



# The Eagle's Scream

Official publication of the Commemorative Air Force  
Florida Unit based at Sidney H. Taylor Field in Deland, FL



## Spring Newsletter

April 15, 2015

Welcome all our new CAF and Florida  
Wing Member

Bob Hillenbrand Harry Van Iderstine

New T-34 Sponsors Pilots  
George Fonseca Joe Drach

## Upcoming Events

\*CAF Florida, April 27–May 2 The B-29/B-  
24 Squadron will arrive at the hangar in  
DeLand with their B-24 "Diamond Lil"

Position	Name	Email	Phone
Wing Leader	Col. Woodie Sprouse	woodie6@cfl.rr.com	(206) 708-9664
Executive Officer	Col. Art Patstone	Artpatstone@aol.com	(386)322-7611
Adjutant	Col. Patricia Mickelson	pmickelson@centurylink.net	(352) 351-5087
Operations Officer	Col. Tommy Huntington	TomRHuntington@gmail.com	(386) 566-0126
Maintenance Officer	Col. John Makinson	makinsonaviation@gmail.com	(386) 682-0426
Finance Officer	Col. Alan Herum	aldh1000@gmail.com	(305) 923-3810
Safety Officer	Col. Joel Lonky	jlonky@gmail.com	(407) 733-8276

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# In Memory of a Gentleman and a Friend of the Commemorative Air Force

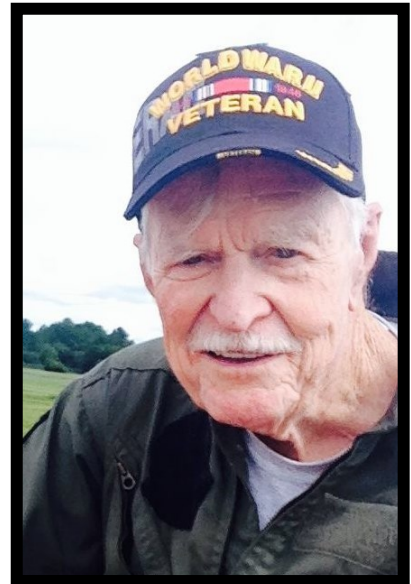
3/25/2015

## Major Arthur Jonas Harriman - Obituary

Major Arthur Jonas Harriman died peacefully with family at his side on March 14, 2015 in Daytona, Fla. at the age of 89.

Arthur is survived by his wife Marita, sons Arthur Jeffery, Timothy, and daughter Julie. Stepchildren Kim, Mark and Natasha; also eight grandchildren. He is preceded in death by wife Dolores, son Michael and grandson Wade. He was very proud of and loved his family.

Arthur was born on March 18, 1925 in St. Johnsbury, Vt. He joined the Army Air Corp at age 18. Major Harriman honorably served 22 years holding positions as a fighter/bomber pilot in WWII. After retirement from the Air Force in 1964, he worked as a pilot and flight instructor for United Airlines until 1997. He was a FAA Designated Examiner for the B-727 and DC-10. He spent his last years volunteering for the Commemorative Air Force, Arthur loved painting, photography, fishing, flying planes, telling stories, traveling with his wife, spending time with friends and family and his beloved dog "Nikko." [+ click to enlarge](#)



### My Remembrance,

The first time I saw Art I thought he must be a British Brigadier; erect stature, pencil thin moustache, dashing smile, he was straight out of J. Arthur Rank, Production's Central Casting. No, Art wasn't a Brit but he was a true gentleman who loved to tell of his flying adventures in the USAF during and after the Second world War. He was stationed in West Germany during the early days of the Cold War where he actually met and flew with many of the former Luftwaffe pilots that flew against the Allies during the war. Later, he served as a United Airlines Captain.

I never laughed as much as I did when I drove him down to Titusville to man the Wing's PX Tent during their airshow...one story after another! And, I bet at least half of them were true! Art always wanted to start a Boy Scout Aviation Merit Badge program at the Wing. He donated a video projector and sound system to the Wing and was exploring a low cost flight simulator for the project when his illness got the better of him. Today the Wing has a Boy Scout Aviation Merit Badge program, thanks entirely to Art's effort to keep the idea alive until someone else would pick up his idea and run with it!

So, now Art's gone. I know full well that he's in heaven, wearing that dashing USAF uniform, no longer in pain, regaling those around him with endless stories that all begin with the sentence "There I was...."  
Art, you are missed!

Col Woodie Sprouse, Wing Leader



## Wing Leader Report Colonel "Woodie" Sprouse

Last month after the Staff Meeting, one of our new members came to me and asked to have a moment of my time. I had other things on my mind at the time but turned and said "...sure what can I do for you?" To my surprise he told me that he had listened closely to the Staff discussions and had wanted to raise a point but I had concluded the meeting before he could ask. I apologized and asked "...what was on his mind?"

He said that "...looking at the circle of Staff Officers during the meeting his impression was that we were a tough circle to break into!" My initial reaction was "...this is something I should look into..." and tried to assure him that I would take care of it. He sensed that I was preoccupied and explained that he had taken enough of my time and that he thanked me for listening. I returned to whatever had occupied my attention before his interruption.

That evening, at home, I could not forget his comment "...a tough circle..." The more I thought about it the more I knew he was correct. I sent him an email apologizing for my inattention and promised to address his concerns in our next newsletter.

Three years ago I was that new member. I saw that same "circle" and tried my best to understand and adapt but all the while feeling that I was "...not quite one of the team." Those of us old enough to recall the cartoon character POGO will remember his prophetic statement "We have met the enemy and he is us!" I witnessed first hand the closed circle that viewed a new idea, or member, with what I'd refer to as passive contempt. Now, three years later I was the problem.

One thing I've found working alongside volunteers is that it's usually a small percentage of the membership that handle the day-to-day activities and planning. Under such conditions I guess it's human nature to form close working relationships within that small membership set. Or...as viewed by a new member..."a tough circle." That fact does not excuse the reality of the situation. Every member has a reason for joining and it's my job to welcome their involvement, interests and encourage their participation. Neither I, nor the Staff, have a monopoly on good ideas and we can't afford to turn anyone away. And...a new member, any member, is too good to waste!

## The Red Tail Squadron's "Rise Above Exhibit"



After months of planning and working with the Volusia County School Administrators, our hosting of the Red Tail Squadron's Travelling "Rise Above" exhibit came to fruition. On March 17th, the Exhibit set up shop at Southwestern Middle School in DeLand. In just three days almost 900 middle school students from the predominantly African American enrollment witnessed the story of the Tuskegee Airmen.

(Red Tail Exhibit Cont.)

The School Principal Ms. Mamie M. Oatis sent the Wing a note of appreciation which is quoted in part:

"I take this opportunity to express the feelings of the entire school and surrounding community for your providing the opportunity for our students to visit the Rise Above Exhibit located here on our campus...

We are so fortunate to be surrounded by such a wonderful and caring community of supporters of education. I know, as do the faculty/staff, parents, and especially the students who visited the exhibit were positively enriched and inspired to RISE ABOVE obstacles in their lives. Students now understand the importance of setting and achieving their goals."

On Friday the exhibit moved to our Hangar where it was open to the public until Sunday afternoon when they packed up and moved the exhibit to Tallahassee.

While at the Hangar, the travelling Exhibit was joined by The Red Tail P-51C flown by Col. Brad Lang, the Squadron Leader. To kick things off, on Saturday morning, the Wing welcomed the Red Tail Exhibit Crew and the two son's of 1st Lt Charles Bailey USAAF, a well known DeLand native, Tuskegee Airman and pilot. Also present was Col. Harry Van Iderstine, a long time supporter of the Red Tail Squadron and a new member of the Florida Wing. To add frosting to the cake, we asked our own P-51 owner, Col Jeff Michael, if he would bring his "Obsession" to the Wing.



Col Brad Lang, Charles Jr. and James Bailey, Harold Brown (a visiting Tuskegee Airman) and Col. Harry Van Iderstine

After welcoming remarks by the DeLand Mayor, Bob Apgar, Col. Harry Van Iderstine officially presented the T-34A he previously donated to the CAF to Col. Brad Lang and the Red Tail Squadron.



Our own Col. Charlie Bolvin donated an engraved Memorial Brick in the name of Lt Charles Bailey to his two sons James and Charles Jr.

Following the opening presentation, the crowd was able to view the "Rise Above" exhibit. Col. Dale Nicholson, was able to satisfy a long held desire to fly in the Red Tail P-51C.



Col. Brad Lang, Red Tail Leader and Col. Dale Nicholson of the Florida Wing following Dale's flight in the Red Tail P-51C.

After the flight with Col. Nicholson, Col's Lang and Michael fired up their aircraft and provided a formation flyover for the guests, followed by three circuits over the City of Deland to announce their presence...the only thing that sounds better than a P-51 engine is two P-51 engines!



Florida Wing Col. Jeff Michael arriving in his personal P-51 "Obsession" - Later, he and The Red Tail P-51 flew a local formation flight!

In all, almost 1,500 adults and children were able to experience the Red Tail "Rise Above" story of their determination to serve America and their love of flying.

# A North Carolina Donation!

Thanks to Col. Butch Stevens, the Florida Wing now has its own golf cart. Col. Stevens offered to donate his golf cart in North Carolina and even arranged to have it delivered to the Florida Wing's Hangar! A quote from James Michener's "Bridges at Toko-Ri" is appropriate "Where do we get such men?"

Thank you Butch!



In one very busy day, these two magicians fashioned a paneling design to cover the upstairs railing and re-designed the forklift access gate, making it more secure and functional. At the end of the day the new paneling was in place and ready to be painted. A big Thank You to Cols Gorge Leone and Ralph Caruso for the carpentry and Cols John Prestopino, Bill Brown for the painting!

## An Interior Hangar Facelift

A project long on the back burner was completed recently by four of our Wing members. The upstairs remained unfinished and did not complement the image of the "Restored Image of the Florida Wing."

The call went out for 'HELP' and it was answered by Col's George Leone and Ralph Caruso.



**BSA Aviation Merit Badge Program, CAF Florida Wing Hangar, February 7, 2015**



The Florida Wing offered twenty nine area Boy Scouts (12-17 years of age) the opportunity to successfully complete all the requirements of the BSA Aviation Merit Badge in a one-day program on February 7, 2015.

Held at the Wing hangar, the full-day program was organized by Colonel Al Herum, Wing member and certified Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor. Wing members provided a series a series of sessions on the dynamics of flight, aircraft engines and propellers, aircraft instrumentation, airport runways and towers, careers in aviation, and aircraft preflight inspection. Fifteen Wing members who provided support for the program were Colonels Al Herum, Matt Herum, Woodie Sprouse, Jon Shay, Dale Nicholson, Art Patstone, Joe Drach, Bob Hillenbrand, Marcia Gomez, Don Hollinsworth, John Prestopino, Ken Stewart, Bill Brown, Dianne Moore and Pat Mickelson.

For upcoming programs, the Wing will be working with the East Volusia and West Volusia Scout Executives and local Scout Troop Leaders to offer Volusia County Scouts first priority on registering for the program. The Wing has the capability to handle 35 to 40 Scouts for each program and plans call for offering at least 100 Boy Scouts access to the program each year. To supplement program oversight, additional Wing members will be solicited to apply as certified Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselors.

**International Women of Aviation Worldwide Week, CAF Florida Hangar, March 7, 2015**

The CAF Wing provided the host hangar/museum facilities for the first annual International Women of Aviation Worldwide Week event held on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The all-day event entitled "Heels in the Sky" was sponsored jointly by the Society of Women Engineers at Embry -Riddle Aeronautical University and the Ninety-Nines (International Organization of Women Pilots).



The purpose of event was to foster an interest in aviation by young women. Thirty women attended the event. Wing member, Colonel Marcia Gomez, former USAF Flight Surgeon, was the featured speaker, giving a presentation on the "Physiology of Flight".



## The NAS DeLand Airport Beacon Project

This is the original Naval Air Station beacon which marked the Air Station for incoming Naval Aviators, more than 70 years ago.

Thanks to Col John Prestopino, the NAS DeLand beacon restoration is progressing smoothly. The Beacon pictured below was delivered to the hangar by the airport operations department where Col. Prestopino smartly took charge. Of the project. The lens were numbered then carefully removed and stored to be cleaned; the frame disassembled and prepared to be taken for bead cleaning and preservation. Once the cleaning has been completed, the parts will be reassembled and the finished product returned to the Airport for donation to the NAS DeLand Museum. Those Wing members who assisted John Prestopino and made this effort possible include: Col's Don Hollinsworth, Art Patstone, Ken Stewart, Bill Brown, Charlie Bolvin and John Makinson.



### Lasting Images of the "Rise Above" Exhibit

