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# The Estrella Warbirds Museum

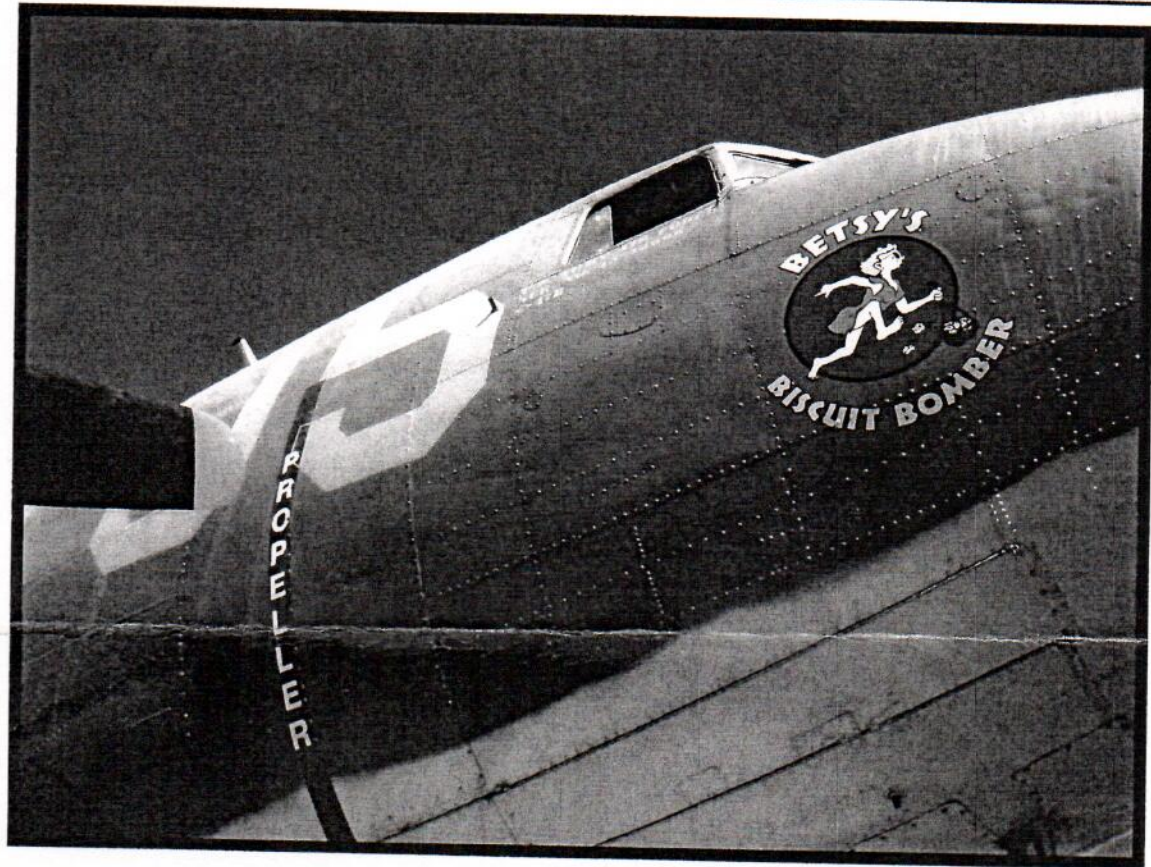
# The Eagle

Honoring the Past—Inspiring the Future

Volume 15, Number 4—Paso Robles, California—August 2010



Vol: XXI - 08



The 75th anniversary of the Douglas DC-3 special reunion will take place at Rock Falls, Illinois, July 24-26. Our C-47 will proudly take its place with the other aircraft to put more DC-3s and C-47's in the air at once than at anytime since World War II. This will be an experience of a lifetime and EWM will be a part of it!

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### Words to Live By from the Old Curmudgeon

*The three worst things to hear in the cockpit:*  
 The second officer says, "Oh S%#!!"  
 The first officer says, "I have an idea!"  
 The captain say, "Hey, watch this!"







**“Thoughts From the Flight Line”  
Musings by our President, Rob Kinnear**

I hope you had a safe and sane 4<sup>th</sup> of July. We had five vehicles in the Templeton parade that day and received a number of good comments. Thanks you to the volunteers who drove.

The F-104 repainting is completed and it was returned to the display area. We are expecting the wings for the SAAB Lansan jet sometime the first week in August. Gary Corippo has a team cleaning up the new TA-4J trainer. It is looking better everyday.

Thanks to the contributions of Raymond and Pamela Derby we now have a power lift in the vehicle restoration building. John and Cheryl Everett contributed the concrete to strengthen the floor. It is already being used to work on our vehicles.

We had a wonderful dinner meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Walter and Doris Stacey gave a riveting presentation of their experiences as an engaged and married couple during World War II. We also tried something new. After the pledge of elegance and a few short announcements, we had dinner. Enough people liked it that we will do it again.

It is going to be a busy summer. If you are not volunteering as a docent or working in the restoration shops, please think about coming out and giving us a hand. We have great people I know you will enjoy working with. At least come on out and say, Hi!

Rob Kinnear  
EWM President

**Dinner Menu**  
**Wednesday, August 4, 2010**



**Barbequed Pork Loin**  
**Roasted Potatoes**  
**Salad**  
**Rolls**  
**Dessert**

**No Host Bar**  
**\$15.00 Per Person**



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**Thank You**  
**Social Hour 6pm-7pm**  
**Dinner & Program Follows**



Dinner Catering by  
**Larry Eastwood of Vic's Cafe**

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## August, 4, 2010 Program— James Murphy Bataan Death March Survivor, American Hero

George Marrett, Program Chairman

James T. Murphy, 89, and his son Kenneth B. Murphy, 56, recently announced the publication of their new book "*When Men Must Live*", which chronicles in vivid detail James Murphy's three-and-a-half year ordeal as a prisoner of war of the Japanese during World War II. The first copies of the book were released on the sixty-seventh anniversary year of the historic surrender of more than 75,000 American and Filipino troops on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines on April 9, 1942.

The elder Murphy, who at the time was a 21-year old radio operator in the Army Air Corps, is one of the few remaining survivors of the infamous Bataan Death March. After the surrender, Japanese commanders forced thousands of already starving and sick POWs to march for more than a week under a scorching tropical sun without food or water, covering a distance of more than sixty miles to the first of several makeshift POW camps. Thousands of Americans and Filipinos died from exhaustion, abuse and murder along the route. Thousands more who made it all the way to Camp O'Donnell at the end of the march would then die from disease, neglect and starvation at a rate of 50 every day.

"It is unprecedented have written a story like this with my father--it has never been done before. It's like I've been able to step back in time and relive his long and traumatic ordeal right along side him. There were so many challenges, mysteries and miracles that happened to him along the way that allowed us to draw out some very powerful themes and life lessons for our readers," according to the younger Murphy.

"*When Men Must Live*" captures many of the day-to-day conflicts these heroes encountered, contrasting good versus evil, hope and despair, and life and death through many provocative, inspirational, and often surprising anecdotes. "All this comes from the perspective of someone who defied all the odds stacked against him, even as American military leaders and politicians—as well as the Japanese POW camp commanders— predicted or plotted his demise," Murphy's son added.

"We made a promise to each other during our darkest days as POWs that if any of us should be fortunate enough to survive and return home, we would tell the story of what happened", said James Murphy. "The book honors all those who were lost and those who made it back." According to co-author Kenneth Murphy, there are additional reasons for this story being written now.

"This is not a run-of-the-mill war story. It is one of the rare personal accounts now in print that follows one man's journey throughout the entirety of World War II as a POW. My father is also one of the unique few who survived not only the Death March, but three-and-a-half more years of systematic starvation, torture and abuse at places like Camp Cabanatuan, on the so-called Hell Ships that transported POWs to Japan in 1944, and as a slave laborer—in my father's case working in a copper mine—until he was liberated a full month after the war officially ended in 1945."

It is estimated that there are fewer than a couple of hundred remaining survivors of the Bataan Death March. To James Murphy, his survival remains both a mystery and a testament of his faith and will to return home. "I was told by my captors in Japan that there were official orders directing that all POWs be summarily massacred at the moment Allied Forces landed on the Japanese homeland. I was shown actual copies of those orders at one point," Murphy recalled. "Throughout the war, there had been so many inhumane acts of brutality and murder that I knew they were capable of carrying out their promise to do away with all of us."

Anticipation of the release of this father-son publication—nearly a decade in the making—began twenty four months ago when an article containing an excerpt of Murphy's story was released at the annual Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Test Range in New Mexico, where more than 5,000 military and non-military enthusiasts gather each year to honor those who survived or perished on Bataan. Most of those attendees participate in a 26.2 mile marathon "march" through the desert to pay a physical and symbolic tribute to those like Murphy who endured the real Death March more than six decades ago.

James Murphy currently resides in Santa Maria, California, with his wife Nancy, after serving a twenty-two year career in the Air Force before retiring as a Captain in the early 1960s, then spent the next twenty-three years working for an aerospace and missile defense contractor at Vandenberg Air Force Base. His son Kenneth is currently an author and management consultant residing in Irvine, California.

Because, life in Japanese prisoner of war camps was brutal, you should be prepared to hear some very unpleasant, perhaps horrifying, stories as James and his son describes that life.





# Movie Nite !

Wednesday - August 11

6:00pm - Pizza & Popcorn

6:30pm - Movie Time

## OCTOBER SKY

STARRING: Jake Gyllenhaal, Laura Dern,  
Chris Cooper

October Sky tells the story, based on a real memoir, of four boys in a poverty-stricken corner of Appalachia who are determined to build their own rocket, and help get America back in the space race. It's seen through the eyes of young Homer Hickham, who was inspired by seeing Sputnik in the sky in the 1950's. They succeeded over the doubts of their small community of coal miners. They won a science fair, received scholarships, and Homer grew up to become a NASA scientist. Great family movie.



**Three and a Half Stars - Roger Ebert (1999 - 108 min.)**  
**"This movie has deep values."**

### MOVIE BUFF'S QUIZ

In the film one of the mine workers watching the boys launch one of their rockets, Leon Bolden, is almost hit when it goes astray and says, "Homer, I flew with the Red Tails in World War II and seein' that rocket come at me... it almost took me back there." Who were the 'Red Tails' and what was their more popular name? Find the answer on Page 11.



## Docent Doings

By Betty Miller & Jeanne Thiebaud

Our Docent Co-ordinator Jeanne Thiebaud has been really working to get folks scheduled for training as Docents, Sim Operators and Woodland Auto Display Docents. Many folks are currently volunteering in other capacities but are also taking on new duties as well.

Some "New Faces" to newly added responsibilities are:

Gift Shop:

**Pat Kitchen and Vicki Tovar**

Freedom Hall:

**Bill Pluma, Peter Snyder, and John Whitworth**

F-18 Simulator Trainee:

**Steve Bailey**

Woodland Auto Display:

**Steve Bailey, Betty Miller, Bill Pluma, Peter Snyder, Jeanne Thiebaud and Kenny Van Blargen**

We really appreciate those who do not limit themselves but are seeking to learn about things and enjoy meeting people. THANK YOU!! If you would like to join this esteemed group of Volunteers, contact **Jeanne Thiebaud** at (805)-238-3897 or email her at [jtbow@att.net](mailto:jtbow@att.net)

The Woodland Auto Display folks will be getting a new Docent Handbook, thanks to the efforts of **Toni Moore** and **Betty Miller** and some training sessions will be scheduled starting in August, to go over Docent Duties unique to the Woodland Auto Display.

The most wonderful thing about all our Volunteers is the fact that though they may wear a different badge or shirt when Docenting at each of our venues, they **ALL** are integral parts of the Estrella Warbird Museum Family!

Come join our Family, we guarantee you will never be bored!

Betty & Jeanne

## -- GIFT SHOP GOSSIP --

**Jackie Brooks, Gift Shop Mgr.**

Summer's here and many of us are having visits from children and grandchildren. What better way to entertain your guests and family and help support your Museum at the same time than bringing them to see our collection of gifts, airplanes, and racing cars and maybe even squeeze in a half-hour "ride" in our F-14 Simulator. While in the Gift Shop take a look at our books, clothing, and other flight memorabilia, as always at great prices. And, don't forget, when birthdays roll around the Gift Shop is the place to come and find that "special gift".

As always, the Gift Shop will be open from 5:45 to 6:45 PM every month before the Dinner Meetings so pick up a nice cold drink and then come by to visit. Make sure you bring along your friends because it's a great way to introduce them to the Museum. And remember, you and your guests visit the Museum for free.

I want to welcome our new Gift Shop docents Pat Kitchen and Vicki Tovar to the fold and thank them for volunteering. We still need help on Fridays and weekends so if you are interested in volunteering please give me a call at 227-0440 and I'll get back to you as soon as I can, I promise.

Jackie



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# MUSEUM MUSINGS

By Betty Miller, Museum Curator

Summer weather has finally hit and the best time for a visit to your Museum is in the morning hours between 10am and noon! Freedom Hall is always cool, especially with the addition of our new ceiling fans which move the air conditioned cool air down to where you are walking around seeing all the new additions! Many thanks to Directors **Ron Brooks** and **Mike Kelley** for installing these! You will find that the Brooks Building is also pleasantly cool as is the Woodland Auto Display building. The only place that is toasty is outside among our great aircraft displays.

We have recently acquired some great new items, including a **complete WW I nurses uniform!** We have some wonderful uniforms that are still in storage due to the lack of large Uniform Display Cabinets. I can hardly wait until I can raise the funds needed to have another large uniform display cabinet (they run about \$900.00 each for the materials—wood, casters and glass, but we have been privileged to have the labor donated by the Central Coast Woodworkers group) Speaking of Uniforms, be sure to check out the newly displayed WW I French, German and American enlisted uniforms...these are on loan from Curator Associate & Docent, **John Gramentine**.

We were able to get three glass display cabinets from Jeanne Gibson who owned Gibson & Co. in downtown Paso.

I now have to get them painted and install new backs. Once completed, they will house some of our smaller artifacts, many of which are still in storage. Check us out in August to see all our latest additions and changes.

Our visitors have increased from last year. Of course the Warbirds, Wings and Wheels II event brought in some extra visitors as well. Our total visitor count through the end of June was **6288**. That is the good news. The bad news is that only **1290** were **paid admissions!** We have a great facility and we continue growing, but we still have to pay for our electricity that runs the AC and lighting, the rent to the city of Paso Robles for our 12.5 acres, and cover the expenses of restoring our wonderful artifacts including vehicles, aircraft and tanks! We had 25 Group Tours from January 5, 2010 thru June 17 which accounted for 367 paid-visitors (the smallest tour was 10 and the largest was 85.)

We are happy to announce that by Friday, August 13, 2010 all of you will have received your new **Estrella Warbird Museum Membership Cards!** As many of you are aware, most Museums include a membership card as part of your membership. As a member, one of your benefits is free admission to the Museum. Because of our increasing numbers of members, the Gift Shop workers manning the admission counter cannot remember all your names and faces. When you receive your card, turn your card over to see the benefits that pertain to the type of membership you have on the back.

***You must present your card to the Gift Shop Volunteer to obtain your FREE admission.***

Some Changes to be aware of:

**Annual** (one person) and

**Family Membership** (2 adults-4 kids 18 years or under)

Have unlimited **FREE** admissions,

Their Guests must pay regular admission charges

There is no longer a discount available for Gift Shop purchases for any type of member.

All Members will be issued their cards prior to August 13<sup>th</sup>. New members will have theirs with their name badges at the Dinner Meeting following their submission of application.

Betty

(7)





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Rosemary Netto—467-3521

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Judy Corippo—238-2090

#### Docent Coordinator

Vacant

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## Lost & Found

There are several unclaimed items in the Museum's Lost & Found located in the Gift Shop. If one of these is yours, it's waiting for your arrival!

- 1 large, chartruse green drinking cup
- 1 olive-green sun visor
- 1 Pacific Trail jacket, large, Navy outside, Tan inside, with stain stopper fabric and a hidden hood.

The Gift Shop is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

## MOVIE BUFF'S QUIZ THE ANSWERS

Leon Bolden says he flew with the "Red Tails" in WWII. The "Red Tails" were the 332nd Fighter Group, an all African American unit better known as the "Tuskegee Airmen".



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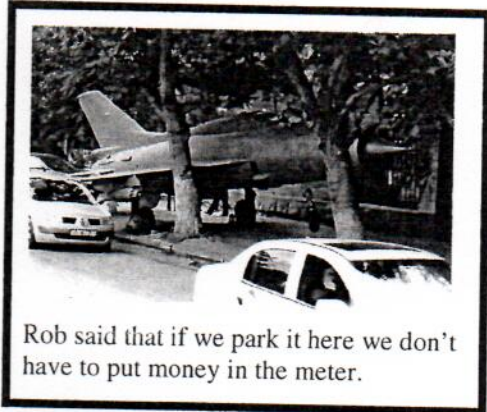


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