



UN-SCRAMBLE



The Official Newsletter of the Valiant Air Command, Inc.
6600 Tico Road, Titusville, FL 32780 - (321) 268-1941
website: <http://www.valiantaircommand.com>
email: warbirds@valiantaircommand.com

1st Quarter Review - January, February & March 2021

Huge Car Show • Wall to Wall Cars • February 27, 2021



MUSEUM AND GIFT SHOP - OPEN FRI, SAT & SUN - 9AM TO 5PM

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day

Adults \$20.00 - Senior 60+ or Military \$18.00 - Students 13 to 18 years old \$10.00

Children 5 to 12 years old \$5.00 - Children under 5 years old FREE - Special Group Tour Rates Available

Statement of Purpose

The Valiant Air Command Inc. was formed to perpetuate the history of aviation, to encourage gathering of men and women in camaraderie, research and Warbird restoration, to serve as an educational tool for young and old alike; and to assure that the memory of those who gave their lives in service to their country shall not perish.

501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization Museum Recognized by the Internal Revenue Service

Future Events • April, May & June • 2021

April 10	Warbird Air Museum Fly-In / Drive-In Breakfast 8-10:30	May 8	VAC BOD Meeting, Library, 12 Noon
April 10	VAC BOD Meeting, Library, 12 Noon	June 12	Warbird Air Museum Fly-In / Drive-In Breakfast 8-10:30
April 11	Car & Truck rally, main ramp	June 12	VAC BOD Meeting, Library, 12 Noon
April 17-18	Space Coast AirShow, Cocoa Beach, VAC Fly & work concessions		
May 8	Warbird Air Museum Fly-In / Drive-In Breakfast 8-10:30		

Please check the VAC website or with the event for last minute changes before going!!!! (www.valiantaircommand.com)



Commander's Report

Norm Daniels, Commander
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(321) 268-1941 ext. 4101

Greetings to members, volunteers, employees and friends of the Valiant Air Command, Inc. Warbird Museum. The first quarter of 2021 has been a challenge for your museum. Adapting to over a year of being closed due to the COVID-19 virus has taken its toll even though we opened for weekend visitors beginning October of 2020.

We have canceled our monthly Fly-In/Drive-In Saturday Breakfasts due to safety concerns for everyone. Many museums around the country are in real trouble, for example, the MCAS Miramar Flying Museum in San Diego will close permanently on April 1/2021 due to budget constraints. In our case, thanks to special events held in our hangars, C-47 TICO Belle flights, and funds from the various relief packages we are holding our own. Bob Boswell, XO, has booked and is booking more events. Leigh Lewis, Flight Operations Director, continues to negotiate appearance fees and parachute drops for the TICO Belle and our TBM Avenger. David Shores, PR/Marketing Director, negotiated a fee for a British film company that is producing a documentary about TBM Avengers. Tracy Bohrmann, Finance Director, continues to aggressively seek out and capture all available funds from various relief packages.

Donations are coming in for our expansion project which we genuinely appreciate; we need more donations to bring this project to fruition. If you have not donated, please consider doing so; you will be entitled to a tax deduction.

Supporting your museum's ability to survive are the working Board of Directors, tour guides, restoration volunteers, and PX employees who are taking the time daily to keep the museum in ready-to-open condition. We are looking at June 1, 2021 as a safe date to open the museum every day 9 to 5.

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GONE WEST

Lloyd Willard Morris, 72, passed away Monday, March 8, 2021 at Halifax Health Hospice, Port Orange, FL. Born in Oneida to Jess Willard and Mary Shelton Morris, Lloyd came to New Smyrna Beach, FL in 1979 from DeLand, FL.



He was Commander of the Valiant Air Command War Bird Museum in Titusville from 1998 to 2017; a 32-degree mason at the New Smyrna Masonic Lodge #149 F&AM; a member of Confederate Airforce, DeLand and an accomplished pilot. Lloyd enjoyed his hobby of remote control aircraft and model trains. Lloyd is survived by his wife, Gay Benet-Morris, of New Smyrna Beach, FL. Condolences may be made online at www.settlewilderfuneralhome.com.

Al Tinnirello, 90 passed away Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

Al was a Valiant Air Command Member and a dedicated Tour Guide for over 15 years. He will be missed by all.

Rest in peace Al.



Frazier V. "Coffee" Coffman passed away Sunday, February 7, 2021.

He was a Navy Veteran and volunteer at the Valiant Air Command where he repaired the VAC's avionics and radios for many years. He was awarded the "Master Pilot Certificate" for completing 50 years of accident/incident-free flying by the FAA in 2011.



Commander's Report

Continued from pg 2

The State of Florida has placed our rack cards in all their welcome centers; they advised that traffic count has been building. A sizeable portion of visitors to the museum arrive from South America and England. Once flight restrictions are lifted, we expect visitor volume to increase to the rate that we enjoyed the first 2 months of 2020.

Of special interest is the number of members who have renewed their membership and the number of new members who have joined the museum. We are especially grateful that they recognize the value of the museum's on-going efforts.

A note about our expansion project Phase 2: the addition of a pad 300' X 428', a new connector, and retention pond, along with permits for the entire site that includes an event center and new hangars. The plans for the above have met all permit requirements except for the final permit due from the St. Johns River Water Management District. Traditionally, acquiring this final permit is time-consuming as the St. Johns District must approve all issues related to water movement from our site (or any construction site) to the Indian River Lagoon. The Lagoon is under severe stress from rainwater washing fertilizers into the Lagoon as well as an estimated 300,000 septic tanks outflow entering the Lagoon. They're in a major political and environmental push to clean up the lagoon and some funding has been allocated to do so. We expect our plans submitted a few months ago to be approved shortly.

At the March board meeting, several changes were approved: Marvin Juhl has moved over to the open Procurement Officer position picking up other functions and Terry Rush, TBM Avenger Pilot, has been voted in as Maintenance Officer covering flying fixed-winged aircraft. Votes to approve were unanimous.

The Valiant Air Command has been providing classes for young people during the pandemic online at no cost to parents or students. I want to thank Bill Teixeira, STEM Coordinator and his team for being able to modify and enhance online offerings to students via webinars. This allows our group of teachers and those who have direct experience in specific applications to personalize Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Aviation. Joel McGinley is just one from this group of volunteers who give their time on Saturdays to run these sessions. Feedback from parents and guardians has been most positive. Parents and students alike have been asking when we will go back to face-to-face group sessions. We will advise parents in advance as soon as we know that it is safe to do so.

There is no better reason to volunteer than to help young people learn how to adapt by solving problems with hands-on experiences. Once group classes begin, we hope to announce that other youth groups and their leaders will be joining us.

This is a new world and those young people who learn how to think by utilizing their hands and minds will be able to cope with the constantly changing workforce and pursue many educational opportunities.

Would you like to be part of our volunteer restoration crew or how about becoming a Tour Guide?

Fill out an application on our website or stop at the Gift Shop and get an application.



UN-SCRAMBLE

The Official Newsletter of the Valiant Air Command

1st Quarter - Jan, Feb & Mar • **Submission deadline - Mar 24th** NL Published - April 1st
2nd Quarter - April, May & June • **Submission deadline - June 24th** NL Published - June 30th
3rd Quarter - July, Aug & Sept • **Submission deadline - Sept 24th** NL Published - Sept 30th
4th Quarter - Oct, Nov & Dec • **Submission deadline - Dec 22nd** NL Published - Dec 31st

Editor: Phyllis Lilienthal

Unscramble Crew: Louise Kleba and Lorraine Juhl

Photo Credits: David Hart Jr., Marvin Juhl, Lorraine Juhl and Phyllis Lilienthal

Please note: Items submitted after the submission deadline will not be published or will be published the next quarter if applicable.

The Editor reserves the right to not publish submitted items.





Executive Director's Report

Bob Boswell, Executive Director
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The value of the support our volunteers provide cannot be measured. Unfortunately, we do not always acknowledge these volunteers for all that they do. The BOD recommended a new program to recognize these dedicated individuals in a new benefit program that will allow nonmember volunteers to earn an annual membership with the hours worked. Look for our Personnel Director to publish the details and implement this new program shortly.

The BOD has also initiated a new volunteer recruitment plan and our Public Relations Director has already released his first invitation. I would ask that each member reach out to those that you know would enjoy being a part of the organization and invite them to join. Direct these potential recruits to the Volunteering Tab on our website and each of them will be contacted. The long-term health of the VAC is contingent on continually adding new members and volunteers.

I am very proud of our volunteers. They are the driving force behind the VAC and the team that operates and keeps our museum open. Volunteers support the luncheons, dinners, and monthly fly-in breakfast and so many other events held to attract visitors to our museum. When you visit the museum or attend one of our special events, please take a minute to thank the volunteers for their day-to-day support.

On another issue, Covid-19 has certainly put a damper on museum operations and events. Without the tour busses and cruise ship shore trips, museum attendance has been limited. As you can imagine, being open only 3 days each week, due to reduced out-of-town visitors, has been a major financial strain. Also, most of the organizations that had booked the museum as a venue for their events have canceled. During the first quarter of this year, we did hold revenue-generating car events on the museum parking ramp and our C-47 supporting parachute training at several locations has also helped in a big way to bring in much need funding. The museum will host several community events over the next few months. On 3 April, the Miracle City Harley-Davidson dealership will be stopping by the Museum as part of their Easter Scavenger hunt. Then, on Sunday, April 11, the High-Performance Promotions Car/Truck rally to promote Breast Cancer Awareness will be **continued on pg 5**



Marilyn D. Bettencourt, of Cumberland, R.I., and Titusville, Fla., passed away on March 15, 2021, after many years-long battles with cancer and its complications.



She was the beloved wife of Philip Bettencourt.

Marilyn volunteered at the Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum in Titusville and eventually became the Finance Officer on the Board of Directors; fund raising at the museum to perpetuate the history of WWII aviation and to assure the memory of those who gave their lives in service to their country.

Marilyn was a Lifetime Member and was very active at the Museum; she was one of the "Ann James Girls".

For the guest book, visit www.oterifuneralhome.com.

Marijcke Kramer, the beloved wife of Dr. F. J. Erik Kramer, passed to our Father's Home on January 10, 2021. She was a great support to Erik with his loyalty and dedication to our Museum. Marijcke was a VAC Lifetime Member. She will be greatly missed by family and friends. Dr. F. J. Erik Kramer is the Valiant Air Command's Historian, he has been a Tour Guide for many years. Erik wrote the VAC Tour Guide Training Manual and is working on his book about the history of our Museum. He will be moving to Bal Harbor, Florida to live near his daughter. Erik will be greatly missed when he moves.

Executive Officer's Report

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here with 120-140 cars/trucks of all kinds expected. Registration at 9:00 am, awards at 2:00 pm. For this one day only, adult admission to the museum has been dropped to \$10.00.

On April 17, the Mustang Club will bring many cars to the museum for picture sessions, and on April 17 and 18 the VAC will be participating in the Cocoa Beach Air Show. Our new Events Coordinator for commercial events is Jolene Clark. She has already supported one private dinner and is booking future events. As we move into the summer and fall months, we look forward to returning to our normal hours of operation and additional hosting of private events.

*The M*A*S*H Helicopter display has a rebuilt golf cart tug*



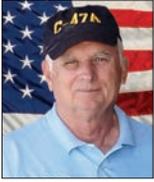
Hawkeye would have loved this

The XP-82 Twin Mustang has the spot of honor in the Vietnam Hangar



Antique Motorcycle Group Visits The Museum





Facilities Director's Report

Tom Etter, Facilities Director
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This Quarter saw the Museum open only 3 days per week and operating with reduced staff presence due to the Corona Virus, but still much work is being done. A partial listing follows:

Various events required much movement of aircraft in and out of the hangars (to provide space for events or allow our aircraft to fly to events, or to perform maintenance run-ups).

We made some runs to Edgewater to pick up donated equipment under Marvin Juhl's direction.

Hawk Moore led the effort to trim the trees in front of the museum and Tom Wilke kept the grounds mowed and trimmed.

Roger Tonovitz kept the hangars policed and helped move aircraft when needed.

Charlie Hammer led the effort to put the MiG-17 together, as well as MD3 maintenance.

Terry Nies and Charlie Meyer helped out with C-47 and TBM operations when not helping me.

We supported the unloading and loading of Christmas Wreaths for our Military Hero's.

We spent much time and effort supporting the junking and salvaging of equipment in the Museum.

Joel McGinley has led the maintenance effort on all our tugs, forklifts, crane, golf carts and pickup truck.

Jim Bowers and Grant Tyer have spent days on special projects with Joel.

David Shores, our PR Officer, has been helping me with Facility issues every week.

I went on the inspection trip of an SA-16 Albatross, I really wanted it (we lost one at my last museum), but it was so full of bat dung and it was just too great an effort and cost to save it. We unfortunately had to turn the generous offer down.

Marvin and I have been creating a series of training events aimed at the safe moving of aircraft. We want everyone doing aircraft movement for events to be using the same SOP. We are using established Air Force procedures. Topics include marshaling moving aircraft, ground towing of aircraft, hand signals to be used, and how to operate each of the 8 tugs we own; we have held one school so far. The main targets are: going slow and having good spotters present.

We have supported numerous events, helping to set up tables, etc. Parking of vehicles has become vital to the success of events. Patti Champion and Dan

McAlexander have been super at directing cars into the parking area. I cannot imagine doing it without them and their crew.

We had 6 Interns from Embry Riddle come down and help us work in the hangars and they were good workers. I loved having them and hope we get more.

We supported a First Responder Breakfast of 150 guests and parked their cars on the ramp.

We have been supporting the Quiet Birdmen parties each month. Sometimes in the Main Hangar and other times in the Vietnam Hangar when they have a big crowd.

We supported a big car show filling our ramp with cars.



David Shores and Charlie Meyer led the effort to fix our MiG-15 engine stand. We have placed that engine next to the T-33 engine to compare the two copies of the British Nene design and they will end up between the MiG and T-33 on display.

Charlie Hammer and Hawk Moore went on the roof of the Main Hangar and sealed some of the leaks. Marvin Juhl sealed some more later and Hawk Moore went up again in an effort to find them all. The roof is quite rusty and will need repair or replacement in the future.

I can't tell you enough how good I feel about the Volunteers, the BOD, and the entire VAC organization that support me. I feel each of our Volunteers is a special and generous person.

I can't wait for the time when we can open full-time and we gain back all our Volunteers as we all get our shots and the risks go down. Should you get bored at home, feel free to contact me about moving aircraft, maintaining the facility, and working on static aircraft. You all are welcome. You do not have to be a pilot, former air crew, or space worker to have a spot here. Each of us has a skill we can adapt to the needs of the VAC.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that there are other special groups in the VAC. The Docents, the Curator Crew, the Restoration Crew, the Venue Support Crew and the Flight Crews all have super workers like the Facilities Crew. This is a wonderful place to spend our retirement.

I look forward to the second quarter of 2021. Big things are coming with a new ramp, hangar and aircraft.



Maintenance Director's Report

Marvin Juhl, Procurement Director
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It's time for me to turn the baton over to the hands of Terry Rush. Terry meets all the qualifications for this position and we welcome him on board as our new Director of Maintenance. As your past Director of Maintenance, it has been most rewarding serving the VAC in this capacity. An opportunity came my way to serve the VAC as your new Procurement Director. I look forward to starting this new adventure.

With all that being said, here is the first quarter maintenance update. As always the TBM, C-47 and the Bell 47 are constantly undergoing tender loving care (TLC) maintenance. That means they are in excellent shape for flights with the caring hands of Terry Rush, John Makinson and others.

Our restoration aircraft: F101 is under the directional hands of Bob Filippi and crew. They are currently working in the area of the landing gear for preparation to paint, which will be a task that could take a while. Also, they have been working on the engine clamshell doors, getting close to closing them (6 doors) permanently.



The speed brakes have been painted inside and set aside to be installed later. The top of the wings

have been sanded the first time around. Corroding skin on top of the intake area has been repaired



and I need to add that it was a magnificent repair job that only could be done by one that has much experience in such repair. (Great job Larry).

The Huey - we are in hopes it will be able to do run-ups someday. It has been going through its paces. The fuel system has been completely inspected and ready for fuel when needed.



The engine has been removed and its replacement is about ready to be installed. We have still have a way to go, but they are gaining

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Maintenance Director's Report

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at a steady pace in its recovery.

F-11 - work continues with a concentration on the fuselage.



Top skin panels were removed and repaired, interior and exterior primed and ready for installation as well as the lower fuselage panels. The nose gear hanging brace has been completed. A trial fit for the nose gear fitting is in progress with its nose gear doors.

Bell 47G - is currently under an annual inspection as of this writing - all is going well with its progress.

MiG-17 - our newest aircraft addition on display has had incredible repairs made to her, such as the canopy repairs and installation, ejection seat cleaned painted and reinstalled along with inside cockpit cleaning and repairs. Installing and rigging of aircraft weapons in a display matter for all to view. Charlie Hammer has done a fabulous job in getting this project in shape for everyone to view. Thank You Charlie!!! By the way, he's still working on keeping her in shape for our warbird display line-up.

Valiant Air Command Lifetime Member Hits 100 Gallon Donor Milestone

*He Donates in Honor of His Wife Who Battled Cancer
Bob Also Gives COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma*



Robert "Bob" Munsey today joined the ranks of less than 300 Floridians who have reached the 100 gallon-donor milestone since blood banking began during the Second World War. He has helped to save or sustain many hundreds of lives and families in his blood donation career.

Bob joined the Navy at age 17 where he served for 29 years and began his lifetime career donating blood, first whole blood, then platelets. He joined the Navy at 18 years old, where he graduated in 1968 with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. In 1996, his wife Rosemary, who he met in the Navy, developed cancer and passed away in 1996. In her battle against this disease, Bob became aware of the need for platelets, so he began to donate that special gift as often as 24 times a year. Being in Naval Aviation, Bob set a goal of donating 55 gallons, like the steel drums that were part of his world there. Little did he know then he would one day reach this 100-gallon donor milestone.

This past summer, Bob and his friend decided they had pandemic fatigue and needed a vacation. So, they drove to Mt. Rushmore and after returning to Florida, discovered they had become positive for COVID-19. After recovering from a mild infection, Bob then started to donate COVID-19 convalescent plasma every month, during one of his regular platelet donations, as an additional way to help save even more lives.

Generally, healthy people age 16 or older who weigh at least 110 pounds can donate blood. All donors receive a wellness checkup of blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening, including a Covid-19 Antibody Test, plus a surprise gift.

To learn more about the importance of blood donation and how donors can target the power of their blood type, visit oneblood.org or call 1.888.9DONATE (1.888.936.6283).



**April
17-18**

Presented
**KEL
TEC**



Operations Director's Report

Leigh Lewis, Operations Director
Email: OperationsOfficer@valiantaircommand.com
(321) 268-1941 ext. 4107

Greetings from Flight Operations!

I am looking forward to a great working relationship with our new Director of Maintenance, Terry Rush, and express my thanks to Marvin Juhl for his past work as Maintenance Director who now fills the open Procurement Director's position. Terry brings a HUGE toolbox of experience in both operations and maintenance on warbirds. Terry flew the TBM on 22 February for the British Discovery Channel and was also interviewed on TBM operation.

The C-47 went to Dunellen to drop static line parachute jumpers on 25-28 Feb. Thanks to John Makinson's GREAT maintenance on the airplane, she performed flawlessly. Mike McCann was the mission commander for the operation. He shared the Captain seat with Dick Osborne and Isaac Silver so we were able to keep our Captain landings current in the C-47. This saves the museum on the cost of training flights and adds a high level of experience and safety in both Captain and Co-pilot seats. We are preparing the plane to depart 25-28 March for more parachute operations in Palatka. We are also scheduled to fly both C-47 and TBM for the Cocoa Airshow on 17-18 April with both flyby and parachute operations. FLY SAFE



P R Director's Report

David Shores, Public Relations Director
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We negotiated our rack card delivery charge down from \$262 per month to \$150 and the Melbourne Airport light-up sign down from \$350 per month to \$225. We have stopped advertising in European flight magazines until they can fly safely to the US again.

We have created a good relationship with the Eau Galle High School Aviation Program where we can

be of help to them in several areas.

The TBM Avenger was flown and filmed by the Discovery Channel. They are also interested in filming our B-25.

We created a new ad featuring the F-18A which will run in Florida Today twice a week every other week. Next week we will be running an ad asking for volunteers.

We are a member of and have been on a monthly call with the USAF Aviation Museums of America.



Finance Director's Report

Tracy Bohrmann, Finance Director
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After having a very difficult year with COVID-19, we are starting to see increased tourism judging by our numbers on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Balancing increasing revenue with keeping our employees and volunteers safe has been one of my key focus areas going forward. We are hoping to open at the beginning of June to a full schedule. As more vaccine gets distributed people may feel more comfortable traveling and we will be back in full swing. We are working with the Tourist Development Council of Brevard to coordinate advertising to drive visitors and revenue to our doors.

We give a special thank you to Brevard County Commissioner Curt Smith for his support of the Valiant Air Command during these tough times.

The C-47 has been able to go to some airshows, along with the TBM bringing in some revenue, in addition to the C 47 parachute drops she has been doing. Hopefully when tourism and travel, in general,

pick up, so will our revenue for the planes.

It has been quite a scramble to obtain COVID-19 relief grants from a multitude of different sources on the local, state and federal levels. As many people are aware, the systems in place for applying for and delivering aid to small businesses are disjointed at best and it is a full-time job to keep these grants coming in. I am continually on the hunt for new funding sources to assist the museum until we can safely fully open.

We have a new events coordinator Jolene Clark who has been diligently working to increase our events schedule and we are looking forward to working with her going into the spring/summer and the demand for events seem to be growing. It will be great to get back in the swing of things with that. We are also looking at restarting our Fly-In Breakfast on the third Saturday of the month.

The continued support of the membership is what enables this museum to keep functioning and expanding. The Board is looking at when would be the best time to do the Member Dinner that was canceled prior. I am looking forward to having a great party and seeing as many of you here as possible.

Gift Shop News

Maureen, Rich, Katelyn & Lorraine
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Hello all,

First off, I would like to thank all our new members we have been getting lately and welcome them, and, of course, thank our dedicated renewing members as well. Members have sure helped the gift shop sales! We appreciate your support!

I would like to mention some new food items we have been carrying. Honey is locally grown right here in Titusville. We have a Sweet Chili Sauce, Apple Hickory BBQ Sauce and Medium Sweet Pineapple Salsa. Honestly, they have all been selling well. Tourists are reading the ingredients and just love them too. Stop by and try for yourself. You will not be disappointed.

We are doing a "sell-out" on our clocks. This will be the end of them. They are marked down to \$20. We still have plenty to chose from. Come and get them while they last.

Lots of items on sale from 30% to 50% off - too many others to mention. Come by and see Katelyn and me in the gift shop and we will fill you in on all the sales.

Thank you for your support and stay safe!

Maureen, Rich, Katelyn & Lorraine



Clock Clearance



Locally Produced Food Items For Sale



Katelyn

Rich

Maureen

Lorraine

The Gift Shop Crew



© CentralFloridaReview.com / Bailey J Guinigundo

(Titusville FL) I have lived in East Orlando for over 23 years, and had never known or even heard of this super-cool hidden gem located just 15 minutes away from Kennedy Space Center. If you know of anyone that enjoys visiting car shows, or are friends or family with anyone in the military, or are just looking to have a wonderful and unique family experience, we would strongly recommend that you pay this awesome place a visit in the very near future!

To start, we were introduced to Valiant Air Command by the wonderful folks at Space Coast Fun Guide (thank you for the introduction!). Valiant's Public Relations contact, David Shores, then maintained frequent contact with us in the weeks leading up to our visit. Ultimately, we confirmed a visitation date with David and we were all set.

We pulled up to the very welcoming parking lot (free parking), and the first site that immediately caught my family's attention was the twin turboprop Grumman OV-10A Mohawk ("Whispering Death") positioned within feet of where we parked. Excited to take a photo with it, we noticed one of the museum's volunteers had stepped outside in anticipation of our welcome. As we walked up toward the volunteer, he asked me, "Are you Bailey?" to which I responded, "Yes." He politely greeted us and advised that David

was waiting inside the lobby for us and that we needed to do a quick temperature check before we could begin. David introduced himself to us, and we began our tour.

The 2-story lobby area set the tone for the rest of our day's adventure. In the lobby sat a Grumman F4F-4 Wildcat, which during its flight days would have a top speed of 318 mph. Today, only a very limited number of these still exist in the world, with this particular survivor on loan from the National Naval Aviation Museum at Naval Air Station (Pensacola FL). To the left of this display, visitors could access the gift shop area. To the right of the display was the area where we saw historic military uniforms, patches, models, and missile / gun displays from US, German, and Japanese forces from long ago. True history buffs could find enough on display here to keep them busy for an entire day, reading through old newspaper clippings and soaking in all of the historical significance located behind these glassed panels.

David then escorted us into the 1st of 3 hangars. The first thought that entered my mind was: "What a truly AWESOME display of beautiful aircraft!" In this one hangar, there was an F-14 Tomcat (popularized in today's pop culture as being the featured supersonic fighter jet in the movie 'Top Gun'). *Continued from pg 12*

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Sitting almost directly beside this was an F-16 Fighting Falcon (the featured fighter aircraft in the 1986 movie 'Iron Eagle.') Standing proudly in the corner was a TBM-3 Avenger, one of the mainstays of the US Navy during World War II, and was the same type of aircraft former President George H.W. Bush flew in the 1940's when he was shot down near the Japanese-occupied Pacific island of Chi Chi Jima. America's first jet fighter, the F80/T-33 Shooting Star, proudly sat toward the center of the space, fully decorated in its patriotic red, white, and blue color-scheme. The UH-19B Chickasaw which served as a rescue helicopter in the 1950's was also on display here. But the flagship beauty in this room was the fully-functioning and capable of actually flying: the 26,000 lb. C-47 Tico Belle, which was responsible for dropping paratroopers into Normandy.

The 2nd area was less flashy but more exclusive: the Hal Larkin - Norm Lindsay Restoration Hangar. In May 2015, this space was dedicated as a memorial to two of its long-time members and supporters. Many of the air beauties that were currently on display needed to pass through this particular hangar prior to being showroom ready, with some aircraft being housed here for years while being repaired, reconditioned, and repainted. One of the aircraft being restored was a McDonnell F-101 Voodoo which served the US and Royal Canadian Air Forces, and would top out at speeds in excess of 1,000 mph! David advised that this portion of our tour was not typically open to the general public, so we were very privileged to see this area for sure!

We made our way over to the Matthews Family Vietnam Memorial Hangar. There was a reception space to this hangar which featured military uniforms and artifacts from more modern day service periods. The hangar itself was just as awesome as the first. Located at the center of this hangar was a fully restored XP-82 Twin Mustang, one of only 5 known to be in ex-

istence, making this one of the ultimate flying rarities in the world! Keeping the Twin Mustang company in this space was a Bell 74 (H-13 Sioux) helicopter, which was used as a Medivac during the Korean War, and it was popularized the 1970's / '80's movie and TV series 'M*A*S*H'. Side by side here was an F-100C Super Sabre (America's 1st supersonic jet fighter known as 'The Hun'), and an F/A-18 Hornet (this one was still adorning its blue 'Blue Angels' colors and markings).

In all, 50 impressive aircraft are currently domiciled at Valiant Air Command. The grounds are immaculately clean, and the aircraft were all kept in pristine condition. With these each being so beautiful, it was somewhat difficult to find out that 8 of these aircraft were actually capable of taking flight. It's one thing for these stunning showpieces to be aesthetically pleasing, with new paint, and every square inch of the aircraft to be polished and restored, but to imagine that these not only looked amazing, but that they could actually fly? "Amazing" is a severe understatement here.

Valiant was founded in 1971, and operated by volunteers. I asked David which group was financially responsible for covering the upkeep and maintenance on these warbirds, and he told me that's why Valiant had to charge admission fees. You would be very hard-pressed to find another display of this historical significance anywhere else in the US.

Most every guy that I know would appreciate walking through here: we love seeing memorabilia and shiny things. Valiant is the mother of all shiny experiences. Initially I was concerned if my wife and 2 daughters (13 and 15 years old) were going to be bored with this visit: and I was very incorrect with that, as they ended up taking more selfies than I did this time! Valiant Air Museum gets an enthusiastic '2 thumbs up' from me. If you are looking for something very safe and different to visit with your family, I could not endorse this place any more: it's super-cool and you will not be disappointed!

Bailey Guinigundo

LATE BREAKING NEWS

On 11 April, 2021, the Warbird Museum, 6600 Tico Road, Titusville, will offer a reduced admission price of \$10 per person (\$5 for children 5-12) to tour the Museum/Gift Store from 9am-5pm. In addition to our vast collection of 50+ vintage aircraft, we will also be hosting the High Performance Promotions Breast Cancer Awareness Car & Truck Show from 10am to 2pm. Come see all Cars and Trucks of every year, make and model. There will be a Music, 50/50 drawing, Awards, Raffles, vendors and Beachin BBQ serving up all your favorites. Hope to see you there!

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THE CAR SHOW AT THE VAC HAD SOME UNUSUAL EXHIBITS



The Bat Mobile showed off its guns, electric canopy and other accessories



Interesting concept for a car and how appropriate for a car show at a Warbird Air Museum. I love the idea of a car dressing up as a plane...very original and clever, but I did have trouble with the rust on the car seams and rivets. Everyone knows that planes don't rust, they corrode...it did make me stop and think. The designer must have spent hours putting in the rivets and making the rust trails. I kept going back to look at this exhibit. I rate it as best of the show, but then I am partial to planes...just your Editor's opinion!

WEAR YOUR MASK AND STAY 6 FEET APART

BE SURE TO CHECK THE VALIANT AIR COMMAND'S WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES OR LAST MINUTE UPDATES • WWW.VALIANTAIRCOMMAND.COM

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