

DE LANDINGS



DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, DeLand, Florida

MARCH 2016

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN CHUCK DOWNEY



CAPTAIN CHARLES STANLEY DOWNEY

AUGUST 2, 1924 - FEBRUARY 19, 2016

THE YOUNGEST NAVAL AVIATOR IN WWII



**Captain Chuck Downey
WWII Youngest Naval Aviator**



**2014 Meeting with President
George H.W. Bush and
Mrs. Barbara Bush**



**DNASM Student Volunteers from
Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
Students "Riddle Redeemers Club"
with the family of Captain Downey at
a Celebration Toast held in Captain
Chuck Downey's honor.**

The DeLand Naval Air Station members are saddened to hear of the passing of Captain Charles "Chuck" Downey. As a volunteer at the museum, Captain Chuck shared his amazing military experiences with other Veterans and visitors to the museum. He was also a great mentor to our young high school and college student volunteers who are seeking a career in aviation. He was a dedicated promoter of the DNASM and also looked forward to attending our Big Band Hangar Dance each year, celebrating with his family and friends.

Born in Bridgeport, CT on Aug. 2, 1924, Chuck graduated from high school in 1942, enlisted in the Navy, earned his carrier qualification on the Wolverine in Lake Michigan, and served as a dive bomber pilot on the Ticonderoga and the Hancock. Chuck was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal for his WWII actions. The youngest Naval aviator in WWII, he received his wings 17 days before his 19th birthday. President George H.W. Bush, a WWII TBM Avenger Torpedo Bomber pilot, who had previously claimed this honor, gracefully acknowledged this distinction belonged to Downey and met with him in 2014. Captain Downey lived through 17 bombing missions, two kamikaze attacks and the sight of several friends being shot down by the enemy.

After WWII, Chuck remained in the Naval Reserve, becoming the youngest man promoted to the rank of Captain, and retiring in 1975. During his lifetime, he flew over forty different types of planes. He continued to fly his Meyers bi-plane until the age of 89. He began spending winters in DeLand, Florida in 2008 and permanently relocated in 2015. In February 2016, he received the Naval Order Lifetime Achievement Award for his many years of inspiring leadership and dedication.

Captain Chuck Downey will be greatly missed but his many contributions and great legacy will be remembered for generations.

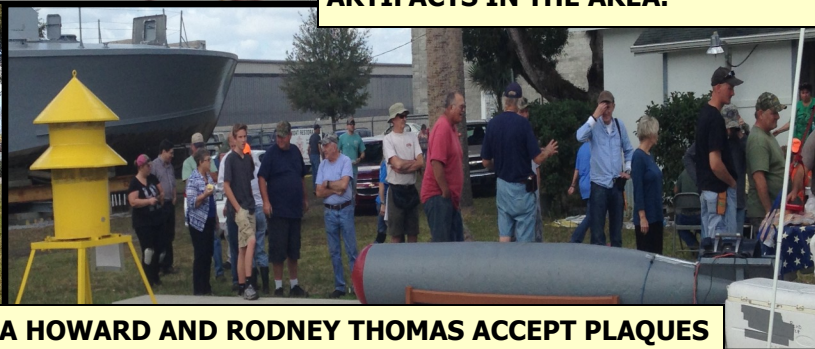
COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT

DNASM Thanks Osteen Crash Site Volunteers

The DeLand Naval Air Station Museum hosted a thank-you lunch for the volunteers who have assisted during the last year with the Osteen WWII SBD-5 plane crash site. The search led to the identification of WWII Navy Pilot Ensign William T. Bellmire of Delta, Colorado. Over 125 volunteers came together at the museum, including Rodney Thomas of Osteen, The Central Florida Metal Detecting Club members, The K-9 Search and Rescue of Orange City team and many other volunteers who worked many hours on the project. Appreciation plaques from DNASM were presented, and we enjoyed visiting with everyone. Our Jenny replica aircraft and Korean Mash Helicopter "flew" out of the Ronald Herman Restoration Hangar for the day to greet our guests. We enjoyed seeing the search dogs practice and watching the metal detectors in action. A few good finds were discovered.



OUR GUESTS LINED UP FOR LUNCH UNDER THE TREES AND VISITED WITH EVERYONE. AFTER LUNCH THEY TOURED THE MUSEUM TO VIEW THE MILITARY MEMORABILIA AND CHECKED ON THE PROGRESS OF THE CURRENT RESTORATION PROJECTS. THE K-9 HANDLERS WERE ABLE TO PRACTICE WITH THEIR DOGS AND THE METAL DETECTORS TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEARCH FOR ARTIFACTS IN THE AREA.



ALAN JAMES, GLORIA HOWARD AND RODNEY THOMAS ACCEPT PLAQUES



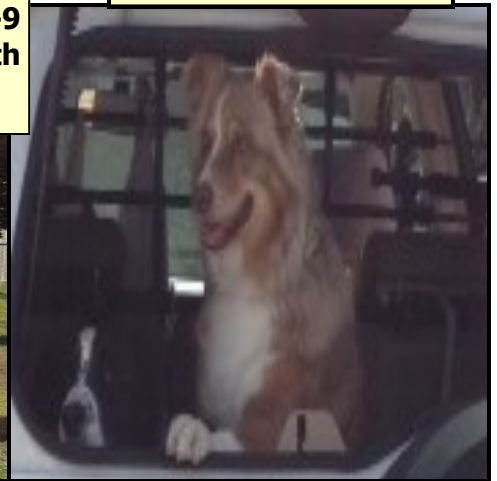
A SPECIAL THANKS TO RODNEY THOMAS, WHO DISCOVERED THE CRASH SITE IN OSTEEN, FOR HIS ON-GOING DEDICATION AND WORK AT THE SITE.





Thanks to Joe Storz, (left) for being the BBQ master. K-9 Search & Rescue dogs visit with youth (center & right)

www.k9sroc.com



Our Korean Era MASH Helicopter and Jenny Replica roll out of the hangar to greet our visitors.



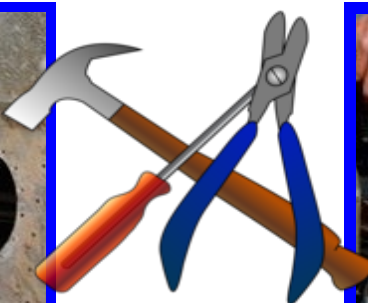
www.thecfmdc.com

While searching in the area, one of the Central Florida Metal Detector Club members discovered buried pieces of a landing gear control from the cockpit of an SBD-5 Dauntless Dive Bomber that was used for training at NAS DeLand during WWII, 1942-1946.



The Grumman TBF Avenger torpedo on display served as "extra seating" for the event. Harold Bradeen explains the history of the torpedo.

RESTORATION UPDATES



Volunteer Walter Barry tests a pilot seat for the cockpit of the TBF Avenger that he custom built.



Greg Gerard and volunteers, including Embry-Riddle Students, finalize the Grumman TBF Avenger's 2nd wing and prepare it for paint.



The PTF-3 Restoration Crew continues to prep the boat and begin painting the hull. Wood is prepared for the cribbing support upgrades. Greg, Steve, Bill and Don make a great team.



DeLand Naval Air Station - WWII History

DeLandings Newsletter Articles From The Past....1944

LANDINGS

November 1, 1944.



The following books have been received from BuPers.

Mysteries

All over but the Shooting. Powell
Amethyst Spectacles. Crane
Case of the Crooked Candle.

Gardner

The Uninvited. McCordle

The War and International
Problems

Baby Flat-top. McCracken

By Sea and by Land. Burton

Daybreak for our Carrier. Miller

East of Malta; West of Suez. Bar-

timeus

The "Fightin'est Ship". Morris

The Navy's War. Pratt

Nor Death Dismay. McCoy

People on our Side. Snow

Second Navy Reader. Petridge

Six Weeks' War. Draper

War Atlas for Americans

War Below ero. Balchen

Westerns

Maverick's Return. Field

Midnight Round-up. Field

Wildhorse Shorty. Nye

Miscellaneous Non-Fiction

Air Navigation. Aviation Instru-
ments. Flight Preparation Training
Series. Part IV

Counterfeiting. Smith

Dictionary of Service Slang. Ken-
dall

Merchant Fleets. Rimington

Mobilizing for Abundance. Nath-
an

Oklahoma. Rodgers and Hammer-
stein

On Living in a Revolution. Hux-
ley (Julian)

Pigeon Heroes. Cothern

They All Had Glamour. Marks

Treasury of American Folklore.

Botkin

Yankee Thunder; the Legendary
Story of Davy Crockett. Shapiro

Mascot Added To OTU Muster List

Early on the morning of May 28th a small feline AWOL from parts unknown reported in to the leading chiefs office.

After being paw printed a request was submitted to the executive officer to retain said feline on board this station as mascot.

The following orders were placed into effect.

Leading Chief's Order No. M-1:

Subject: Mascot, Care of.

1. Immediately upon publication this order will be in effect.
2. The name of the office cat is Flossie.

3. This animal will be fed at 0730-1200-1600 daily by Senior Messenger or Duty Desk Detail.

4. Watch Yeoman will awaken animal every three hours during working day. When cat is awake the Boatswain's Mate will detail one Seaman Second Class to escort cat outside of office and insure the animal has adequate privacy while engaged in natural functions.

(NOTE: Seaman will make certain that animal is at suitable distance from office so that any rocks scratched will not break windows or the glass on Bulletin Board.)

5. This animal will not be given any intoxicating beverages other than, Beer, Wine, Whiskey, Gin, Rum, or Vodka.

6. Cat will not be allowed to sleep in Leading Chief's hat or in outgoing yard mail basket.

7. Section Leader will have custody of animal from 1730 to 0730 each night.

8. Civilian Employees of this office will be responsible for keeping this animal away from the OTU Personnel Officer on bad mornings.

9. Visitors will not be permitted to feed or pet this animal.

10. Animal will be allowed to ride motor scooters number 19 and 13 if accompanied by qualified scooter pilot, commissioned officer, permanent appointment CPO or another cat of opposite sex.

J. F. BIRD, ACMM(PA) USN
OTU Leading Chief

CC:

Bulletin Board OTU

L. C. Files

Ast. OOD

OTU ADM. OFF.

Section Leader.

A photo of Flossie will appear in next issue.

Hot Shots

Week's Best Gunnery Scores

Week of 25-30 May

STUDENT: Lt. (jg) A. G. Colgin, Flight 99. 1000 rounds fired, 161 hits. 16.1 per cent. Lt. Colgin now holds the station record. On one gunnery run he got 59 hits out of 200 rounds fired for a percentage of 29.5.

Highest Flight is flight 99. 8022 rounds fired, 625 hits. 7.8 per cent.

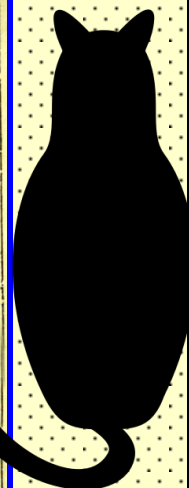
Week of May 31 to June 6

Student: Ens: J. B. Miller, Flight 100. 500 rounds fired, 77 hits. 15.4 per cent.

Highest flight: Flight 93. 6055 rounds fired, 304 hits. 6.6 per cent.

The two little working girls were talking over the dates they'd had the night before with two sailors. Said one: "So your boy friend really liked his wine?"

"He did that," said the other. "He not only wants a sweetheart in every port, but port in his sweetheart."



WWII HISTORY



1942 YOUNG NAVAJO CODE TALKERS WWII



NAVAJO CODE TALKER DAY—ARIZONA

Following its disastrous surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, The United States was in serious trouble as Japan held the upper hand in the Pacific. Japanese soldiers, wearing the rings of American colleges and high schools, could speak English fluently. Educated in the U.S., these men routinely intercepted, and decoded, American military messages. The U.S. needed what has always eluded a country at war: an unbreakable code. The Code Talkers unit was formed in 1942 when the U.S. Marine Corps recruited 29 young, Navajo-speaking men to help develop a code to share messages in WWII. Because many of the youths lacked birth certificates, recruits as young as 15 enlisted. For many, the military offered a first look at the world beyond the reservation. The irony of the situation was that some of the Code Talkers were born in a country that didn't recognize them as citizens. For the next few years several more divisions of Navajo code talkers would follow into such battlefields as Iwo Jima, The Guadalcanal, Guam and many more. According to the Central Intelligence Agency, Germany and Japan had sent students to the U.S. to study Native languages after World War I, but learning of the complexities of the Navajo languages, the military opted to use Navajo enlistees. These codes used by the Navajo code talkers, which included word substitutions for wartime vehicles and other war-oriented implements, are the only code in wartime history, never to have been broken. The Code Talkers were the first to advocate for preservation of the language, known in Navajo as Diné Bizaad. The code originated as about 200 terms, but grew to about 600 terms by the end of the war. With the code, Marines could communicate in 20 seconds what took coding machines 30 minutes to do.

English Word	Navaho Word	Meaning
Corps	Din-neh-ih	Clan
Switchboard	Ya-ih-e-tih-ih	Central
Dive Bomber	Gini	Chicken Hawk
Torpedo Plane	Tas-chizzie	Swallow
Observation Plane	Me-as-jah	Owl
Fighter plane	Da-he-tih-hi	Humming Bird
Bomber	Jay-sho	Buzzard
Alaska	Beh-hga	With-Winter
America	Ne-he-Mah	Our Mother
Australia	Cha-yes-desi	Rolled Hat



A monument to the Code Talkers (left) is located at Window Rock, Arizona.

"Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima!"

"Major Howard M. Conner

Of the more than 430 Navajo men who helped generate an unbreakable code during World War II, fewer than 20 remain in 2015. The ranks of the Navajo Code Talkers, known for their role in helping the Allied Forces triumph over the enemy 70 years ago, are dwindling. But America's gratitude is not, U.S. Sen. John McCain told an audience of hundreds of people gathered in Window Rock, Arizona in 2015. "The history of WWII is inextricably tied to these great men," McCain said. "Some military experts even speculate that the war may have turned out differently had it not been for their heroics." The Code Talkers were called "living legends" who altered the course of world history. Visit the Code Talker facebook at www.facebook.com/Our.Navajo.Code.Talkers/

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

We were honored to know Captain Chuck Downey and will always remember his willingness to volunteer at the museum. He served as a tour guide and mentor to students, sharing his many experiences and aviation knowledge. He will be greatly missed....but not forgotten.

We had an unexpected visit from Ray Wakefield visiting from Adrian, Michigan. He advised that he was stationed at the DeLand Naval Air Station in 1943 during WWII with the rank of Aviation Mechanic 3rd Class. He placed his information in our DNAS Veteran log book and was very pleased to know that the DNAS Museum exists. We wish another one of our DNAS WWII Veterans, Jack Fortes, a Happy Birthday this month.

If you have "treasures" to donate for our annual yard sale fundraiser on March 25th & 26th, 2016 call Scott at (386) 822-2809 or the office (386) 738-4149.

Join DNASM or renew your membership even if you are unable to actively participate. We are an all volunteer museum and rely on public support.

Harold Bradeen, DNASM President

"IN MEMORY OF ALL WHO SERVED"



Captain Chuck Downey



Club President Julio Cesar Magallon from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University "Riddle Redeemer Club" present flowers to the family of Captain Downey. Other members representing DNASM include Mike, Joe, Eric and club founder and Past President Isaiah Carlton (right end). Captain Chuck was as proud of these fine young men and women as we are at DNASM. They represent our future.

NEEDS LIST

WATER:

We need on-going supplies of bottled water to keep our Veterans and Volunteers hydrated while working on restoration projects. A supply in any quantity will be greatly appreciated.

YARD SALE: (See Attached Flyer)

Donated items needed for yard sale on March 25 and March 26, 2016.

SPONSORS:

We have started planning the 25th Annual Big Band Hangar Dance and need sponsors, raffle and door prizes for the event. We also need wicker or wire baskets in good condition.

If you can assist, please contact Scott Storz, Promotions Chair (386) 822-2809 for more information.

**A SPECIAL THANKS
TO THE
CITY OF DeLAND**

**WE APPRECIATE THEIR
ON-GOING SUPPORT OF
THE DeLAND NAVAL AIR
STATION MUSEUM**



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**FUNDRAISER 2016**

DELAND NAVAL AIR STATION MUSEUM



(IN MEMORY OF ALL WHO SERVED)



SUPPORT
LOCAL
VETERANS

HOT DOGS &
COLD DRINKS
FOR SALE

YARD SALE

TOUR
THE
MUSEUM

DONATED SALE
ITEMS
NEEDED

"Ronald Herman Restoration Hangar" (Behind Museum)

910 Biscayne Boulevard

DeLand, Florida—Municipal Airport

Friday, March 25TH & Saturday, March 26TH, 2016

8:00AM—1:00PM

All Volunteer Museum. Proceeds benefit DNASM Educational Programs & Restoration Projects

TO DONATE ITEMS Contact Scott at (386) 822-2809 OR (386) 738-4149

DELAND NAVAL AIR STATION MUSEUM

www.delandnavalairmuseum.org—dnas.museum.org@gmail.com FACEBOOK

Please donate sale items, including cars or boats

DeLand Naval Air Station Museum

Membership Application/Renewal Form



DATE: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL _____

_____ SINGLE \$25 _____ FAMILY \$40

_____ STUDENT (OVER AGE 18) \$20

_____ BUSINESS/CORPORATE \$100

_____ LIFETIME \$500

****PLEASE TELL US YOUR AREA OF INTEREST**

AS A VOLUNTEER: (Restoration Crew, Museum Guide,
Office, Museum Maintenance, Special Events, Other)

_____ (I can't actively participate but join as a supporting member)

PLEASE MAIL OR DROP OFF:

DeLand Naval Air Station Museum

910 Biscayne Boulevard—DeLand Airport

DeLand, FL 32724

(386) 738-4149 www.delandnavalairmuseum.org

dnas.museum.org@gmail.com



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Public Donations and In-Kind Services

"In Memory of All Who Served"

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!



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www.vfymca.org

RIDDLE REDEEMERS STUDENT CLUB
connection.erau.edu/organization/riddlereedemers

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THANK YOU MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS!!



DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, Inc.

910 Biscayne Boulevard

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)