

Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum

The Wing Script



March, 2024

**Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum
4742 Ray Boll Blvd.
Columbus, Indiana 47203**



The Museum in 2023

It has been a busy year at the Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum. Here are some photographs of the improvements that have been made this year in the museum facilities.

Besides our walk-in visitors, the museum has also hosted a few special events. These events are important because they draw hundreds of new visitors to the museum.

Thank you for your support which has made all of this possible.

Physical Improvements - 2023



The airport built a new sidewalk that encircles the F-4 Phantom.

This airplane is on loan from the US Air Force and was placed on display in 1988. It had previously flown with the Air National Guard squadron in Terre Haute, Indiana.



One section of this sidewalk leads visitors to the C-119 area.

The C-119 is owned by the museum. The airplane was restored in 2019-2022 by museum volunteers.



Another section leads visitors to the front door of the museum.

A third section leads to the parking lot in front of the airport terminal building. This encourages people who leave the terminal building to amble around the airplanes before they get in their cars.



Two benches were installed near the C-119. The sidewalk is part of the Columbus People Trail network. This trail system is popular with walkers, joggers, and cyclists.



People who are walking on the Columbus People Trail often pause at the C-119 for a while before they get in their cars and leave for home.

The new sidewalks joined the space around the two airplanes into one united display area which also links to the museum.



This has encouraged foot traffic around the two airplanes.





A 65" television was installed inside the fuselage of the C-119.



Videos or slide shows can be displayed on this television. The docent can refer to these images while talking about the history of the 434th TCW and the C-119.



A 65" television was also installed in the conference room. It can be used for meetings, or for showing long videos to visitors.



The flight trainer has been a very popular display. A museum volunteer must be available to assist the person trying to “fly”. The museum tries to have an extra volunteer available on Saturdays, from 1pm-4pm to operate this display.



The interior of the C-119 is now open for visitors one Saturday a month.



Docents are on hand inside the airplane to talk about the history of the 434th TCW, or the 3-year restoration effort that brought this airplane to Columbus.



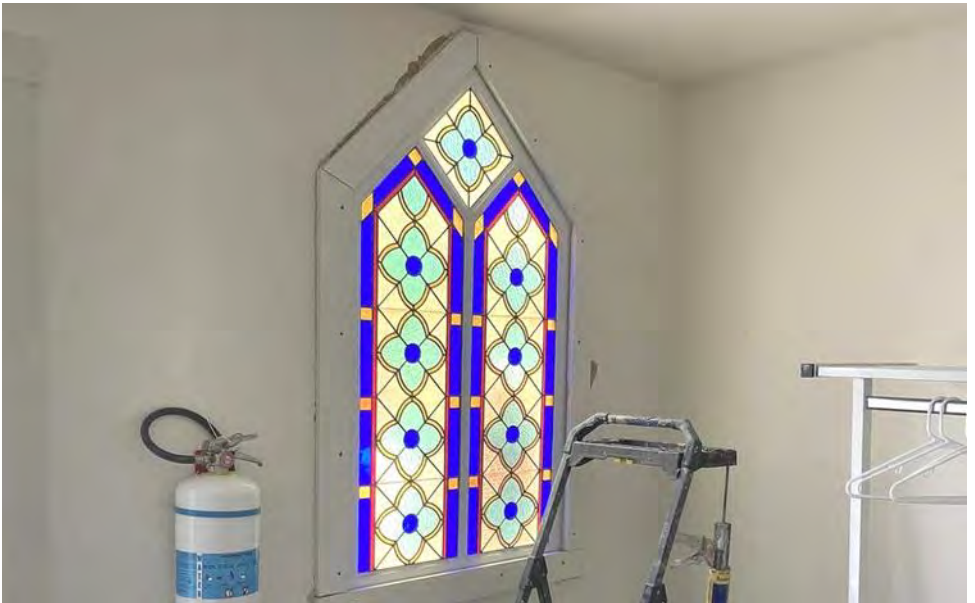
The Jeanne L. Norbeck chapel was built as a barracks building in 1942. In the 1950s the building was modified to become the base chapel. Other than two aircraft hangars, this is the only World War II era building that remains.



Last fall, museum volunteers did some emergency repair work around the front windows where water was leaking in.



In June, the museum hired a contractor to do a permanent fix, repair last year's damage, and paint the exterior and trim.



The two front windows of the chapel are stained glass.



In April, 2023, a group of volunteers did some landscape work around the outside of the chapel.



They were members of the Trail Life Troop 110.

Tour Groups - 2023



The community rooms at the Bartholomew County Library were closed last summer for maintenance. This increased demand for the museum Media Center as a meeting location. This is the Bartholomew County Genealogy Society.



A group of reservists from Camp Atterbury took some time off from their training to learn about local history.



A group of Sea Scouts visited in August.



A team of young engineers from the Cummins plant in Seymour visited the museum in October. They spent a great deal of their time discussing our cutaway engine. It is a Wright R-3350 engine which was used by the C-119 among many other airplanes.



Many tour bus groups arrange to include the museum as one of their stops. It is a good opportunity for the group to stretch their legs and to learn a little about local history.

Motorcycle and Classic Car Clubs also stop by the airport. There is plenty of parking. They can share a meal at the Hangar Five Restaurant. And the C-119 is a great place for some memorable photos.



Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum



Veterans of the 88th Transportation Company arranged for a tour of the museum and the C-119. This was part of their August 15th annual reunion.



These men had served in the Vietnam War from 1970-71.

Vietnam War Veterans Day – March 29



There are a few special events during the year that bring hundreds of visitors to the airport and museum.



The National Vietnam War Veterans Day always brings a large number of people to the museum. Sometimes the veterans come as small groups. Sometimes individual veterans come with their families.



Most of the visiting veterans weren't associated with Bakalar AFB or the 434th TCW. However, looking at the displays prompts conversations about their own military experiences.



We always have the C-119 open for these major events. The UH-1 Huey helicopter, from the non-profit group Columbus Indiana Huey, often joins us.

71st SOS Reunion – Sept. 29



The 71st visited the museum as part of their reunion in September. This year we had the C-119 configured with “theater seating”. The new 65” television can be rotated out for videos and slide shows.



Veterans Day – Nov. 11



Veterans Day is always a special day at the museum.



A troop of Girl Scouts was at the museum to make Thank You cards. They gave the cards to veterans later that day at the ceremony at the Bartholomew County Veteran's Memorial.



A group of women from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) set up a table inside the museum. They thanked veterans and passed out cookies, and small gifts.



Videos about historical events at the airport were shown in the Media Center.



Jim Alvis (center), who is a veteran of the 71st SOS, and other museum volunteers were inside the C-119 to share the history of the different units who trained at the airfield over the years.



The UH-1 Huey helicopter, from Columbus Indiana Huey, once again joined the C-119 and F-4.



Trail Life Troop 110 served lunch to veterans on the museum patio.



A table of well-fed Veterans.

Christmas Brunch – 2023



Our traditional Christmas brunch was held in the chapel.



This brunch was for the museum volunteers, airport staff, and additional friends and supporters of the museum. It takes the efforts of a lot of different people to keep the museum functioning throughout the year.

The museum has a new informational booklet available. There were 1,074 women who served as Women AirForce Service Pilots (WASP) during World War 2. Eighteen of these women were from Indiana, including Jeanne L. Norbeck from Columbus. The 24-page booklet below provides a short biography of each woman.



You can purchase these booklets in the museum for 50 cents. Or, you can click the link below to view a .pdf copy.

[WASP Pilots From Indiana](#)

Volunteers Needed

The museum can only fulfill its mission because of the efforts of its volunteers. If you have time, consider joining the museum staff. With additional volunteers, the museum could expand the number of days per week that it is open.



Primary duty is to share the history of airfield with visitors.





Volunteers are needed for more than just docent duty.

Building new displays and maintaining existing ones.



Cleaning, lots of cleaning.

For more information, click: [Museum Volunteer Brochure](#)



Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum

For more information see:

Web site: www.atterburybakalarairmuseum.org/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/atterburybakalarairmuseum/

Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum
4742 Ray Boll Boulevard,
Columbus, IN 47203
(812) 372-4356
434abmuseum@gmail.com

If you wish to receive a quarterly news update via email, or be removed from this subscription list, please send an email request to the museum.

434abmuseum@gmail.com