

# NOTAM

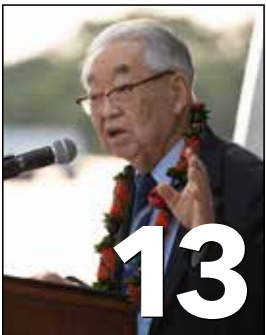
NOTICE TO AIRMEN VOL.1 2023 | ISSUE #51

PEARL HARBOR AVIATION MUSEUM FORD ISLAND, HAWAII



**TBM AVENGER PATROLS  
ABOVE MOUNT SURIBACHI**





# NOTAM

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### ON THE COVER:

This stunning photo of a TBM Avenger on patrol over Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi was taken by the legendary Edward J. Steichen, one of the greatest photographers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He commanded the Naval Aviation Photographic Unit after having volunteered for duty in 1942, at age 62. He and his elite photographers were in the thick of many Pacific Theater battles during WWII.

# LARGER THAN LIFE: WWII FIGHTER PILOT CAPT. JERRY YELLIN

By Elissa Lines, Executive Director

Our cover image pictures a TBM Avenger flying over Mount Suribachi. The glorious image hints to the horrific struggle to capture Iwo Jima. During the month of March, several surviving Iwo Jima veterans will travel back to Iwo Jima in



order to commemorate the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle; there, they will remember, honor and heal. The scars of war, often invisible, linger for decades, impacting the lives of our service members and those around them.

As we work to build out our American WWII aviation battlefield experience here in

Pearl Harbor, we are focusing on sharing this history through the personal stories and remembrances of those who served, those who perished, and those who survived.

In 2016, during our 75th commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor, many of us met Capt. Jerry Yellin, a confident, powerful, larger than life, WWII P-51 fighter pilot who not only supported the victory at Iwo Jima in March of 1945, but who also flew in the final mission of WWII the day the war ended, August 14, 1945. It was on that final mission that his wingman, Phillip Schlamborg, was killed – the last man killed in a combat mission in WWII.

## WWII TRAINING

Capt. Yellin graduated from Luke Air Field in Arizona as a fighter pilot in August 1943. Like many young men of his time, Yellin enlisted shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, on his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. He served in WWII from 1941 through 1945 in the Army Air Corps. He spent the remainder of his service flying in the P-40, P-47 and P-51 in combat missions in the Pacific as a member of the 78<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron.

We remember and honor Jerry not only for his service but for his strength in overcoming the lingering personal battle of PTSD. For decades following WWII, Jerry was troubled by the haunting question of why he, unlike so many of his comrades, survived the war. He aimed to help heal the wounds of war while dissolving the barriers and misunderstandings that bring us to the point of destroying ourselves. He said:

***“We are all the same in the eyes of Nature. Human Beings! We cannot continue to kill people because of what we believe. We need to join together as humans or we as humans will destroy our home, the Planet we all inhabit.”***

He delivered an insightful glimpse into the life of a warrior from the perspective of a humble humanitarian, a lesson he experienced very personally. “In 1988, my youngest son married the daughter of a Japanese Kamikaze pilot, which took me from hatred to love. I have three Japanese grandchildren. I’d like their contemporaries to know that my grandchildren’s grandparents served their countries with honor. No matter what we learned about the Japanese, or what they learned about us, we are not what we believe — we are all human beings.”

## DEDICATING HIS LIFE TO VETERANS

He dedicated his later life to bringing healing and hope to a new generation of veterans who struggle with PTSD and to sharing his message of humanity. In his book, *The Blackened*



*Canteen*, Jerry shares an act of humanity that transcends war and speaks to his commitment to remind us all, “We are all human beings.” Each year, on December 6, Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum has joined the National Park Service in the Blackened Canteen ceremony, welcoming Dr. Sugano from Japan. Dr. Sugano,

whose commitment to honoring an amazing act of humanity in the midst of war is detailed on page 17.

Though Jerry passed away in 2017, his involvement and commitment to the Blackened Canteen lives on in his legacy. I’ll end with a quote from Jerry – ***“Those who perform acts of kindness without expectation of reward receive the greatest reward of all, immortality.”***

*Note: A documentary about Captain Jerry Yellin, Jerry’s Last Mission, will be shared during the 2023 GI Film Festival in San Diego. The festival is from May 15-20 at the Museum of Photographic Arts. This multi-day event is dedicated to presenting films and events for, by, and about the military and veterans.*

Mahalo,





# WE WELCOME OUR NEW MUSEUM BOARD MEMBERS

*By Ruth Limtiaco, Board Member and Nominating Committee Chair*

Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum is pleased to announce the addition of five new board members this year, whose talents will add important knowledge and skill sets to our Board of Directors. Key areas of expertise that were sought by the Museum's Nominating Committee, with input from many Board Members, were education, media, military/industrial, aviation and human resources.

Bringing their most impressive backgrounds to the Museum in these areas are Tanja Janfruechte, Chief Executive Officer and President of Pacific Air Cargo; Katie Pickman, General Manager of Hawaii News Now; Albert Chee, Jr., Vice President of Island Energy Services, LLC; Brig Gen Dann Carlson, former Wing Commander of the Hawaii Air National Guard and Assistant Superintendent for School Facilities and Support Services, Hawaii State Department of Education; and Janeen Woellhof, Corporate Human Resources Director of Pacific Marine and Supply Company.

A brief introduction to these new Members follows, along with a warm welcome from the Board of Directors, management, and staff of the Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum.



## **TANJA JANFRUECHTE**

Tanja Janfruechte has been with Pacific Air Cargo since 2005, having served as Corporate Vice President and now CEO and President. Pacific Air Cargo has served as an invaluable partner of the Museum, having generously transported, on numerous occasions, equipment in support of our operations.



## **KATIE PICKMAN**

Katie Pickman is an experienced broadcaster who is leading Hawaii's largest multimedia organization. She and her colleagues serve and connect our islands with over 50 hours of local news per week. Katie is a certified life coach and serves on multiple Boards in Hawaii.



## **ALBERT CHEE, JR.**

Albert Chee, Jr. is a member of the leadership team that created Island Energy Services, LLC, a locally-managed and headquartered independent petroleum refining and retail marketing company resulting from a buyout of Chevron Corporation's Hawaii business.

Prior to this position, he served as Government and Public Affairs Manager of Chevron Corporation in Hawaii.



## **BRIG GEN DANN CARLSON**

Brig Gen Dann Carlson brings more than 30 years of diverse experience as an Air Force senior leader, Assistant Superintendent for the Hawaii Department of Education, and as an F-22 fighter pilot. He recently served as the Commander of Hawaii Air National Guard's 154<sup>th</sup> Wing, overseeing

1,900 airmen. His interest in education is demonstrated by his service of five years managing a yearly budget of over \$750 million in the ninth largest school district in the nation.



## **JANEEN WOELLHOF**

Janeen Woellhof serves on the senior management team of Pacific Marine and Supply Company and its five subsidiary companies as Corporate Human Resources Director. She is responsible for delivering strategic planning and management of talent programs and compliance with

a focus on progressive enhancements and positioning as an employer of choice.

Welcome aboard!



# CONNECTING WITH OUR GUESTS WITH AUDIO GUIDES

By Bill Miller, Director of Operations



***Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum's visitor experience has been greatly enhanced with the launch of new audio guides.***

In March 2022, we launched a new interpretive tool to ensure our guests will learn and enjoy our stories at their personal leisure and pace. The new Podcatcher audio guides are indeed successful and have been distributed to nearly three times more guests than our previous audio guides. Our monthly visitor survey comments firmly capture guest appreciation, and if you prefer an appeal to authority, our Podcatcher audio guides are also utilized by the USS *Midway* Museum in San Diego.

## VISITOR EXPERIENCE TEAM LEADS THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

The complicated selection, production, and implementation process was led by our Visitor Experience Manager, Eric "Papa" Pradel and his team. A special shout-out to Jack (the English voice talent), Jonah, Savanna, Kristin, Valeria, Miwa, Gerard, David D., Eunkyung, and all of the staff and volunteer docents who helped develop and continue to expand the audio script, as our exhibits continue to be fruitful and multiply!

Our visitor experience is not a one-size-fits-all operation. Fewer than 20% of our guests are aviation and history enthusiasts, and the remaining 80% have varying degrees of motivation to experience all the Pearl Harbor historic sites in one day. We, of course, endeavor to engage 100% of our guests, and because the Podcatchers allow for individual exhibit selection with options to choose to learn more at each station, we're able to better capture the interest of all those who decide to enter our Museum.

## AVAILABLE LANGUAGES INCLUDE ENGLISH, JAPANESE, MANDARIN, KOREAN, SPANISH AND FRENCH

We currently lease 100 units of Podcatchers, and available languages are English, Japanese, Mandarin, Korean, Spanish, and now French. Podcatchers are included with general admission and promoted and distributed by our wonderful front desk staff. Guide ID manufactures and helps our team maintain the Podcatchers at the Museum, and Gordon, at Global Local Partner, produced and recorded the non-English versions. Even if you've been out to see us several times, come out again to experience our hallowed grounds at your own pace using a Podcatcher audio guide. Gracias, Arigato, Xie-Xie, Kamsahamnida, Merci, and Mahalo!



# REMEMBERING WWII NAVAL AVIATOR JACK HOLDER

By Greg Waskul, National Development Director

*Born to a farming family in Gunter, Texas, Jack Holder joined the Navy in 1940 (below, left) when he was 18. He was on duty at Naval Air Station Ford Island during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack, just yards from what is now Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum. He was also a survivor of the Battle of Midway, and attended the premiere of the film "Midway" in Los Angeles in 2019 (center-left). Jack was a great friend of the Museum for the last decade of his life. He made his final visit to the Museum last December (center-right and right) to attend our 2022 For Love of Country Gala and meet with his old Navy unit. Below, Jack explains his experiences as a PBY flight engineer during the Battle of Midway in June 1942. He was 101 years old when he passed away in Chandler, Arizona on February 28, 2023. His Memorial Service will be held April 14, 2023 at Cornerstone Church, 1595 S. Alma School Rd., Chandler, AZ 85286. Jack will be greatly missed. He was a true hero, whose compelling stories of patriotism and valor, such as the one below, inspired many of his fellow Americans.*



"We found the Japanese fleet on June 3, 1942, 450 miles from Midway. I happened to be in the second PBY to spot this armada approaching Midway. June the 4th the enemy hit Midway. At that time the Marines were equipped with an obsolete aircraft, the Brewster Buffalo. They sent 27 of them aloft, and only 7 of them returned, and they were badly damaged. In addition, our torpedo bombing fleet was completely annihilated.

## THE TIDE BEGINS TO TURN

"But this was the time when the tide of the war in the Pacific was about to turn. We had airborne three squadrons of Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bombers. They had been airborne for two hours, searching for the Japanese fleet, running low on fuel. But the commander, LCDR Wade McClusky, said we're going to press on just a little longer. And just moments later, he spotted the white wake of a fast-moving Japanese destroyer and realized that the ship had to be racing to rejoin the main fleet. They followed the ship, which led them to the enemy carriers. Diving from 20,000 feet, they sank three carriers in four minutes.

## SPOTTING AN ENEMY SUBMARINE

"I was airborne in my PBY at 4 o'clock that morning, armed with four 500-pound bombs. In the early afternoon, we found a submarine that had just surfaced. We dropped our

first bomb on the fan tail. On our second run, we dropped a second 500-pounder just behind the conning tower. And we made six circles around it, watching all kinds of debris surface. We assumed we had sunk the sub.

## A DIFFICULT DECISION TO MAKE

"Later that afternoon, we had lost all contact with Midway. We did not know if we still controlled it or if the Japanese had it. We had a decision to make. We could take a chance on returning to Midway, or we could drop our remaining bombs and land at sea. We dropped our remaining two bombs, set down at sea, threw out a sea anchor, and drifted all night. I took a sleeping bag, climbed on top of a wing, tied myself to an antenna, and spent the evening.

## FINDING FUEL AT THE FRENCH FRIGATE SHOALS

"At sunup the next morning, we finally made contact with Midway. We learned that we had been successful. We were also told that there was a destroyer at the French Frigate Shoals loaded with aviation fuel. We took sun sights, found our position, flew to the shoals, refueled, and went back to Midway.

"When we returned to Pearl Harbor, we were greeted by Admiral Nimitz. He shook hands with everybody and it was quite a homecoming."

# A WAC(K)O RESCUE ATTEMPT DURING WORLD WAR II

By Jonah Burstein, Museum Docent



WACO (WAY-CO) gliders were aircraft designed to transport heavy equipment to areas behind enemy lines during WWII. WACOs, weighing 3,900 lbs., were light enough to be towed by cable behind C-47s. Once over the battlefield, WACOs would detach from the C-47 and make their way to the fight, delivering soldiers, jeeps, howitzers and more. Recovery of surviving gliders would be conducted by ground vehicles after the battle ended. In the summer of 1945, however, American lives depended on a WACO glider fulfilling an entirely different function.

On May 13th, 1945, about 2,500 miles south of the Battle of Okinawa on the Island of New Guinea, 24 U.S. military personnel boarded a C-47 named Gremlin Special for a tourist flight over “Hidden Valley.” The main attraction was an aerial view of settlements belonging to the Dani people who, utilizing only stone tools, had established a hybrid agricultural/hunter-gatherer society in the unforgiving environs of New Guinea. The purpose of the mission was a pleasure trip to boost morale with the end of the war in sight but just out of reach.

The flight would prove to be fatal for the crew and 21 of the passengers. The exact cause of the crash is unknown but is likely attributable to fog obscuring the pilot’s vision, causing them to crash into the mountains surrounding the valley. The three survivors-- Army Lieutenant John McCollom, Women’s Army Corps Corporal Margaret Hastings, and Sergeant Kenneth Decker - faced an uncertain future. Despite serious injuries among the survivors – including burns and broken bones – the trio made their way to the valley, to hopefully be more visible by passing aircraft.

The trio encountered members of the indigenous Dani tribe in the valley. Given rumors the Dani were cannibals and headhunters, the meeting was tense. Too injured to fight, McCollom, Hastings, and Decker used hand signals and smiles

to convey their friendly intentions. Despite the language barrier, peace prevailed. The rumors proved wildly inaccurate as the Dani assisted and befriended the stranded Americans.

Locating the trio took allied forces three days of flights over the mountains and valley. In the interim, supplies and equipment were dropped by parachute from C-47s. Most time-sensitive was the need for medical supplies and medics. Delivering supplies was easy, but dropping medics into “Hidden Valley” meant additional personnel would be trapped and would add to the rescue burden. This risk proved inconsequential for a group of ten paratroopers, led by Captain C. Earl Walter Jr. Aided by some liquid courage, Filmmaker Alex McCann also parachuted in to document the ordeal.

The prospect of rescue was small since no self-propelled aircraft with the ability to land or take off in the valley were available. The WACO glider, however, was small enough to land in the valley and strong enough to carry everyone out over multiple trips. The big problem, though, was takeoff since the WACOs did not have engines. A proposal was made to have a C-47 fly over the area and reattach itself to a WACO in the valley; although, such a maneuver had never previously been successful. As time dragged on without any other viable plan proposed, the WACO rescue attempt was approved.

With the help of the Dani and any equipment that could be dropped by parachute, the motley crew cleared a location for the WACO to land, and hopefully, to take off as well. Four weeks after the Gremlin Special crash, a WACO glider was on its way to rescue the survivors. The paratroopers used their parachutes to create a grapple that an aircraft overhead could grab. Such a stunt had never been tested; yet, with careful planning, ingenuity, skill and luck, all three landings and takeoffs were successful and the rescue was a success!

# A LEGACY OF UNCOMMON VALOR: THE BATTLE FOR IWO JIMA

By Tracie Hunter, Museum Volunteer and Beyond the Creative Director

***"Among those who served on Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue."***

***— Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz***

In the 36 days of fighting on the island, nearly 7,000 U.S. Marines were killed in what would become the most costly battle in the history of the United States Marine Corps. However, the acts of bravery and heroism that occurred on Iwo Jima did not go unnoticed, with 27 Medals of Honor being awarded (more than any other battle in U.S. history).

## THE GREAT WOODY WILLIAMS

One of those Medal of Honor recipients was a dear friend to the museum, Mr. Woody Williams. Woody, the last living WWII Medal of Honor Recipient, passed away shortly before Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum's gala this last year.



***Woody Williams in WWII and later in life.***

After returning home from the war, Woody dedicated much of his life to remembering his fallen comrades. He founded the Woody Williams Foundation, which carries on his mission "to honor, recognize, and serve Gold Star Families and the legacy of their loved ones, who have paid the ultimate sacrifice."

## A LEGACY THAT WILL LIVE ON

"This medal doesn't belong to me. It belongs to them because they gave their lives for me," Woody said of his Medal of Honor. His legacy will live on in the more than 116 memorials he helped to place in all 50 states that honor Gold Star Families and remember their sacrifice.

But why Iwo Jima? What was so important about the small, eight-square-mile piece of land that made it strategically essential for the United States to control?

## A PERSONAL IWO JIMA STORY

I had the honor to sit down with Iwo Jima survivor and 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division Veteran, Mr. David Greene, to hear his harrowing personal account of the Battle of Iwo Jima and his unexpected return, nearly 70 years later, to participate in a peace ceremony with his former enemies.

***"The reason that we were going to take Iwo Jima was we had B-29 bombers flying up over Iwo Jima to bomb Japan. Iwo Jima was full of Japanese airplanes. So, they would run up and shoot down these B-29s."***

"We'd bomb the daylight out of Iwo Jima, ruin all their airplanes, but it's only 650 miles from Japan, so they'd just bring out a bunch more. So, we said, 'We've just got to get that island!'" David Greene remarked, explaining the critical need to gain control of the island.

After spending 36 days on the island, Greene never expected to go back. After the war, he returned to his hometown



***Iwo Jima survivor & Marine David Greene.***

of Waterloo, Iowa, started a family, and continued on with his life. 70 years later, he received a call being invited back. Greene shared his sentiments on his return to the former battlefield.

***"I never thought that I would be going back to that little island and standing there doing a peace ceremony on those eight square miles to commemorate the deaths and struggles of two countries that are now friends. It's just unreal. And I'm really glad that I was able to do it."***

## IWO JIMA 78<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

March 26, 2023 marks the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Battle of Iwo Jima, and we should never forget the bravery of men like Woody and David. Not only for their service during the war, but also for their dedication to rebuilding relations and reconciling with former enemies so that we may continue to live freely and in peace with other nations.

Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum has had the honor of hosting many survivors from the Battle of Iwo Jima over the years. As the number of WWII veterans dwindles significantly each day, our mission to preserve their stories in the annals of history has never been more critical.





*F4U Corsair from VBF-84 taking off from USS Bunker Hill for a close air support mission over Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945.*



*First moments of USMC assault on Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945.*



*"My Girl" North American P-51 prepares for takeoff from Iwo Jima.*



*Famous photo of flag raising on Mount Suribachi, February 23, 1945.*



*F4U Corsairs are lined up and ready for action on Iwo Jima in 1945.*

# 2022

## GRATITUDE REPORT

We are excited to share our immense **gratitude** – the achievements and celebrations included on these pages would not have been possible without you. Your time, your talents, your financial support, and your vision powered us forward. Fast and furious, we can honestly say that 2022, the entire year, reminded us of what is possible when we work, dream and invest together. We are indeed a museum, a center of education and inspiration, ensuring that all who visit realize that it is by learning about and understanding our past, we are best prepared for the challenges of our future. As you enjoy this year's Gratitude Report, please remember, "Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well" (Voltaire). Mahalo Nui Loa.



### JANUARY 1

#### Museum Store Takeover

The Museum store underwent the final transition into a museum-owned, museum-supplied, and museum-operated establishment.



### APRIL 23

#### Ellison Onizuka Day of Exploration

Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum partnered with the Boy Scouts of America Aloha Council to host the 2022 Ellison Onizuka Day of Exploration. More than 4,500 attended this family-friendly event, with over 50 hands-on activity booths, workshops, airborne demonstrations, open cockpits and so much more!



### FEBRUARY 1

#### Facebook Reaches 100K Followers

The Museum's Facebook account achieved an exceptional milestone in February by amassing an impressive following of 100k. We are proud to share content that shares our mission and engages people from around the world!



### MAY 19

#### Top Gun: Maverick Movie Premiere

The Museum hosted the Hawaii movie premiere of *Top Gun: Maverick* in Hangar 79. This special screening was opened to service members and Museum friends and supporters.

### MARCH 4

#### SBD-2P Moves Into Hangar 37

Following the restoration by the team at Kalamazoo Air Zoo and successful delivery to our Museum, our Douglas Dauntless SBD-2P was proudly put on display in Hangar 37. The previously displayed Dauntless SBD-5, which was on loan from the National Naval Aviation Museum, was subsequently shipped to Massachusetts to be displayed at the Collings Foundation Museum.



### MAY 29

#### Ford Island Control Tower Opens

After more than a decade of work, the Museum opened the historic Ford Island Control Tower and its three new exhibits, including the Top of the Tower, a first-class guided tour of the 15-story, 168-foot structure, with access to a restored elevator and the observation deck to behold "Freedom's View," a stirring 360-degree panorama of America's WWII aviation battlefield.



### JUNE 9

#### 2022 Scholarship Award Ceremony

The Museum hosted our inaugural Scholarship Award Ceremony on June 9. Nearly \$30,000 was distributed to twelve (12) well-deserving students from the following scholarship funds: For Love of Country Scholarship, Brig Gen Robert B. and Judith Maguire Scholarship, Frank Der Yuen Aviation Scholarship, and Col. Robert P. Moore Scholarship. These scholarships will assist these amazing students in their education journey to pursue a career in the aviation and aerospace fields.







## JULY 15

### Summer Camps Success

Our Museum summer camps wrapped up in mid-July. Our three, 5-day summer camp sessions, which include Explorers Club, Flight School for Boys and Flight School for Girls, provided 100 students the opportunity to explore their passion for science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and aviation. This year's camps were the first to use our new Aviation Learning Center.



## OCTOBER 15

### Southwest Airlines Winter Fest

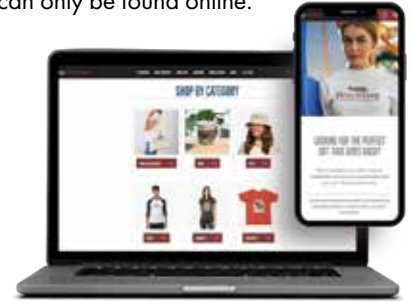
In partnership with Southwest Airlines, the Museum launched the Winter Fest Education Travel Program in October. Southwest generously donated 500 complimentary travel vouchers and 400 reduced fare vouchers to allow neighbor island students to experience both the impact of this historical site and the STEM programming offered within the Museum's Aviation Learning Center. Students from Maui's Kihei Elementary School, who visited on November 15, were the first to benefit from this program.



## NOVEMBER 7

### New Online Store Launch

The Museum partnered with online retailer, Redbubble, to launch our new online store, featuring exclusive Museum merchandise that can only be found online.



## NOVEMBER 17

### The Ward Room

The Museum honored Pacific Air Cargo Founder and former Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum Board Member, Ms. Beti Ward, by naming the main classroom in our Aviation Learning Center "The Ward Room."

## AUGUST 12-14

### Kaneohe Bay Air Show

The Museum had the opportunity to meet over 7,000 aviation enthusiasts at the 2022 Kaneohe Bay Air Show. Our education team provided hands-on STEM activities for youth.



## SEPTEMBER 14

### Val Returns to Pearl Harbor

Thanks to your support, the Museum was able to acquire a WWII era Japanese Aichi D35 "Val" Dive Bomber. This historic aircraft arrived in September. Restoration is planned. Once complete, Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum will, for the first time anywhere, display all three Japanese aircraft involved in the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor: the Mitsubishi A6M2 "Zero," the Nakajima B5N "Kate," and now the Aichi D35 "Val" Dive Bomber.



## NOVEMBER 4

### 3 Millionth Visitor

We welcomed our 3 millionth visitor since first opening our doors in 2006. Mahalo Catherine and Dean, and all our guests for making the decision to explore Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum!



## DECEMBER 3

### For Love of Country Gala

The Museum hosted the 16th annual For Love of Country gala, our first in-person gala since 2019. More than 650 guests, including WWII veterans and Medal of Honor recipients, gathered in historic Hangar 79 for a fun and memorable evening. Read more about our exciting 2022 event on page 11.



# 2022 “FOR LOVE OF COUNTRY” GALA RECAP

By Woo Ri Kim, Director of Development



Carrying It Forward – this is what makes our annual gala so powerful! After two years of virtual gatherings, it was wonderful to reconnect in person at our annual For Love of Country Gala on December 3, 2022. More than 650 guests gathered inside our Historic Hangar 79 for a wonderful evening of tribute, camaraderie and fun. Together, we celebrated our veterans and all men and women who serve, and we invested in our future, raising critical funds to ensure that the lessons of our past continue to inspire, challenge, and prepare those who will lead our future.

## MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS IN ATTENDANCE

The Punahou School Choir set the tone for the evening sharing their beautiful rendition of our national anthem and Hawaii Ponoī. The ceremonial entrance of our special guests brought everyone to their feet in emotional applause and tribute - Medal of Honor recipients Major General Patrick Henry Brady, U.S. Army (Ret.) and Sergeant Major Allan Kellogg, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.) and three WWII veterans: Herb Elfring, U.S. Army (Pearl Harbor survivor); Corporal Don Graves, U.S. Marine Corps (Iwo Jima survivor); and Joseph Norman “Jack” Holder, U.S. Navy (Pearl Harbor and Battle of Midway survivor).



## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPECIAL GALA FRIENDS

Our special thanks to those who made this evening so special; this year’s Presenting Sponsor, Price Enterprises, Inc.; Vintner Sponsor, the Franzia family of Bronco Wine Company; the nationally recognized performers of the Hawaii Opera Theatre; Master of Ceremonies, Dave Price, whose passion brought depth to the history we share; and auctioneer, Spanky Assiter and his team, who helped bring the generosity of the room to the forefront.



Of special note, this year’s auction featured a Classic 1955 Ford Thunderbird donated by the Duhay family. Stunningly restored, the family story behind this beautiful car that electrified our bidders raised an amazing \$80,000. And, this year’s Raise the Paddle for Education, inspired by the Ray Foundation’s \$150,000 challenge gift to support flight training for Hawaii youth, was fully matched. Our thanks to this year’s gala co-chairs, Chuck and Shari Cotton, the entire gala committee, and our sponsors and guests for creating such a stellar evening.



## PLEASE JOIN US SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on Saturday, December 2 for our 2023 For Love of Country Gala, which is sure to be another epic event! For early-bird table sales and sponsorship inquiries, visit [www.forloveofcountry.org](http://www.forloveofcountry.org).



# ADM RONALD J. HAYS DISTINGUISHED VISITORS' LOUNGE

By Lt Col Gary Meyers, USMC (Ret.)

Our former chairman, Clint Churchill, and I had the pleasure of attending a ceremony at the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command at Camp Smith on December 13, 2022. The occasion was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the senior Joint U.S. military organization in the Pacific.

## NAMED IN HONOR OF ADM RONALD J. HAYS

The highlight of the event, for us, was the dedication of the Admiral Ronald J. Hays Distinguished Visitors' (DV) Lounge within the headquarters' complex. It was named in honor of Admiral Hays, our late chairman. His last command while on active duty was as Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Forces.

The honored guests this day were Admiral Hays' widow, Jane Hays, and his daughter, Jacquelyn. Most poignantly, they were surrounded by seven previous CINCPAC/COMINDOPAC commanders, including their wives, who had been invited to attend the founding and dedication. When adding the current Commander and host, Admiral John Aquilino, that totaled 32 stars gathered in a single room, a remarkable event by any measure!

## A MEMORABLE AFFAIR, A ROOM FULL OF EMOTION

Following a formal luncheon in the Commander's private dining room, the guests moved to the DV lounge for the ceremony. It was a memorable affair with a room full of emotion, and many moist eyes in the audience. Jane and Jackie were invited by Admiral Aquilino to remove the drape which hid the commemorative plaque and to hang a maile lei over the plaque.

Following the dedication, Clint presented Admiral Aquilino an inscribed copy of the memorial book that Museum staff had prepared for the Hays' family following Admiral Hays' passing on January 11, 2021. The book will remain in the DV lounge for future visitors to peruse.

## A HEARTWARMING DISPLAY FOR A GREAT MAN

The respect for Admiral Hays was palpable among the guests in attendance, some of whom knew him while on active duty and later. He was always available for counsel and advice. Several admirals shared personal stories with Jane and Jackie. It was heartwarming to witness such a display for a beloved flag officer described often in life as "the perfect gentleman who always led from the front." Admiral Ron Hays' memory lives on.



*Jane Hays and Jacqueline Hays celebrate the dedication of the Admiral Ronald J. Hays Distinguished Visitors' Lounge.*

# THE POIGNANT STORY OF THE BLACKENED CANTEEN

By Daniel Martinez, Pearl Harbor National Memorial Park Historian



**Dr. Hiroya Sugano joins with Museum Board Chair Gen Raymond E. Johns, USAF (Ret.) and other dignitaries at the ceremony.**

On the night of June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1945 while on a bombing raid over Shizuoka, Japan, two U.S. Army Air Forces' B-29s from the 314<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing collided and crashed, killing 23 crewmen. In the same raid, over 2,000 Shizuoka citizens also died.

## PULLING AMERICAN AIRMEN FROM WRECKAGE

Dr. Hiroya Sugano, a child at the time, and his family lived through the raid. He visited the crash site the next morning. Another person at the scene was Mr. Fukumatsu Itoh. Mr. Itoh had pulled two of the American airmen from the wreckage who were still alive but they died shortly thereafter. Mr. Itoh also retrieved a blackened canteen from the wreckage which appeared to bear the handprint of its former owner.

Being a devout Buddhist, Mr. Itoh gave the American crewmen a proper burial alongside the local residents who had also died. For his selfless act of compassion, Mr. Itoh was roundly condemned by the local citizenry; he bore the hatred silently.

## AN OFFERING TO THE SPIRITS OF ALL THE FALLEN

He began conducting a modest annual ceremony to honor those who had paid the ultimate price that war often exacts. A silent prayer was offered and bourbon whiskey was poured from the blackened canteen onto the crash site memorial as an offering to the spirits of the fallen, both Japanese and American. Eventually, Dr. Sugano met Mr. Itoh. His display of courage and benevolence had great impact on Dr. Sugano and before Mr. Itoh died, Dr.

Sugano promised to carry on the tradition, which he has done faithfully and selflessly using his own funds since 1972.

2022 marked the 31<sup>st</sup> year that Dr. Sugano has attended the December 7<sup>th</sup> commemoration at Pearl Harbor. When the occasion has permitted, he had sometimes conducted an unobtrusive, semi-private ceremony at the Memorial in the company of close friends.

## SHARING THE BLACKENED CANTEEN STORY

For the past 12 years, with the official recognition, support, and generous hospitality of the National Park Service (NPS), Dr. Sugano has been able to share the poignant story of the Blackened Canteen with visitors from around the world. He is deeply appreciative for having been given this opportunity by the NPS, and also the additional support and sponsorship of the Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum.

The battered canteen which rose from the ashes of a wartime tragedy has since become the inspiration for peace. Its blackness and heat-distorted shape represent the inevitability of conflict. Yet its presence represents eternal hope for a future of peaceful understanding and reconciliation between former enemies. It is a symbol of the good that can arise from tragedy. It is also a symbol of the courage and determination of one man. Dr. Sugano likes to think that Mr. Fukumatsu Itoh's spirit remains always beside him and the Blackened Canteen.



# EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT INSPIRE PEOPLE OF ALL AGES

*By William Spicola, Senior Manager of Education Programs*

Education remains a vital commitment of our Museum. Since the Museum's opening in 2006, we have worked hard to develop programs to engage, inspire, and challenge people of all ages, especially our youth, in hopes that these programs will promote understanding, and support the development of life-skills that are foundational to leadership. For our visiting school youth, these programs use aviation and historical lessons to advance academic readiness including competencies in math and science by using immersive approaches that drive home powerful lessons in communication, collaboration, personal responsibility, team building and so much more.

## BRINGING ALL THE ELEMENTS TOGETHER

This past year, 2022, provided us with an exciting opportunity to bring all of these elements together. Our Education Team successfully trained, equipped, and deployed a new and improved set of Education programs and aggressively returned to on-campus field trips. The focal point of our new education initiatives was the introduction of the world class Aviation Learning Center (ALC). After years of planning, a full year of construction, and a mere eight weeks of training and practice, the ALC was opened to students and educators across the state and beyond. Since opening in January 2022, nearly 3,000 students have experienced this immersive program, including students from our neighbor island schools. From November 2022 through February 2023, Southwest Airlines joined our educational initiative, providing 500 free neighbor island flights and hundreds of additional reduced fare vouchers to help us share our Museum's Educational programs with neighbor island schools.

## TRIGGERING VIEWS OF CAREERS IN AVIATION

If you have not yet visited the ALC, visit our website to get a better understanding of this resource and the different age-appropriate programs that are offered. The ALC is equipped with a multi-purpose classroom, wonderful technology, a learning lab where students explore the individual lessons of flight training and aerodynamics, and the hangar in which they pre-flight a full-size Cessna 150 while also charting their first flight (checking winds aloft, charting their course, checking weather and other flight conditions). Then, they climb into their simulator and fly their mission. It is a challenge that, for many, triggers views of future careers in aviation and aerospace fields.

All of these touchstones of progress and success were made possible with the assistance and support of those who share our commitment to educate, inspire, and prepare our young people for the challenges of their future, including our Members,

donors, foundations, corporations and government grants. As an extension of our aviation focused education programming, we also offer scholarships to help those pursuing a career in aviation or aerospace fields. We invite you to visit us online at [www.pearlharboraviationmuseum.org/education/](http://www.pearlharboraviationmuseum.org/education/) to learn more about our education and scholarship programs, support our efforts, or to schedule a wonderful educational experience for your children, students, and friends.





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