



## **DNAS Museum News - MAY, 2017**

★ *In Memory of All Who Served* ★

### **RONALD N. HERMAN ASSEMBLY PAVILION**



On April 22, 2017 the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum hosted a public celebration to honor Ronald and Deborah Herman and family as they cut the ribbon on the Ronald N. Herman Assembly Pavilion. The Pavilion was donated to the DNAS Museum by the Herman Family and All Quality Products Building Materials & Millshop. We thank the Herman Family and look forward to many future public events.

**DeLAND, FLORIDA**



# A Day of Community Celebration

A beautiful day and a standing room only crowd helped make the ribbon cutting of the Ronald N. Herman Assembly Pavilion a festive and patriotic community event.



**Ronald Herman Family**



**Embry Riddle Navy ROTC**



**Ronald N. Herman Assembly Pavilion Guests**



# Embry Riddle Student Awards

Ted Turowski and Dennis Dickerson of the Daytona Beach Area Council of the Navy League presented awards to the DNAS Museum Embry Riddle University "Riddle Redeemers" Club and Student Members of the DNAS Museum for their Volunteer Work on museum restoration projects and special events. Isaiah Carlton, the founder of "Riddle Redeemers" spoke about the value of the opportunity the students have working at the museum. Each student expressed their individual thoughts on working with and being mentored by WWII, Korea and Vietnam War Veterans and Volunteers who share their life experiences and skills as well as the opportunity to work on vintage military aircraft and vehicles while they pursue their careers in aviation.

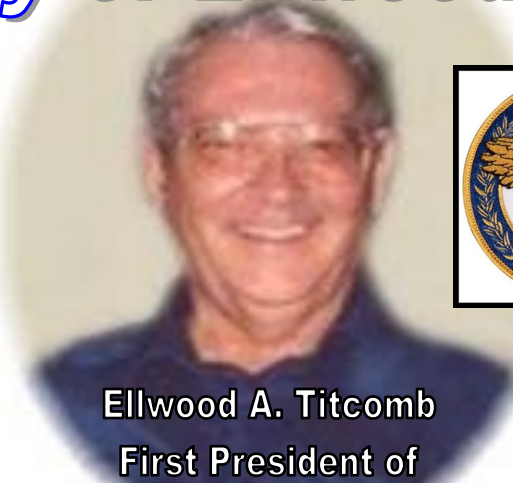


We Are Proud Of Our Students Who Give Us Hope For The Future!



# ROTARY CLUB OF DeLAND, INC.

## Presents \$10,000 to DNAS Museum *In Memory of Ellwood A. Titcomb*



Ellwood A. Titcomb  
First President of  
DeLand Naval Air Station Museum



On April 22, 2017, the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum was presented with a check for \$10,000 from the DeLand Rotary Club, Inc. Rotary President Steve Burk along with Rotary Members awarded the grant in memory of a long time Rotary member and the first President of the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, the late Ellwood A. Titcomb, a WWII Veteran. Gloria Denston spoke about Ellwood Titcomb and remembered his service to our community and his great legacy. Ellwood's wife Sandy Titcomb and son Kent Titcomb were also present to make the award. Sandy Titcomb was presented with a Lifetime Membership in the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum in memory of Ellwood Titcomb. The grant award will be used for the new DNASM Education Building which will be the center for military memorabilia displays, educational programs, meetings and the administrative office for the museum. The building will be constructed again by Volunteers with materials donated by the City of DeLand, the Ronald Herman Family, The Rotary Club of DeLand and other Community Partners.





# WWII GRUMMAN TBF AVENGER

## Proudly Presented

### *After A 14 Year Restoration*



## Congratulations To All Our Volunteers

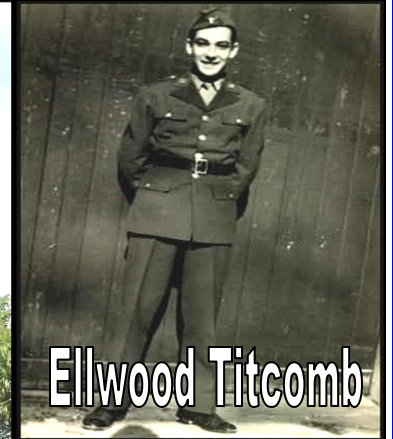






# Rememberance Bell Ringing

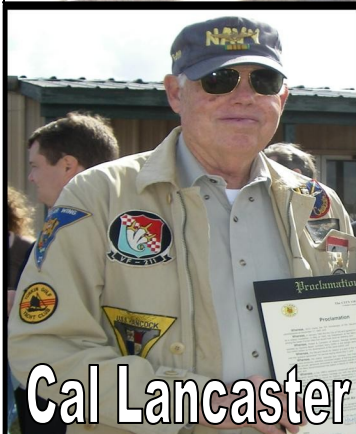
Many Volunteers took part in the restoration of the TBF Avenger from 2003 to 2017. Some of them are no longer with us but their contributions to the project and to the success of the museum will not be forgotten. A strike of the bell for each one of them signified their service to our country, their importance to our museum and a remembrance of their legacy placed now in the hands of the next generation to protect, "In Memory of All Who Served".



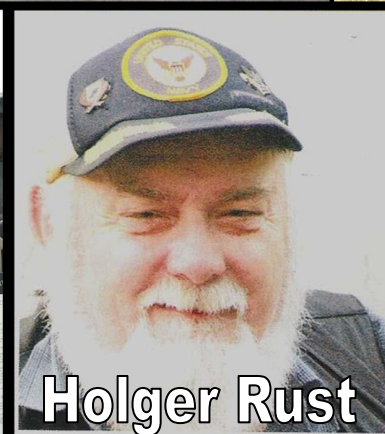
Ellwood Titcomb



Dale Alexander



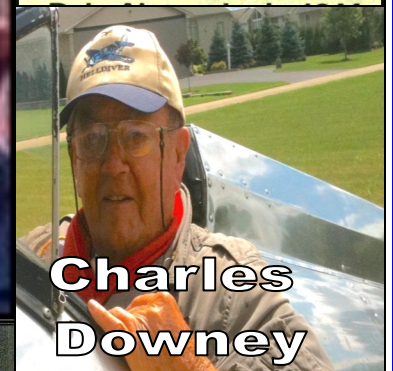
Cal Lancaster



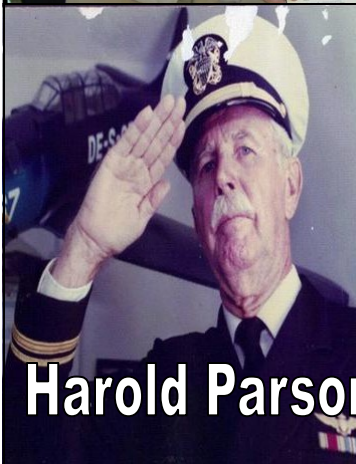
Holger Rust



Chuck Chokanis



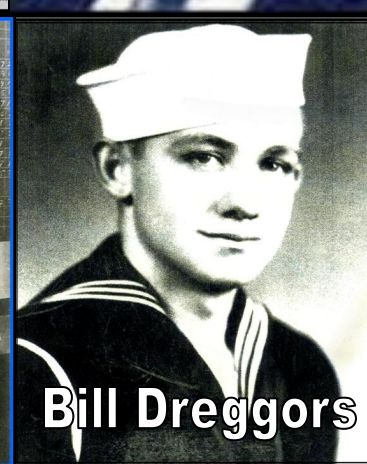
Charles Downey



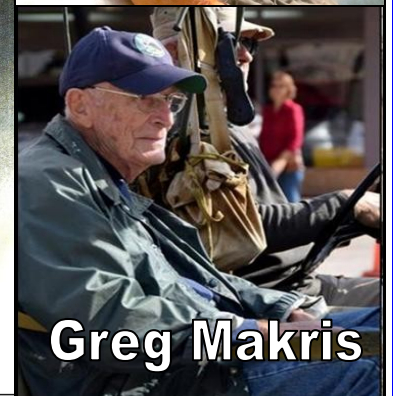
Harold Parson



Ken Torbett



Bill Dreggors



Greg Makris



# City of DeLand Robert Banta Day

Mayor Bob Apgar named 4/22/2017 Robert Banta Day in the City of DeLand to honor the original TBF Avenger Navy Pilot, Lt. Robert Banta. Mr. Banta was not able to attend and his close friends, Mr. and Mrs. John Oetzman, accepted the Proclamation on his behalf.



In 2004, Robert Banta was able to visit the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum to see his TBF Avenger and talk to the Restoration Crew about his experiences during the water landing in 1943. Mayor Bob Apgar presented him with a Key to the City at that time. He was able to visit the museum several times over the years to check on the progress of the restoration projects.





**Robert Banta donated his original WWII flight uniform and foot locker to the museum and they were on public display for the event. Timeline photographs of the 14 year project were also displayed.**



**Items removed from the TBF during the restoration and after more than 50 years in Lake Michigan. A harness buckle and a wooden led pencil in the pilot's cockpit were the most recent finds.**





**The CITY OF DELAND**

Volusia County, Florida

**Proclamation**

*Whereas, Robert W. Banta, is a World War II Veteran who served in the United States Navy as Lieutenant Naval Aviator from 1942-1945. He was assigned to the USS Randolph (CV 15), 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet, flying a TBF Avenger. On June 11, 1943 during a carrier qualification exercise on the USS Wolverine in Lake Michigan, the Grumman TBF-1 Avenger Torpedo Bomber, Serial #01747 that he was flying caught on fire and he radioed the flight tower that he needed to land the aircraft. Because the USS Wolverine had a wooden deck, for safety the flight crew signaled for him to make a water landing. The TBF Avenger water landing was accomplished and he was taken to safety by the chase rescue boat personnel. The TBF Avenger then sank to the bottom of Lake Michigan where it would remain for over 50 years. Lt. Robert W. Banta was able to continue his distinguished military service during WWII where he earned a Distinguished Flying Cross and two Air Medals for heroism in carrying out his missions; and*

*Whereas, in 2003, after being retrieved from Lake Michigan, the same TBF-Avenger that sank on June 11, 1943 was assigned to the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum for the purpose of restoration and public display in DeLand, Florida. Museum volunteers were able to locate Robert Banta and he visited the museum several times to see the progress of the restoration efforts of the TBF-1 that was delivered as wreckage in several sections, as a result of deterioration from being under water; and*

*Whereas, for the past 14 years, Veterans, Volunteers and Community Partners shared their expertise, donated equipment and supplies and have worked with determination to rebuild and restore the aircraft wreckage of the TBF Avenger inside the Ronald N. Herman Restoration Building. On April 22, 2017 the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum will hold a public open house to roll out and fully open the wings of the restored TBF Avenger. Robert W. Banta, will be the guest of honor to celebrate the years of hard work by many Veterans, some no longer with us, to preserve the historic aircraft for the education of future generations.*

*Now, therefore, I, Robert F. Apgar, Mayor of the City of DeLand, do hereby proclaim Saturday, April 22, 2017 as*

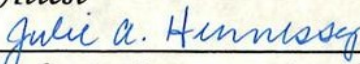
**Robert W. Banta Day**

*in the City of DeLand in appreciation for Robert Banta's military service to the United States of America and in recognition of the many Volunteers at the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum who restored the TBF Avenger. Robert Banta and all the Veterans who have served to protect our freedom will always be honored and remembered in DeLand.*

**Done and proclaimed** this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2017.

  
Robert F. Apgar, Mayor

Attest

  
Julie A. Hennessy, City Clerk, - Auditor





# Grumman TBF Avenger History

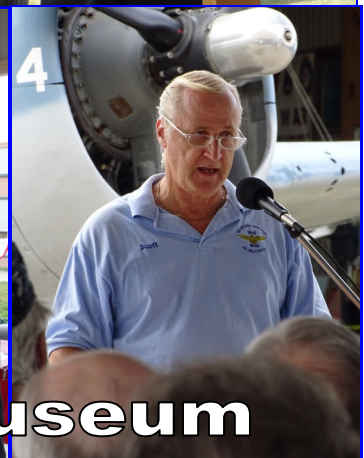
Captain Greg Gerard, Retired Navy F-14 Jet pilot after more than 30 years of service, and DNASM Restoration Chair, spoke about the 14 year restoration project. Greg's father was a WWII Pilot who flew in a TBF. Dr. Leo F. Murphy, a Retired Navy Commander with a 30 year career, is a Professor of Aeronautical Science at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. Dr. Murphy spoke about the history of the TBF Avenger and its roll in the military.



Greg Gerard & Proud Family



Dr. Leo Murphy



A Great Day at DNAS Museum



The Ronald N. Herman Assembly Pavilion





Virginia "Rosie the Riveter"  
Age 100



WWII Veterans  
Virgil Linder & Jack Fortes  
Stationed in DeLand during WWII



WWII Veteran Jack Fortes, Mentor  
with Embry Riddle Senior Isaiah Carlton

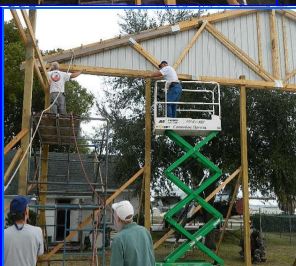


PTF3 Patrol Boat  
[www.ptf3restoration.org](http://www.ptf3restoration.org)



Thank You  
Dottie's Florist  
For Event Flowers

**A special thanks to the City of DeLand, Ron Herman, Don Rowley (Pavilion Project Manager), and the many Volunteers who worked as a team to construct the new pavilion in record time.**







**WWII Veteran Gene Storz and Captain Gerard take one last look at their pride and joy, and then with a team effort, the wings were folded and the TBF Avenger was rolled back to the hangar. Thanks again to all our Volunteers and their families for the many hours of hard work on this project.**



**We Thank Our Veterans, Volunteers and Our Community  
For Supporting The Preservation Of Our History**



*"In Memory of All Who Served"*



# Sponsors & Community Partners

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!



**CITY OF DeLAND**

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IN MEMORY OF  
KENNETH S. TORBETT**



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www.delandnavalairmuseum.org

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## Thank You Museum Volunteers !!