



# UN-SCRAMBLE



The Official Newsletter of the Valiant Air Command, Inc.  
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**2nd Quarter Review - April, May & June - 2021**

## Arrival of the VAC's latest acquisition - RC-3 Seabee



### **MUSEUM AND GIFT SHOP - OPEN THUR, 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 • July, August & September • 2021

July 10 Fly-In / Drive-In Breakfast, Museum, 8-10:30  
July 10 VAC BOD Meeting, Library, 12 Noon  
Aug 14 Fly-In / Drive-In Breakfast, Museum, 8-10:30  
Aug 14 VAC BOD Meeting, Library, 12 Noon  
Sept 11 Fly-In / Drive-In Breakfast, Museum, 8-10:30

Sept 11 VAC BOD Meeting, Library, 12 Noon  
Sept 18 1st General Public Organizational Meeting for the 2022 Warbird AirShow, Library, 12 Noon  
*Please check the VAC website or with the event for last minute changes before going!!!! (www.valiantaircommand.com)*



## Commander's Report

Norm Daniels, Commander  
Email: [Commander@valiantaircommand.com](mailto:Commander@valiantaircommand.com)  
(321) 268-1941 ext. 4101

Greetings to members, volunteers, employees and friends of the Valiant Air Command, Inc. Warbird Museum.

Mid-May this year we expanded the museum open days to the public to Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Visitor traffic has been encouraging but not as heavy as it was before closing due to COVID-19. All the Brevard County venues are experiencing similar issues and are expecting increased traffic once flights from overseas and cruise boats recommence operations.

On April 17th, during the Cocoa Beach Air Show, our TBM Avenger had to make an emergency landing in the ocean due to premature supercharger failure. The pilot was unable to make the landing strip at Patrick Air Force Base as the engine had lost all power. Our pilot, due to his skills and experience, was able to set down in the water without injuries to himself or others. On the first inspection, we believed that we could restore the aircraft. Unfortunately, due to the excessive time it took the salvage company to bring the aircraft to land, too much damage had been done by saltwater. A forensic inspection revealed that saltwater had attacked all the magnesium parts of the aircraft except for the rudder and canopy. Corrosion of rivets and all the aluminum interior frameworks of the fuselage and wings had compromised and weakened the aircraft to the point of destruction. The insurance company declared the aircraft a total loss. We received \$13,000 in donated funds for restoring the aircraft. We will reimburse those who contributed funds.

More news: we opened our monthly Fly-In/ Drive-In Saturday breakfasts and enjoyed a large turnout on June 12th.

During the last quarter and this month, we acquired two flying aircraft into our stable of warbirds: #1. 1952 Beech C-45H #2. Republic RC-3. More about these unique aircraft from Leigh Lewis, Flight Operations and Terry Rush, *Continued on pg 3*



## Donald "Don" Leathers

Age 84, passed away Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at his residence in Ohio. Born in Stoughton, MA. Don was a UD graduate. He was a retired Industrial Artist, worked for the Gillette Company, and Mary Kay Cosmetics where he designed cosmetic packaging. He was a U.S. Air Force Veteran and a Lifetime Member of the Valiant Air Command Warbird Air Museum.



Don was the Warbird Air Museum Curator for many years, he resigned his position in 2018 and moved to Ohio to be near his family. Don wore many hats in addition to being the Curator and was always there when you needed help.

Interment was at Dayton National Cemetery. If desired, memorial contributions may be made to the Dayton VA Center in Don's memory.

## Joan "Joannie" Dorrell

Passed away Saturday, June 12, 2021. Joannie will be taken back home to Long Island, New York for interment.

She was a Lifetime Member and active volunteer of the Valiant Air Command.

The VAC has lost a great, happy, never complaining lady. We will miss her and her happy laugh.

God bless and rest in peace.



## Commander's Report

*Continued from pg 2*

Maintenance Officer.

Bob Boswell, XO continues to book more events well into December. Look for more information from Bob including a new date for our no cost to members appreciation dinner that was cancelled earlier due to COVID-19. We are becoming a destination location.

Marvin Juhl, Procurement Officer, has negotiated for a treasure trove of Bell Helicopter parts for our use and for trade and sale. Additionally, Marvin has sold some of our donated excess aircraft jacks.

Tracy Bohrmann, Finance Officer, continues to capture funds from various entities and continues to be the lion at the gate on expenditures.

David Shores, PR/Marketing Officer, has continually explored alternate means and methods to advertise what the Valiant Air Command has to offer visitors.

The logistics of moving aircraft, setting up the hangars for events, keeping rolling equipment functioning, as well as the upkeep of the hangars, falls on the shoulders of Tom Etter, Facilities Officer. Tom's team continues to innovate means and methods to accomplish all tasks.

The daunting task of personnel record keeping, scheduling work shifts for our volunteer tour guides and employees falls on Richard Jones, Personnel Officer and his team. Additionally, the matters of record-keeping, personnel issues, members information and personnel guidance fall under his umbrella.

Update on Expansion Project: Phase 2 – concrete apron and connector. We have finally received the final permit from St. Johns Water Management District and specs have been sent out for bid. This portion of the Expansion Project is already funded and is the first step to the next phase which is the building of an air-conditioned event center and hangar. We will be asking businesses, corporations, and individuals for donations.

Our STEM program for young people is headed by Bill Teixeira with outstanding assistance from Joel McGinley and the addition of Kathy Lowe. The STEM program has been a solid success since its implementation. Even during the shutdown months, the educational programs continued online. The leaders of the Parks and Recreation group have joined the effort to engage young people by introducing them

to our STEM programs. The importance of introducing young people to the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Aviation is to help them cope with the constantly changing world and learn how they can be a contributor.

I need to give special thanks to Louise Kleba, Recording Secretary and Admin Assistant, and for her abilities in communication with the members of the museum.

A special thank you goes to Ron Davis, the man behind the scenes in grant writing. Grant writing is a thankless task of creating narrative that matches each grant requirement. Some of the requirements are vague some are specific, and some require predicting the future. Grant awards are another source of income. Between Ron's efforts in the narrative area and Tracy Bohrmann providing the financial requirements has been successful. Our submissions are graded by grant review committees that determine what percentage of the potential amount of funds available approved.

Phyllis Lilienthal also deserves special thanks for her help in marketing designs, and editing and creating the quarterly Unscramble newsletter.

Our gift shop (PX) team led by Maureen Larney have done an outstanding job in inventory management, eliminating obsolete merchandise, acquiring new merchandise, and merchandising our offerings.

Thank you,  
Norm Daniels

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.



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: Malcom Ford (FL Today), 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  
Email: ExecutiveOfficer@valiantaircommand.com  
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This has been a tough pandemic year for the country and especially for the hospitality industry. It does seem that the economy is starting to turn the corner and make a fragile return. This economic downturn was less in this area than in other parts of the country. Still, the Museums of Brevard suffered a heavy blow due to the lack of tourism and some even had to close.

Our Warbird Air Museum has been able to stay the course and is poised to forge ahead. The Board of Directors voted to return from our limited weekend opening days to a 4-day schedule, Thursday through Sunday. As we attempt to return to normal operation, our days and hours will change. Please refer to our website for current days and hours of operation, and all future events.

We resumed the Second Saturday Fly-In/Drive-In Breakfast on June 12th. We were overwhelmed with the much higher-than-expected turn-out and owe a big apology to those who had to wait in line to be served. Expecting a Cabin Fever Break Out, we planned for twice the number of our average attendance, and the actual crowd doubled that number. Our breakfast caterer says she will be more than prepared for the next event.

Our new Events Coordinator, Jolene Clark, has been busy adding many events that had to cancel last year back to our social calendar. Most weekends through the end of this year are already filling up.

Some of our recent past events included a Women's Owned Business Expo from 12-3 on May 8th. Held in the Vietnam Hangar, this event was free to the public that entered through the South Gate. Twenty-six businesses were represented and there was a good attendance with several folks entertaining the gathering with Karaoke. Two large catered Celebrations of Life were also recently held in the Vietnam Hangar. Families from both events thanked us for our outstanding support.

Coastal Auto Show and Rally held their

2nd event at the museum on Saturday, June 5th with food trucks and entertainment. The event hosted over 125 cars and trucks. A special public promotional entrance fee of \$10 on Saturday included the museum and the car show. This event was an overwhelming success and they promised to return.



SAVE THE DATE! Our long-delayed Member Appreciation Dinner is now scheduled for September 24th in the Vietnam Hangar. Do not miss this upscale evening dining event, free for each primary member and one guest. This is planned as an adult-only evening. Additional guests may attend by paying a nominal fee. Reservations must be made before September 10th. Reserve your seats by calling the museum gift shop or stopping by to sign-up. Plans for the dinner include heavy hors d'oeuvres, entertainment, and a carving station buffet meal. Stay tuned for additional information.

Our much-needed museum expansion is moving forward. Bids are out for site development and our new concrete aircraft parking apron and Taxiway "A" connector. With the aircraft parking ramp funded and ready to start work, we now need to turn our full attention to raising funds to construct our long-needed multi-use hangar and Convention Center.



This 130' x 130' air-conditioned facility will be able to accommodate 500 persons with a stage, full lighting, and sound. In addition, there will be a food service prep kitchen and a limited menu *continued on pg 5*

## Executive Officer's Report

*continued from pg 4*

restaurant.

A new service road will be completed along with additional parking. We are asking our members if they have contacts in the community - especially the aerospace industry –to let us know who we can contact to ask for support for these projects. We are recognized by the IRS as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and there are multiple opportunities for this support to be recognized.

All donors will be listed in a large leather-bound book placed in the entrance foyer. Major contributors will be listed on a bronze plaque placed on large coquina stones lining both sides of the canopy entrance. For those who wish additional recognition for their substantial support, there is the option for naming the exhibit area, restaurant, each of three sides of the building, and even the name of the multi-use facility.

Our museum exists only because of the

support of our members and friends. With your help, we are not building just another airplane hangar, but a much-needed large convention center that will support local community needs and draw outside organizations and groups that will have a positive economic impact in North Brevard.

If you have not visited the museum recently, you may not recognize the Memorabilia Area. Jem Golden, with Malcolm Carter and the rest of his team, has transferred most of our static displays into historical education masterpieces. Artwork, pictures, illustrations, mannequins, and storyboards have brought each subject area alive. Come by and see the exciting changes.

Before signing off I would be remiss if I did not mention the outstanding support provided by Kenita Bushee. She is more than an administrative expert. She's an idea, coordinator and a get-it-done person. I could accomplish little without her support. Tell her I said so!

Thanks, and have a great Summer.



### Operations Director's Report

Leigh Lewis, Operations Director  
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We were donated a Seabee by Mark Adema and went to Melbourne to recover it in early April. Terry Rush flew it back to our Museum over the Indian



*RC - 3 Seabee*

River. It has been sitting in the restoration slot where we plan to strip the paint and restore it to military configuration. It was built in 1947 and it will be in great shape with a little TLC.

The Covid shutdown has affected our airshow schedule greatly so there has not been much activity. On May 1, Mike McCann and John Makinson took our C-47 to Leesburg and dropped static line jumpers into Lake Dora. This was a one-day event that was very successful. Boats were waiting for the jumpers when they landed and there were no problems. A very professionally run operation by Phantom Parachute Club. Thanks to Mark Arnett. Stan Taylor was the jumpmaster. Thanks, Tater.

We acquired a Beechcraft C-45H from Maryland to help us with smaller parachute operations and are in the process of installing radios as we speak. This plane started life in 1941 as a US Army AT-11 bomber trainer during the war and was converted to C-45 in 1952. We plan to paint it accordingly. We plan to join a Warbird fly-in at Flagler on 3 July with the C-47. This will be a one-day event. Thanks for your support and we will continue to fly SAFE.





## Facilities Director's Report

Tom Etter, Facilities Director  
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(321) 268-1941 ext. 4105

In Q2/2021 we have not been fully open. However, the Facility Crew has not been idle. We have been cleaning, junking the junk, looking for roof leaks, repairing ground equipment and have moved aircraft as needed for events.

Charlie Hammer finished the tail of the MiG-17. Roger Tonovitz made it easier to charge our golf carts and keep our hangars clear of trash. We have now hired Greg Goetz to keep the buildings ready for visitors. Tom Wilke has been keeping the grounds mowed and trimmed. I have been trying to kill all the weeds on the ramp and will do so next in the parking area out front.

April saw some events canceled due to the Covid-19 virus. May saw an uptick in activity and we have set up events for the last four weeks. We have left some of the Vietnam Hangar aircraft out for a month. May saw the loss of our TBM at the Cocoa Beach Air Show making a forced landing at sea. Luckily, Terry Rush was able to set it down without injury to people, himself, or the beach environment. No oil was lost on the beach, just the aircraft. Many of our people worked for 3 days on the recovery. John Makinson, Tracy Bohrmann, and Charlie Meyer were very much a part of the recovery. Max Hodges and Isaac Silver were also underwater much of the time.



**Trying to save the TBM Avenger**

After the TBM's return to base, Charlie Hammer, Charlie Meyer, Hawk Moore, Terry Nies, and David Shores removed much of the sand from the aircraft. The crane operator measured 21,000 pounds of wet sand in the aircraft. The landing gear and wing fold

hydraulic system still work. Charlie Hammer was able to get the aircraft back on its tires.

Joel McGinley and Jim Bowers have been working on the crane. They repaired the support legs, have received a new lift cable in a donation from John Platt, Jr. VP of Atlantic Wire and Rigging, Inc., and currently await the return of a rebuilt starter motor. Joel was able to get the pick-up running. He has most of the tugs charged up and running as we go along.

We hope to open soon. Hawk Moore and David Shores have washed the front lighted signage to get the spiders and mold off the building. They also washed the blue Vietnam Hangar awning and the B-52. This work was very messy and we ruined our clothes from the algae killer.

We have or will see some aircraft placement changes. The Fouga has moved to the North edge of the North driveway. The TBM will take its place clearing the North Main ramp, and the F-101 will come out to be turned around. The OV-2 will come out, and the SeaBee will go in followed by the F-101.



**Our newly aquired Seabee**

The newly arrived Beech C-45H will take the place of the TBM spot and then some in the North Main Hangar. The C-123 is slotted to come over to the new ramp when the cement is dry. Soon, we hope.

Terry Nies and Hawk Moore finished the modifications to the two H-4 tow bars. Both now have lift handles and a swing wheel. This will help to keep us from scratching the deck or hurting our backs while hooking up aircraft for moving. David Shores and Hawk then tested both out while setting up for a photoshoot next week. Charlie Hammer and David were able to move out 4 super big and heavy jacks so that they can be sold. David and Hawk Moore took the assembled jacks apart so they would fit on pallets for shipment.

We have already used *Continued on pg 7*

## Facilities Director's Report

*Continued from pg 6*

the new (to us) chairs (100) and tables (40) recently purchased. They showed up just in time as we were setting up a venue for 200 people. The Facility Crew has been helping to set up and rig down venues which is something new for us.

We are attempting to leave aircraft out and leave tables and chairs in place if events closely follow. This will reduce wear and tear on our people and equipment (although it does risk our aircraft to weather factors which is why we need the Event Hangar). Hopefully, it will be built shortly after the new ramp is done.

The Main Hangar flag was moved to the outside of the hangar for a photoshoot. It is being cleaned by that group in exchange. That flag is big and heavy! The latest is they donated another as the original was too big to dry-clean. Marvin Juhl and Tom Wilke got the 6 new flag poles up at the entrance; super Job! The Facility Crew backfilled the holes to finish the job.

We had our first Hot Dog Day of 2021 the other day. Hopefully, no spike occurs and we can soon go open full-time with everyone back.



### ***The Taxiway ts full***

The Fly-In went well with perfect weather. 204 meals and 27 planes made it seem like a mini-airshow.

As we approach a full opening, we notice we are short-handed. Tom Wilke needs help with the grounds (he is also a Restoration Volunteer). If anyone has a green thumb or would like to operate a zero-radius driven 5' mower, let Tom know.

Joel needs help in the Motor Pool with ground support equipment. If you like machines and have the time, let Joel know. If you know little about aircraft but want to learn and work with super people fixing things and going home tired but with great satisfaction having solved problems, see me for Facility Crew Spots. Join, Charlie Hammer, Joel McGinley, Roger Tonovitz, Terry Nies, Charlie Meyer, Hawk Moore, and me for a satisfaction-filled time (most days). David Shores (a VAC BOD Member) has also joined in the fun.

## **PROPOSED EVENT CENTER**





## Procurement Director's Report

Marvin Juhl, Procurement Director  
Email: MaintenanceDirector@valiantaircommand.com  
(321) 268-1941 ext. 4108

Many have already seen or heard about VAC procurement of two aircraft, one being an RC-3 Seabee amphibious, and a Beech 18 (C-45) which will have capabilities for para drops. These two aircraft will be under the capable hands of our Director of Maintenance (Terry Rush) to maintain. I personally have full confidence in his ability in maintaining these aircraft in excellent operating condition.

VAC has accrued, over a period of time, numerous helicopter parts that are being inventoried by Mark Greenwood for the Bell 47 and UH-1 items, new and used parts. We will be putting some of these items on e-bay and other means to be sold. Some items have a great value price tag as much as 4K.

A while back we had acquired (donated to VAC) eight 20 ton aircraft jacks. To date, we have sold six of these HEAVY duty jacks. Four are being shipped to California. We had to build crates which was not an easy task. Each jack with crate must weigh five hundred pounds or better. Thanks to Tom Etter, Charlie Hammer, Dave Shores and Terry Nies they got the job done. Thank you guys.



Current volunteer restoration crews, Cindy Ramsey, Mike Bernstein, Larry Knock and Bob Filippi are working on the aircraft F101 with removing the corrosion, making up patching where needed, sanding and priming the aircraft in preparation for the final paint application. Tom Wilke gets his hands in there sanding and grinding away on the landing gear and the wheel wells, all in-between his other assigned tasks here with VAC. When the Voodoo is completed it will have a new home displayed out by Highway 405 just inside

the airport property fence line for protection. This will help identify the VAC Museum. When will that relocation take place? It's when all the pieces of the puzzle come together. That would be my best guess. Sorry, I wish I had a better answer.

H13-D1 (Bell 47) is the M\*A\*S\*H Helicopter that was donated to the VAC a couple of years ago, it is currently under a certification program where we now have all the necessary components with the required inspection certificate required to finish the installation. The engine mount, which is a time limit item that when it reaches 2500 hours it ends up as trash, Roger Franklin and Mel Juhl are installing the engine mount, also known as the basket.



Then we have Greg Hale and Mark Brio installing the transmission after it was overhauled. This unit has a lot of installed gears that have close tolerance. It's all magic inside. Next after that installation, the rotor mast, squash plate and scissors were installed and again after its required inspection was completed.



As you can see the installation of components is moving right along. Keep in mind there's still a lot yet to be done, such as rigging and the final adjustments. Before long we'll see the rotor blades and the horizontal stabilizers installed. A long time waiting, but it's all starting to come together.

We have other aircraft that are currently under restoration, such as the F-11 Tiger, UH-1 Huey, S-2 Tracker and we also have these aircraft waiting for their turn in line, OV-1 Mohawk, RU-21a UTE. Fouga Magister and the MiG-21. As you can see we sure could use help in restoring the history of these aircraft.



## P R Director's Report

David Shores, Public Relations Director  
Email: David.Shores@valiantaircommand.com  
(321) 268-1941 ext. 4106

- 1) Our income from Groupon is approaching \$1000
- 2) Space Coast Office of Tourism arranged for us to be mentioned and pictured in the recent edition of Forbes Magazine in their "Things to do in South Florida"
- 3) A substantial article on our museum will be featured

## Gift Shop News

Maureen, Rich, Katelyn & Lorraine  
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(321) 268-1941 ext. 4112

Hello all,

First, I would like to talk about our first Fly In/Drive In Breakfast we had in over a year. What a huge crowd! It was nice to see so many people showing their support to our museum. Sales were great in admissions and gift shop. Cannot wait for the next one. Thank you to all who came out and had breakfast and toured our museum.

I would like to give a big thank you to the group of ladies that came to the museum in May. They were the Rosie Biker Chicks who come every year-except for last year when we were closed because of Covid-19. They

in the June issue of Space Coast Living written by Maria Sonnenberg

- 4) Hometown News ran a full-page story on the fly-in / Drive-in breakfast last week
- 5) Our ads for the fly-in/Drive-in breakfast ran twice the week of June 7
- 6) Followers on the VAC Facebook page have now topped 18,000

were so happy to be able to be back and we were really excited to have them visit us. Cannot wait to see these ladies again next year.

We have some new designs for our T-shirts. Here are just a few of them. We have about 50 shirts in stock. Come visit Katelyn and me in the gift shop and check them out.

Everybody stay safe and have a Happy 4th of July. As always, thank you for your support.

Maureen, Katelyn, Rich, and Lorraine

P.S. To the young man who gave me a generous donation of cash towards the TBM Avenger, I want to thank you so much! I am so sorry I did not get your name to send you a proper thank you note. I sure hope you are reading this. It was very much appreciated!



Valiant Air Command Museum has a new entrance look, six new 16' expandable flagpoles funded by our VAC volunteer working force. These flag poles represent the United States Armed Forces; Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, POW-MIA. The Space Command flag will replace the POW-MIA when it comes out. POW-MIA will then be flown just below the American flag.



One of the many tables at the Women's Expo held in the Vietnam Hanger May 8, 2021

# The First Fly-in/Drive-in Breakfast Since Covid-19 - Huge Turnout



These pilots were so happy the breakfast is back they blew us some smoke



The taxiway was loaded



The Omelet lady



Head of the Buffet line



A long Buffet line



Larry C and the Canberra



We are going to need more tables



A great crowd - I think it set a record

# VAC Pilot Makes Emergency Water Landing With TBM Avenger

*Applicable content and photos were posted by Valiant Air Command, inc. on Facebook*

Valiant Air Command, Inc.

4-17-2021 - Spectators captured dramatic video of the Valiant Air Command's new Grumman TBM Avenger ditching (making an emergency water landing) on Saturday Apr. 17, 2021, at the Cocoa Beach Air Show in Florida. There were no injuries reported in the impressive display of airmanship by the TBM Avenger pilot.

The Grumman TBM/TBF Avenger is a single-engine, propeller driven, carrier-borne strike and torpedo bomber with a three-man crew. The aircraft was made famous in the Pacific during WWII in battles that include Midway and the sinking of the giant Japanese battleships Yamato and Mushashi. The aircraft could carry either 2,000 pounds of bombs or a single Mk. 13 torpedo in the anti-shipping strike role. The Avenger was flown by former U.S. President George H.W. Bush, who also survived an accident in his TBM Avenger during WWII when he bailed out of his aircraft before being rescued by a U.S. Navy submarine.



Valiant Air Command, Inc.

4-18-21 TBM up-date - Thank you for your thoughts, generosity, and kind words.

We can confirm that the TBM has been retrieved from the water. She is secured and under guard from Patrick Space Force Base security forces on the back of a trailer in preparation to bring her home in the morning.

We will provide further updates as to her condition once she has been safely brought back to the museum and fully inspected.



Valiant Air Command, Inc.

4-19-2021 - Tonight's update on our TBM Avenger- After much effort, we have managed to fold both of the wings, place her on the trailer, and strap her down, ready for travel. This was accomplished despite mother nature throwing some curve balls with the weather. We are now waiting for the necessary permits to move her home.

Thank you to the volunteers who assisted with this, along with the security forces and fire services at the Patrick Space Force Base. *continued on pg 12*

## VAC Pilot Makes Emergency Water Landing With TBM Avenger

*continued from pg 11*



Valiant Air Command, Inc.

4-21-2021 TBM up-date - After several days of being exposed to the elements, the TBM Avenger has arrived home at the museum. Our sincere thanks goes out to all parties who assisted in her recovery, as well as the many thousands of people who have expressed their support and generosity.

For now, our next steps are to thoroughly flush the aircraft with fresh water, and then begin the disassembly of the engine to determine the cause of the failure.

Valiant Air Command, Inc.

April 22 at 10:51 PM

The Official outcome for the TBM will be determined by the Board of Directors with input from several Government Entities that are reviewing the incident, and condition of the airframe. Until we have that decision, please be patient as we conduct the business at hand. The TBM is currently at the Valiant Air Command, Inc. Warbird Museum and we are caring for her as we should.

Valiant Air Command, Inc.

April 22 at 12:12 PM

Space Coast Regional Airport Fire & Emergency Services is at Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum Washing down the TBM for the Valiant Air Command.



***Editors note: The Valiant Air Command did a fantastic job of keeping its members informed with the above Facebook posts. The TBM is being cared for to mitigate damages.***



# VALIANT AIR COMMAND MEMBERS REMEMBERED

## Bernice “Bee” S. Falk Haydu



**December 15, 1920 – January 30, 2021**

Bernice “Bee” Haydu was an American aviator and served as a Women Airforce Service Pilot (WASP) in World War II. Haydu remained active in aviation and remained an advocate for women pilots.

Haydu’s 2003 memoir, *Letters Home 1944-45*, detailed her military service as well as her ongoing efforts to get recognition for the WASP. In 2013, she was inducted into Women in Aviation International’s Pioneer

Hall of Fame.

Haydu had celebrated her 100th birthday in December. She received cards and good wishes from pilots all around the United States. In July, members of the International Organization of Women Pilots (The Ninety-Nines) arranged a celebratory flyover of her residence in Palm City, Florida. At that point, Haydu was at an assisted living facility, and the flyover was an opportunity to pay homage to an aviation legend during the COVID-19 pandemic.

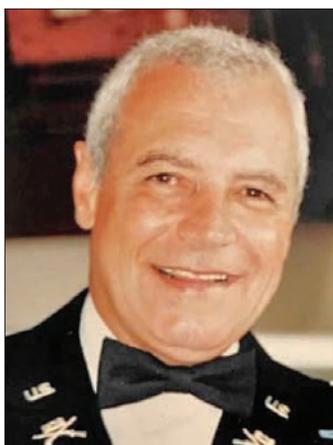
“Bee, who earned her nickname because she flew like a bumblebee, was an inspiration to all in the aviation community. She touched our lives and we are grateful for all the memories,” the museum said. The cause of death was not given.

Born December 15, 1920, in Montclair, New Jersey, Haydu volunteered to join the WASP program in 1944. She trained for seven months at Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas, where she logged 210 hours in aircraft including the Boeing PT-17 Stearman, Vultee BT-13 Valiant, North American AT-6 Texan, and the Cessna AT-17 Bobcat. She graduated in September 1944 from WASP Class 44-W-7, and she served at Pecos Army Airfield as an engineering test pilot and a utility pilot, according to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

After the WASP program was canceled in December 1944, Haydu remained actively involved in aviation. She ferried aircraft, was a flight instructor, flew a comedy airshow act, and owned a Cessna dealership. She and her husband Joe Haydu, also a pilot, owned several airplanes, including a Stearman and a Link trainer.

“Bee” was a member of the Valiant Air Command from 1988 - 2019.

## Robert Carroll Murphy December 30, 2020



Robert Carroll Murphy, 81, of Fernandina Beach, Florida passed away due to natural causes on December 30, 2020. Robert graduated with honors from Syracuse University and went on to become a career Army Officer, earning numerous distinctions as a result of his service. He was

a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross and inducted into the Army Ranger Hall of Fame. In his spare time, he loved restoring and flying World War 2 aircraft, among others. He was a fun-loving person who was demanding but made those around him feel special. He is survived by his wife, Chong; son, Michael (Joy) and grandson, Brom of Clovis, NM; brother, Richard (Norma) of Palm Beach, FL and sister, Paula Trudell of Liverpool, NY. His burial service was on March 25, 2021 @ Jacksonville National Cemetery.

He was a lifetime member of the Valiant Air Command and his wife Chong is still a lifetime member.

## 2nd Quarter Review - April, May & June - 2021



Biker Chicks enjoyed their tour of the Museum



Back from the Ocean • Trying to Mitigate damage

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Valiant Air Command VALIANT AIR COMMAND

### Valiant Air Command, Space Coast Regional Airport, Titusville, Fla.

This aviation museum possesses military aircraft dating back before World War I plus displays honoring women in the military and the Tuskegee Airmen.



### Maintenance Director's Report

Terry Rush, Maintenance Director  
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Many of you have spotted the new aircraft in the main hangar. It is a 1952 Beechcraft C-45H or better known as a "Twin Beech". John Mackinson and I went to Maryland last month to do a pre-purchase inspection of the plane. There was an X-ray inspection of the main spar that the plane had to pass before we would accept the acquisition. The inspection was done last Thursday and we received the results on Monday; it passed! We have a few items to complete to bring the plane up to our standards. The primary purpose of the Twin Beech is to supplement "Tico Belle" in parachute operations.

Now to the Seabee; the plane will be undergoing corrosion control and prevention procedures. Upon completion, we will be working on other items which include replacing hydraulic, oil and fuel lines, and going through the electrical systems.

In closing, I intend to maintain our flying aircraft in the safest possible state of repair.

**BE SURE TO CHECK THE VALIANT AIR COMMAND'S WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES OR LAST MINUTE UPDATES • [WWW.VALIANTAIRCOMMAND.COM](http://WWW.VALIANTAIRCOMMAND.COM)**

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