

DeLand, Florida—USA



DNAS Museum News - MARCH, 2021

76th ANNIVERSARY

DeLAND NAVAL AIR STATION 1942



DeLand Naval Air Station Museum Honors All Who Served

Remembering Dale Alexander

WWII DeLand NAS Veteran



WWII Navy Ensign
Dale Alexander

The late Dale Alexander, who passed away in 2008, was a DeLand NAS WWII Veteran. He was one of the original founders of the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum in 1995 and over the years served as the President and Executive Director.



Dale completed many projects for the museum and was instrumental in securing the Navy F-14 Tomcat Jet for public display at DNAS Museum. He is remembered in



Mural Dedication

Historic Downtown DeLand, Florida as he flies high with Ken Torbett on the WWII Mural located at New York Avenue and Woodland Boulevard. Many supporters were in attendance at the mural dedication including Mayor Bob Apgar, Ken Torbett, Bill and Irene Dreggors, Rita Gillis and Harold and Rabel Parson.



WWII Mural - Historic Downtown DeLand, Florida

Dale Alexander shared his recollections of the DeLand Naval Station during WWII and living in DeLand, Florida.

"In His Own Words"

"The DeLand Naval Air Station was completed and occupied in November of 1942 and was in operation until March of 1946 as a training base for Naval Aviators.

The Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor was a "call to arms" for the people of the United States. The war in Europe was well underway and the USA was very undecided, uninterested and unenthusiastic about getting involved. However, Pearl Harbor was the incendiary that lit the fire of freedom and bonded this nation in a cooperative effort to beat the Japanese.

Little towns like DeLand, Florida suddenly found themselves host to thousands of strangers living, training and taking over their community for the war effort.

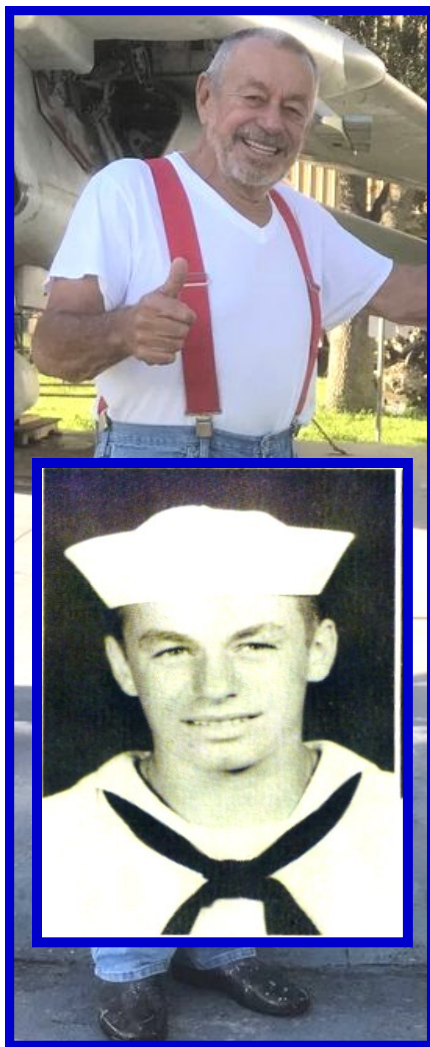
It took time for the military and town people to get to know one another. When my wife of 5 days and I arrived in DeLand looking for an apartment, we applied at the apartment house across from the DeLand House Museum. The elderly, charming lady that owned the building told us no unit was available but invited us in for a cool glass of tea on a hot August day. After an hour of cross examination, we learned at apartment would be available in about a week. My wife and I had a delightful 3 month stay during which time we became good friends with Miss Ida which lasted for years.

The people of DeLand were extremely friendly to the military and exchanged greetings as they passed on the street. Any military that were hitchhiking were always picked up and given rides toward their destinations. Strangers learned to respect one another and there was a camaraderie that developed amongst all the people. If you needed help, strangers would help you. People were not afraid to get involved.

DeLand Naval Air Station made a big impact on the war in the Pacific with the dive bomber squadrons they trained. They were a major threat of the striking force of a carrier and many, many crews were trained and shipped out from DeLand, Florida.

The base was originally equipped with Ventura Patrol Bombers. These squadrons would patrol the coast of Florida looking for submarines and they would also serve as escorts for the convoys operating along the coast. They would challenge all vessels operating in the area and make sure they were friendly, and flying the proper code flags for that day. The Ventura were transferred to Brazil in 1943 and the DeLand Naval Air Station became a training base for dive bomber pilots. Upon completion of their training and receiving their wings and commissions, Naval Aviators were given orders to report to DeLand NAS for training as Dive Bomber Pilots. Assigned to a squadron of 24 men, each pilot would be assigned a radio operator gunner for the rear seat of the plane. This squadron would stay together during all phases of training. The training planes were SBD Douglas Dauntless dive bombers in 1943 and upgraded to a faster plane in the SB2C Helldiver in 1945. These planes had controls only in the front seat, thus no one could take you up and show you how to fly the plane. You were given a book that told you all about the aircraft and the location of the controls in the cockpit. You were checked to see if you were knowledgeable of all the controls before you were sent up to fly the plane solo. The dive bomber made a significant impact on the outcome of the war in the Pacific and many scholars have given this aircraft credit for winning the war.

I was proud to serve my country and even more proud that the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum now honors all who served and are currently serving to protect freedom. I hope that our community will always support the educational displays and programs of the museum just as they did support our military during WWII."



Meet Al Schweizer

DNAS Museum President

Al Schweizer, President of the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, is one of our hardest working Volunteers! A lifetime member, Al is a US Navy Veteran who served on the USS Chuckwan and the USS Boston. In the 1960's photo below taken in the Mediterranean, Al described his assignment transfer from the USS Chuckwan to the USS Boston was accomplished by riding in a basket over the water from one ship to the other.

Al also serves as the President for the PTF-3 Vietnam Patrol Boat Restoration Project (www.ptf3restoration.org). Thanks Al for your service, dedication and hard work. We appreciate you!



USS CHUCKWAN AO100 OILER FUEL PUMPER (R)

USS BOSTON CAG1 WORLD'S 1ST GUIDED MISSILE CRUISER (L)

West Volusia Historical Society

Donates Vintage US Flag



48 STAR FLAG 1912-1949

IN 1912 TWO STARS WERE
ADDED FOR ARIZONA AND NEW
MEXICO, BRINGING THE TOTAL
TO 48 ARRANGED IN 6 ROWS OF
8 STARS EACH.



THERE WERE THIRTEEN STRIPES
REPRESENTING THE THIRTEEN
ORIGINAL COLONIES. THIS FLAG
FLEW FROM JULY 4, 1912 TO
JULY 3, 1949.

Our thanks to one of our great Community Partners, the West Volusia Historical Society for donating a 48 Star United States flag to the DNAS Museum memorabilia collection. This vintage flag that was flown from July 4, 1912 to July 3, 1949 is a great addition to our WWII displays.

With our great network of local museums hosting a variety of memorabilia on display from different time periods, we appreciate the opportunity to coordinate placement of items for the best public education experience.

Visit the WVHS website and facebook for announcements of community programs and events at the Henry A. DeLand House Museum and the Robert Conrad Education Center.

www.delandhouse.com

DNAS Museum Remains Closed During Pandemic

Volunteers Working Behind The Scene

The DNAS Museum remains closed to the public until we determine it is safe to re-open. Our great volunteers are still working at the museum or from home. We appreciate their assistance and ongoing support. The DNAS Museum is an all volunteer museum and we rely 100% on Community Support. You can support the museum during the pandemic by renewing your membership. Even if you can't participate, please consider becoming a supporting member, make a donation through our website www.delandnavalairmuseum.org or mail a donation to DNAS Museum, 910 Biscayne Boulevard, DeLand, FL 32724. Use AmazonSmile for orders. Any amount is appreciated!

Restoration Projects, Maintenance & Reorganization Continues



Don, Richard & Scott



Capt Greg & Crew
Build New Shelf Unit



Move Up The Ladder of Success



Matthew Prepares
Plane Models

Our Volunteers Donate Thousands of Hours Each Year
For Cultural & Heritage Services

To Benefit the City of DeLand, Volusia County and the State of Florida

WWII VETERAN DR. HARRY PRICE

ARTIST, FILM MAKER & WORLD CHAMPION WATER SKIER DNAS MUSEUM LIFETIME MEMBER



The DeLand Naval Air Station Museum thanks Dr. Harry Price for his many contributions to the success of the museum. A WWII Veteran, Dr. Harry Price and his wife Artis Price were inducted into the USA Water Ski Foundation Hall of Fame. The award recognizes longevity in the sport and goes to those individuals who have been actively involved in water ski sports disciplines for a minimum of 50 years. Visit the museum at 1251 Holy Cow Road, Polk City, FL 33868 (863) 324-2472.



Dr. Price has spent many hours filming museum activities and projects to document our progress. He is also the artist for the PTF-3 Sharks Mouth on the front of the Vietnam Era Patrol Boat and the Clouds Mobile in the Annex Building.



In addition to his military service and career as a Trauma Surgeon and Dentist, he and Artis have been performing and competing continually. They knew and performed with Esther Williams. Dr. Price performed for the troops during WWII. If you remember visiting Cypress Gardens water ski shows years ago, Dr. Price was the one diving from the high platform into the ring of fire! View a great video and story on <https://www.growingbolder.com/harry-price>. The Prices have their biographies published in the "Who's Who of America" for their outstanding community service and water skiing awards.



Thank You Dr. Price

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SANFORD ROTARY CLUB - BREAKFAST



Chris Stubbs

Our thanks to the Sanford Rotary Club—Breakfast for inviting Scott Storz, Special Projects Manager, to make a presentation about the activities of the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum.

Rotary Club Member Chris Stubbs, a Lifetime Member of the DNAS Museum, requested the program which included the history, past and present projects and an overview of

our future plans for public educational programs and events for youth and adults.

Scott enjoyed meeting everyone and appreciates any opportunity to put DNAS Museum in the spotlight. We thank our great Volunteers as we continue our 26th year preserving history.

"In Memory of All Who Served"



Support DNAS Museum - Gifts Available



The DeLand Naval Air Station Museum has a great selection of shirts, hats and other patriotic items that make great gifts. Also available are our patriotic lighted umbrellas, a variety of patriotic tote bags and patriotic 2ply face masks. Call or email soon to purchase these great items.

DeLand Naval Air Station Museum

SHIRTS/HATS AVAILABLE

Stock Up Now For Your Holiday Gifts & Support The Museum



WWII SBD Dauntless T-Shirt
M-L-XL-XXL

\$20.00



NAVY F-14 T-Shirt
L-XL

\$20.00



WWII TBF Avenger T-Shirt
M-L-XL-XXL

\$20

GREAT GIFTS

Military Cap Variety - \$20



Red, Blue, Black or Camo



Call Barbara
(386) 717-1492
FOR MORE INFO

Or EMAIL:
dnas.museum.org@
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Patriotic Bling Cap - \$20

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IN MEMORY OF WWII COMMANDER HARRY K. STUBBS

DOUG & SARAH LANTIER, MARTY TORBETT FAMILY & FRIENDS
IN MEMORY OF KENNETH S. TORBETT, WWII DNAS LINE CHIEF

SANDRA TITCOMB & FAMILY IN MEMORY OF
ELLWOOD TITCOMB 1ST DNAS MUSEUM PRESIDENT



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HONORING WWII COMMANDER
THOMAS J. & MARY RYAN

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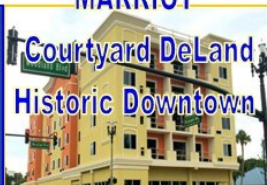


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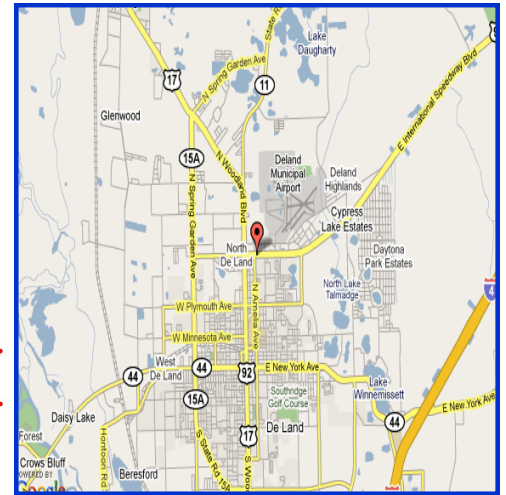
Wonderworks—Orlando

Thank You Volunteers !!

DNAS MUSEUM CLOSED BY PANDEMIC

Check Updates on Facebook

Donations On-line Or By Mail Appreciated



**National & Local Register
of Historic Places**

Funded In Part By

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The DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, Inc.

Serving DeLand, Volusia County and the State of Florida

Preserving Military & Local History

In Memory of ALL Who Served

We are a
Blue Star Museum
arts.gov/bluestarmuseums



DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, Inc.

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DeLand, FL 32724

Phone: 386-738-4149

www.delandnavalairmuseum.org

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!!

**Hours of Operation: Temporarily
Closed During Covid-19 Pandemic.**

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Thank You Museum Volunteers !!

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