Sgt. Tilson was quite talented and fun as he tells the story of base life at Millville during WWII. These historic newsletters can be viewed and read on the museum's website for the Henry E. Wyble Historic Research Library and Education Center at WybleLibrary.org.



2020 Summer Program brings aviation professionals to Millville High School students and others

Each year, we host a summer program for high school students that takes advantage of the great history and aviation resources available at the Millville Army Air Field Museum and Millville Executive Airport.

In 2020, due to COVID-19 restrictions, in-person classes were not possible. Seeking a positive solution, we pivoted to a virtual program that brought amazing experiences to educate young people, including interviews with an astronaut candidate and a 100-year-old World War II veteran! This change brought an added benefit as students from five states were able to attend the program. These experiences included:

- Careers In Aviation panel with Mohsin Raza, Fleet Manager for JetBlue Airways; Rebecca Mohn, First Officer and pilot for Alaska Airlines; and Gina Trivellini, Operations Leadership Program Associate for Raytheon Technologies
- Presentation by Laura-Smith Velazquez, Human Factors and Systems Engineer at Collins Aerospace and Mars 100 astronaut finalist
- World War II veteran speakers including Charles Osborne (age 96), P-47 pilot, and George Washington Whitehouse (age 100), B-26 flight engineer. Both served at the Mill-

ville Army Air Field, so students learned directly about its significant importance in World War II

- Introduction to Aerodynamics using paper planes, taught by aeronautical engineers David Sandler, a Virginia Tech PhD candidate, and Gina Trivellini
- Overview of air traffic control by Bobby Pakosinski, who serves as an Air Traffic Controller at Atlantic City International Airport in Pomona, NJ



Millville Army Air Field Museum

Home Summer Program — Panelist #1

Mohsin Raza discovered a passion for aviation when he was accepted to Aviation High School in Queens, NY. After obtaining his A&P license along with his high school diploma, he spent five years as a mechanic for JetBlue Airways while pursuing his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from SUNY Farmingdale. He earned his private pilot's license in 2017. Upon graduating in 2018, he joined JetBlue's Systems Engineering Department as an Associate Engineer. He has since become Fleet Manager for JetBlue's A320 and A321 fleets. In his free time, he enjoys traveling and flying.



Mohsin Raza

- Students received a virtual tour of the museum and viewed a film about the C-47 Nose produced by board member Steve Graham and narrated by volunteer Bob Dalessandro, son of a World War II C-47 pilot
- Introduction to gliders by Lt. Col Michael Castania, CAP Director of Aerospace Education, that enabled students to virtually experience glider flying.

All things considered, going virtual certainly has its advantages and we are very pleased the students had this exceptional opportunity to learn about the many facets of aviation.

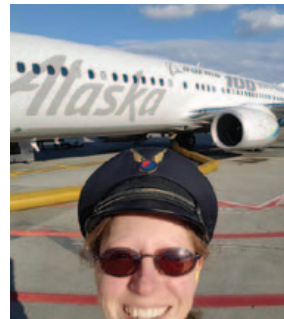
Special thanks to all of the participants and to MHS history teacher Tim Garrison, who facilitated the program with participating students.



Millville Army Air Field Museum

Home Summer Program — Panelist #2

Rebecca Mohn is a First Officer for Alaska Airlines. She and her family reside in the Pacific Northwest. She has been an aviator for over 27 years and has been flying professionally for 21 years. She holds her B.S. in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. When she is not flying, you can find her spending time with her husband, two children, and two cats. She enjoys bicycling, hiking, playing piano, reading, and watching movies.



Rebecca Mohn



Millville Army Air Field Museum

Home Summer Program — Panelist #3

Gina Trivellini credits her love of aviation to the Millville Army Air Field Museum, where she grew up attending air shows and volunteering with her parents. She earned her B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 2015. She has worked for Pratt & Whitney evaluating jet engine performance, and for JetBlue Airways managing airworthiness directives. She is currently an associate in Raytheon Technologies' Operations Leadership Program and the president of the New York chapter of the Society of Women Engineers. In her downtime, Gina loves to travel and cook.



Gina Trivellini

2019 Summer Aviation Program



Students learned about aviation and World War II history at the MAAF Summer Camp 2019 which ran from July 2 through August 8, for Millville High School students. Left to right: Tim Garrison, history teacher, Lakeside School; MHS students Justin Stellweg and Ewan Wickward; and Kevin Bertonazzi, flight instructor at Big Sky Aviation.

WWII messenger bike donated to the museum in October 2020 by Bertha Davis of Millville, NJ



In Memoriam



Dr. Richard Beck

Died January 11, 2020, at age 93

Dr. Richard Beck, from Millville, NJ, served his country both during and after World War II, first as a member of the US Navy's V-12 officer training program and then as a captain in a US Army medical unit serving in France, where his daughter was born. Upon returning to Millville, he opened his office for the practice of medicine and cared for residents of Cumberland County for more than half a century.



Howard "Tex" Haines

Died November 25, 2019, at age 98

Staff Sgt. Howard Haines, from Helena, Montana, was one of our Life Members — a World War II veteran who served at the Millville Army Air Base from 1943 to 1945. He volunteered for the draft and joined the US Army Air Corps/Force. After schooling, he served in Company G of the 325th Fighter Group of P-47 Thunderbolt fighter-bombers at Millville Army Air Field as a communication/radio operator. The air field was closed in September 1945, and Howard served at other locations until 1946.

Evalyn Eastwood

Died January 5, 2021, at age 97

The MAAFM was sad to learn of the passing of Evalyn Eastwood. She was the wife of museum Life Member Art Eastwood, whom she met and married while he was stationed and trained as a radio operator at the Millville Army Air Base during World War II. Evalyn and Art were married on December 3, 1943. Art was drafted into the US Army Air Corps in 1942 and served through 1945. Evalyn and Art lived in Millville nearly all of their lives. They were longtime volunteers and members of the museum and instrumental in its formation in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Art passed in 2012.

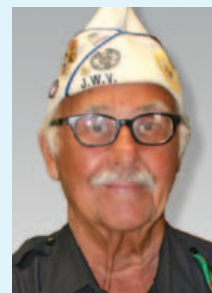


Dr. John W. "Bill" Holdcraft

Died December 18, 2019, at age 98

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 Thunderbolt 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 a copy of a photograph autographed by Zemke to the museum. He also authored a book entitled *My Memoirs*, which is available at the museum.

After the war Bill received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical School and spent 52 years as a well known family physician in Woodbury, NJ.



Bernie Friedenber

Died May 2, 2018, at age 97

Bernie Friedenber, from Margate, NJ, was a US Army medic who saved many lives on Omaha Beach on D-Day. He also served in the Battle of the Bulge and fought throughout Europe and North Africa for four years. He came home to Atlantic City with two Purple Hearts, two Silver Stars and a Bronze Medal, and was honored by the French government. Bernie wrote a book about his experiences entitled *Of Being Numerous: World War II*.



Arthur Martone

Died January 18, 2020, at age 96

Art Martone, from Spring Lake Heights, NJ, began his service during WWII in 1941, as a combat fighter pilot and flight leader with the 316th Fighter Squadron of the 324th Fighter Group, based near Cercola, Italy. Colonel Martone flew 166 combat missions in the P-40 aircraft, supporting the Allied advancement to liberate Italy. On D-Day, he was shot down 65 miles behind German lines and was hidden by local Italian civilians for six days before being recovered by US advancing troops. He returned to the states where he was a P-40 instructor for the remainder of the war.

Colonel Martone served in the Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard for over 38 years and flew P-40, P-51, P-47, F-80, F-84, F-86, and F-105 fighter aircraft. He was inducted into the New Jersey Aviation Hall of Fame in 2018.

In Memoriam



Charles H. Osborne

Died August 18, 2020, at age 96

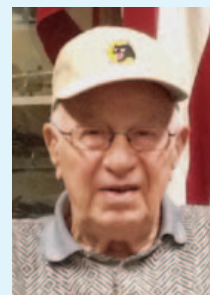
Charles H. Osborne, of Quinton Township, NJ, was a decorated World War II combat veteran who served from 1943 to 1945. He was in the US Army 1st Rangers Division and saw action in the European Theatre where he was badly wounded and captured in Italy. He was held in a German prisoner of war camp for a year and a half. While visiting home he became ill and was sent to the Millville Army Air Field to recover, making Charles an honored Life Member of our museum.



Dr. Leonard Streitfeld

Died October 11, 2019, at age 97

Dr. Leonard Streitfeld, from Hammonton, NJ, was a US Army Air Corps World War II veteran B-17 bombardier. Dr. Streitfeld was a lieutenant in the 8th Air Force's 398th Bomb Group, 600th Squadron. He flew 31 missions over Europe during WWII and received numerous medals for his service. In his later years, Dr. Streitfeld chronicled his war memoirs in his 1994 227-page memoir *Hell from Heaven*.



Charles Titone

Died March 27, 2020, at age 94

Charles Titone, from Burlington, NJ, served in the US Army from 1944 to 1946 during World War II. He was on the USS *Leopoldville* with 2,000 American soldiers on Christmas Eve 1944, crossing from England to France, when the ship was hit by a torpedo from a German U-boat. Eight hundred American infantrymen were killed in the blast or died in the 48° water. It was one of the worst sea tragedies in US history and one of the least known. Charles was a recipient of a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, European Campaign Medal and Allied Victory Medal.



Eusebio Trevino

Died June 10, 2019, at age 93

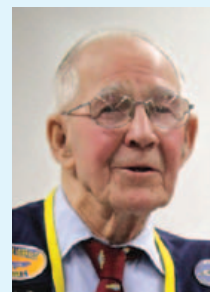
Eusebio Trevino, from Vineland, NJ, was a US Army Air Corps World War II veteran. He joined in 1944 at the age of 19 and trained in radio communications and mechanics at Truax Field in Madison, WI. Eusebio was stationed at the Millville Army Air Field where he met his wife of 68 years, Loretta Garcia, at a USO dance held at the White Sparrow Inn in Vineland. Eusebio is one of the museum's Life Members — those who served at Millville during WWII.



Ed Turner

Died August 6, 2020, at age 95

Ed Turner, from Leesburg, NJ, served in the US Navy from 1942 to 1946 during World War II. He was deployed on the light aircraft carrier USS *Bataan* in the Okinawa invasion and also served in the Battles of the Philippine Sea. He loaded bombs on TBM Avengers. His ship narrowly missed an attack by a kamikaze.



John "Jack" Williams, Jr.

Died July 31, 2020, at age 95

Jack Williams, from Hopewell Township, NJ, was a World War II Navy veteran who served on the submarine USS *Peto* in the Pacific. The *Peto* sank nine freighters and rescued 21 aviators from the treacherous ocean during its Pacific patrols which included hot spots off New Guinea, Guadalcanal, and Saipan. Jack joined the military at age 17 and served in the US Navy from October 1942 through October 1945. His rank was Electrician 1st Class. Jack received the Submarine Combat Medal with Three Stars.

A thank you letter from a good friend

March 22, 2020

To: Lisa Jester, Board Members, and Membership,

It is hard to believe that Owen and I have been volunteering at the MAAF Museum for almost 16 years.

I had no idea when Owen volunteered us that we would still be active. We committed to be active volunteers and I hope we have been an asset to the museum.

We knew that the time would come for us to be replaced. We will no longer be able to volunteer at the museum on a regular basis. It will be hard not to be involved in the many events and projects we have participated in the past.

I can't begin to tell you everything that the museum has done for Owen and me. I have learned so much about WWII. Before we became involved, Owen never spoke about his service in the navy. So many of the veterans have so many real stories to share. The museum and its leadership have made this possible.

As active members of the museum, Owen and I have had many experiences and opportunities which we would otherwise never have had. We have had the privilege of meeting people from all walks of life. They came from all over the United States as well as other countries. We were overwhelmed by the opportunity to fly in a B-17.

The museum has accomplished so much involving the veterans, making their lives more meaningful. Everyone works with each other as a group. They are sincere in all they do to preserve the history of WWII. They do a great job.

The most memorable event Owen and I had was a very special trip. Dave McCarthy heard that Owen had a wish to visit the carrier *Gerald Ford* when it was to be commissioned. That seemed impossible. Dave worked for almost a year. In July 2017 we received a call from Dave, "Pack your bags. You are going to Norfolk." Dave and his wife JoAnn made all the arrangements, including an escort. The museum assisted with some expenses. It was a wonderful experience for both of us that we shall never forget. I hope we can continue to support the museum in some way. You are the best.

Sincerely,

Florence Garrison



Tim Kiniry is featured speaker at Millville Chamber of Commerce luncheon event on November 11, 2020

Millville Army Air Field Museum board and staff members were proud to attend the Millville Chamber luncheon event which featured guest speaker World War II veteran Andrew "Tim" Kiniry, 98, who discussed his experiences defending freedom for our country and allies. Sgt. Kiniry was a medic at the Battle of the Bulge and other European Theatre battles. He treated prisoners at the Buchenwald concentration camp after it was liberated. Sgt. Kiniry served from August 8, 1942, to November 25, 1945. He was with the 45th Evacuation Hospital attached to the 1st Army and then the 3rd Army at the end of the war. Tim resides in Minotola, NJ.



Jerry Covella, executive director of the Greater Millville Chamber of Commerce (right), thanks WWII veteran Tim Kiniry (second right) for his military service and for being the keynote speaker at the chamber luncheon in November 2020. Pictured with them are (l-r) Rachel Corma, MAAFM advisory board member; Rick Adams, MAAFM board member/historian; Lisa Jester, MAAFM executive director; and Chuck Wyble, MAAFM president.

COVID-19 Clean-up, July 2020



The museum is proud to recognize and congratulate the first-place winners of the 2020 MAAFM Golf Tournament.



Left to right: Brian Lepore and Bruce Lepore with Seb Arrigo, tournament director. Not present for photo but part of the winning team were Steve and David Filipone. Despite COVID restrictions, the museum's golf fundraiser had a record number of participants at a time when support was critical. Thank you to all who participated!



MEMBERS & FRIENDS



MHS students Ewan Wickward and Justin Stellwag, who were part of the museum's high school summer program, assisted with WWII veterans during the Collings Foundation WWII warbirds visit. L-r: Ewan; Bob Trivellini, MAAFM vice president; and Justin.



John McCabe, WWII veteran and longtime museum activist, with family members in 2019. L-R: Kristina, Zachary, Dani, Peggy and Jared Martorana, with children Gordon and Peyton Martorana.



Rocky Gannon visited the MAAFM on October 17, 2019.

Birthday Celebrations



Owen Garrison celebrated his 94th birthday on July 11, 2019.



The MAAFM was honored to celebrate **Roy Wilson's** 85th birthday at a small party in July 2019. His actual birth date is August 1, 1934. Roy, seated, with (l-r) wife Kathy and museum staff members Patty Oliver and Joan Legg.



Roy's interest in aviation began at a very young age. Here is a photo when he was just 12 years old. In the past 20 years, Roy has volunteered at the museum providing his expertise teaching young people the principles of flight through airplane model building.

2019 Christmas Party



Members of the staff and volunteers of the museum surprised receptionist **Patty Oliver** with flowers and goodies for National Receptionist Day 2019. Surrounding her are (l-r) George Lods, Tim Jacobsen, Joan Legg, Brian Grant, Dick Goldstine and Frank Nucito.



Millville Army Air Field Museum Annual Membership Application

Preserving History ★ Educating Children ★ Living Patriotism

You can renew
your membership online
at www.p47millville.org

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

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Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

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E-mail Address: _____

☐ Check here if this is a new address

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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.

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your continued
support!*

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entitles you to
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- ☐ Life Member* – **No charge**
(Donations appreciated)
- ☐ Booster – \$100
- ☐ Patron – \$250
- ☐ Guardian Angel – \$500

Friends of the Museum

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

Sustaining Membership

- ☐ \$10 / monthly
- ☐ \$20 / monthly
- ☐ \$25 / monthly

Contact the museum to arrange
payment method — (856) 327-2347
or e-mail: museum@p47millville.org

*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.

If possible, provide Military Serial #

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

Membership Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____