#### **DeLAND, FLORIDA - VOLUSIA COUNTY - USA**





In Memory of All Who Served

# LIVE MUSIC-28th BIG BAND DANCE 11/8/2019 Get Ready To Dance & Enjoy!





At 7:00 PM on Friday November 8, 2019, the DeLand NAS Museum will host the 28th Big Band Dance at the Bosco Center, 359 West New York Avenue in DeLand. Featuring live music from the L. C. Swing Band, enjoy the 1940-1960's era music. Decades attire is fun but not required. We have a great <u>Raffle</u> and <u>Silent Auction</u>. The raffle tickets are six (6) tickets for \$5.00 or twenty-six (26) tickets for \$20. Bids will be taken for the silent auction items. Food, beer and wine will be available for sale. Call (386) 717-1492 for tickets.





# HURRICANE DORIAN SPARES DeLAND THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!

Many thanks to our great volunteers who took the time from their own storm preparation to assist the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum with preparing for the pending hurricane. In the stifling heat and humidity, they assisted with covering the inside displays, boarding up windows, tying down aircraft, the PTF3 boat, securing the restoration hangar doors and other tasks to prepare for potential high winds and water damage. We are thankful that no damage was received. The museum windows will remain boarded up until the end of hurricane season.



## Students Learning New Skills

Jake, age ten, is one of the new DeLand Naval Sea Cadets participating in the DeLand Unit training at the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum. He joined his Dad in donating his time to help with the hurricane prep and learned some new skills on how to properly put away tools and equipment so they are ready to use next time.





Alex, one of our **DeLand Unit Naval Sea** students makes a Cadet about his presentation activities **DNASM** to Volunteers as part of his public training for speaking and community service. We are looking forward to hosting more students in the near future.





#### **NEW NAVAL SEA CADET DeLAND UNIT**

Seeking Students To Join Now

The DeLand Naval Air Station Museum will serve as the host for the students, ages 10 through high school. For more information visit www.seacadets.org, or Dennisdickerson2@msn.com.

## **Educational Museum Tours**

Local, Statewide, National & International

Youth & Adult Visitors



**Full Time Sailboat Visitors** 







**WWII** Navy Veteran Gene Storz visits with Air Force Veteran, James donated Gniady who of models **TBF-1** Avenger, F-4U Corsair, F-6-F Hellcat, a modern aircraft carrier and a Pilots Handbook for display in the museum.

# Special Visit - Jay Smith & Scottie Smith St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum





On September 14, 2019, the DNAS Museum hosted a visit from one of our community partners, Jay Smith and Scottie Smith from the St.

Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum. Jay is the Office and Executive & Governance Support Manager and Scottie is the Exhibit Preparator. They are preparing a new WWII exhibit and we were happy to exchange ideas and information with them. Find out more

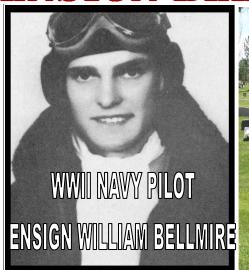
about the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum at www.staugustinelighthouse.org, and plan a visit to this historic location soon.

# Stifftsonian Day Live A Success

On Saturday, September 21, 2019, the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum Volunteers participated in the 15th Annual Smithsonian Day Live event. Museums from around the country signed up to offer free entry for the day. The DNAS Museum does not charge for tours and relies on support from public donations only. Our Volunteers worked hard to clean hurricane debris and unwrap the memorabilia covered before the storm to prepare for our visitors. Visitors from throughout Volusia and other counties and states stopped by the museum. Both adults and youth were given a guided tour of the museum complex.



#### ENSIGN BELLMIRE REMEMBERED





DeLand Naval Air Station Museum Lifetime Member, Joe Storz, recently made a cross country trip with a stop in Delta, Colorado. Joe, a Navy Veteran, was able to locate the gravesite of WWII Navy Pilot, Ensign William Thornton Bellmire who is buried next to his parents. Ensign Bellmire was killed while training at NAS DeLand, Florida on February 1, 1944. While practicing dive bombing drills, his SBD5 aircraft crashed in Osteen, Florida. In 2011 the crash site was located in Osteen by DNASM member Rodney Thomas and parts of the wreckage are at the DNAS Museum. We are honored to remember Ensign Bellmire now and for future generations who will learn about his sacrifice for our freedom.















Protecting Each Other













Dogs Have Fought Alongside American Forces

In Every Conflict Since the Revolutionary War,

But Only Officially Since WWI

#### **WWII** Military Felines - Service & Purrrs





Cats are often overlooked in the history of military animals, and for the most part, all famous wartime cats became so during the 1st and 2nd World Wars, when cats were still very much a part of the naval service - both the United States and abroad. These were the days when it was essential to have a good ratter/mouser on board to protect the food stores. Like their human counterparts, some cats performed above and beyond their daily service. In other cases, the cats were not official members of the service, but they showed courage under fire, or assisted in the survival of troops on the ground.









Pooli is short for Princess Papule, and she was born on the Fourth of July in 1944 in the Navy yard at Pearl Harbor. She was taken aboard the USS Fremont, an attack transport, where she saw plenty of action. Her ship was in battle at the Marianas, the Palau group, the Philippines, and Iwo Jima. Pooli would head for the mail room and curl up in a mail sack whenever she heard the battle stations ring, and the main danger she faced was when some of the sailors aboard her ship were heading for home. They considered throwing the cat overboard for fear that they would be quarantined in San Francisco because of her. But those who loved the cat wouldn't have it, and they put a round-the-clock guard on the cat for three days until the ship docked without any problems. Pooli lived a long and happy life after the war and earned three service

ribbons and four battle stars.

A Wecomed Distraction
In The Flight Ready Room
& A Reminder of Home

#### Post WWII/Korean War History - Recollections By Ed Carson



Ed Carson is a Lifetime Member of the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum and one of the original founders, past President and Board Director. After seeing last month's DeLandings Newsletter article about WWII Navy Pilot Tuner DeHart who trained at the DeLand Naval Air Station, Ed shared his recollections of post WWII and Korean War.

When Ed Carson was a teenager growing up in DeLand, Florida, he was fascinated by Navy dive bombers and the young pilots who trained at the former DeLand Naval Air Station to fly the aircraft during World War II. Little did he know that his path would cross with one of them a few years later. In 1948 Ed joined the Naval Reserve Unit in DeLand with assigned training in cryptanalysis. It turns out that the Commanding Officer was Turner DeHart who received his WWII pilot training at the DeLand NAS.

In December of 1951 through 1953, Ed was called to active duty assigned to the Naval Communications Station in Washington, D.C. His station was the hub of all electronic communications passed to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. While checking in at the facility he was tapped on the shoulder by a passing Officer, Lt. Turner DeHart! Because officers and the enlisted staff did not socialize, this was their only contact during Carson's active duty except the smiles at each other when work timing put both through the same door. Neither Carson or DeHart knew what each others assignment might be. Also at that time, Francis P. Whitehair of Volusia County was serving as the Under Secretary of the Navy in the same building. Whitehair was a partner in the DeLand law firm Landis, Fish & Hull and the Whitehair Bridge on Hwy 44 over the St. John's River is named after him.

Ed recalls that after Turner DeHart was released from active duty, he attended Stetson University under the GI Bill. DeHart and his brother ran the Sinclair service station at Stone Street and West New York Avenue (now the location of DOBRO'S Restaurant). It seems that even this many years later, it really is a small world and we thank Ed for his service and for sharing his recollections.



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**Tour Guides Needed - Individuals or Couples (Training Script Available)** 







National Register of Historic Places

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**DeLand Municipal Airport** 













Serving DeLand, Volusia County and the State of Florida





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In Memory of ALL Who Served

DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, Inc.



910 Biscayne Boulevard DeLand, FL 32724 Phone: 386-738-4149

www.delandnavalairmuseum.org
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Wednesday through Sunday
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Youth Groups



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<u> Thank You Museum Volunteers !!</u>

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