



Millville Army Air Field Museum

*'America's First Defense Airport'*

February 2025

## Local WWII Veteran Tim Kiniry receives the highest honor of the French government at MAAFM ceremony



103-year-old WWII Veteran Tim Kiniry with French Consulate Deputy Consul Myriam Gil.

World War II Veteran Tim Kiniry of Minotola, NJ, received France's prestigious French Legion of Honour at the Millville Army Air Field Museum, America's First Defense Airport.

Deputy Consul Myriam Gil from the French Consulate in New York presented the medal on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 10:30am at the museum. France's National Order of the Legion of Honour is the highest French order of merit, both military and civil. This recognition was established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte.

Tim Kiniry, who is 103 years old, served in the United States Army from 1942 to 1945 with the 45th Evacuation Hospital to the first Army, and 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.



Tim Kiniry was recognized with the French Legion Honour for meritorious service to the country of France and his significant contribution to its liberation from Nazi Germany.

*We at the Millville Army Air Field Museum are absolutely honored to know Tim and thank him not only for his service to our country but also for his friendship to our museum.*

## All Veterans Honored at the MAAFM's 23rd Annual Veterans Appreciation Day

The Millville Army Air Field Museum paid tribute to our nation's veterans on Saturday, November 2, 2024 — with a moving ceremony and noon luncheon — at its 23rd annual Veterans Appreciation Day at Millville Executive Airport. More than 200 veterans attended and all veterans honored.

Guest speaker for this year's event was Brigadier General (Ret.) Stanley F. Cherrie, originally from Mauricetown, New Jersey, who served in the United States Army for 34 years, with two tours in Vietnam, the second of which cost him a foot and much of his right hand.



Brigadier General (Ret.) Stanley F. Cherrie, left, and the Semper Marine Detachment #205 from Vineland, New Jersey, above.

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## Chairman's Message

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the remarkable achievements we have accomplished together. Our journey has been marked by resilience, innovation, and a relentless

**RUSSELL DAVIS**

commitment to excellence. It is with great pleasure that I share our collective milestones and provide insights into the path ahead.

This year has been transformative for our organization. We have reached new heights, driven by our strategic vision and the dedication of our talented team. Among our many accomplishments, a few stand out as particularly significant.

We successfully improved our non-profit operations. Our Executive Director Lisa Jester has continually upgraded many parts of our daily and long-term operations. She has accomplished this with a small paid part-time staff and the caring leadership of a faithful number of dedicated volunteers. Staying within a budget, we have improved our historic exhibitions. The quality of the increasing number of Museum tours is being acknowledged by our visitors' comments on their experiences while on site.

As we look to the future, we are guided by our strategic vision and core values. We are committed to driving sustainable growth, fostering innovation, and creating value. This approach is being pursued forward by our totally committed Board of Directors. I am proud to be a volunteer on this talented and dedicated team. Our priorities for the coming year include implementing the annual steps of our five-year Strategic Plan. These include finding ways to live out the values we believe guide our mission — **Preservation • Education • Honor.**

The Board of Directors is focused on long term steps to secure the future historic preservation of this Millville Airport treasured asset — ***America's First Defense Airport***.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to so many advocates of the Millville Army Air Field Museum for their unwavering support and trust. Your belief in our vision and your dedication to our mission have been instrumental in our success. Together we have built a strong foundation, and I am confident that we will continue to achieve great things in the future.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. I look forward to the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, and I am excited about the future we will create together.

## Executive Director's Report

As our museum approaches its 37th anniversary, I'm proud to say that 2024 was another wonderful year! Events, programs, exhibits, outreach, education, and visitors — all great achievements! It's especially gratifying to note the numbers of new visitors, as well as those who return and comment that they love coming back and seeing all of our changes.

Our tours and outreach programs have been extremely busy and we have built new audiences attracting them to visit. We are proud to present first-class tours of our museum — both on the inside and outside in our historic courtyard.

A strategic planning grant was awarded by the *New Jersey Historic Trust* and we recently hired a program development agency. With the help of Jill Marsteller of CALICO International, LLC, we are introducing a

comprehensive campaign to ensure the museum's future. In this newsletter, you will hear about the **"1941 Society"** and the many opportunities to support our museum and its mission.



**LISA JESTER**

All of our volunteers, especially the veterans who come out and show their support, are a crucial part of our organization. They provide so much talent — helping us with many important projects. Our 2025 calendar is filled with wonderful events! We invite you to join us!

I am so grateful to be part of such a worthy cause and looking forward to the Museum's exciting future.



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



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



### Thunderbolt Newsletter

**Donna Vertolli, Editor**

*Contributors:*

Russell Davis, Lisa Jester, Bob Trivellini

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Rachel Corma, Steve Graham, Lisa Jester, Scott Sheppard, Bob Trivellini



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# Museum event recognizes the famous 442nd for their contributions during World War II, and the Japanese Americans of Seabrook, NJ

A Celebration of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, hosted by the Millville Army Air Field Museum (MAAFM) and the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center (SECC), took place on Saturday, January 25, in the Henry E. Wyble Historic Research Library and Education Center at Millville Executive Airport. Approximately 50 people attended.

The 442nd is the famous Japanese-American Army unit that fought with great distinction during World War II. It is remembered as the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in the history of the United States military.

Part of the program included a showing of the documentary *Going for Broke*, a film featuring U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, a member of the 442nd and Medal of Honor recipient, and is narrated by George Takei of Star Trek fame.

Larry Erickson, executive director of the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center provided a brief history of the Japanese Americans who came to Seabrook, NJ, from internment camps on the U.S. west coast during WWII, and of the many local ties to the 442nd.

Wendy Mitsui, a representative of the Seabrook JACL (Japanese American Citizens League), spoke about their search for biographies and photos of veterans of the 442nd, as the JACL continues to preserve the histories of those who served.

The Millville Army Air Field was honored to recognize the important history of the Japanese Americans who came to Seabrook, NJ, many of whom stayed and built lives in southern New Jersey communities, and to all of those who served in the 442nd.



Bob Trivellini, MAAFM vice president, thanks Larry Erickson, right, executive director of the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center, and Misono Miller, whose parents settled in Seabrook in 1946.



Wendy Mitsui



Larry Erickson

## Introducing the... **1941 SOCIETY**

In anticipation of the 85th Anniversary of the Dedication of **America's First Defense Airport**, and the **250th Birthday of the United States**, both in 2026, the Millville Army Air Field Museum is honored and delighted to announce the inauguration of its **1941 Society**.

Created to commemorate and celebrate the year of its founding, the **1941 Society** will pay tribute to all of our donors who give \$1941 or more in any calendar year (January 1st to December 31st).

The Millville Army Air Field was dedicated as **America's First Defense Airport** on August 2, 1941. We now want to recognize our strongest supporters as "First Among Firsts."

Any donor who makes a commitment to the **1941 Society** through December 31, 2025, will be considered a "**Founding Member**," receiving permanent recognition at our museum.

In addition, all **1941 Society** members shall receive an honorary pin declaring this special membership.



If you are interested in becoming a "Founding Member" of the 1941 Society and be part of the museum's mission of **Preservation • Education • Honor** please contact the museum at (856) 327-2347

# Museum founder Mike Stowe locates original WWII observations tower foundations ... and more

Michael Stowe, founder of the Millville Army Air Field Museum, center, came to New Jersey for a visit in fall of 2024 and offered an excursion to the original World War II gunnery ranges, located on the Bevans Wildlife Management Area just south of Millville Executive Airport.

Stowe helped locate the original foundations for WWII observation towers, one of which was recently moved to the airport for restoration.

Two observation towers were built here by the Army Corps of Engineers during WWII and used for training P-47 Thunderbolt fighter pilots at off-site ground gunnery ranges that were part of the Millville Army Air Base. Observation towers were one of the most important features of the gunnery range facilities. Pilot instructors observed training exercises from the towers to determine whether the pilot in training was qualified in their flying and gunnery skills.



Pictured left to right: NJ State Trooper Jim Sharpless, Jr., Mike Stowe, and Jim Vertolli, museum past president.

On the property of the former DeCinque farm that is now part of the Bevans/Millville Wildlife Management Area, still stands a round metal well with holes from .50 caliber machine gun shots fired by World War II pilots while training at the Millville Army Air Field. Pictured left to right: Jim Vertolli, museum past president; NJ State Trooper Jim Sharpless, Jr.; and Michael Stowe, founder of the Millville Army Air Field Museum.

## World War II Lecture Series 2024 featured RCA's Contributions

The Millville Army Air Field Museum was once again very proud to present a free lecture series on World War II.

Topics included *Products Created for the War Effort*, *U.S. Science & Technology Innovations that Invaded Post War America*, and a special series event entitled *RCA's Early History and Contributions During WWII*.

The lectures were held from January through March 2024 in the Henry E. Wyble Historic Research Library and Education Center, which is located at 23 Peterson Street, Millville Executive Airport, Millville, NJ, on the campus of the Millville Army Air Field Museum.

The lecture series was presented by MAAFM Board Member Ralph H. Thomas, a local World War II historian and author.

The RCA lecture was presented by Frederick Barnum, who joined RCA Camden in 1984 and took an immediate interest in the amazing history there. After much research, Barnum wrote and published a 400-page book entitled *His Master's Voice in America*, containing more than 700 rare photographs.

**Thank you to Ralph Thomas and guest speaker Frederick Barnum for sharing your knowledge and expertise!**



Ralph Thomas (right) thanks Frederick Barnum for his special presentation on the contributions of RCA during World War II.

# Historic WWII Observation Tower returns to Millville Executive Airport for restoration and display

After nearly 80 years, an important World War II historic artifact returned to its roots as the Millville Army Air Field Museum brought an original 45 ft. observation tower back to Millville Executive Airport, *America's First Defense Airport*.

One of only two built here by the Army Corps of Engineers during WWII, the observation tower was used for training P-47 Thunderbolt fighter pilots at an off-site ground gunnery range that was part of the Millville Army Air Base. Observation towers were one of the most important features of the gunnery range facilities. Pilot instructors observed training exercises from the tower to determine whether the pilot in training was qualified in their flying and gunnery skills.

The observation tower was moved to Mauricetown, NJ, approximately 10 miles south of the airport, after WWII when surplus equipment and materials from the air base were distributed. It was moved to a location behind the original Mauricetown Fire House. There it held the original siren and radio antenna which were still attached to its top.

"Our museum is so excited to bring this long-planned project to fruition" says Lisa Jester, MAAFM executive director. "Returning this important World War II observation tower to the airport for display in our museum's historic courtyard will allow us to document and preserve its valuable history."

The move took place on Friday, March 1, 2024.

"On behalf of the museum and its members, we thank John Ruga, owner of Northeast Precast in Vineland, NJ, for his generous support of this project, supplying a crane and flatbed truck, and transporting the tower to the airport where it will be restored before re-erecting it on site," continued Jester. "We also thank the Mauricetown Historical Society for their generosity and support."



WWII Observation tower in Mauricetown, NJ

Right: Image of a tower similar to the two observation towers that were located on gunnery ranges at Millville during WWII.



John Knoop, III, Millville Army Air Field Museum board member (left) and Jim Vertolli, museum past president (right) thank Quinton Jones, owner of the property where the tower was located in Mauricetown, New Jersey, for his historic donation.



Observation tower comes down in Mauricetown, NJ



Tower arrives at Millville Executive Airport



WWII Tower stored for restoration.

*Learning from our past ... preserving history for the future.*

# MAAFM's 23rd Annual Veterans Appreciation Day

*Continued from page 1*

He went on to serve in many military leadership roles in Germany and in the Middle East as part of Desert Storm. Cherrie's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service medal, the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, Air Medal w/V, Air medal with numeral 8, and the Legion of Merit.

"We are very honored to have Stan Cherrie speak and tell us first hand about his experiences in the military," continues Jester, "and even more importantly to help us honor all American veterans for their many contributions and sacrifices for the freedom we enjoy today."



Brigadier General (Ret.) Stanley F. Cherrie, originally from Millville, NJ, addresses the crowd as guest speaker.



Megan Poloff from Millville, NJ, now a freshman at Gwynedd Mercy University sang the National Anthem. She also sang the the National Anthem at a museum event in 2014 when she was in 3rd grade.



WWII Veterans Mike Jordan, from Vineland, NJ; Tim Kiniry, Minotola NJ; John Quinesso, Vineland, NJ; and Sandy Wentzell, Salem, NJ.



Ed Andrews, Stanley Cherrie, Mike Chiola, and former Millville Mayor Rob Shannon.



MHS Student Ayanna Murphy, and MAAFM member Katie Petronglo of Pitts Grove, helped welcome veterans.



L-R: C/SAm Harrell, US Navy veteran Pat Peters, US Air Force Veteran Willard Graham, and C/Ann G. Sever.



Museum Board Member Joe Derella thanked veterans.



Lisa Jester with WWII Veteran Mike Jordan from Vineland.



Volunteers Mike and June Chiola invited guest speaker Stanley Cherrie. Thank you!!



Raymond Bates from Buena, NJ, played taps.



Tribute bagpiper Jim Rembisz from Pennsburg, PA.

Part of the Millville Army Air Field Museum's Veterans Appreciation Day 2024 was recognizing the contributions of mural artist Sam Donovan of Woodstown.

"The murals that Sam Donovan created for our museum give a vivid visual of life here at America's First Defense Airport during World War II, as well as offer an ongoing thank you to our veterans who served," continues Jester. "Starting with the 3-story mural on Millville City Hall that was dedicated in 1998, Sam's murals have defined Millville Airport's important military and aviation history. We are delighted to recognize Sam Donovan for his outstanding creative contributions."

Keeping with past traditions, Veterans Appreciation Day 2024 featured Millville High School students, youth members of the Cumberland Civil Air Patrol, and Cumberland County Sheriff's Office Explorers —welcoming veterans and assisting with activities.

The day's activities feature a FREE 'Canteen' lunch for all visitors, sponsored by Verna's Flight Line Restaurant and Catering, that donates and prepares all of the food. Special thanks to Wawa, Bottino's ShopRite and Angelic Healthcare and SupplyItAll for their donation of items that helped make this event a success.

# MAAFM's 23rd Annual Veterans Appreciation Day



Mikayla Kuhns, 11th grade student at MHS, read the names of the 14 pilots who died while training at the Millville Army Air Field during WWII.



U.S. Navy Veteran Pat Peters and U.S. Air Force Veteran Willard Graham, carried the commemorative wreath forward for recognition of all who served.



Museum board member Donna Vertolli presented a plaque honoring mural artist Sam Donovan for the outstanding murals he created recognizing visually the important WWII history of Millville.



Brigadier General (Ret.) Stanley F. Cherrie, originally from Millville, NJ, meets with local visitors.



Millville High School students Keygan Ingram and Jaimei Brown served up donuts to visitors.



Members of the Civil Air Patrol Cumberland Composite Squadron with Jim Rembisz, bagpiper, (right). Back row, l-r: C/Tsgt McDowell, Sever, C/Lt Eachus' C/Tsg Carsten, Front row: C/A1C J Delerosa, C/Sam Harrell, C/Amn G Sever, C/Amn J. Delarosa.



Nick Nunez, the great grandson of one of the Millville Air Field's WWII veterans, Robert Smith, is wearing his great grandfather's Eisenhower jacket and hat proudly. Nick attends Winslow Elementary School in Vineland.



Millville High School students Mikayla Kuhns, Macey Williams and Olivia Headley helped served up the free canteen lunch to visitors.



MHS Student volunteers Gabriel Hinckley, Ella Taylor, Olivia Headley and Mikayla Kuhns.





# Movie Night Stars 2024



## Dave McCarthy

March 12

Dave McCarthy, from Millville, NJ, but born in Connellsburg, PA, served in the U.S. Navy from 1967 to 1970 as an electronic warfare operator and air intercept controller. He was stationed primarily out of Norfolk, VA, on the aircraft carrier USS Wright (CC-2), one of the two ships that carried the U.S. National Emergency Command Post.



Dave McCarthy, left, and with MAAFM Chairman Russell Davis. Dave serves at the museum's Volunteer Outreach Director.

## Ed, Cox, Sr.

September 10

Vietnam veteran Ed Cox, from Millville, was on the air crew of a P-2 Neptune, a maritime patrol and anti-submarine aircraft. It monitored Vietnam's coastal shipping areas and engaged North Vietnamese ships.

Ed's crew was part of a task force at Iwakuni, Japan, where they assisted with the search for the USS Pueblo, an intelligence-gathering ship that was attacked and captured by North Korean forces on January 23, 1968.



Ed Cox, left, and 2nd left, with fellow museum volunteers, l-r: Bob Dalessandro, Peter Ferwerda, Roy Wilson, and Joe Bush.

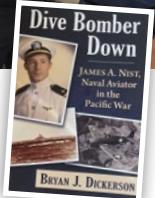


U.S. Navy veteran of WWII, Bill Breuer, left, told about his interesting experiences including bringing British spies into Nazi occupied France.

## Bryan J. Dickerson

June 11

Bryan Dickerson from Blackwood, NJ, is the author of the book Dive Bomber Down: James A. Nist, Naval Aviator in the Pacific War, which tells the story of his great uncle who flew off the USS Bunker Hill and died heroically at the age of 24 in World War II. Dickerson, is a U.S. Navy veteran of the Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Bryan Dickerson, left, and in the photo on the right with his daughter Bella, along with MAAFM Vice President Bob Trivellini and President Jerry Carey.

## Bill Breuer

December 10

100-year-old Bill Breuer from Mt. Laurel, NJ, served in United States Navy during World War II in both the Mediterranean and the Pacific. He was a Radioman second class on a PT boat. In the Mediterranean, they patrolled the southern coast of France. On one occasion, they snuck British spies into Nazi occupied France.

He later earned his private pilot's license and flew until he was 98 years old. He was a member of EAA and flew over 900 flights for the Young Eagles Program.



# Special Movie Night 2024



## Honoring all of the "Rosie the Riveters" of WWII August 13

Lee Ann Rose, historical re-enactor with *Shades of Our Past*, LLC, portrayed Emily Reid, a riveter from the Eastern Aircraft plant in Linden, NJ, during World War II. She talked about her work in the plant and other jobs women were doing while men were off to War.

*Shades of Our Past* provides historical education and entertainment from our nations' past.



Left: Lee Ann Rose, re-enactor from Shades of Our Past historical interpretation company. Right, Lee Ann with Bob Trivellini, MAAFM vice president, left, and Jerry Carey, president, right.

## Veteran Interview Project captures important veteran histories

The MAAFM Veteran Interview Project continues to preserve the important histories of veterans — a partnership between the Millville Army Air Field Museum and the Millville Public Schools. The program involves high school students interviewing and videotaping veterans about their service history. Two veterans were recently interviewed.



Alan Shapiro, 99-year-old WWII veteran, took time to enjoy the museum.



WWII Veteran Carmen Poloff was interviewed by MHS seniors Milenka Zamalloa and Cheyanna Snyder

**U.S Army Air Corps veteran Alan Shapiro**, 99, from Blue Bell, PA, was a C-47 pilot who flew missions against the Nazis. These included dropping paratroopers into Germany and supplying ammunition and fuel to allied tank units in Normandy.

In the Battle of the Bulge, Shapiro flew the C-47 and delivered a crew with its 75mm

Howitzer cannon, but was unable to fly out because of the extreme cold and icy weather. Once able to fly out, his unit returned to England and then participated in dropping the 17th Airborne Division into Germany.

**U.S. Army veteran Carmen Poloff**, 104, from Bridgeton, NJ, was interviewed about his World War II experiences by Millville High seniors Milenka Zamalloa and Cheyanna Snyder. Poloff joined the service in 1939 and was part of some of the most famous events of the War, including D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge. He received two Purple Hearts as he was wounded in both the North Africa campaign and in Europe. Poloff served in the infantry as a mess sergeant and had the amazing experience of seeing Patton address the troops while in France.

The MAAFM thanks the New Jersey Council for the Humanities for supporting this project.



NEW JERSEY COUNCIL  
FOR THE HUMANITIES

## Students engaged in the 2024 Summer Aviation and History Program

Middle and high school students had the opportunity to experience a wide variety of hands-on experiences at the Museum's annual summer program. For history, they interviewed veterans, toured the museum, and got to see and hold important artifacts. Their aviation experiences included speaking with pilots, seeing and climbing into aircraft, learning the fundamentals of flight, and building and flying balsa wood planes, and much more!

The summer program, which took place from June 25 to July 25, 2024, was hosted by the Millville Board of Education and the Millville Army Air Field Museum.



Left: Students learn the fundamentals of flight by building and flying their own balsa wood planes. Right: While learning a bit of history, students look at U.S. Army veteran Joseph Martino's WWII uniform.





C-23 Short Sherpa Transport Plane



C-47 Skytrain Nose



MAAF Original 1941 Ford Firetruck

## MAAFM's Historic Courtyard unveils four new interpretive displays

Three more interpretive displays were added to the museum's outdoor historic complex in 2024. These displays continue to tell the history of *America's First Defense Airport*, along with information describing the museum's large military artifacts from WWII and other U.S. conflicts. The displays were installed in spring 2024.

The U.S. Air Force/U.S. Army C-23 "Short" Sherpa Transport Plane came to the MAAFM in 1997, saving it from the scrap pile at Lakehurst Naval Air Station. This 30-passenger twin engine turboprop troop transport plane was used to resupply airfields in Western Europe during the Cold War. In the early 1970s it served in the Pacific. It was designed to operate from unpaved runways and make short takeoff and landings (STOL).

The museum's Douglas C-47 Skytrain Nose documents the history of the plane that served as the backbone of tactical logistical systems in every theater of World War II. This C-47 nose

honors the memory of WWII 2nd LT Anze Dalessandro, from Woodbury, NJ, who was a C-47 pilot who participated in Operation Market Garden and to all those who served on that mission and in the C-47 Skytrain.

Also added was an interpretive display in front of the museum's original 1941 Ford Rescue/Crash Fire Truck that served at the Millville Army Air Base during WWII.

Lastly, a display was created to describe the M60A3 Main Battle Tank that the museum acquired from the VFW 8838 Chapter in Roebling, NJ.

Funding for the new displays 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 (CCCHC).



M60A3 Tank



Interpretive display made possible by the  
Preserve NJ Historic Preservation Fund



Supporters of the MAAFM mission

## Joan Legg recognized for 20 years of contributions to the MAAFM



**Joan Legg**, from Millville, NJ, was recognized for her many years of service to the Museum at a retirement luncheon held on November 11, 2024. Joan was the Museum's Display Coordinator. We thank Joan for her outstanding work over the years and best wishes for a happy, healthy retirement!

## Tim Kiniry one of eight WWII Veterans who returned to Normandy for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day

The MAAFM's very own Tim Kiniry, WWII veteran from Minotola, NJ, was honored at ceremonies in Normandy, France, as he traveled there for six full days from June 4 to 10th, 2024.

Tim was just 22 when he landed on Omaha beach in the days after the D-Day invasion. There to help the injured as a medic with the 45th Evacuation Hospital, Tim remembers that soldiers had to keep moving. In his own words he documented the scene as a "bloody beach." Tim says that not a day goes by that he doesn't think about the men lost during the invasion.

Kiniry, accompanied by his niece Rachel Corma, was able to attend the D-Day 80th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony on Omaha Beach on June 6. U.S. President Joe Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron were just two of the notable speakers at this event.

"Thankfully, the people of Normandy are still honoring us," said Kiniry, "I am humbled by this."

Today at 103, Kiniry hopes that the many sacrifices of D-Day will never be forgotten.



ABC News "World News Tonight with David Muir" anchor, left, sits down with World War II veterans Jake Ruser, Andrew "Tim" Kiniry, Irving Locker, Alan Kinder and Onofrio Zicari on the beach in Normandy.



Tim Kiniry walked Omaha Beach for the first time since he had landed there during WWII



Tim at the Normandy American Cemetery



In advance of the trip to France, ABC World News Tonight Anchor David Muir traveled to South Jersey to interview Tim. He met with him at Battelini Transportation in Landisville, NJ, where Tim still works a few hours most mornings.



Tim Kiniry, left, salutes the American flag during ceremonies honoring the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.



MILLVILLE ARMY AIR FIELD MUSEUM

# MEMBERS & FRIENDS



## Remembering Susan Davis



The MAAFM family is sad to announce the passing of our good friend and volunteer, **Susan Davis**, in October 2024. Always giving her time graciously and with a smile, Susan helped with countless causes and events. Susan was our veteran liaison and voice behind many phone calls made to WWII and other veterans for many years. Susan, you are truly missed by museum staff, members and all whose lives you touched.



A special thank you to the museum's intern, **Benjamin Elizalde**, left, from Rowan University, shown here with WWII Veteran Sandy Wentzell. Benjamin is a U.S. Army veteran paratrooper who was deployed to Afghanistan. Thank you Benjamin for your service and your contributions to the MAAFM.



We are excited to wish a very happy 92nd birthday to **Flo Garrison**, on January 25, 2025. Flo is our longtime museum volunteer and widow of WWII veteran Owen Garrison. Thank you Flo for all you continue to do supporting our museum!

Thank you  
for all of your time  
talent & support!



Our museum was delighted to have a visit from the **United Flying Octogenarians (UFO) Delaware Area** in September 2024. Left to right: Ronald Grimes, Egon Frech, Charles Haubrich, Ron Smith, George Hubbard, Tom Posatko, and John Chirtea sitting in the Link Trainer.

The Museum's 1967 M1 Jeep was recently loaded up and went to the Cumberland County Technical Education Center (CCTEC) for further restoration and educational purposes. Volunteers who assisted were L-R: Ed Cox, Brian Gifford, Jerry Carey, Ed Possenti, Bob Dalessandro and Lou Iaconelli. Right: Bill Jenkins, CCTEC auto shop teacher.

## Then and now...

**Michael Stowe**, Millville native and founder of the Millville Army Air Field Museum, shown in a recent visit to New Jersey, is holding the remains of a .50 caliber machine gun on display at the Museum. Stowe discovered the bent and twisted gun while digging on a WWII P-47 crash site in October 1994, 30 years ago. Photo right is Jim Vertolli, museum past president, holding the photo from 1994.

