

Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum, Inc.

The Wing Script

Atterbury Army Air Base - Bakalar Air Force Base - Columbus, Indiana

Museum Membership Newsletter **February 2019** is published by the Museum Volunteers.
The publication name, "The Wing Script" is taken from the former air base newspaper

Museum Expansion



The new restoration building was completed in the spring.



Mayor Jim Lienhoop spoke at the June dedication ceremony.



The old workshop was converted into additional display area.

President Nick Firestone Remarks

Last year was another busy one for the museum: we hosted over 4000 guests and had 39 groups either tour the museum or use its facilities – including 3 uses of our new patio. We've provided meeting space for local groups such as EAA Chapter 729, Cummins and a small photography club. We have also hosted visits from church groups, senior living groups, local schools and home school groups.

2018 was a year of change:

We held a memorial service for John Walter in April in the airport's hanger.

To make the museum more recognizable, we added a sign to the outside of the building in May (see page 4).

In June, the Tom Vickers/John Walter Artifacts & Restoration building was dedicated and a sculpture honoring the 434th Troop Carrier Wing and Air Refueling Wing designed by John Walter was unveiled. We also added a new gallery where the old workshop and artifact storage area used to be.

In July, we had a memorial service for long time member Jim Peters in our chapel.

In September, we acquired a Wright Cyclone R-3350 cutaway radial engine which will be a working display in the museum soon.

Another future display will be a flight simulator.

In October, we had a wedding at the chapel.

In November, we made an addition to our Gallant Men wall.

We are embarking on an exciting new project for the museum and airport that will take a few years to complete and are looking forward to telling you more about it in a future mailing.

The museum will reopen for the 2019 season on Tuesday, March 5 and we hope you will pay us a visit.

The Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum complex consists of the museum and William "Bruce" Dalton Media Center, the Jeanne Lewellen Norbeck Memorial Chapel and the Historical Markers on Bakalar Green. Bakalar Green is the preserved green area between the F-4 Phantom Jet static display and the airport rotating beacon.

Museum Patio



This monument honoring the 434th Troop Carrier Wing was placed on the north side of the patio. This Air Force Reserve unit was based in Columbus from 1949-1970.



The patio has proven to be a really nice location for holding outdoor events.



The Atterbury Sea Cadets made use of our new patio for their June awards ceremony. This was followed by a tour of the museum and learning about local military history.

71st Special Operations Squadron



In April the veterans of the 71st SOS held their reunion at the museum. Fifty years ago, 300 men from the Columbus area were notified that their reserve unit was being activated and that they were going to be sent to Vietnam.



The Republic Newspaper had three reporters at the reunion to interview the veterans. Their stories were printed in the newspaper's Memorial Day insert called "Salute".



Additional artifacts, photographs, and documents from their time in Vietnam were made available.



Special Events



Msgt. James Sellars III, USAF (Ret) was added to the museum's wall of "Gallant Men". Mr. Sellars served in the US Air Force from 1985-2006 and participated in many operations in the Middle East during his career.



Twenty-one of the museum volunteers were able to take a ride in a World War 2 B-17 bomber. The rides were a gift from the John C. Walter estate.



The chapel isn't normally open to the public, but it can be reserved for special events. In November David Gray and Marie Misasi held their wedding at the chapel.

Our Visitors



Volunteer docents are available to guide our guests around the museum displays.



The airport's 2018 "Aviation Day" drew about 7,000 visitors. About 800-1,000 of these visitors passed through the museum for a quick tour.



The Media Center is normally used to show historical videos to our guests. The Media Center can also be reserved for use by other organizations. The projector can show videos, photos, or PowerPoint presentations.



Off-Site Activities



The Bartholomew County Museum borrowed our Noblitt-Sparks display from Feb.– May.



Flight Night at Smith Elementary School.



Camp Atterbury Community Day.

In Memory



A memorial service for John C. Walter was held in a hangar at the airport. John was a WW2 veteran and a museum volunteer. About 100 guests attended the ceremony.



A memorial service for James S. Peters was held in the Chapel. Jim was a WW2 veteran and a museum volunteer.

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