

DeLand, Florida—USA



DNAS Museum News - September-October 2022

WWII PRISONER OF WAR ITEMS RECOVERED AT YARD SALE FAMILY LOCATED AND ITEMS RETURNED



Recently, a couple stopped by the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum to donate an American flag, a packet of personal family photos and several letters from a WWII Navy Ensign who was a Japanese prisoner of war, J.D. Mullins. When Hugh Thompson found the items for sale at a yard sale by someone not related to Ensign Mullins, he recognized the need to try and locate the owner. He contacted volunteers at the museum with the hope that research could help find a living relative to reunite the items, which included very personal letters hand written by Ensign Mullins and his wife. Some letters were marked return to sender and never received. A short time later, Robert Bartberger arrived at the museum with a full tote bin of J.D. Mullins items that he found at the same yard sale. DeLand NAS Museum volunteers conducted ancestry research and a granddaughter of J.D. Mullins, who had been searching for information about her grandfather, was soon located through social media and local news stations that featured the story.



Heather, Hugh, Emily, Robert

With the assistance of Heather Strickland, a DNASM volunteer genealogist, the granddaughter of J.D. Mullings, Emily Smart was located just 60 miles away.

Emily explained that the valued family items were accidentally lost in a storage locker during multiple moves when she was a young girl. She always hoped that someone would return the items to the family but if not that they would take care of them.

Museum members welcomed Emily and her family to the museum, along with Hugh Thompson and Robert Bartberger. After Hugh Thompson explained how he found the items, we surprised Emily with the additional items found by Robert Bartberger that included framed family portraits, telegrams, letter and many other items of J.D. Mullins.

Emily expressed her thanks and plans to organize the family memorabilia and preserve the items for her children. She advised that her grandfather J.D. Mullins was an amazing person who survived as a prisoner of war and went on to accomplish many milestones in his life.

Our thanks to Hugh Thompson, Robert Bartberger as well as Vicki Karr and cameraman Jeremy Bias of Fox 35 Orlando TV and News 6 TV reporter Molly Reed for bringing our Mullins WWII Memorabilia search efforts to the public attention. A special thanks also to Jared Galloway, Archivist with the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola for his research.

Officer Cited at Corregidor Now Is Prisoner of Japs

Ensign Jimmy Mullins, Fort Worth, who was cited for bravery at Corregidor, is "alive and safe" as a prisoner of the Japs in the Philippine area.

Secretary of Navy Knox wired this cheering news Friday to the ensign's mother, Mrs. Bell Bunker, 3506 Clinton. "Oh, my goodness, I was never so thrilled in my life," she said.

Her last word from her son was a cable Feb. 19, 1942, which said he was safe and well. Mullins was reported missing in action on Cebu Island in June, 1942. Mrs. Bunker was recently informed by the International Red Cross that although her son had been missing for more than a year, the search would be continued.

Last April Secretary Knox wrote Mrs. Bunker that her son had been awarded a citation and Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry and bravery beyond the call of duty during action at Fort Mills, Corregidor, on Feb. 15, 1942.

Ensign Mullins was graduated from North Side High School in 1932. He attended NTAC two



ENSIGN JIMMY MULLINS.

years before enlisting in the Naval Air Corps as a meteorologist Dec. 19, 1935.

Before going to the Philippines in November, 1942, he was married to Miss Lois Tatum of Jacksonville.



Vicki Karr & Jeremy Bias
Fox 35 Orlando TV



Molly Reed
News 6 TV



Hugh Thompson
Explains His Find



Emily Shares Her
Family History



Robert Bartberger
Returns Valued
Family Items



TUG BOAT REPLICA MODEL DONATED

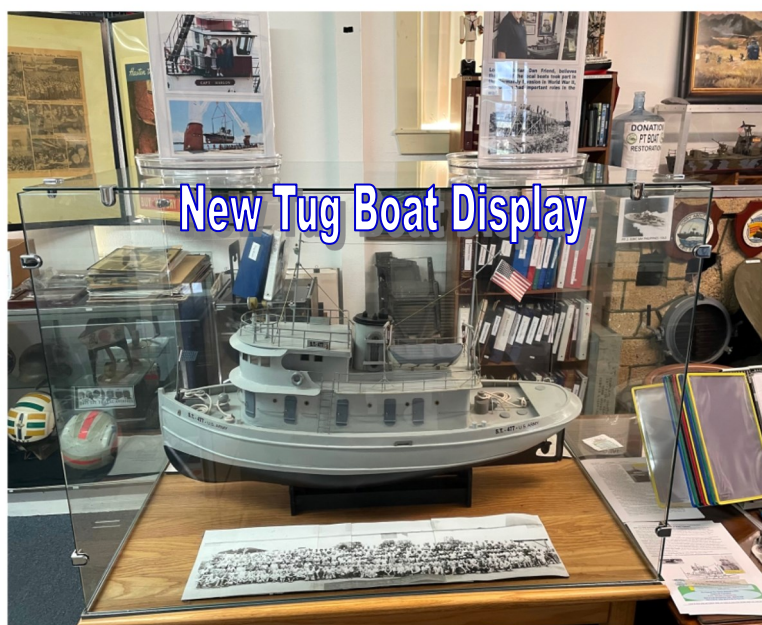


**LIFETIME MEMBER
ED CARSON**

Our thanks to DNASM Lifetime Member Ed Carson for donating a tug boat replica model to the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum. The model has been on display at the City of DeLand City Hall for a few years and is now on public display inside the original museum building.



The 46-inch model was built by Bob McCray as a replica of tugboats that were built on Lake Beresford in DeLand, Florida during WWII. The replica is displayed in a beautiful glass case. Photos and educational information about the tug boat history accompany the new display. The timing of the donation coordinates with the DeLand Historic Trust's project to return the last known original WWII ST479 Tiger tugboat from Sweden back to Volusia County for public display. Great progress has been made to return this important part of our local history. Donations and volunteers are still needed. Contact Dan Friend at (386) 943-9537 or send email to danieljosephfriend@gmail.com if you can donate or join their recovery team.



**WWII ST479 Arrives
In Jacksonville, FL**



**Escort To Prepare For
Return to Volusia County**

DeLand Breakfast Rotary Club Supports Community Groups



A special thanks to the DeLand Breakfast Rotary Club for their generous donation to the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum. We greatly appreciate the ongoing support for DNASM and many other community organizations.



Over \$125,000 was awarded to local community organizations. Please support the annual Wild Game Feast fundraisers and all local Rotary Events sponsored by the Rotary Club of DeLand, DeLand Breakfast Rotary Club, the Rotary Club of Downtown DeLand, and the Sanford Rotary Club.

THANK YOU COMMUNITY PARTNER DeLAND BREAKFAST ROTARY CLUB



F-14 Tomcat Pilot Veteran Visits

We were happy to welcome DNAS Museum member, Joe Ruzicka recently for a visit. Known as "Smokin Joe", he served as an F-14 Pilot during his service in the Navy and was one of the pilots for our F-14 on display at the museum. His name is proudly displayed on the aircraft. Joe, a native of Dallas, graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1996. He was selected for the F-14 Tomcat where he flew missions in support of forward deployed forces in the Far East as a deterrent to North Korea. He also spent tours as an instructor in the F-14 Tomcat, F-18 Hornet and as a Foreign Military Sales Officer.

In 2011, Joe was selected as a Department of Defense Legislative Fellow to Senator John McCain, where he advised the Senator on defense and foreign policy issues in the United States Senate. During Joe's 20 years in the US Navy, he logged over 1200 hours in fighter aircraft and has arrested landings on the aircraft carriers USS Kitty Hawk, Kennedy, Truman, and Vinson. He retired from the US Navy in 2016.

Joe is now a Director of Business Development for Adams Keegan, an HR, payroll and benefits outsourcing firm and has been charged with growing the Adams Keegan presence in Texas.

DNAS Museum Welcomes Summer Visitors



South Florida Naval



Al Conducts Tour



Sea Cadet Battalion Visits



of PTF-3 Vietnam Patrol Boat



Cadets Raise The US Flag
DeLand Excellence Squadron
Sea Cadets Served As Hosts



International Visitors - Norway
Visit Vietnam PTF-3
Patrol Boat that was
Built in Norway



Family Fun Day
At DNAS Museum



Volusia County Homeschoolers Visit

East & West Volusia Homeschool Group Welcomed
Included Volusia County ECHO Rangers



This Enthusiastic Group Of Students and Parents Had A Great Time
Some Will Return Soon To Work On Individual Research & History Study Projects



The Late Senator Bob Dole Honored



Fort Drum Renames Barracks After Senator Robert Dole, Original Member of 10th Mountain Division

In a recent ceremony at the U.S. Army Base Fort Drum in New York, the barracks that houses service members assigned to the Soldier Recovery Unit were renamed for the former 10th Mountain Division soldier and former presidential candidate. Senator Dole was a member of the 85th Mountain Infantry Regiment. The 3rd Battalion, 85th Mountain Infantry Regiment was active on post until July 2020 when it was reflagged as the Fort Drum Soldier Recovery Unit.

The DNAS Museum was honored to host WWII Veteran, Senator Dole in 2005 for his book signing event. (One Soldier's Story) Photos of his visit are currently on public display at the museum.

DNASM Volunteers Continue Projects & Public Educational Tours

The DNAS Museum is an all volunteer museum and we rely 100% on Community Support. You can support the museum 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. **CONSIDER END OF YEAR TAX DEDUCTION.** Use AmazonSmile orders to benefit DNAS Museum. Go to AmazonSmile and login to your existing account, choose DeLand Naval Air Station Museum as your charity and the museum will receive a cash credit from your purchase. It's easy and a great way to support the museum.



Volunteer Trey
Is "Volunteered"
To Climb the Ladder



Navy Flag Displayed



Capt. Greg
Continues WWII
TBF Avenger Restoration



Thanks To Bill Fraser
For Installing Exhaust Fan
Bill Fraser Construction



Gene Assembles
Displays



Harold Sands New Railing



Gene Shares
WWII Recollections



New & Returning Riddle
Redeemers Work on F-14



Al & Don Continue PTF-3 Restoration

Thank You Volunteers For The Many Hours You Donate To Our Community

Volusia County ECHO Rangers Program Registration Increases



Daytona Beach Family
ECHO Rangers Visit



Explore Volusia County's many ECHO treasures.
Win cool prizes while touring many of the parks, museums and other activities Volusia County has to offer.

ECHO Rangers is a hands-on, educational 10-month program that showcases many of Volusia County's Ecological, Cultural, Heritage and Outdoor treasures. The program is offered to children who are in grades 1 - 5 as of August 2022.

Cost: \$20 registration fee per child

The fee includes:

- Admission to participating sites for the ECHO Ranger candidate and one adult
- ECHO Ranger ID badge, lanyard and T-shirt
- Official ECHO Ranger "Passport to Adventure" guidebook detailing all sites and dates available
- Admission to the graduation picnic on June 3, 2023



ECHO Rangers travel to the sites listed in their guidebooks on designated dates. There will be unique and exciting things to do at each site. After the activity, rangers get a stamp in their passport. Eight stamps (two for each letter in ECHO) will get you into the ECHO Ranger graduation picnic in June.

2022 sign-up meetings

Attend one of our meetings to ask questions and pick up your supplies. Attendance is not required.

- 6 - 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 3: DeBary Hall
- 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6: Port Orange Library Auditorium
- 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13: DeBary Hall

If you are unable to attend a meeting, please contact Lisa Perez at 386-668-3840 or lperez@volusia.org.

Registration form

Please mail these completed forms with your registration fee to DeBary Hall, 198 Sunrise Blvd., DeBary, FL 32713. Call 386-668-3840 if you have any questions.

Child's name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent or guardian: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

T-shirt size (circle one): YS YM YL AS AM AL

By signing this form, I give the County of Volusia permission to publish and use the photographs of me and/or my child, along with my name and/or my child's name, for art, advertising, trade, public information and any other lawful purpose. I waive inspecting and/or approving the finished product of the copy that is used in connection with the publication. I release the County of Volusia from any liability from the use of my photograph or reproduction thereof.

Parent/legal guardian signature _____ Date _____

ECHO Ranger signature _____ Date _____

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless DeBary Hall Inc., the County of Volusia and the State of Florida from and against all claims, suits, damages, losses, expenses (including but not limited to attorney's fees) and other costs in any manner arising from the use of DeBary Hall Historic Site premises as set forth herein. The undersigned has read and agrees to the entire indemnity provision as stated above.

Parent/legal guardian signature _____ Date _____



The DeLand Naval Air Station Museum volunteer tour guides have seen an increase in requests for ECHO Ranger tours.

Lisa Perez, Education Coordinator at the DeBary Hall Historic Site is the coordinator of this great youth program. A recent sign-up event resulted in the registration of a record number of new

and repeating Rangers. Call her at (386) 668-3840 Ext 21136 to join. To schedule a DNAS Museum tour please leave a message (386) 738-4149 or email dnas.museum.org@gmail.com. Let us know how many students and adults are in your group. Tours are available on Wednesday and Saturday Mornings only from 8:00am-11:00am if volunteers are available.

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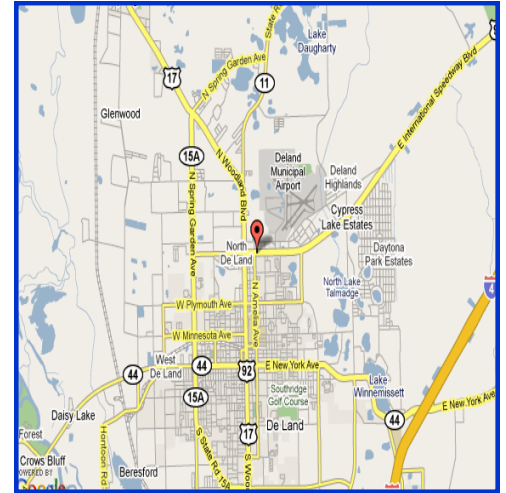
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**Preserving Military & Local History
In Memory of ALL Who Served**



DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, Inc.

910 Biscayne Boulevard

DeLand, FL 32724

Phone: 386-738-4149

www.delandnavalairmuseum.org

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!!

Public tours are on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 8:00 AM—Noon (Last Tour at 11:00 AM.) Large Groups & ECHO Ranger please call or email for appointment to schedule volunteer tour guides. Arrive Early

**JOIN TODAY OR DONATE
(DONATE WITH CREDIT CARD ON WEBSITE)**

Thank You Museum Volunteers !!

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