

DeLand, Florida—USA



**DNAS Museum News - MAY, 2021**

**A TIME TO HONOR AMERICAN HEROES**

**MAY 31, 2021**



**IN MEMORY OF ALL WHO SERVED**



# 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](http://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

### Volunteers Working Behind The Scene



Capt Greg & Rick Switch from  
Restoration to Gutter Repairs



New Volunteers  
Father and Son

Albert & Tomas  
Paint Parking Stops



WWII Veteran Gene  
Mows the North 40



Lee Continues F-14 Maintenance



# 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

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**Naval Sea Cadets  
Hold Retired US  
Flag Disposal Ceremony**



**THE DeLAND EXCELLENCE SQUADRON OF THE NAVAL SEA CADETS LEARN FLAG ETIQUETTE. UNITED STATES FLAGS THAT ARE TATTERED OR DAMAGED ARE PROPERLY DISPOSED OF.**



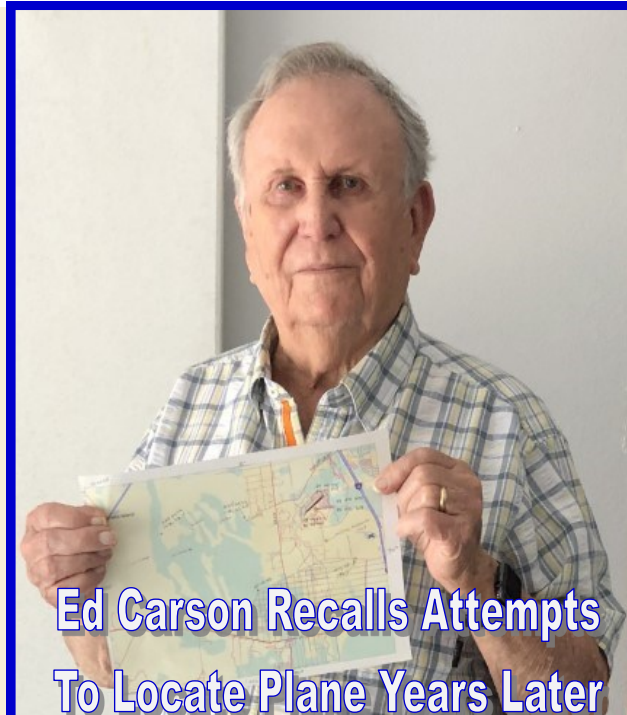
**Gene & Scott  
Treat Volunteers to Lunch**

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# WWII HISTORY - 1943 Dive Bomber Crash

## ED CARSON SHARES RECOLLECTIONS



Ed Carson Recalls Attempts  
To Locate Plane Years Later

DNAS Museum Lifetime Member, Ed Carson, recently shared his recollections and a site map for a 1943 Navy Dive Bomber that crashed during a training mission at DeLand NAS.

During WWII, the DeLand Naval Air Station was a pilot training base from November 1942 to March 15, 1946. There were many crashes during training, including a young Navy pilot named Lt. Harry Brown who was involved in a crash on June 24, 1943.

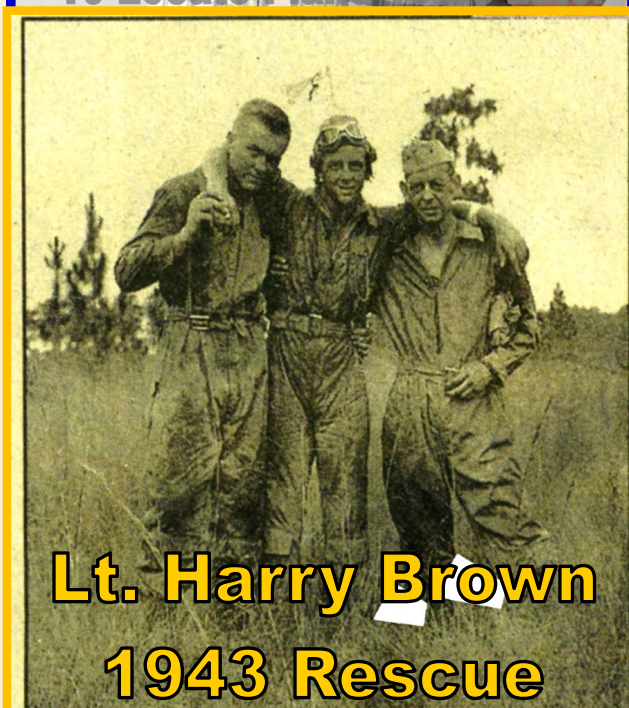
In 1997, 54 years later and at age 75, Harry Brown spoke about his harrowing experience the day his plane crashed.

### Capt. Harry Brown Recollections In His Own Words

It was June 24, 1943, and Lt. Harry Brown had spent the morning landing his SBD bomber again and again on an aircraft carrier deck that was painted on a runway at Spruce Creek. The young lieutenant, just a few months out of pilot training in Pensacola, qualified for the maneuver and in the afternoon was returning alone to the DeLand Naval Air Station.

Above him was blue sky. Below him was swamp. At 1,200 feet and climbing, the engine died, and his single-engine Navy dive bomber was falling fast. "I dropped the nose to keep my air speed up so I wouldn't spin in,"

Brown said. "I tried for an air start - just like you would a car." I tried three air starts, and the aircraft wouldn't start. I was getting lower and lower and I was right over a big swamp." At a higher altitude, he could have considered climbing out of the cockpit and parachuting.



Lt. Harry Brown  
1943 Rescue



"Instead, he scoured the cypress swamp for the safest place to crash-land. "Even though I thought I picked out a place to land with very few trees, the lower I got, the more trees seemed to grow up there," he said. "But I was committed. Once your engine gives out and once you pick out your landing place, you better not change it. It's a good way to get killed." Brown slammed into the swamp at about 80 miles per hour. He kept the bomber's wheels retracted to prevent the plane from flipping and tried to keep the nose between the trees. The aircraft skidded on the marsh and hammered the trees. "My right wing came off. Another cypress tree hit my left wing. It didn't knock it off, but I skidded around. I stopped shortly after that," he said. "Another 10 feet and another cypress tree would have gone right through my cockpit and knocked me out."

Luck was on Brown's side. The plane didn't burn and he suffered only an inch-long gash on his right forearm. But he was lost, and nobody knew he was missing. "Nobody knew I went down," he said. "I didn't have an engine. I only had 1,200 feet beneath me, and I was dropping like a rock. I didn't have time to contact anybody by radio."

Brown knew only that he was somewhere between State Road 92 to the north and State Road 44 to the south. He climbed down from the cockpit and made his way through cypress hammocks. For hours, Brown fought his way through the swamp. Finally he reached highway 44 and was rescued when a bus that happened by and helped him to safety. Later, a Navy mechanic retrieved the aircraft's fuel lines and carburetor and found dirt in them - the cause of the accident, Brown said. He was cleared.

"During World War II he was shot at on numerous occasions while flying reconnaissance missions. He rose to the rank of Captain and was the recipient of the World War II Victory Medal, Naval Reserve Faithful Service Medal, World War II American Campaign Medal and Korean Service Medal among others.

On completion of over 30 years of active Naval service, Captain Brown retired to Cocoa Beach, FL. He passed away on March 16, 2008 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

**"IN MEMORY OF ALL WHO SERVED"**



# Navy Seabee Veterans of America Florida Island X-19 of Daytona Beach

## HAPPY 79TH BIRTHDAY SEABEES



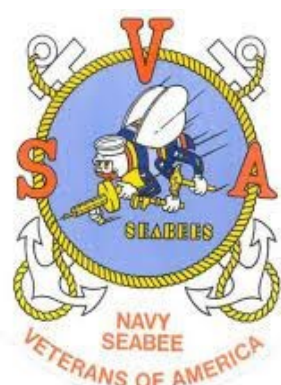
**Don  
Rowley**

The DeLand Naval Air Station Museum welcomed our Community Partner, the Navy Seabee Veterans of America—Florida Island X-19 of Daytona Beach, in the Ronald Herman Assembly Pavilion. Our own Seabee, DNASM Vice President Don Rowley coordinated the Seabees and their spouses to celebrate the 79th Birthday



**Charter Members**

## "SEABEES - CAN DO"



of the Navy Seabees. They enjoyed a great lunch catered by Brian's BBQ in DeLand ([www.briansbbq.com](http://www.briansbbq.com)). Our thanks to the Navy Seabees for their military service and for all they continue to do to give back to our community with their "Seabee—Can Do" mission.



# DNAS Museum Student Volunteers Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University



## Riddle Redeemers Work on DNASM Projects

Embry-Riddle Student and DNASM Board Member Matthew Robinson joins other members of the Riddle Redeemers as they continue to work off-site on DNAS Museum projects. We appreciate the ongoing support of these great students.



Embry-Riddle Students continue working off-site on measuring and cutting out

the tail section for the replica AIM-9 missiles for the F-14 Tomcat







# DeLand Naval Sea Cadet Training

The Naval Sea Cadet DeLand Excellence Squadron members are continuing a modified training schedule combining a virtual and in-person schedule while following Covid-19 guidelines.

Ensign Andrew Osteen coordinates the students' training program. New students age 10-high school who are interested in joining the DeLand Excellence Squadron can get more information about the program at [aosteen@delandseacadets.org](mailto:aosteen@delandseacadets.org)- [www.delandseacadets.org](http://www.delandseacadets.org), Facebook or Andrew Osteen (386) 675-5995.



**DNAS Museum Member, Bill Blanke holds a rope training seminar for the DeLand Naval Sea Cadets. Bill, a Marine Corps Veteran, served from 1964-68 as an Avionics Technician.**

**Growing up in Momence, Illinois, Bill learned how to splice and weave rope**

**from a disabled WWII Navy Veteran named Frank Jankel. Mr. Jankel was a ship machine gunner who was severely injured during the war. Bill used his rope skills in the service and in civilian life, including assisting the DNAS Museum with the rope on the block and tackle display from the USS Rankin. He was happy to share his knowledge with the Sea Cadets and we hope they can apply this new skill and teach someone else in the future.**



# DNAS Museum Student Review



**Petty Officer 3rd Class Jake Osteen**  
**Excellence Squadron U.S. Naval Sea Cadets**

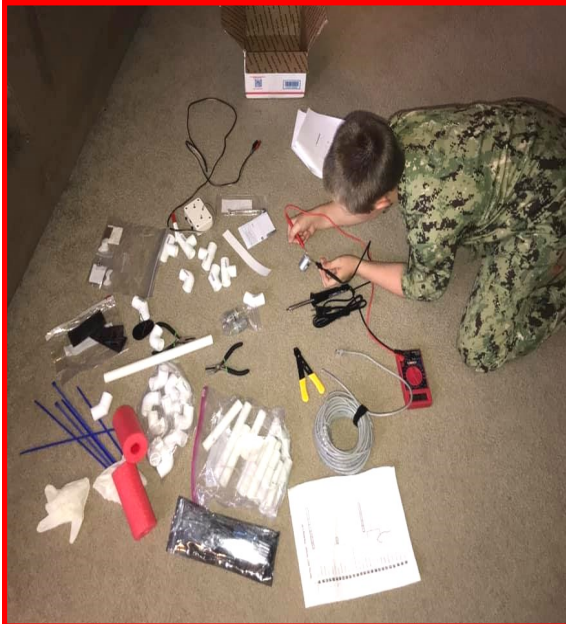
## **In His Own Words**

What the museum means to me

I like how they provide a <sup>space</sup> ~~space~~ for us for Sea cadets. I also learn a lot of Deland's Naval history. I learn a lot about the PTF-3 from Mr. Harold. I learn a lot of Naval history from Mr. Harold. I enjoy walking through the PTF-3 Capt. Greg taught me history of the F-14 tom cat. I learn a lot about the TBF-Avenger from Mr. A I.

By PO3 Osteen

Jake Osteen 11 years old  
 Sea Cadets



We thank Petty Officer 3rd Class, Jake Osteen for his review of what his training and volunteer time at the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum means to him. 2nd photo of Jake assembling his SeaPerch underwater ROV. He had a great time building it during the STEM advanced training. In addition to building the ROV, the class provides training about Ohms law and the history behind electricity. When the students press the buttons to make their vehicles work they understand the science behind it and how it works. We are proud of you Jake!



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



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HONORING WWII COMMANDER  
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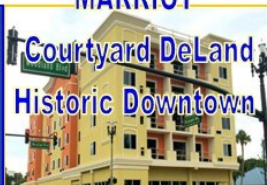


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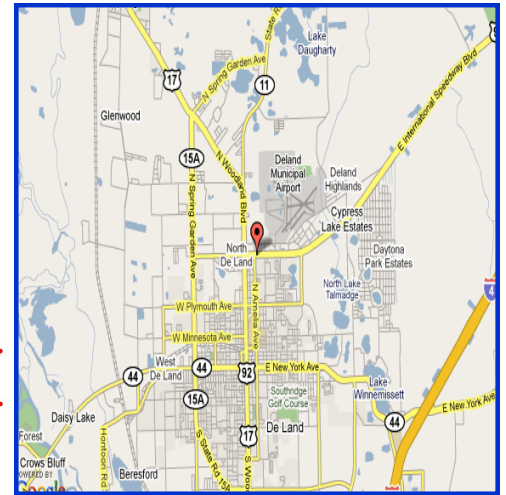
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# DNAS MUSEUM CLOSED BY PANDEMIC

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A Preserve America  
City**



**DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, Inc.**

910 Biscayne Boulevard

DeLand, FL 32724

Phone: 386-738-4149

[www.delandnavalairmuseum.org](http://www.delandnavalairmuseum.org)

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Closed During Covid-19 Pandemic.**

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