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(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO:

V...-MAIL

FROM

*Liberty Aviation Museum
3515 East State Road
Port Clinton, OH 43452*

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

(Sender's complete address above)



LIBERTY AVIATION MUSEUM



V...-Mail President's Message Fall 2013

Dear Member,

Welcome to our latest "V...-Mail". A lot has happened at the Liberty Aviation Museum since our grand opening back in July, 2012.

We have barely had time to catch our breath keeping up with numerous events, B-25 Georgie's Gal appearances, PT boat restoration progress, gallery expansion, and inclusions of artifacts, vehicles and aircraft to the museum!

During that short time our B-25 Georgie's Gal has already garnered 5 awards at AirVenture Oshkosh, made numerous appearances at air shows and fly-overs, and graced the front cover of 3 major aviation magazines: Warbirds International, Warbirds and the EAA's Sport Aviation Magazine!

Our most exciting news to date is our museum expansion. With our museum growing faster than anticipated we have already run out of hangar, gallery and office space! For this reason we have already started construction on a new 36,000 square foot hangar and office complex! More details can be found in the body of this newsletter.

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V...-MAIL

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POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT PERMIT NO. 1

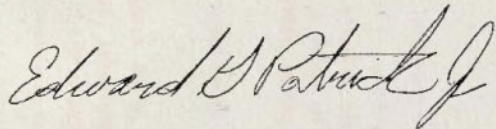
Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

We appreciate your ongoing and continued support for the Liberty Aviation Museum. We also encourage all of our members to participate and become actively involved. Remember - this is a working museum, and with your help we can keep our aircraft, vehicles, and yes- even our PT boats operating for years to come! Please consider giving a museum membership as a gift, stopping by the Diner for a bite to eat, or contributing to our phase two hangar project.

We now have a year of museum operation under our belt with many more years to look forward to in keeping history alive for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Edward G. Patrick Jr.
CEO/ Liberty Aviation Museum



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POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT PERMIT NO. 1

V...-Mail

Fall 2013



Doolittle Raiders Reunion November 8th & 9th, 2013

During the weekend of November 8th and 9th, 2013 the Doolittle Raiders held their final toast ceremony at the National Museum of the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio.

The Liberty Aviation Museum was indeed honored to be selected to participate at this historic event, and also offered the opportunity to be one of only six B-25's invited to perform the flyover at the Doolittle Raiders memorial wreath laying ceremony on Saturday, November 9th.

Our flight crew was also invited to attend both the private, invitation only Friday night Doolittle "friends and family" dinner and ceremony, and the Saturday night final toast ceremony.

During the Friday night event Liberty Aviation Museum CEO Ed. Patrick was honored to be included in the ceremony representing the Liberty Aviation Museum, and B-25 owner/operators as they presented each of the surviving Doolittle Raiders with a commemorative bottle of Hennessy Cognac encased in a custom display case. To say that the Raiders, and those in attendance were impressed was an understatement!

Saturday afternoon our B-25 "Georgie's Gal" joined B-25's: "Panchito", "Axis Nightmare", "Miss Hap", and "Yankee Warrior" in a picture perfect flyover during the Doolittle Memorial wreath laying ceremony.

Later that evening we witnessed the solemn "Final Toast" ceremony. Col. Dick Cole proceeded to center stage where he then opened a bottle of 1896 Hennessy Cognac that had been in the possession of the Raiders since the 1950's (1896 being the birth date of General Jimmy Doolittle). The surviving Raiders then raised up a final toast to the 76 crewmen who had gone before them. Truly a historic event celebrating what 71 years ago was a seemingly impossible mission undertaken by 80 volunteer Airmen to strike a retaliatory blow against the Japanese during WWII.

For more details and to see a replay of the ceremony, go to: www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/doolittle.asp
To go directly to the replay, go to: youtu.be/SDKPYpkU5Cg

WWII U.S. MTB (Motor Torpedo Boat) PT-728 "Thomcat" Project Update

PT-728 was built near the end of the war in 1945 by the Annapolis Boat Works in Maryland utilizing a British PT boat licensed design by Vosper, U.K. intended for Lend Lease to our Russian Allies. With the end of hostilities the boat remained in the USA and was eventually sold into the civilian market reconfigured as a cabin cruiser. She went through a succession of owners, lastly being reworked to resemble an 80' ELCO PT boat.

Since there are only approximately 12 PT boats remaining in existence, and only one worldwide in limited operation it was decided to completely restore her to fully operational status. Great progress has been made since we began the restoration during Fall, 2012. Once restoration is completed she will be fully certified by the U.S. Coast Guard to give rides to the public, with plans to operate PT-728 between Downtown Port Clinton and Put-in-Bay, and even tours being contemplated throughout the Great Lakes.



Ensign Leonard Thom Artifacts

Many of us are familiar with the Story of the ill-fated PT-109 piloted by then Ensign, and later President John F. Kennedy in WWII. What many do not know is that Kennedy's Executive officer, and second in command on board the PT-109 was local Sandusky native Ensign Leonard Thom. Many of Ensign Thom's immediate family still reside in the area. Lenny's sister Mary Ellen, and nephew Tom Keimer have graciously placed on loan with the museum numerous artifacts relating to Lenny's wartime service including his Elco PT boat lapel pin, uniform collar insignia, personal letters, sweat-heart bracelet, seashells from the Solomon Islands, and a very rare PT boat squadron 39 insignia.

After the PT-109 incident Ensign Thom returned Stateside and was given command of PT-587, a brand new 80' Elco. The boat was nicknamed "Thomcat" by the crew in honor of Lenny. In honor of Ensign Thom our own PT boat will be rechristened "Thomcat".

Original PT Boat Items:

Ensign and Commissioning Pennant.

The museum had the good fortune recently of receiving an original PT boat commissioning pennant, ensign, as well as a British PT boat flag from member Jack Zimmerman. Jack served in WWII aboard a Gearing class destroyer in the Pacific, namely the U.S.S Richard B. Anderson.

The Anderson had a very distinguished career continuing into the Vietnam conflict and well into the 1980's. The Anderson was later sold to the Taiwanese government where she served proudly as their Navy's flagship.

USS Enterprise CV-6 Items

We have been fortunate indeed to have acquired on loan to the museum two very historically significant artifacts from the Aircraft Carrier Enterprise from Steve Fehrmann. The Enterprise holds the distinction of being the most highly decorated ship in the history of the United States Navy.

Union Jack flag – Marked and dated: CV-6 Mare island June 1941 (just prior to pearl harbor.

Captains mess brocaded table cloth.

These items were presented to his father by the ship's captain as a way of recognizing his actions in saving the ship from imminent peril by alerting the helmsman to alter course to avoid a torpedo hit.



In less than one year our museum has already run out of room and we are bursting at the seams! An additional hangar will give us much needed space to accommodate even more exciting events and projects, as well as room to house more displays and aircraft.

We are currently erecting a 150' x 150' main hangar, along with an attached 25' x 125' workshop, and 72' x 125' multi-purpose hangar that will allow us to display PT-728 during the Winter months. A three story WWII themed control tower will be attached to the new hangar providing much needed additional office space. The third floor of the tower will have an enclosed observation room available for all members to enjoy.

Available aircraft ramp area is being tripled along with increased parking, and the addition of a new entrance drive off SR-53. To round out the expansion will be a large interactive multipurpose sign serving both the museum and airport at the SR-53 entrance.

Of course a hangar of this size does not come cheap and we ask that all of you consider a donation to help fund this much needed addition to our museum. With this in mind we are making available commemorative donor plaques that will be mounted on the walls throughout the new complex. These plaques will be made from polished black granite, and laser etched with your very own personalized inscription.

\$250

4in. x 8in. Engraved Plaque
Three Lines of Text
Choice of One Standard Graphic

\$500

8in. x 8in. Engraved Plaque
Six Lines of Text
Choice of Two Standard Graphics

\$750

8in. x 16in. Engraved Plaque
Six Lines of Text
Choice of Two Standard or Custom Graphics

\$1,000+

16in. x 16in. Engraved Plaque
Custom Text and Graphics Options
(Contact us for details.)

Donor Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Support Level (circle one):

\$250	\$500	\$750	\$1000	Other \$ _____
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Please complete the information to be included on your commemorative plaque, below.

Text:

Line 1																			
Line 2																			
Line 3																			
Line 4																			
Line 5																			
Line 6																			

Standard Graphics (Circle):

- Liberty Aviation Museum Logo
- U.S. Air Force Logo
- U.S. Army Logo
- U.S. Coast Guard Logo
- Tri-Motor Heritage Foundation Logo
- U.S. Marine Corps Logo
- U.S. Navy Logo
- U.S. Merchant Marine

For corporate donations or donations of \$1,000 or more, please contact the museum to discuss custom text and graphics options.

We will contact all donors to verify correct spelling and design choices.
Completed form and check made out to *Liberty Aviation Museum* can be mailed to:

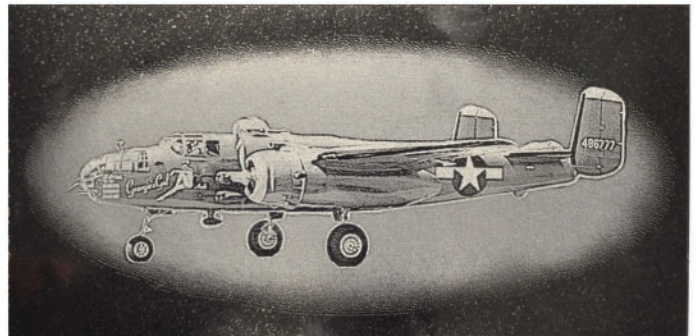
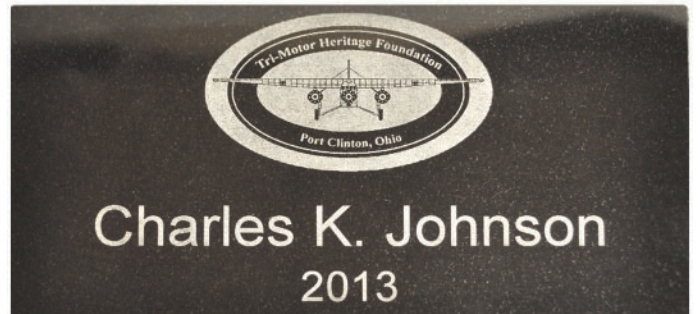
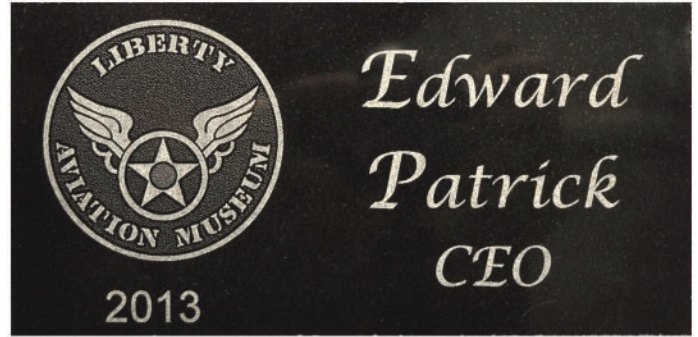
Liberty Aviation Museum
3515 E. State Road
Port Clinton, OH 43452

New Hangar Donors' Plaques

These sample images illustrate what the plaques dedicated to the donors to the new hangar fund will look like. You can see the sample plaques in-person, they are on display in the museum gallery.

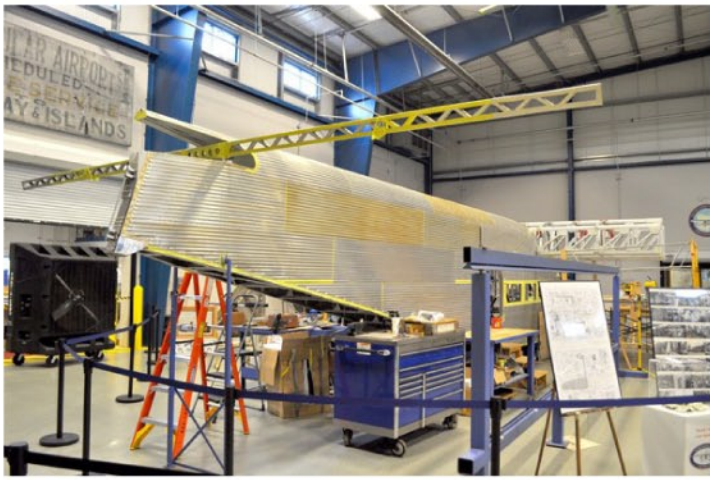
The lower right image shows how a photo can be used to create a custom graphic for those donating at a qualifying level.

Final designs may vary slightly from those shown.



Hangar Construction Progress November 2013





Ford Tri-Motor Project Update

Members of EAA chapter 1247 under the supervision of project leader Warren Cermack and chief mechanic Doug Moore continue to make steady progress on Ford Tri-motor serial #40. More skin has been added, tail wheel assembly and all three engine mounts have been completed along with many of the wing sub-assemblies. Soon the main wing will begin to take shape!

The THF recently hired aircraft mechanic Tyler Farmer and technician Tom Hilton to bring the project ever closer to completion. Welcome aboard Tyler and Tom!

Georgie's Gal Nose Art

The artwork that appears on Georgie's Gal was totally hand applied by artist Bruce Crandall. Bruce was also responsible for all the extensive detail painting and stenciling on the aircraft. Sadly Bruce passed away shortly after our B-25 was completed. To preserve the nose art a coat of clear coat was applied – however the layer was applied thicker than planned. When the masking tape was removed it left a thick edge giving the appearance that the nose art is a decal. Bruce was crushed by this, and feared his work would be mistaken as computer generated. To honor Bruce's legacy let us all make an effort to emphasize to visitors that the artwork is indeed hand applied.



Liberty Aviation Museum Online

The museum and diner web sites have fresh, more navigation friendly formats. (Hit the refresh button on your browser to load the newest update, if the old version still appears.) We are also on Facebook and Twitter:

www.libertyaviationmuseum.org

www.tingoosediner.com

On Facebook:

Liberty Aviation Museum

Tin Goose Diner

PT-728 Thomcat

B-25 "Georgie's Gal"

On Twitter:

@libertyavmuseum

@tingoosediner

@PT728Thomcat

Tin Goose Diner & Museum Gift Shop

Both the Tin Goose Diner and Museum Gift Shop are owned and operated by the Museum. All of the proceeds from both go entirely to operating the Museum. Every time you eat in the Diner or buy a gift in the shop, you are helping to support the museum.

Get to Know Your Museum Volunteers



Chances are good if you visit the museum around mid-day on most Tuesdays you will meet WWII veteran and volunteer Bill Miller. Bill can tell you about his unique equine experience with the United States Coast Guard. “Neigh” you say in disbelief... that can’t be possible, the USCG- and horses?!

Bill Miller came from the Cleveland area – actually Lakewood Ohio. He started working at a large horse riding business in the 4th grade, getting to work at 5am to water and feed the horses, and clean stalls. “We would cut the grass at the Cleveland Airport with teams and rake the hay, haul it back to the ranch and stack it way up in the lofts”.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor shore patrols were often supported by horse patrols. The USCG Mounted Beach Patrol had a Horse Boot Camp in of all places... Hilton Head Island, SC. Hilton Head Island was not the swanky vacation and golf resort area that we know of today. Back then the coastal islands were not linked by roads and bridges. These remote areas could not be patrolled by mechanized vehicles. Using horses would allow a patrol to cover more terrain than on foot.

Like many young men at age 15 Bill got bored with school and all his older buddies had gone off to the war. Bill lied about his age and half way through the ninth grade joined the United States Coast Guard. Since Bill knew

something about cleaning out stables and horses he joined the USCG Mounted Beach Patrol Service. Soon Bill was headed down to the Coast Guard’s Canine and Horse training station in Hilton Head, SC.

Bill tells us: “We were assigned our animal “army style” and we were issued the neatest uniform complete with riding britches. We were better dressed than an admiral! We carried a .45 automatic, and .45 Reising sub-machine gun.”

From Horse Boot Camp Bill was assigned to Little Talbot Island off of Fernandina Beach, Florida. There Bill tells visitors: “Our 2 man breach patrols were at night, with tower watch by day. I became the Station Cook and learned to use a three oven wood stove. We often had to scavenge for wood and chase away the diamond back rattlesnakes in the process!” Bill also talks of riding his horse “Cherry” into the surf for a swim and play time with the porpoises.



Bill was later assigned to the Great Lakes on the USCGC Mackinaw (WAGB-83) at Cheboygan, Michigan. Bill has some first-hand experience with PT Boats. “Our first call was to rescue a bunch of Sea Scouts who were operating a converted PT boat that hit a reef resulting in a large hole in its hull. The “Mack” arrived near dark and the Beaver Island crew tried to secure the boat for the night so that it would not slide off the reef and sink. But it did that anyway, and also a Beaver Island crewman was injured and I ended up being his replacement. After a year on Beaver Island, and being Cook I was awarded a transfer to Groton Cook and Baker School. My life’s dream as I wanted – to obtain my chief commissary rate, and retire as such when I hit retirement age.

It is ironic that his old ship, the Mackinaw now serves as a museum ship at the Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum in Mackinaw City, Michigan.

Bill volunteers his Tuesdays at the Liberty Aviation Museum.