

DE LANDINGS



20TH ANNIVERSARY

SPECIAL EDITION

DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, DeLand, Florida

NOVEMBER 2015

DeLand Naval Air Station MUSEUM



DeLand



Florida



DNAS MUSEUM CELEBRATES

20TH ANNIVERSARY

JOIN US FOR MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE 11/14/2015 10:00AM—2:00 PM

"In Memory of All Who Served"

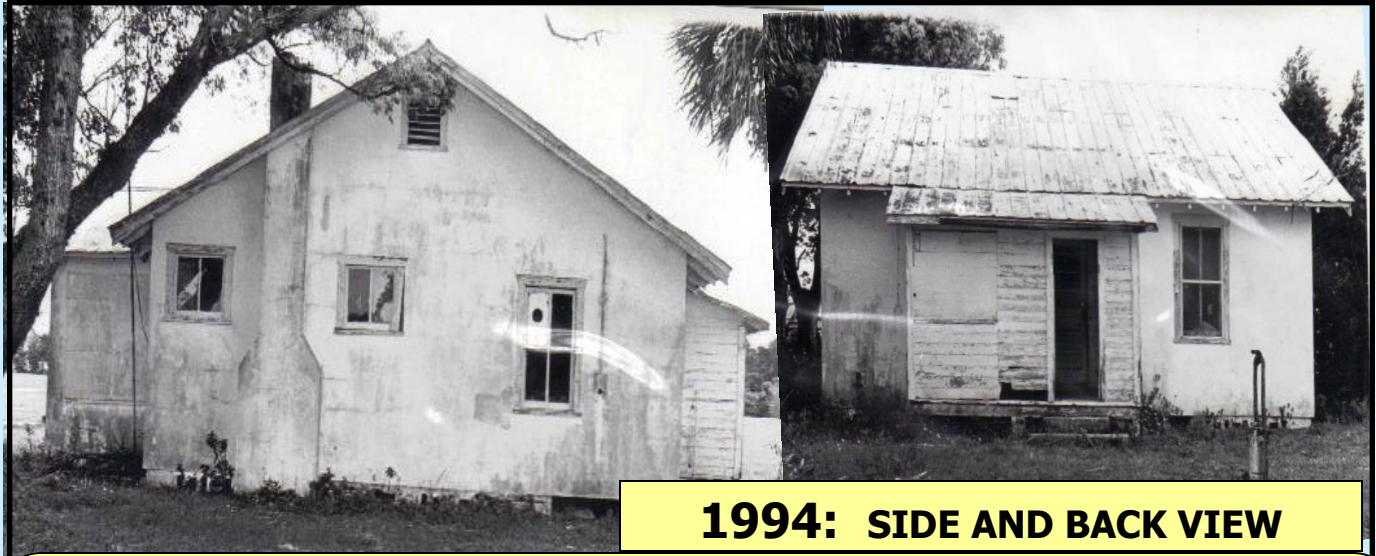
DNAS MUSEUM TIMELINE



1945: THE ORIGINAL BUILDING DATES BACK TO 1926 WHEN D.F. CARTER SOLD THE LAND TO FRANK SHEARER WHO WAS THE OWNER UNTIL THE NAVY TOOK OVER AND USED THE HOUSE AS DNAS CHIEF MASTER AT ARMS RESIDENCE. IT BECAME CITY PROPERTY AFTER WWII.



1994: THE BUILDING WAS FREQUENTLY USED BY THE DeLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT. INTERNAL FIRES WERE SET TO TRAIN FIRE FIGHTERS. THE BUILDING WAS SCORCHED, IN COMPLETE DISREPAIR AND SCHEDULED FOR DEMOLITION.

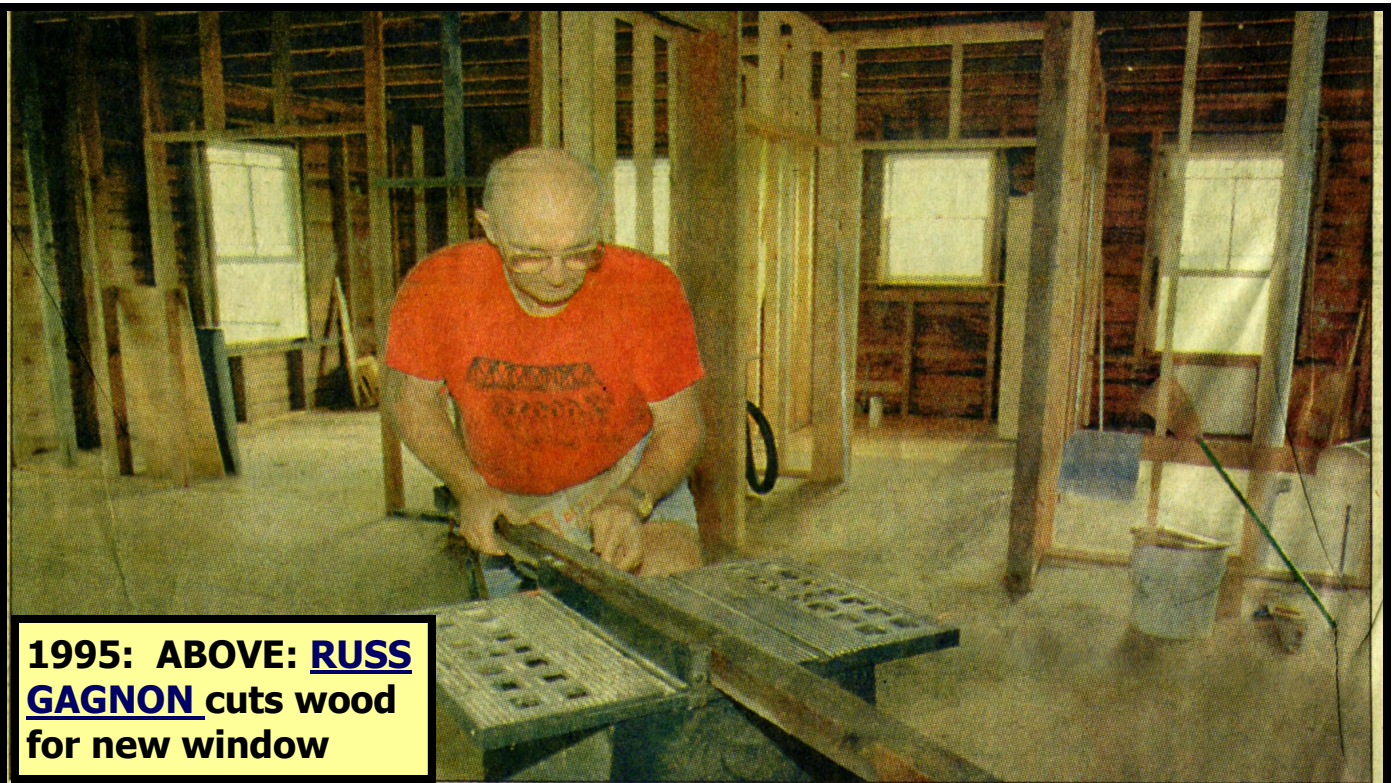


1994: SIDE AND BACK VIEW

1994: A GROUP OF LOCAL VETERANS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS WORKED WITH THE CITY OF DeLAND. THEY RAISED THE FUNDS NEEDED TO SAVE THE BUILDING AS A MILITARY MUSEUM TO HONOR VETERANS AND PRESERVE LOCAL MILITARY HISTORY. THE RESTORATION PLAN INCLUDED THE PLANTING OF FOUR DIFFERENT TYPES OF TREES AROUND THE BUILDING TO REPRESENT THE ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE AND MARINES, AND THEIR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY.



Some of the many Volunteers who worked on the building renovation project. FRONT ROW: Ron Williams, Unknown, George Jenkins, Fred Hoffman and Tony Buckner. BACK ROW: Buddy Raines, Unknown, Geof Felton, Jeff Malmborg and Jim Mitchell.



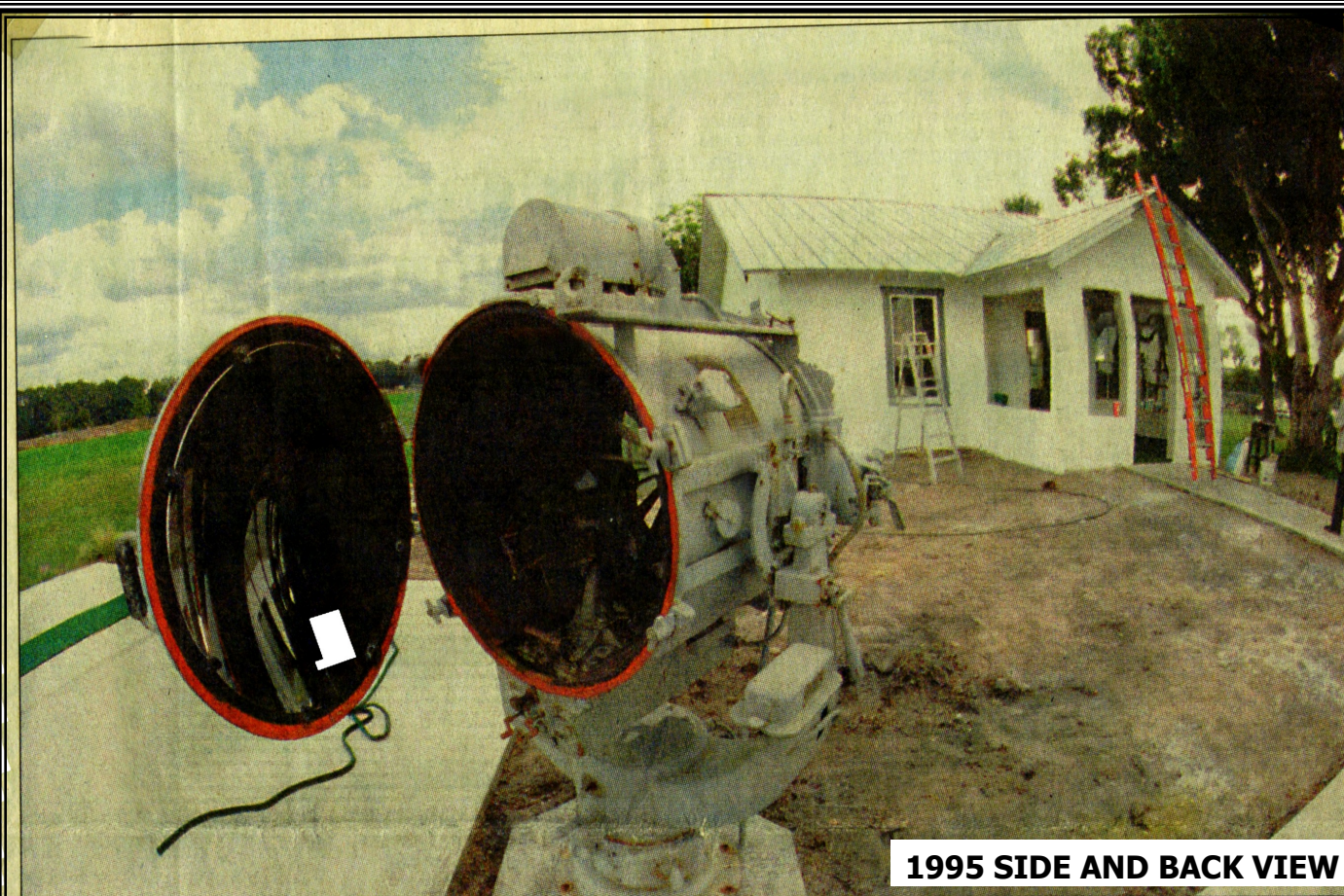
1995: ABOVE: RUSS GAGNON cuts wood for new window

VOLUSIAN photo/Kelly Jordan

Russ Gagnon cuts wood for new window frames for the 1920s-era house being renovated for use as the Naval Air Station museum at the DeLand Municipal Airport. Backers are still soliciting funds to help pay for the project.



BELOW: TONY BUCKNER works on inside framing.

**1995 SIDE AND BACK VIEW**

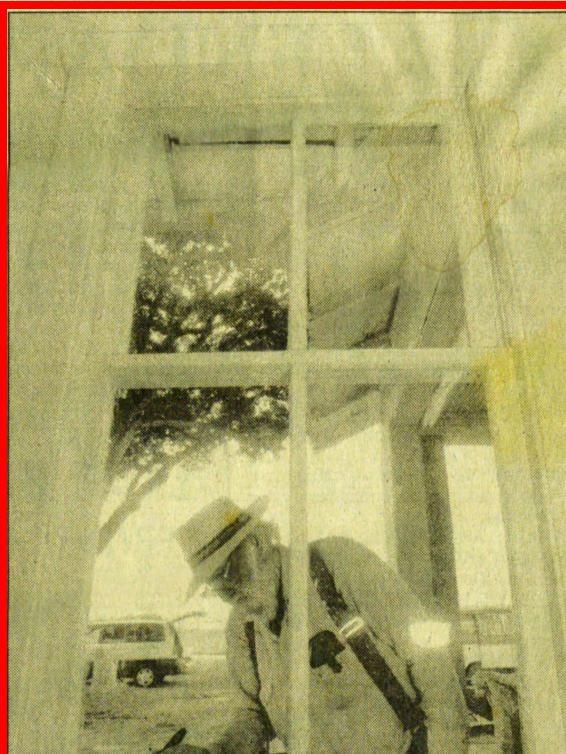
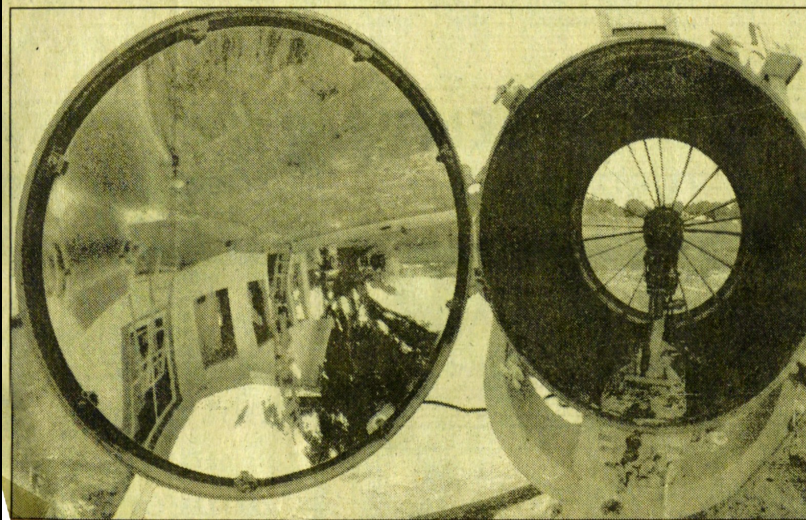
VOLUSIAN photos/Peter Bauer

1/95

Ahoy! Museum is shipshape

Last-minute preparations at the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum are almost over after many months of hard work by area volunteers, when the facility will officially be opened Saturday at 1 p.m. A historic signal light from the USS Lexington,

above, helps to accent the property on Old Daytona Road at the DeLand airport. Below is a close-up of the concave mirror inside the light which reflects an upside-down view of the museum. Bill Dreggors, right, paints the exterior window trim.



**West Volusia Historical Society
Executive Director Emeritus
Bill Dreggors—FOUNDING MEMBER**

1995 DNAS MUSEUM GRAND OPENING DeLANDINGS NEWSLETTER



Vol. 4, No. 6

DeLand Naval Air Station

February, 1996

DeLand NAS Museum Dedicated



A crowd of about 200 people attended the dedication of the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum November 11, 1995. Speakers on the program included DeLand Mayor David Rigsby and Ken Torbett, who was stationed at DNAS.

Dreams of a museum to keep alive the glory and history of the DeLand Naval Air Station (1942-1946) were realized in November, 1995 with the opening of the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum.

The work of many volunteers, including the skillful leadership of construction expert Russ Gagnon, turned the small, near-ruined building at the DeLand Airport into a warm, freshly-painted museum holding World War II memorabilia.

Ed Carson, Bill Dreggors, J. V. Hays and Ellwood Titcomb of the Noon Rotary Club, were largely responsible for the restoration efforts. They enlisted Gagnon and building

(continued on page 2)

DeLand Rotary Starts Museum

A history of the planning and work on the Museum, and a history of the building itself is as follows:

The DeLand Noon Rotary Club voted in 1994 to supervise the restoration of the building, and, with a gift of \$500 plus a \$5,000 contribution from Hawthense Conrad, work was started.

The residence was known by various names: the Carter, Shearer, and Turk house. Devoc F. Carter originally built the shell of the house in 1922. Frank C. Shearer, a local contractor, purchased it in 1926 and completed the interior. The Shearers lived there until the property was condemned by the

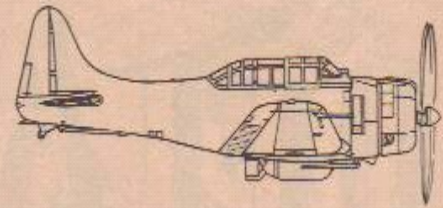
Federal Government to be included in the DeLand Naval Air Station.

Subsequently, the Navy improved the dwelling, designating it as the residence of the Chief Master of Arms. After the property was transferred to the City of DeLand, the residence was rented to various tenants. Walter Turk, a former caretaker of the airport, resided there for many years.

Fortunately, the residence withstood the years and was structurally sound. Most repairs were cosmetic, and the restoration is said to have made it resemble its World War II Naval appearance. 



Museum President Ellwood Titcomb, Mayor David Rigsby, and Hawthense Conrad open Museum with ribbon cutting.



DeLand NAS veterans who attended the dedication of the Museum included those shown at the left. Left to right are Dale Alexander, Bob Freeburg, R. H. Baldwin, Jack Fortes, Monte Westberry, Nelson Root, Joe Dalton, Bob Sanford, Ken Torbett, Harry Brown, and Niven Thompson.

DeLand NAS Museum Dedicated

(continued from front page)

contractors, suppliers, and volunteers to work almost up to the final minute of the November 11 opening. Carson is the Curator of the Museum.

A display of Air Station artifacts behind glass doors occupies the first room in the Museum. An office is being set up. Hours for public viewing will be 1 to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays.


Officers of the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, Inc., are Ellwood Titcomb, president; William J. Dreggors, Jr., vice president; Mary Swiderski, treasurer, and Ed Carson, secretary.

The THIRD "DeLandings"

DeLandings, the official publication of the DeLand Naval Air Station, was first published on 15 January, 1943. It became an eight page weekly and it ceased publication on 23 February, 1946.

A reincarnation came into being in March, 1994, for one issue.

Now, in its third form, *DeLandings* will be published from time to time (that's the best we can promise now!), hoping it will attract new members for the Museum, and bring information on Museum activities.

Send photos and information for the newsletter to Post Office Box 1042, DeLand, Florida 32721-1042 





Dedication of

The DeLand Naval Air Station Museum

910 Biscayne Boulevard
(Old Daytona Road)

November 11, 1995

NOVEMBER, 1995 DNAS MUSEM RESTORATION PROJECT DONORS

The following is a list of **Donors of: Money, Labor,
or Materials** to the **DeLand Naval Air Station Museum**

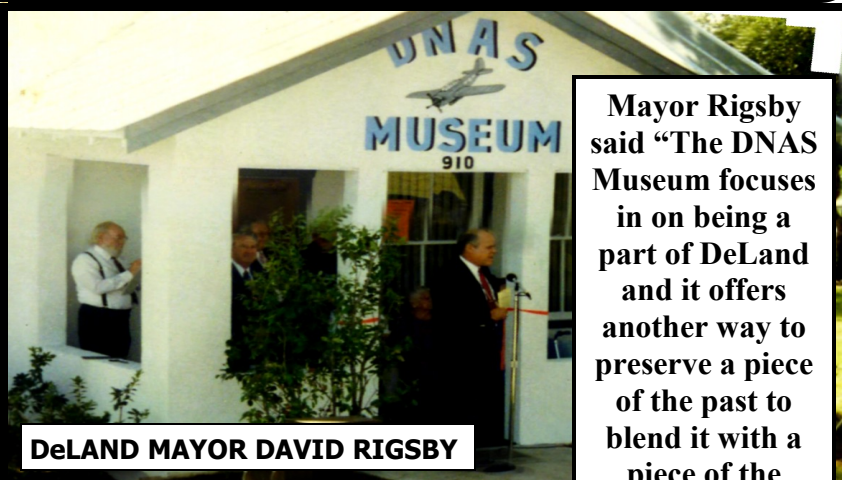
(In no particular order)

Hawtense Conrad	Alex Ford
Ken Torbett	Keith Rieger
Amicorp	Dale Alexander
DeLand Ford	Kaiser Pontiac
Hughes Supply	Manufacturer's Carpet Outlet
Daytona Bolt & Nut	Ron Cannon
Wayne Dreggors	Warren Todd
Paul Larson	Jill Luhrson
Bob Gast	Ed Carson
Roger Smith	J.C. Bradley
Mackie Smith	Jim Connell
Bo Davenport	Larry Hargis
Ralph Batton	City of DeLand
Joe Guthrie	Mary Swiderski
Mr & Mrs John Maxwell	Gardner Gould
DeLand Heating & Air	Tarmac
Jennie Pausewang	Gladys T MacLeod
Malmborg Const.	Jack Fortes
Charles Smith	DeLand Rotary Club
David Gunby	Express Printing
SouthTrust Bank	Buchanan Electric, Inc
Accurate Cabinets	Barnard Roofing
Goff Ace Hardware	Pates Dry Wall
Chuck Early	Danny Peterson
J.V. Hays	Elitwood Titcomb
Andy Ferrare	Dave Luhrson
Ken Bradley	McFerrin Smith
Rabbit Burns	Bill Dreggors
Wes Houser	Dave Russell
Fred Hoffmann	Sims Kline
David Carson	Russ Gagnon
Robert Schubert	Shirley Gagnon
Troy White	Jacob Sheet Metal
Anonymous	John Meinelt Plumbing

On November 11, 1995, hundreds of supporters attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new DeLand Naval Air Station Museum. DNAS Veteran Jack Fortes gave the invocation and prepared the ribbon cutting. Guest Speakers included Mayor David Rigsby, DNASM President Elwood Titcomb, DNAS Veteran Ken Torbett, Navy Veteran and Historical Society Executive Director Bill Dreggors, Museum Donor Hawtense Conrad and Philip T. Smiley, Captain USN Retired.



**DNAS VETERAN JACK FORTES
SPEAKS AND PREPARES RIBBON
CUTTING**



DeLAND MAYOR DAVID RIGSBY

Mayor Rigsby said "The DNAS Museum focuses in on being a part of DeLand and it offers another way to preserve a piece of the past to blend it with a piece of the future"



**BILL DREGGORS ACCEPTS DONATION
FROM HAWTENSE CONRAD**

Mrs. Conrad expressed how proud she was to be a part of the new museum and she asked the community to support the museum now and in the future to preserve history for future generations.



**DNAS VETERAN KEN TORBETT
SPEAKS TO SUPPORTING CROWD**



WWII REINACTORS STAND GUARD



1995: COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS AT DNAS MUSEUM GRAND OPENING CEREMONY



1995: THE DNAS MUSEUM MEMORABILIA COLLECTION STARTED WITH A FEW DONATED ITEMS FROM LOCAL VETERANS

1995: THE MUSEUM WALLS AND FLOORING INSIDE WERE STILL UNFINISHED. MANY HOURS OF VOLUNTEER WORK REMAINED TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT.



1995: TEMPORARY TABLE DISPLAYS WERE SET UP TO VIEW THE DONATED ITEMS. CASH AND IN-KIND DONATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC HELPED TO COMPLETE THE RENOVATION PROJECT.



DELAND NAVAL AIR STATION MUSEUM TIMELINE

1942 - 1946: As a result of World War II, in 1942, the United States Navy bought the City of DeLand's Airport and built the DeLand Naval Air Station

1992-1995: Concern over the last remaining building, the Chief Master at Arms Residence from the DeLand Navy Air Station prompted local Citizens and Veterans to approach the City of DeLand over the building's future. Many individuals, businesses, and service organizations came together to make the restoration of the Chief Master at Arms Residence and the creation of a museum exhibiting DeLand's military history possible. Military memorabilia was donated by the public to start the museum collection, including the donation of a Marine H05S-1 Korean War M.A.S.H. helicopter by Fred & Nancy Clark.

2001: In 2001, the DNASM was honored by the placement of the Chief Master at Arms Residence on the National Register of Historic Places.

2003: The U.S. Navy assigned a WWII TBF Avenger Torpedo Bomber to the Museum for restoration. The plane was at the bottom of Lake Michigan for at least 50 years. It is currently located inside the Ronald Herman Restoration Hangar behind the Museum building and is in the process of being restored by Veterans and Volunteers.

2003: In 2003, the DNASM welcomed the PTF-3 Viet Name Era Boat Restoration Project. With her main engines removed, PTF-3 sat idle for almost 25 years, bouncing from dock to dock in South Florida. On 25 May 2003, after 30 hours and 250 miles, pushed by tug, PTF-3 arrived in Edgewater, Florida. Two weeks later she was dismantled and lifted from the water. The 80 foot long, 60 ton vessel was moved overland 43 miles to a host location at the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum for restoration. www.ptf3restoration.org.

2005: Former Senate Majority Leader and 1996 GOP Presidential Nominee Bob Dole, a WWII Veteran, visited the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum and hosted a public book signing of his book "One Soldier's Story" about his military service in WWII. Despite severe thunder storms just at the time of his visit, hundreds of visitors lined up to meet him and have their book signed. He took the bad weather in stride and each visitor was greeted with a friendly comment and posed for a photo with the Senator.

2005: In 2005, the U.S. Navy presented the DNASM with an F-14 Tomcat Jet Fighter. Hundreds of citizens watched as the F-14 arrived in DeLand on its final flight. After several passes through downtown DeLand and over the DeLand Municipal Airport, it landed, taxied to the waiting crowd and presented its final bow of the aircraft nose. The F-14 was then de-milled and is now mounted as a static display on the East side of the DNAS Museum building.

2007: In 2007, The City of DeLand and the Mainstreet DeLand Mural Committee dedicated a mural in downtown DeLand featuring the aircraft and airfield of the DeLand Naval Air Station in 1942-46.

2007: In 2007, Tuskegee Airman Hiram Mann spoke at the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum during the dedication of the Charles Bailey Memorial Bust donated by Jim and Beverly Outlaw, Artist Ralph Batten.

2013: The Ronald Herman Restoration Building was donated by the Ronald Herman Family, All Quality Products, the Harry K. Stubbs Family and the City of DeLand. The new multi-purpose building is utilized for restoration of vintage aircraft like the Grumman TBF Avenger and display of a Korean War M.A.S.H Helicopter, a 1953 Army Jeep and a replica 2/3 scale Jenny aircraft.

2015: Celebrating the 20th Year of service in Volusia County, The DeLand Naval Air Station Museum remains as a non-profit organization run by all Volunteers, with the support of the City of DeLand and many Community Partners. Although the museum is small, it is a beacon of historical preservation that has been dedicated, "In Memory of Those Who Served." Like many non-profits, the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum counts on the community for support. Support can come in all forms: volunteering of time, donations, gifts-in-kind, or gifts of labor and expertise. DNASM Veterans and Volunteers mentor students from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University "Riddle Redeemers Student Club" and local high school students. The student volunteers learn hands-on experience restoring vintage aircraft and military vehicles as well as local military history.

The public exposure of DNASM has expanded over twenty years and the appeal of the museum complex ranges from local, statewide and international levels. DNASM museum encourages visitors, school groups, tourists, and locals to pay a visit, and they're always in need of volunteers and sponsors to come forward in support of their efforts to keep this history and this museum alive.

The interior of the museum is small, a former 1930's-era residence which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2001. Inside it houses an impressive collection of historical artifacts, wartime memorabilia, military art, and veterans' mementos. The collection includes an entire room display dedicated to the men and women who served at DNAS during WWII, 1942-1946. The collection consists of photographs and memorabilia that have been donated to the museum and have been arranged to provide a visual remembrance of the purpose and impact the military base had to the local area.

Young Navy Fighter Pilots came to DNAS in DeLand to learn how to make plane landings on aircraft carriers. They were often called "Ninety Day Wonders" as they were quickly trained and then transferred to units fighting in the Pacific and other locations around the world. Over 100 Pilots and other support troops were killed during training accidents at DNAS and a specific display in the museum has been set up to honor their memory and ultimate sacrifice. Other photos and memorabilia in the 1942-1946 DeLand display give visitors a glimpse of life on the base and other activities and contributions made by military personnel and civilians during that time. Many weddings took place at the DeLand Naval Air Station Chapel and local churches in the 1940's, and often the couples returned or remained in the local area, as have their children and grandchildren.

In 2015, military vehicles and wartime memorabilia on display are like many of our Veterans today, they're retired from combat and each have their own story to tell. In addition to a newly donated JN4 Jenny 2/3 scale replica SN-426, the DNAS Museum collection includes:

- **TBF Avenger:** A WWII Grumman TBF Avenger torpedo bomber last flown in 1943, involved in a flight training water landing on a test run, spent over 50 years submerged at the bottom of Lake Michigan before it was assigned to DeLand NAS Museum for restoration in 2003. After restoration, the TBF will become a permanent public exhibit at the museum.
- **TV2/T-33 Shooting Star** - This type of aircraft was the first production jet trainer supplied to the United States armed forces, used by the Navy and Air Force from late 1940s to early 1960s.
- **F-14 Tomcat Fighter Jet:** The F-14 took its final flight in 2005, landing at the DeLand Municipal Airport after several final passes over the City of DeLand. It remains an impressive static display beside the museum.
- **Marine H05S-1** - A Korean War M.A.S.H. helicopter used to evacuate wounded, flown by Marine Squadron VMO-6. This helicopter is on display inside the Ronald Herman Restoration Building and also shown to the public during the annual Veterans Day Parade in Downtown DeLand Florida.
- **PTF-3 Patrol Torpedo Boat:** The PTF-3 is an 80 ft., 70-ton Vietnam-era patrol boat—the first of its kind the United States ever entered into service. The PT boat was involved in what's known as the "Tonkin Gulf Incident," which is said to have sparked the official entry of the United States into the conflict in Vietnam. Veterans and volunteers are restoring the PTF-3 on the site of the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum Complex. The website for the PTF-3 is www.ptf3restoration.org.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum completes the 20th Year of providing the City of DeLand and the County of Volusia with cultural and historic preservation services, we are proud to take this look back at our humble beginnings as a small but unique local history museum.

We are reminded about just how many Volunteers from our community believed in our efforts over the years by donating their time, funds or in-kind services to make sure that the DNASM was successful and remained open to the public.

Now, twenty years later, we have lost so many of our original active and supporting members, many who were WWII Veterans. Most have passed on or are unable to assist for health reasons.

We ask our community once again to rally around us and consider joining the museum either as a participating or supporting member. If your family has a connection to DNASM, i.e., a family member was stationed at DeLand Naval Air Station during WWII or was a member in the early days of the museum opening, please consider helping us honor those who came before us by joining the museum.

Our next Generation will be the key to the future of DNASM.

Please fill out and return a membership form today to ensure that we never forget the memory of those who are no longer with us and their service to our county protecting our freedom.

Harold Bradeen, DNASM President

IN MEMORY OF ALL WHO SERVED

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)

***OR** _____ (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**

DELANDINGS



View Past Newsletters
On Website

www.delandnavalairmuseum.org

**TAKE A LOOK BACK AT DNAS
WWII HISTORY AND
CURRENT ACTIVITIES**



DNASM BOARD OF DIRECTORS **AND VOLUNTEER STAFF**

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Scott Storz—Promotions Chair
Barbara Storz—Hangar Dance Chair



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

**WE APPRECIATE THEIR
ON-GOING SUPPORT OF THE
DeLAND NAVAL AIR STATION MUSEUM
FOR THE PAST TWENTY YEARS.**

**OUR THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY AND ALL VOLUNTEERS
FOR A MEMORABLE TWENTY YEARS**



THANK YOU

SPONSORS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Our All Volunteer Museum Is Supported 100% By Public Donations and In-Kind Services

"In Memory of All Who Served"



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!



CITY OF DeLAND

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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

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K-9 Search & Rescue of Orange City www.k9saroc.com

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SKYDIVE DeLAND - www.skydivedeland.com

Stetson Flower & Wedding Botique—stetsonflowershop.com

Stetson University Sports Program



www.agingtree.com

County of Volusia Veterans
Services—volusia.org



visitwestvolusia.com



www.delandchamber.org



www.macdeland.com

Sea Scouts, University High School & DeLand High Volunteers

Volusia County Sheriffs Office

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

(Open IF Volunteers Are Available)

Annex at 1050 Terminal Drive/Airport also open

Wednesday 12 Noon—4pm

JOIN TODAY OR DONATE

(DONATE WITH CREDIT CARD ON WEBSITE LINK)