

Estrella Warbird Museum "Eagle" --- May 2, 2007
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May 2, 2007

*Lt. Com. Bill Hale, USN, EWM member recalls his service:
WWII, Korea, Vietnam -- racks up 82 Combat Flights*

Bill Hale, our own Estrella Warbird Museum member, joined the US Navy six weeks after turning 17 during World War II. Bill volunteered for, and was accepted for flying duty and went to Navy Radioman School. He was then ordered to Bombing Squadron Nine (VB-9) as a crewman Radioman/Gunner.

That squadron was part of Air Group Nine embarked on USS Essex (CV-9), the first carrier of that class deployed to the Pacific in early 1943. During that tour his outfit was involved in 13 major engagements, including invasions of Tarawa, Kwajalien, Marshall Islands and Saipan. The ship and Air Group was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. They returned to the Continental United States (Conus) in late March 1944.

Bill was then assigned to Bombing 12 of Air Group Twelve and returned to the PACIFIC aboard The USS Randolph (CV-15). In January 1945 their first target was the home lands of Japan. His group was also at the invasion of Iwo Jima and Okinawa where the ship was hit by a Kamikaze in March of 1945. The ship was repaired, continued in combat and came home in early August 1945. Bill celebrated VJ day at home on "survivors leave." Following WW2 he chose to stay in the Navy and served at several different Naval Air Stations both in the US and overseas.

In 1950 when the Korean War broke out Bill volunteered for combat duty and was

transferred to Japan. During his year there he provided support to those flying combat. In 1956 he was promoted to Ensign and returned to flying as a Naval Air Observer, which later changed to Naval Flight Officer (NFO). Bill then did a 2-year exchange tour with the English Navy and also flew combat in Vietnam.

Bill attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander and was selected as the first non-pilot to be an Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of a Detachment of 4 aircraft, 24 officers and 127 enlisted men operating from deployed carriers. Bill's final tour of Naval duty was as an Avionics Systems Project Officer in the Naval Bureau of Aeronautics, Washington D.C.

During his career Bill Hale flew 38 combat flights during WW II and 44 combat flights in Vietnam. His decorations include a Distinguished Flying Cross, 8 Air Medals, a Commendation Medal, a Presidential Unit Citation, an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and various theatre medals.

During his talk Bill will tell a story about one of the games they played with an Admiral during a dining out. Sometime during the affair the Admiral changed uniform jackets with the most junior man in the bar and then went around and asked anyone to hit him in his belly! Bill will tell you what happened next when he speaks to our museum on the night of May 2th

**MAY 2 MENU/THEME:
CINCO DE MAYO**

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HARINA TORTILLAS

CHILI RELLENO

ARROZ

FRIJOLES

ENSALADA

DESIERTO

CAFE/TE

MUCHAS GRACIAS

JUAN HIMENEZ

Open @ 6, Dinner @ 7- RSVP: 466-1212

Prez Sez...

May 2007

"Rosie the Riveter..."

At times I wonder if we realize our success is only possible due to the hard work and dedication of the women we are fortunate to have in our organization. These ladies have worked thousands of hours enabling us to bring the passion and dreams of the museum into reality. I could not begin to function as President of this prestigious organization without the support of the "Warbird Ladies".

I wish to nominate all of the "Warbird Ladies" as crew persons of the month. I realize this is truly unfair since these ladies work very hard for the museum all 12 months of the year. We not only have come to expect their undivided attention to the museum, but expect them to cook our meals, clean our houses, have our cloths clean and ready for us to go about our business. I have to think back to WWII when six million ladies known as "Rosie the Riveter" built our machines, took care of the

children and still found time to tend the Victory Garden to feed the family.

Yes we have our own "Rosie the Riveters" working at the Estrella Warbird Museum. I wish to acknowledge those that have worked so hard to make our success possible.

This newsletter marks the start of a series of articles titled "Warbird Heritage" and there is no better way to start than to recognize the "Warbird Ladies"

I hesitate to start listing their names because in this job it is easy to overlook or forget to mention someone that has worked very hard for this organization.

It is my honor to be president of the Estrella Warbird Museum and I wish to express my appreciation and respect to all of our members.

George Taylor

President Estrella Warbird Museum

The High Flier

This week as in all previous weeks, the library gang of six are keeping a steady pace of cataloging the remaining four hundred plus books. We have about eighteen months behind us and approximately six more months of careful (slow) and steady work to go, before we can lay aside our pens and paper and say, "It is completed."

Our very talented and artistic Curators are hard at work in the museum; so it is with great appreciation that I acknowledge Carol Weiss, who has taken time out of her work in the museum, to help me beautify the walls of our Library. She has framed all of the pictures that are now on display in the Library. Thank you Carol and an additional thank you to Betty Miller, who today, joined Don and I and helped us hang the fore mentioned pictures.

Keep'em Flying, *Charmaine*

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members:

James Visel Regular Member
 Sponsor Peter Visel
 Rick Ford Regular Member
 Sponsor Betty Miller
 Tobin James Star Life Member
 Sponsor Dr. Will Irwin, MD
 Jean Brukiewicz Sustaining Member
 RSVP - Program
 Bruce and Rosie Hebron
 Up-grade to Life Member

The membership committee consisting of Obbie Atkinson, Betty Miller, Pam Morrison, Rosemary Netto, Charmaine Peckinpaugh and myself, are working hard to increase interest in becoming a member of The Estrella Warbird Museum.

We invite any suggestions from our members, as we feel that each one of you is our best representation of the EWM and with your help we will continue building and growing for the future.

Don Peckinpaugh, Membership Chairman

EWM Gift Shop - May, 2007

We are featuring Roaring Glory

DVD's --"with Surround Sound"--

Now "showing" -- In Our Museum.

Come visit and let yourself be

"Put In The Pilot Seat "

as well as looking around

Freedom Hall Museum.

Choose from the following aircraft:

B-25 Mitchell ---- B-17 Flying Fortress ----

- F6F Hellcat ---- F4U Corsair ----

P-38 Lightning --- TBM Avenger ----

P-51 Corsair-- P-40 Warhawk -- P-47

Thunderbolt or A6M5 Zero.--\$20.00 ea.

PreView them on our 37" LCD TV Display screen

We have several new items --

Assorted styles of Aircraft Mouse PADS,

Aircraft Spotter Mugs, Hawaiian Shirts

for Men --- Misc Aircraft T-Shirts

^^

ATTENTION!!

COME VISIT OUR Gift Shop

We Have A Special Surprise For YOUR Eyes!

Courtesy of "3 DAY BLINDS "

^^

The Gift Shop needs your help.

Hours are flexible we'll work within your schedules.

SUBSTITUTES volunteering on occasion, are always welcome.

We are now open -- Saturday 10-4pm -split shifts- and Sunday, Monday or Friday afternoons Noon to 4pm-- split shifts available.

This Summer we will need two people every weekend shift to work in the GS.

NEW POLICY-- Gift Shop & Docents will receive 10% discount on purchases!!

Contact Jackie Brooks today to become part of this great activity.

Shop ph: 238-9317 Cell ph: 703-0028

^^

Special Events - Upcoming:

Flight On "Rose"

- Sunday May 6, 4 p.m. DC-3 Flights
"Youth in Action Day"
- Saturday May 12, 10 a.m. (See page 4)
Today's Youth - Tomorrow's Future

^^

- More "Prez Sez" on p. 5
- "Museum Musings" on p.6
- Support Our Sponsors (Page 7 and 8)

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Reunion Call: USS Columbus
 Navy and Marine Corps shipmates who served CA-74/CG-12 fr. 1944-1976 and SSN-762 past and present, Reunion September 27-30 at Washington D.C. Contact Allen R.Hope, 3828 Hobson Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46815-4505; (260) 486-2221;8-5;orEmail hope4391@comcast.net.

^^

2nd Annual "Golf Shootout"
 Set for 10/8/07 - Contact Wayne Rice, 805-467-9710 for reservations, sponsorships, and details. E-mail: riceatpaso@msn.com

Museum Musings

By Betty Miller

May is a great month to visit your museum! Curator Carol Weiss has finished many hours of work getting framing done on some of our previously stored pictures. The Museum is very lucky to have the services of someone like Carol, as she is retired from being a professional framer for a large framing company. Being an artist helps as well, but Carol has performed miracles in utilizing used frames and materials whenever possible which has saved the Museum many dollars. If the Museum had to take things out to be framed we would have 75% less in the way of photos, posters, and original artwork hanging on our walls. Thank you Carol!

The M.A.S.H. unit is progressing with some new additions that should be checked out on your next visit. A new display case has been built and some exciting items are being added. This exhibit showcases the importance of the medics, doctors, nurses, helicopter pilots, and chaplains in taking care of our men and women in combat areas. There are some very interesting historical photos of medics from the Boer War through the present. Be sure to check it out.

We have been very lucky to have many folks offering items to the Museum to add to our collection. If you have something please call Betty at 471-0472 or 466-1212 or Carol at 239-2637 *before* you bring it in! We have many items in storage and are limited in space so we can't take duplicates or triplicates.

On that same note, if you have something you think we should have on display, it needs to be an outright donation. If it is a photo or prized document, we can always make copies of the item. As members of AASLH (American Association for State and Local History) as well as other professional museum organizations, we have learned that museums should not have items on loan. There are always exceptions, but a healthy professional museum needs to have control of what is on display.

Don't forget that we have changed our hours:

Friday	12 noon to 4:00 pm
Saturday	10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sunday	12 noon to 4:00 pm
Monday	12 noon to 4:00 pm

We offer free admission to our members and we are working out a member-accompanied guest program which we will announce soon. Admission is charged to non-member visitors, and special group rates are available. (A group is 10 or more people)

We have been doing many group tours lately and can always use Group Tour Docents. Call Docent Coordinator Tom Weiss at 239-2637 if you are interested in being a Docent or Group Tour Docent.

Have a great month and visit your museum soon!

Carol Weiss and Betty Miller, Curators

SPECIAL EVENT

"YOUTH IN ACTION DAY"

**DON'T MISS THIS ONE !
SATURDAY MAY 12.
10:00 A.M.**

Special visit from the US NAVY "NJROTC" DRILL TEAM and LOCAL YOUTH GROUPS . We will have **open cockpits, vintage aircraft, special interest antique autos, military vehicles** and much more. Please join us for the day. Visit with the youth who are our future while viewing the items of history we have preserved. Join us on this special day for our famous Warbird Lunch. Bring your family, bring a friend.....
George Taylor
President Estrella Warbird Museum

④

*Prez Sez.....

"How did we do that?"

The Estrella Warbird Museum recently completed a series of events that would humble most organizations. For many this time of high activity started about two years ago when the decision to construct a new museum building was put into action. I wish to congratulate everyone involved for their dedication and professionalism. Not only did we complete the new museum building, "Freedom Hall", on time and on budget, we recently hosted a series of 5 events in 13 days! These events included a dinner-movie premiere in conjunction with the Navy League (that was 110 people for the dinner movie), two major functions to dedicate the opening of Freedom hall, a bus tour to Castle Air Museum and our Wednesday night membership/dinner meeting.

Four of the five events involved food and bar service. I wish to thank **John & Mira Himes** along with their crew. Also **Rosemary Netto** and **Cathy Neitz** for making this all happen. It was the hard work of our members, directors and staff that made these events successful. Many hours of preparation and setup work go into making each event possible. Thank you to **Don & Charmine Peckinpaugh** for all of your support setting up Thomson Hall along with **Rosemary Netto**, and **Judy Corippo**. Thank you to **Arnold & Linda Hermansen** for keeping our facility looking sharp. It takes many dedicated members to keep our organization running smoothly, many of these members work behind the scenes and contribute their time and talent on a regular basis. **Thank You.....**



Just when I thought we were going to have a breather between events **Betty Miller** presented the Board of Directors with a calendar of upcoming activity that includes many major events. I encourage our members that wish to get involved with events to contact me and I can direct you to the event chairperson.

The museum continues to grow and the visitor count is increasing as well. The comments we are hearing from our visitors reflects the hard work of everyone who has participated in the construction of Freedom Hall as well as the great displays that curators **Betty Miller** and **Carol Weiss** are putting together. Our Museum gift Shop, under the able direction of **Jackie Brooks** is getting kudos as well. We should all be very proud of our organization, its' accomplishments and the positive support we have received from the community.

Please join us May 2nd for our monthly dinner meeting. John Himes and crew would appreciate your call to help them know how many to prepare dinner for. Please call 466-1212 to make your reservation.

Thank You

George Taylor

President Estrella Warbird Museum

Honoring the Past,

Inspiring the future

* REPRINT OF PREVIOUS INCOMPLETE

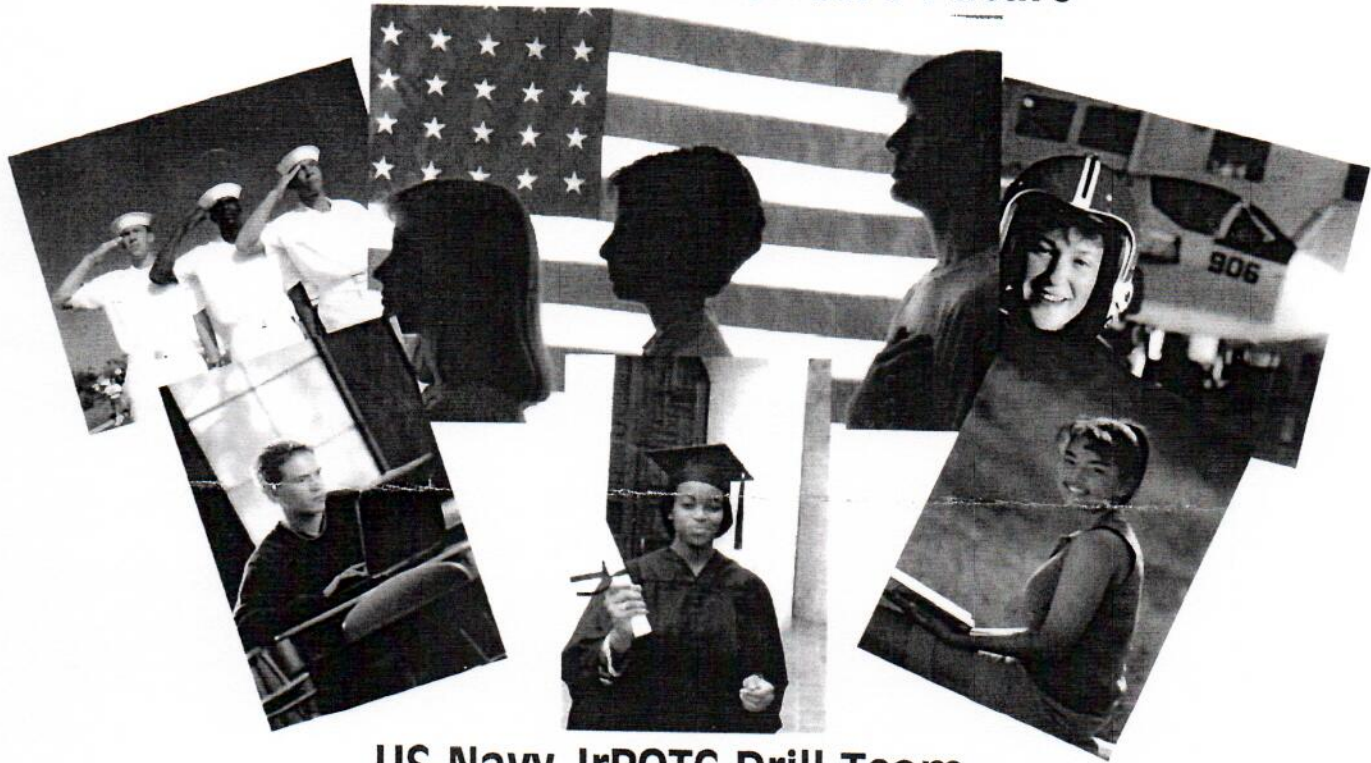
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YOUTH IN ACTION DAY

Saturday, May 12, 2007

Gate Opens at 10:00am

Today's Youth - Tomorrow's Future



FOOD

US Navy JrROTC Drill Team

Antique Cars

Police Explorer Units

MUSIC

Local Youth Groups

Special Aircraft

F-14 "Tomcat" Open Cockpit

OV-10 "Bronco" Open Cockpit

Estrella Warbird Museum

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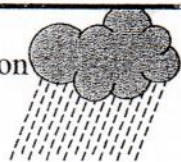
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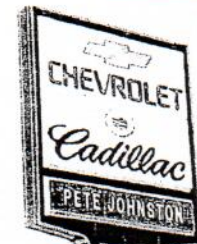
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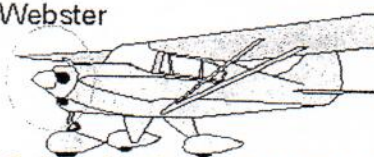
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