

Historic Aviation Memorial Museum



PROP WASH
DECEMBER 2015

Museum

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Board Members

- Lou Thomas, Pres——2016*
- Charles Alworth——2016*
- Marjorie Mustard——2016*
- Wyley Smith——2017*
- Jamal Moharer——2017*
- Chip Williams, VP——2017*
- Bob Strong——2018*
- Court Hazelton——2018*
- Dick Gilmore——2018*

(Karon Gilmore——Secretary)

(non-voting board member)

*Term Expiration Year

Museum Staff

Norm Walker——Interim Curator

Karon Gilmore ——Finance Mgr.



For our members who were unable to attend the October general membership meeting, you missed a great presentation by Col. Jim Ray, USAF Retired, and presentation of a plaque to Ted Crabtree, President of Trane, which expressed our appreciation for the donation of two air conditioners for our Restoration Center.

In an intense and meaningful briefing, Col. Ray spoke about his experience as a POW for almost 7 years at the Hanoi Hilton. He spoke on the events leading up to ejection from his F-105 and subsequent capture by the North Vietnamese. Col. Ray described both the torture and how he spent his time as a

He also described in detail the two methods the prisoners used to communicate with each other. The first was the tap code used to communicate between cells and the second was the use of finger positions (sign language) to create letters of the alphabet. Both of these communication codes are on display at HAMM. Col. Ray spoke for more than an hour and volunteered to return early next year to talk further about his wartime experiences.

November's guest speaker was Fred Jackson, who grew up in Jacksonville, TX and graduated from Texas A&M University. After graduation, he entered the Air Force and began flight training; he flew the T-37 and T-38 aircraft then transitioned to the C-130 and arrived in Vietnam on Christmas Day 1969. After leaving the Air Force, Fred was hired as a pilot by American Airlines in September, 1973 but was fired seven days later because of the fuel embargo. He then joined NASA and worked in Houston at the Johnson Space Center. In 1976, Fred was again offered employment by American Airlines and flew a variety of aircraft including the 777 before he retired.

Fred's presentation focused on the crash of the Air France flight # 447 in 2009 while on a flight from Rio de Janeiro to Paris. The aircraft plummeted 38K feet in just 3 minutes 30 seconds because the pilots lost vital speed data. Fred provided an outstanding briefing of the events leading up to and following the crash.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

2015 was a very busy year for HAMM, both at the Restoration Facility and the Museum. We began the year expecting that we would be hosting "Wings over Tyler" Airshow, which was originally scheduled for April 2016. However, due to events beyond our control, we had to postpone the airshow for at least one to 1-1/2 years. We did host The Collings Foundation in March and then in July, supported the "Wings over Cedar Creek" show.

HAMM volunteers have been busy working on upcoming activities for 2016: during 18 - 20 March, The Collings Foundation will fly in a B-17, B-24, F-51, and a UH-1H for viewing and an opportunity to go along on a flight as a paying passenger.

Challenge Air, a non-profit organization in Dallas that travels around the U. S. and arranges flights for children with special needs, is also coming to Tyler in May. You will be kept updated on these activities.

The Christmas Dinner meeting was held at Hollytree Country Club on December 9th. For those of you who did not attend, you missed an excellent talk by Steve Blow, a columnist who recently retired from the Dallas Morning News. Karon Gilmore was also presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award and the Hangar Crew received individual Recognition Plaques for their outstanding support to the museum's activities.

HANGAR REPORT

The F9F-8 physical restoration has been completed and the only item left is painting the aircraft. We hope to be hearing soon from our engineering support team on the status of installing hardware for mounting the aircraft. The Hangar Crew is also working on our MIG-17 for future display.

After receiving a request from Whitehouse Chamber of Commerce to provide an aircraft for their Christmas parade, the Hangar Crew responded with vigor. They spent many hours preparing, assembling and disassembling our Tiger Moth in preparation for the parade. As expected, the crew received many kudos from both Whitehouse and the parade-goers who enjoyed viewing the plane.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Richard Chandler—Athens, Texas. Renewed membership after several years of inactivity.

Michael Hilgert—Athens, Texas.

Andrew Bellefeuille—Whitehouse, Texas

IN MEMORY

Col. Benjamin B. Ferrell, USMC (Ret). Col Ferrell was a Tyler native, who graduated from Tyler High School, attended Kemper Military School and received business and law degrees from Baylor University. He also earned an MA in Education from Pepperdine University and an MA in Government from Georgetown University. Ben joined the Marine Corps in 1951 and served both on active duty and in the Reserves. After retiring from the Marine Corps, he returned to Tyler and taught part-time at TJC and UT/Tyler. Ben was a long-time member of HAMM and served as President from 2006 to 2009.

Gail Gorski. Gail was not a member of HAMM but her parents lived in Tyler and she donated her airline uniforms to HAMM. Gail was the first female pilot hired by United Airlines in 1978. She enjoyed a long career flying, beginning at age 16 when a friend took her on a pleasure flight. After attending Southeastern State College, where she earned a degree in aviation. Gail spent 37 years flying for United, most recently as a Captain on Boeing 747's flying international routes. She was the first female FAA Flight Inspection Pilot. Throughout her career, Gail was very active in the Aviation community and was one of the 21 original members of the International Society of Woman Airline Pilots. She also taught "Fear of Flying" classes to those who were afraid to travel by plane.

BRICK BY BRICK

You can become a part of the Historic Aviation Memorial Museum's Memory Courtyard, which is located at the old North Terminal, Tyler Pounds Regional Airport. With your donation, a brick will be engraved with your personalized dedication, installed in the courtyard, and serve

