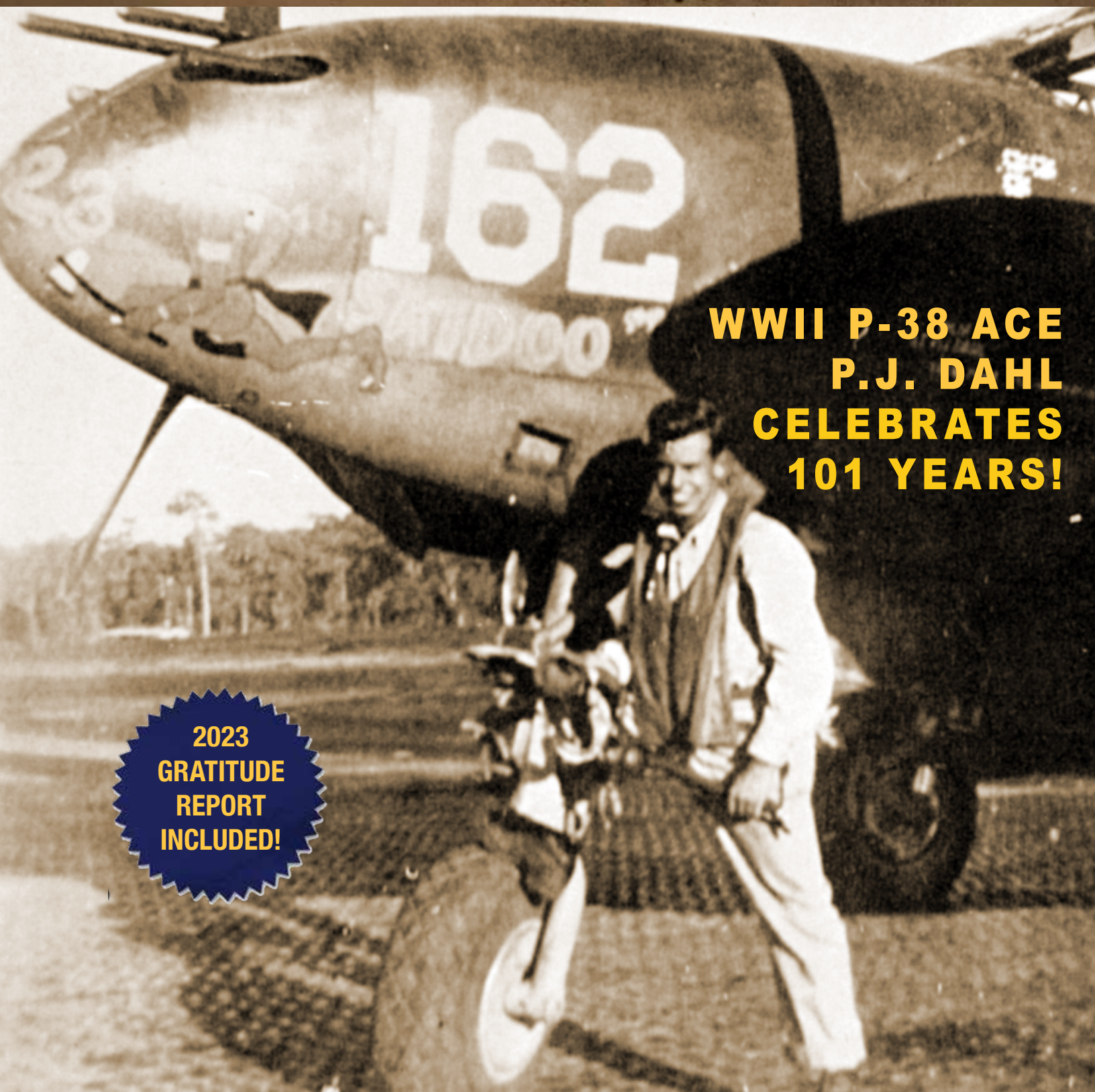


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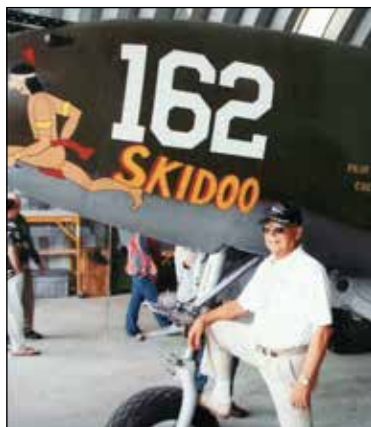
NOTICE TO AIRMEN | VOL. 1 2024 | ISSUE #55

PEARL HARBOR AVIATION MUSEUM | FORD ISLAND, HAWAII



**WWII P-38 ACE
P.J. DAHL
CELEBRATES
101 YEARS!**

**2023
GRATITUDE
REPORT
INCLUDED!**



NOTAM

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ON THE COVER (LEFT):

America's oldest living P-38 Ace, Col. Perry J. Dahl, who recently celebrated his 101st birthday, is pictured with his "23 Skidoo" P-38 Lightning fighter during World War II and recently. He was one of the 39 aces who flew with the legendary 475th Fighter Group, and achieved nine aerial victories in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

REFLECTING UPON HONORING THE PAST & INSPIRING OUR FUTURE

By Elissa Lines, Executive Director

Time is moving so quickly – 2023 was definitely a blur and now, here we are, in the second quarter of 2024, and we still have so much to do! Many of you can probably relate



– I remember vividly dreaming of experiencing the turn of the century in 2000. How our lives have changed.

I am humbled by the personal stories now being shared with our Museum through our Hero Among Millions campaign.

Many personal notes, online historical perspectives and an emerging library of family books have been forthcoming since we shared our quest for these stories. It is remarkable to read these historical perspectives, often complete with photos and documentation that immediately immerse us into their lives and the lives of those around them. As we build out our digital archive, we invite you scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/HeroTributeBoard to not only share your family story but to read those shared by others.

But what do these stories tell us, what do they share? I recently was asked to give some thought to our historic preservation work and our mission—To steward America’s World War II aviation battlefield, sharing the artifacts, personal stories, the impact and response to the December 7, 1941 attack and the Pacific region


battles that followed, honoring those who have defended our freedom so we might educate and inspire future generations. Why is this so important? Working here, walking the grounds, standing in the buildings, still gives me chills. Reading the incredible individual and family stories shared with us convinces me that historic preservation is foundational to the protection of what I would call the American soul.

Our values, our character and our diversity form our national persona. We may not immediately appreciate the lessons, but it is our collective understanding of our past, both the events and their impact, that influences our ability to direct or change our future.

No matter how I consider the steps we are taking here on Ford Island to better interpret and preserve the Pearl Harbor story, I circle back to this one thought: ***This place matters...***

“America is much more than a geographical fact. It is a political and moral fact -- the first community in which men set out in principle to institutionalize freedom, responsible government, and human equality.”

—Adlai Stevenson

Mahalo,

Elissa Lines



WING AND A PRAYER

By Daniel A. Martinez, Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum Historian

As the sun shined brightly across the scenic shores of Oahu, the situation inside Admiral Husband E. Kimmel's, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet, headquarters on November 27, 1941 was anything but relaxed. That afternoon Kimmel received a Navy dispatch from Washington:

"This dispatch is to be considered a war warning. Negotiations with Japan looking towards stabilization of conditions in the Pacific have ceased and an aggressive move by Japan is expected within the next few days... Execute an appropriate defensive deployment preparatory to carrying out the tasks assigned in WPL 46. A similar warning is being sent by [the] War Department."

Though not concerned with direct action against the Hawaiian Islands, hostilities with Japan appeared imminent. Determined to bolster the defenses at both Wake and Midway, on November 10, Kimmel had directed Task Force 8 under the command of Vice Adm. William F. Halsey, Jr. to reinforce Wake Island with twelve Marine F4F-3 Wildcats of VMF-211 from Marine Air Corp Station Ewa. Traveling aboard the USS *Enterprise*, the Wildcats of VMF-211 and the rest of Task Force 8 would sortie from Pearl Harbor at 1757 on the afternoon of November 27, 1941.

Once at sea, Halsey issued "Battle Order Number One" to his task force:

At Sea November 28, 1941 **BATTLE ORDER NUMBER ONE**

1. The *Enterprise* is now operating under war conditions.
2. At any time, day or night, we must be ready for instant action.
3. Hostile submarines may be encountered.
4. The importance of every officer and man being specially alert and vigilant while on watch at his battle station must be fully realized by all hands.
5. The failure of one man to carry out his assigned task promptly, particularly the lookouts, those manning the batteries, and all those on watch on deck might result in great loss of life or even the loss of the ship. The Captain is confident all hands will prove equal to any emergency that may develop.
6. It is part of the tradition of the Navy that, when put to the test, all hands keep cool, keep their heads, and FIGHT.
7. Steady nerves and stout hearts are needed now.



SBD Dauntless dive-bomber soars over carrier.

As the sun rose slowly over the Pacific on December 4, the twelve Wildcats took off from the *Enterprise's* flight deck and proceeded to Wake Island. High above, a PBY Catalina patrol bomber circled above the task force to escort the group of Wildcats to their new home.

Upon launching VMF-211, the task force changed course back to the Hawaiian Islands. As they proceeded back to Pearl Harbor, Halsey encountered a weather system delaying the task force's planned arrival on December 6.

By the morning of December 7, 1941, the *Enterprise* was approximately 215 miles west of Oahu. Tasked with conducting a routine search ahead of the task force, 18 SBD Dauntless dive-bombers were spotted for takeoff. At 0618 hours, Lt. Cdr. Howard L. Young, CEAG, and his wingman Ens. Perry L Teaff, took off from the *Enterprise* ahead of the flight.

Splitting into nine two-plane elements, the group conducted a 150-mile sweep to the Northeast and Southeast before proceeding to Ford Island for servicing. However, the air group's arrival would be anything but routine. Seeing smoke in the distance as they approached Ford Island, the group found turmoil as they entered the airspace over Pearl Harbor. With most of the group arriving shortly after the first wave, the men of VS-6 and VB-6 were mistaken for returning Japanese aircraft and immediately came under fire from friendly anti-aircraft fire. Braving heavy anti-aircraft fire, Young and Teaff successfully touched down on Ford Island at 0830. Another pilot in the flight, Ens. Manuel Gonzales, was not so lucky. Arriving the harbor, Ens. Gonzales encountered heavy anti-aircraft fire, and broke radio silence to say "Please don't shoot, this is an American plane." Gonzales's last words echoed across the deck of the *Enterprise*; he would never be seen again. War had come to America.

The story of the F4F Wildcat fighters from the *Enterprise* entering the battle will be told in a future NOTAM article. . .

LOCAL WORLD WAR II HERO HONORED IN NEW DISPLAY

By Amanda Sheley, Collections Manager/Registrar



To tell Capt George Lee's story, the Curatorial team adds artifacts to the display case which sits next to the P-40 Warhawk in Hangar 37.

This past November, a new display was unveiled adjacent to the P-40 Warhawk in Hangar 37. The artifacts held within these display cases tell the story of local hero and P-40 pilot, Captain George W. Lee.

Born on February 2, 1918 to immigrant parents from Guangzhou (Canton), China, Capt George Lee would grow up to be a talented and courageous individual. As a young adult, he was known for his photographic memory, fluency in Cantonese, and passion for kung-fu. During his time at St. Louis High School in Honolulu, Capt Lee was the quarterback of the football team. After graduating in 1937, he attended the University of Dayton in Ohio where he received a degree in mechanical engineering. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Capt Lee enlisted in the Army Air Force where he served as a fighter pilot in the China-Burma-India (CBI) theatre.

As an aviation cadet, Capt Lee completed primary and basic training after which he moved to the Army's advance training school at Craig Field, to receive instruction on single engine aircraft. After earning his wings on September 6, 1942, Capt Lee was transferred to the China-Burma-India (CBI) theatre where he was credited with three aerial victories in his P-40 Warhawk. On February 11, 1944, Capt Lee was escorting bombardment aircraft when he was attacked. After managing to strike the enemy, he was forced to bail out over a Chinese village. Upon

identifying himself, farmers helped him travel to a larger city and find his way to a U.S. military outpost. In the Museum's collection, we have letters written to his family reporting him as missing, as well as his award and promotion orders.

Once rescued, he was given two weeks of rest and relaxation before being reassigned. Upon returning home, his family turned his used parachute into mementos, using the material to create the handkerchief and scarf included in the display. They handed these out to family and loved ones during a grand luau. The display case also includes a newspaper article that announces his return home and accomplishments.

After returning to the CBI theatre, he was sent on an administrative flight on September 12, 1945 from Xi'an to Paishihi, China. Radio contact was lost after takeoff, and Capt Lee never reached his destination, being formally declared Missing in Action a year later on September 12, 1946. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, and Purple Heart. Additionally, General Chiang Kai-Shek bestowed upon him the Chinese Air Hero Medal, China War Memorial Medal, and the Chinese Flying Cloud Medal. In 2019, Capt Lee became a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal, which honors and celebrates Chinese Americans for their military service to the United States during WWII. We are honored to have the opportunity to bring this local Hero's story to life.

TOP OF THE TOWER: EXPERIENCING THE PEARL HARBOR AVIATION BATTLEFIELD

By Bill Miller, Director of Operations



The lower platform on the Museum's Tower opened to guests in January, including former Museum Executive Director John Gleason.

Our iconic orange and white tower overlooks half of Oahu, providing the best view of the Pearl Harbor battlefield outside of a cockpit. On May 30, 2022, Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum opened the historic tower to the public.

THE TOP OF THE TOWER

Since then, nearly 25,000 people have ridden up the historic cage-doored elevator, and climbed the final two flights of steep stairs to the docent waiting above. Once immersed in the lofty environment of the top cab, our guests are connecting the actual landmarks below with the stories they're hearing, which provides a uniquely profound understanding of the day.

Long before opening, we recognized that our silver linings indeed have a cloud. The Ford Island Control Tower

is a historic building that cannot be changed or altered, and access to the Observation Deck requires ticket holders to use handrails to climb two flights of steep ship stairs. We quickly realized that accommodations needed to be made for our guests who could not safely navigate the stairs, to ensure this experience could be available to more of our guests.

Fortunately, the floor where the elevator stops has an external platform around the tower similar to the top cab. However, as the tower was constructed in the 1940s, there were several obstacles to navigate including the demolition of a wall, installation of a door, and the implementation of a railing project to increase the height of the rail to meet modern code requirements. Despite encountering typical project challenges

related to funding and timelines, our goal of providing access was prioritized. The funds had been earned, raised and saved from various sources, and as a result, the lower platform, currently awaiting its official name, was opened to the public in January 2024.

ROLL THE CREDITS

Orchestrated by the Capital Projects team, we pursued permissions, identified contractors, and supervised and supported the construction while maintaining the daily tower operations. Special thanks to I3 Engineering for the design, Constructors HI and Paradise Erectors for the construction, and Kai Hawai'i, LLC for the welding inspection. Although this was a smaller undertaking for our team, relatively speaking, this important project highlights our combined principles and values.

B-25J MITCHELL BOMBER FLIGHT SIMULATOR ARRIVES

By William Spincola, Senior Manager Education Programs

Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum has recently taken delivery of an incredible one-of-a-kind historic aircraft project; a 1:1 scale mockup B-25J Mitchell Bomber that provides students and visitors with an educational flight simulator experience. This remarkable museum-quality replica of a B-25J forward fuselage includes a functional dorsal gun turret and four realistic aircraft crew positions; Pilot, Co-Pilot, Bombardier, and Gunner. The B-25 mockup sits on its own special built trailer providing our Museum the flexibility of using it for presentations, in community and commemoration parades, and deployed to off campus events.

SIMULATING A HISTORIC AIRCRAFT FOR EDUCATION

Our B-25 mockup/flight simulator project began as an ambitious vision of Scott Serani, of Lakewood, Colorado, and his family. They shared a desire to simulate a realistic, historic aircraft for educational programming. Scott and his two sons began construction after deep research, using an authentic 1944 B-25J parts manual. They built the frame and much of the skin for the replica's fuselage. Then the project stalled. In 2014, Young Aviators (YA), a youth-based extension of Chapter 43 of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), picked up where Scott and his sons left off and continued work on the B-25 in Erie, Colorado. Under Scott's leadership, the YAs built the interior of the fuselage and the trailer. They completed the project and transformed the B-25 mockup into a flight experience simulator.

The completed B-25J mockup/simulator debuted in June 2015 at the Wings Over the Rockies Museum (Denver) and at the 2015 AirVenture Aircraft Convention in Oshkosh, WI. Since then, Scott's B-25 participated in Veterans' celebrations, STEM programs, aviation related events and a host of parades around the Denver area as well as repeat appearances at KidVenture

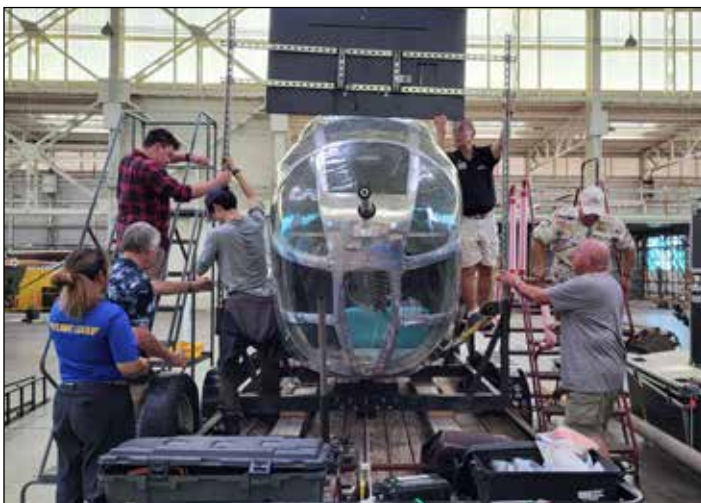
during the annual AirVenture Oshkosh Air Show. Unfortunately, following the opening of the 2023 AirVenture Convention at Oshkosh, it was reported that AirVenture and the EAA would no longer be able to host Scott's B-25 project. The search for a new home began.

BRINGING THE B-25 FLIGHT SIMULATOR TO HAWAII

As it would happen, during the 2023 AirVenture week, Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum's team had the opportunity to meet with Scott and observe the B-25 simulator in action. It was agreed that Scott would donate the project to our Museum, bringing the B-25 mockup/simulator to Hawaii. The Young Aviators of EAA Chapter 43 were overwhelmed with emotion that their B-25 would start a "new life," providing an amazing educational experience to the Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum and the surrounding community.

The B-25J mockup arrived in Hawaii on December 18, 2023 and was placed in our Museum's Hangar 79, an authentic WWII hangar. Scott and his family arrived in January 2024 for two days and trained the Museum's Education Team, preparing them to fully operate the B-25 simulator, including set up/take down of the screens and other learning attachments, use of the trailer, and training them in the required actions to correctly maintain all the systems. With Scott's help, our Museum staff is now confident in its ability as an educational team to bring the new project into full operation.

Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum is proud to continue the educational vision Scott and his Young Aviators worked so hard to create. We are motivated to add a new Hawaii chapter in the life of this living history project. This new teaching tool will help us deliver an impactful educational experience for our students.



The Museum's education team worked with the Serani family to prepare for the operation of the B-25 Flight Simulator.



Scott Serani and his family visited the Museum to train our education team to operate the B-25 flight simulator in January.

THE STORY OF COLONEL P.J. DAHL AND HIS P-38 LIGHTNING

By Brad Ball, Board Member and President, 475th Fighter Group Historical Foundation

With your support, Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum can share the story of America's oldest living P-38 ace and his 5th P-38 Lightning. Really!

The story of a 5'5" WWII fighter pilot reads like a script out of Hollywood. An underage kid from Washington State does whatever it takes to get a chance to fly in the Army Air Corps. Finally, he gets the chance to earn his wings and is assigned to an instructor who was issued America's 3rd pilot license in the U.S. He was impressed with his student – Perry John Dahl. "P.J." as they called him. "He was the only one in the class to not ground-loop the Stearman!"

Japan was within striking distance of an Australian invasion, when Gen George Kenny, Commanding Officer of the 5th Air Force, knew only one available American fighter could out-perform the Japanese Zero with the range to complete missions in unforgiving conditions over jungles and the endless waters. The best the American Forces had at the time – the single-engine P-39 and P-40—lacked the range, speed, agility, and the second chance that comes from having a second engine.

THE ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY

The P-38 was a key part of what President Franklin Delano Roosevelt termed America's "Arsenal of Democracy." More than 10,000 Lockheed P-38s were built, with each of the 18 Lightning variants improving on the last.

When Gen Kenny got his P-38s, he selected many of the best pilots in the Army Air Forces to fly them. Each 5th AF fighter group had to give up their top 3 hotshots – the ultimate NFL draft advantage. Thus the 475th Fighter Group – "Satan's Angels" – was formed. It was comprised of pilots who got their

first tastes of combat and victory on December 7, 1941 and subsequent battles from Midway to Guadalcanal.

Replacements like P.J. Dahl began arriving in late 1943 to fill out Satan's Angels' three squadrons. He wasted little time... once he had stacked enough cushions behind his back to reach the foot pedals of his Lightning! During his 187 combat missions, P.J. claimed 9 air-to-air Japanese victories. He also destroyed 4 P-38s while earning his honors.

LOSING FOUR P-38s

He survived each crash—a testament to skill and his Lockheed fighter:

★ **#1:** *Landing head-on into an oncoming B-24*

★ **#2:** *Losing his hydraulic fluid and flying through the debris of the Zeke he shot down*

★ **#3:** *Blown out of his plane following a mid-air collision over Japanese warships off the Philippine coast – only to be captured then escaping and returning to his base 31 days later (with his new pet monkey Ormoc!)*

★ **#4:** *Finally, P.J. avoided being shot down by banking hard left to allow the attacker's rounds to hit his P-38s right engine instead of him. He limped back to base on his good engine to live to talk about it for the next 80 years.*

475th FG Commanding Officer Charles MacDonald said to P.J. after he lost his 4th P-38, "One more and you'll become a Japanese Ace!"

The 475th flew 3,042 missions, shot down 551 enemy aircraft, and remarkably lost only 56 P-38s to Japanese opponents. The fighter group produced a total of 39 aces, including three of the top five aces of the Pacific—Richard Bong (40 aerial

victories, Tommy McGuire (38 and Charles MacDonald (27. Bong wasn't officially a member of the fighter group, but scored many aerial victories while flying missions with the 475th.

When World War II ended, P.J. wasn't finished with the Air Force:

★ He was assigned as a test pilot for the F-86 Sabre during the Korean War

★ He served two tours in Vietnam, as lead forward attack commander (FAC)

★ He was Vice Commandant and Wing Commander of Recruits at the Air Force Academy

★ He also served as Wing Commander of the 56th Special Ops unit, Thailand

During his distinguished career, P.J. was the recipient of the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with 15 Oak Leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation, Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation with one oak leaf cluster, Good Conduct Medal and Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAY #101

In February, P.J. celebrated his 101st birthday, and as his long-time friend, I was honored to be there to celebrate with daughter Jody and his dear friends Roxane and Gene.

This spring, Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum will begin to raise the funds needed to create the Museum's first P-38 Lightning exhibit.

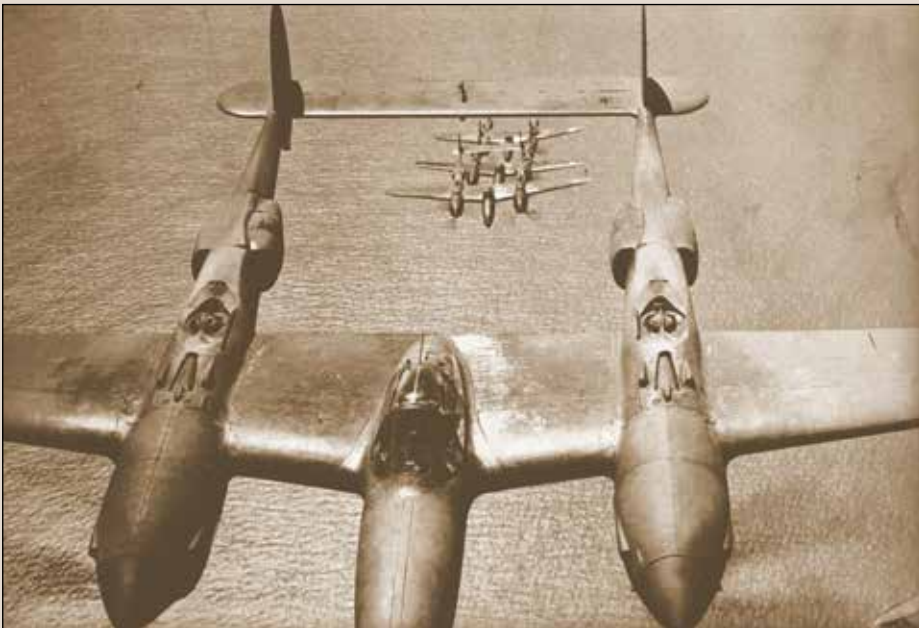
Here's hoping that P.J. will join us on the happy day we dedicate the P-38 Lightning exhibit to him and all his fellow P-38 pilots who played such a vital role in winning the war in the Pacific.



Perry J. Dahl celebrates one of his nine victories in the South Pacific during WWII.



P.J. Dahl in his P-38 cockpit after 7th victory.



Four P-38 Lightnings in formation over the ocean in action during World War II.



With his pet monkey Ormoc during WWII.



In uniform—a chest full of medals.



During WWII and recently with his "23 Skidoo" P-38.



Celebrating being 101 years young!

2023 Gratitude REPORT

*"No duty is more urgent than giving thanks."
- James Allen*

As we settle into the new year, we want to take a moment to share our deep gratitude for your support. 2023 was an absolute whirlwind of growth and exhilarating milestones. From groundbreaking education programs to thrilling new exhibits, and engaging community events, it was a year of non-stop action and innovation – all made possible by your invaluable contributions. Your time, talent, financial support, and visionary outlook propelled us to new heights, and the incredible achievements showcased here are a testament to your role in our journey. Thank you for being the driving force behind our success!

DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE IN AVIATION DAY

Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum hosted the annual "Discover Your Future in Aviation" career day event on February 18, 2023, in partnership with Women in Aviation Aloha Chapter. The event provided an opportunity for all aviation enthusiasts to learn about potential aviation career paths and introduce them to resources available in Hawaii.



2023 D.Y.F.A

MAUI IN WARTIME UNVEILED

The Museum opened *Land, Sea, Air: Maui in Wartime* in March. This new exhibit helps visitors explore the rich history of Pu'unene Field during WWII and its pivotal role in military training on Maui. Visitors delve into the brave narratives of men, women, and children amidst the era's challenges and immerse themselves in a journey to the 1940s through an array of artifacts, captivating videos, and photographs.



Maui Exhibit Blessing

OLD GLORY RAISED AGAIN ATOP THE TOWER

After two years of research, engineering and fundraising, the Museum completed the installation of a custom-designed flagpole atop the historic Ford Island Control Tower. Highlighting our commitment to pass on the legacy of our past, Joint Base Commander, Captain Mark Sohaney joined local Civil Air Patrol Cadet, MSgt Leina ala Herrera and Museum Board Chair, Gen Ray Johns, USAF (Ret.), for a ceremonial flag raising on March 14 at morning colors.



Before



2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CEREMONY

Sixteen worthy recipients were awarded with Aviation Scholarships at the Museum's annual Scholarship Award Ceremony on June 15. Recipients were chosen based on their outstanding achievements, dedication, and passion for aviation.



NEW WINDOWS ON THE HISTORIC OPERATIONS BUILDING COMPLETED

Thirty-six windows in the historic Naval Air Station Pearl Harbor Operations Building (building S84) were repaired, restored, or replaced over a three-month period from March-June 2023. This project restored the Operations Building to its historical appearance and was funded, in part, by two grants (Save America's Treasures and McInerney Foundation).



May 19th Hangar Talk

HANGAR TALK WITH ADMIRAL PAPARO

Adm. Samuel Paparo, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Command, joined us for a Hangar Talk titled *A Strategic Discussion of Pearl Harbor: Then and Now*, to explore the strategic considerations and pivotal moments of the attack on Pearl Harbor.



FLIGHT ADVENTURES FEATURING THE BIGGEST LITTLE AIRSHOW

Returning after a 3-year break, Flight Adventures featuring the Biggest Little Air Show returned to the Museum on June 3 and 4 as part of the Joint Base Summer Showcase & Expo. The Museum welcomed nearly 10,000 people for a daily air show that featured a line-up of nationally acclaimed radio control pilots who showcased their aerial skills in Giant Scale RC aircraft, as well as a number of flight-oriented STEM activities for youth.



EMIL BUEHLER PERPETUAL TRUST LIBRARY & ARCHIVE OPENS

After years of work and preparation, the Museum opened the Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust Library and Archive to the public in July for online appointments. Our Library and Archive collection offers a unique opportunity to study various aspects of WWII, with a special focus on the December 7th, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor and greater Oahu, as well as the broader Pacific theater of the war. Special thanks to Hank Menke and OFS Brands for the beautiful library furnishings.



PHAM-ILY FUN DAY

The Museum launched its inaugural PHAM-ily Fun Day on September 30 for visitors to engage in family-friendly educational activities, sit inside the cockpit of historic aircraft, explore history through captivating documentaries, and so much more.



2023 PHAM-ily Fun Day!



Summer Program Excursion



SUMMER PROGRAM SUCCESS

Our Museum summer programs wrapped up in mid-July. Three, 5-day summer sessions - Explorers Club, Flight School for Boys and Flight School for Girls - provided nearly 100 students the opportunity to explore their passion for science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and aviation.



AVIATION PATHWAYS GRANTS AWARDED

Funded by the Ray Foundation and matched by many Museum supporters, twenty young men and women were awarded with our first-ever Aviation Pathways grants to help them obtain their Private Pilot's License. In addition to receiving financial support, this inaugural cohort of "Pathfinders" have entered into an inspiring one-year leadership development program, where they will receive guidance and mentorship to help them achieve their dreams of flight.





Col Maria Carl, USAF (Ret.) honors her father retired LT Hardy A. Carl, USN, at seat F-4, remembering his service in this very aircraft.



SEATS OF HONOR DEDICATION CEREMONY

Our Seats of Honor Dedication Ceremony on November 9 recognized the donors who have chosen to honor an individual or organization of their choice with a personally inscribed plaque placed on the seats in our theater. Each Seat of Honor celebrates the power of personal stories and the lasting impact of a life well-lived.

2023 FOR LOVE OF COUNTRY GALA

Presented by Dr. Thomas and Mi Kosasa, our 17th annual *For Love of Country* Gala welcomed several WWII veterans and Rosie the Riveters for a night of tribute, honoring our veterans and service men and women. Together, we raised just over \$1 Million to invest in shaping our future, ensuring that the valuable lessons from our past continue to inspire, challenge, and prepare the leaders of tomorrow.



AVIATION PATHWAYS FIRST "BOOTCAMP"

While most high school students are enjoying their Christmas break, the Pathfinder cohort participated in a 3-day intensive training to prepare for their FAA written pilot knowledge test. Supported by the Ray Foundation, this "Bootcamp" was put on by the Aviation Pathways leadership team and covered much of the material required to pass the FAA written examination.



SBD DAUNTLESS DEDICATION CEREMONY

Dr. Arthur Lendo, nephew of the last pilot of our SBD Dauntless, accompanied by his wife Donna Jean Neal, joined us to unveil the placement of a name plaque at the cockpit remembering the service of Lt. John Lendo. Pulled from Lake Michigan and restored at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo, this SBD is an authentic reminder of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

2023 FOR LOVE OF COUNTRY GALA RECAP

By Woo Ri Kim, Senior Director of Philanthropic Strategies



Si Robin made a surprise \$5 million challenge gift at the 2023 Gala.



ADM Samuel Paparo speaks with WWII Veteran Allan J. Chatwin.

On December 2, 2023 more than 650 guests gathered inside our Historic Hangar 79 for a memorable evening celebrating our veterans and service members, and raising critical funds to ensure that the lessons of our past continue to inspire, challenge, and prepare the leaders of tomorrow.

The night began with a harmonious rendition of our national anthem and Hawaii Ponoī sung by the La Pietra Hawaii School for Girls Choir. The evening's special guests - Admiral Samuel Paparo, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, LCDR Clyde C. "Cash" Barber, USN (Ret.) (WWII Veteran), 2LT Arthur T. Shak, USAAC (Ret.) (WWII Veteran), CAPT Charlie Plumb, USN (Ret.) (Vietnam Veteran and former POW), CAPT Jim Hickerson, USN (Ret.) (Vietnam Veteran and former POW) and his wife, Carole Hickerson, who was instrumental in the creation of the POW-MIA logo – were honored with an emotional standing ovation, as guests paid tribute to their brave service to our nation.

A SURPRISE \$5 MILLION CHALLENGE

Inspired by the evening of tribute, engineer, inventor and industrialist, Seymour “Si” Robin, took our guests by surprise by pledging \$5 Million towards the restoration of Hangar 79. We are incredibly grateful for this truly transformational donation that will bring amazing opportunities to our community and to our country. Watch for details on his matching gift challenge!

RAISE THE PADDLE FOR EDUCATION

This year, the Ray Foundation provided a \$125,000 challenge gift for the Raise the Paddle for Education portion of the evening. This contribution was dedicated to supporting Aviation Pathways, a new Museum program designed to provide training and skills development to students interested in aviation, as well as flight training grants to help them obtain their private pilot license. Inspired by the evening, the Ray Foundation added another \$50,000 to the challenge. By the end of the night, over \$300,000 was raised to support this effort. Together, we are opening the doors to the future for Hawaii's youth!

SPECIAL THANKS

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our 2023 *For Love of Country* Gala's Presenting Sponsors and co-chairs, Dr. Thomas and Mi Kosasa, our sponsors and guests, our gala committee and dedicated staff and volunteers for creating such a remarkable evening. It is through this collective effort that the Museum is able to further our impact, preserving this American WWII aviation battlefield, while honoring our Greatest Generation and inspiring those destined to lead our future.

PLEASE JOIN US SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024

Mark your calendars for this year's *For Love of Country* Gala, **on Saturday, December 7, 2024**. The date holds profound importance and serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by those who came before us. A very special evening is planned to honor their courageous spirit that continues to shape our shared journey. For early-bird table sales and sponsorship inquiries, scan the QR code or visit www.forloveofcountry.org.



FULFILLING MY PASSION THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

By Steve Mesh, Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum Volunteer

I have been volunteering at Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum every Monday since July of 2021. After spending 14 years living in San Francisco, I decided it was time for a change. I'm sure part of that was motivated by the COVID-19 lockdown. Since then, I have settled down comfortably here on Oahu, spending time with my daughter who decided to make the move with me.

A PASSION FOR AVIATION

I've always had a passion for aviation. Before moving to Honolulu, I volunteered at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos, California for almost a decade. There, I was able to teach people how to start and fly a 747 – while they were sitting in the captain's seat manipulating the controls! I am also a 700-hour private pilot, but I do not have a rotary-wing rating.

CONNECTING WITH FELLOW VOLUNTEERS

The best part of volunteering at Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum is interacting with the staff and volunteers, who are both knowledgeable and supportive. A month after I started volunteering at the Museum, in August 2021, I took my first helicopter lesson, flying an R-44 from Honolulu to Kalaeloa and back. The very next day, I couldn't wait to find Jerry Cerny,

a fellow volunteer, to tell him all about it. He was extremely excited to hear about my experience! I don't think my own dad would have been more supportive. People like Jerry (and many others) have made volunteering at the Museum a fantastic experience for me.

CONNECTING WITH VISITORS

In addition to the friendships I've built with my fellow volunteers, I absolutely love interacting with our visitors who share a passion for aviation. It's very common for visitors to ask how to get started in learning how to fly. In fact, one day in 2021, I was talking with a married couple and their daughter, Sierra. I asked if any of them flew airplanes. Sierra told me that she was dying to learn how to fly. She was only 14. I asked if she wanted to go for a flight while she and her mom were visiting, and she said "yes." We actually scheduled a flight the very next day. I flew us from Honolulu, past Waikiki and Diamond Head, around Koko Head, past Kaneohe, and up to Dillingham where I landed. With any luck, maybe that will spark a desire for her to actually get her license.

INSPIRING OTHERS TO PURSUE THEIR DREAMS

I consider it a joy to spend my Mondays at Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum where I can discuss my passion for aviation with fellow volunteers, interact with visitors from around the world, and have the opportunity to inspire others to pursue their dreams of flight.

If you are interested in volunteering for Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum, please contact our Concierge, Volunteer Services, & Public Programs Manager, Valeria Corona, at Valeria.Corona@PearlHarborAviationMuseum.org or 619-292-1135.



Steve Mesh pictured in front of the Museum's iconic tower.



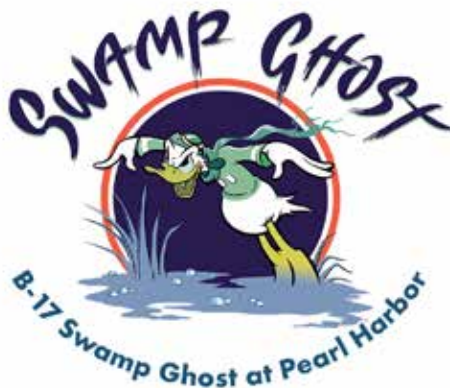
Steve Mesh flying with his daughter, who is a student pilot.



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