



DNAS Museum News - JULY, 2017

★ *In Memory of All Who Served* ★

Happy July 4th

*AS WE CELEBRATE
OUR NATION'S FREEDOM,
WE HONOR THE
COURAGEOUS
MEN & WOMEN
DEDICATED
TO PRESERVING IT*





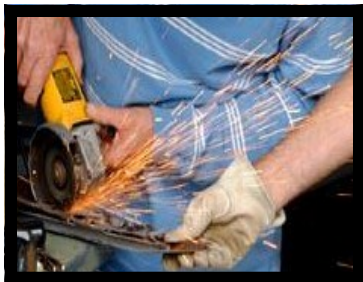
"In Memory of All Who Served"

Bill & Irene Dreggors Remembered



Members of the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum attended the West Volusia Historical Society's dedication ceremony that honored the late William J. "Bill" Dreggors and his wife, the late Irene Dreggors. On a very warm day, June 30, 2017 which would have been Bill's 91st birthday, the Honorable DeLand Mayor Bob Apgar, City and County Officials, friends and family gathered to remember Bill and Irene. A beautiful holly tree and a dedication plaque have been placed on the grounds of the DeLand House Museum to honor Bill. Inside, Irene Dreggors was given the title of "First Lady of Hospitality". A beautiful plaque, along with her apron and embroidered towel, hangs in the kitchen to remember her dedication to making sure that "hospitality" was always the theme at WVHS and community events. See more great photos by Susie Macon on WVHS Facebook. www.delandhouse.com.





RESTORATION UPDATES

T33 SHOOTING STAR

Even in the hot summer sun of Florida, the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum Restoration Crew is hard at work to make repairs and prepare the T33 Shooting Star for paint. Our new pavilion and a tent provide much needed shade. Our thanks to our great Volunteers!



The Ronald N. Herman

Assembly Pavillion

provides great shade for crew



A HOT SUMMER AT THE MUSEUM



LOCAL, STATEWIDE, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
VISITORS TOUR DNAS MUSEUM



DNASM got a special request from the Miller Family visiting from Ohio. Their Dad "James" (orange shirt -center) is retired Navy and worked on the F-14's while in the service. They requested and received an up close and personal visit and we were glad to oblige. Wonderful family and a great visit. They enjoyed talking to WWII Veteran Gene Storz.



Senior Bus Tour



**The Miller Family
from Ohio**

**Youth & Adults from Bus & Group Tours,
Public & Home School groups,
& Veterans enjoy the museum displays
and restoration projects throughout the year**

DeLand Naval Air Station History—WWII 1945

VOL. 3, NO. 11

NAVAL AIR STATION, DELAND, FLORIDA

JUNE 15, 1945

BASE TO CHANGE TO BOMBER-FIGHTER TRAINING

HELDDIVERS WILL ARRIVE HERE SOON

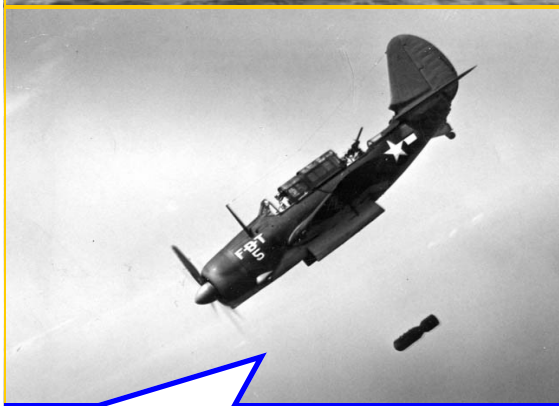


With another good job to its list of accomplishments NAS DeLand is now in the process of becoming a Bomber-Fighter base, it was announced this past week.

With the completion of training of the present flights of fighter pilots new groups will be organized to start training in SB2C Helldivers under a VBF syllabus.

No more student pilots will be received aboard for several weeks. New pilots arriving will start in the new syllabus. Present instructors will be properly indoctrinated in the meantime and will be retained as Bomber-Fighter instructors.

The SB2C's to arrive here will be stripped down for use of a pilot only. No aircrewmembers will be trained at this base. It was pointed out by the Supt. of Aviation Training, Lt. Cdr. Vincent Hathorne, that students graduating here will in all probability be flying Corsairs, F6F's or F8F's when they report to the fleet.



This U.S. Navy Curtiss SB2C Helldiver is releasing its bomb during a training run. Note that both the pilot's and the gunner's canopies are open.



A Curtiss SB2C Helldiver dive bomber approaches a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier. Intended as a replacement for the heralded Douglas Dauntless, the Helldiver proved to be a rugged platform for dive bombing in the Pacific Theater.

History reveals that the early production models of the Helldiver had a lot of defects. The bomber-fighter was rushed into production at a new factory in Columbus, Ohio, while engineering specifications were constantly being revised. The plane weighed eight tons and was a jungle of wires and hydraulic tubes. The latter operated the flaps, folding wings and landing gear. It proved difficult to land on a carrier because of the long nose. This created so many accidents that Admiral 'Jocko' Clark rejected the first Helldivers for his squadron on the [carrier] *Yorktown* and had the SBDs brought back. The 'Helldiver' designation was soon replaced. Pilots began referring to the plane as 'The Beast' a term that stayed with the plane even after later models proved to be sturdy and reliable."



BIG BAND DANCE

26TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER PRESENTED BY

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All Volunteer Military Museum

www.delandnavalairmuseum.org

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2017
7:00 PM - 10:30 PM

Location: DELAND NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY
401 SOUTH ALABAMA AVENUE
DELAND, FLORIDA 32724

Tickets: \$25.00 EACH (RESERVED TABLES OF 8 OR 10 AVAILABLE)
CALL (386) 717-1492 FOR RESERVATIONS

SEATING LIMITED. PURCHASE TICKETS OR RESERVE TABLES EARLY

Remembering JACK FORTES



With great sadness, the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum Volunteers grieve the loss of Jack Fortes, WWII DeLand Naval Air Station Veteran and founding member of the museum 23 years ago. Jack, age 93, passed away on July 2, 2017. We send our most heartfelt condolences to his family.

Please see a special edition of the DeLandings Newsletter Remembering Jack Fortes. Two YouTube links show Jack giving a museum tour and attending a Big Band Event in England.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_0J25zYyG1o—the title is DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, DeLand, Florida 10/15/2015.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKzSJr0ASVM>, titled Silver Surfers—Jack Fortes—US Navy WWII Veteran.

We will miss his fast paced energy and his great smile.

Sponsors & Community Partners

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!



CITY OF DeLAND

**DOUG & SARAH LANTIER
MARTY TORBETT FAMILY & FRIENDS
IN MEMORY OF
KENNETH S. TORBETT**



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DeLand, FL 32724

Phone: 386-738-4149

www.delandnavalairmuseum.org

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!!

Hours of Operation: 12 Noon—4 p.m.

Wednesday through Sunday

Call to Schedule Group Tours for Adult &
Youth Groups



JOIN TODAY OR DONATE

(DONATE WITH CREDIT CARD ON WEBSITE)

Thank You Museum Volunteers!!

