

COMBAT AIR MUSEUM

→ → → Plane Talk → → →

The Official Newsletter of the Combat Air Museum

Topeka Regional Airport Topeka, Kansas

August / September 2015 • Vol. 31, No. 4

Senator Dole is honored at the Combat Air Museum's conference center naming ceremony

Thursday, May 28 was a signature day for Combat Air Museum, as the honorable Robert "Bob" Dole, former Kansas Senator and Senate Majority Leader, and other dignitaries attended a naming ceremony of our Conference Room in his honor and also the dedication of our main exhibits room to him.

Member Dave Murray worked for several months with the offices of Senator Dole and Kansas US Representative Lynn Jenkins after telling them the Museum's Board of Directors had decided to name the rooms in Hangar 602 in honor of Senator Dole. This decision was made to show our appreciation for his longtime support of the Museum and Dave asked if Senator Dole would be able to attend a ceremony to accomplish this.

Dates changed a couple of times because of scheduling, but finally were settled on the original date of May 28. Dave, Gene Howerter, and Dick Trupp then set to work on a list of dignitaries to invite to the ceremony. Orders were placed for the appropriate signs for the rooms and a plaque was made to present to Senator Dole.

When the new signs arrived, Jim Braun mounted them. One sign was mounted outside, next to the membership entry door to the Conference Room. A second was mounted above the hallway entrance and a third above the entrance from the hangar bay. Jim also mounted the Aviation Gallery sign above a hangar bay entrance into the exhibit rooms. The two signs mounted in the hangar bay were covered before the ceremony and would be unveiled at the appropriate time.

The ceremony was held in Hangar 602 by the hangar doors. We moved out two aircraft and set up a dais. About 30 chairs were set to the front and sides of the dais for invited dignitaries and guests. The event was open to the public.

On May 28, Senator Dole arrived early enough that



Senator Robert Dole

he visited with and had photos taken with a number of people in the Conference Room.

As time neared for the beginning of the ceremony, everyone migrated to the front of Hangar 602. Those who were seated on the dais included Gene Howerter, US Representative Lynn Jenkins, Senator Dole, Kansas Governor Sam Brownback, and Topeka Mayor Larry Wolgast. Many of the chairs around the dais were initially empty. A number of our invited dignitaries were from the State Legislature, and they were still in session working on the State's budget. The seating was used by other attendees.

Gene Howerter started the ceremony with welcoming remarks, then turned the microphone over to Governor

"Senator Dole" con't. on Page 4

Inside This Issue

<i>A history of the Balkans presentation for members</i>	3
<i>Project updates</i>	6
<i>Dillon's Reward program update</i>	8
<i>Fly-In Market update</i>	8
<i>Tom Sawyer would be proud of this painting party</i>	10
<i>One more Youth Aviators Class this summer</i>	11
<i>11th annual Winged Foot race is coming</i>	11
<i>Topeka City Flag presented to CAM</i>	12

Combat Air Museum

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Les Carlson

Stu Entz

Raymond Irwin

Doug Jacobs

Ted Nolde

Dick Trupp

Museum Hours

January 2 - February 28/29

Mon. - Sun. Noon - 4:30 P.M.

Last Entry Every Day is 3:30 P.M.

March 1 - December 31

Mon. - Sat. 9 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Last Entry Every Day is 3:30 P.M.

Closed New Year's Day, Easter,

Thanksgiving, Christmas Day

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Your comments are welcomed.

From the Chairman's Desk

Gene Howerter, Chairman, BOD

Things have been going well at the Museum this summer. Attendance is up from a year ago, and we hope that trend will continue. It is our hope that the Museum will be a great destination spot for locals as well as those traveling through Topeka this summer. Recently we had four visitors from Italy, not a place from where we see a lot of visitors. We have also had the usual vacation travelers from many of the European countries as well as South America, Australia and other parts of the world. It is a pleasure visiting with our foreign visitors as well as the locals. Please plan to stop by the Museum when you can, and as always, we will offer you a free cup of coffee.

"Topeka Gives - a Fun Day of Giving," an event mentioned in the last issue of *Plane Talk*, turned out to be a good day for the Museum. Donations were up a bit over the previous year. We had twenty people donate from \$10 to \$500 for a total of \$2,210. The matching funds were figured at about 17% (\$382.85) for a grand total of \$2,592.85. In conclusion, a \$500 donation received \$86.62 in matching dollars. That is not a bad rate of interest these days. Thank you to the Topeka Community Foundation and all who donated these funds for supporting this fund raiser. We hope to participate in this event again next year.

Our Museum is dedicated to the preservation of military aircraft and artifacts from all services by showing their relevancy in the world today. At this time we are pondering the fact that CAM is close to celebrating its fortieth anniversary, and we want to celebrate this fact at the appropriate time. We have been successful in achieving this span of longevity because of volunteers and supporters like each

of you. We operate the Museum with only a dedicated staff of two paid employees, a curator and a part time office manager; volunteers fill in all the gaps. It takes a lot of effort to run a major museum such as CAM.

As other museums are closing their doors for lack of funding, such as the Octave Chanute Air Museum in Rantoul, Illinois, we are still open because of supporters like you.

The Winged Foot 5K/10K Run & 5K Walk is our second and last big fund raising event of the year. All proceeds benefit the Combat Air Museum, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

So here is the plan. We need to have each of you join or continue supporting this year's run/walk by being a sponsor of the event. Last year we had more than fifty sponsors and we need to have all of you again. If all of you continue sponsoring the event, hopefully others will hop on board.

Your donation is tax deductible. Letters to all past sponsors will be mailed out the last week of July. We need the names for printing the shirts by the first week of September.

Major sponsorships usually consist of a \$100.00 donation and up. Sponsors' names are printed on the back of our beautifully designed T-shirt. This year it has a fantastic photo of "Kilroy", our C-47, flying over Topeka. This will be our eleventh annual run/walk event. (Check our web page for details) We encourage you to also help find participants for the event. Sponsor your spouse, kids, grandkids, friends or a neighbor. Runners and walkers can register on line at www.active.com or by filling out the registration form at www.combatairmuseum.org. For information call 785-862-3303. Don't delay. We now have the posters printed, and the event brochures are being distributed. Call the museum if you need one. →

The history of the Balkan area was presented by Roger Aeschliman, an Army Lieutenant Colonel in the NATO Peacekeeping force

By Dennis Smirl

Roger Aeschliman was our presenter for the June 8 Membership Luncheon. The meeting began with a covered dish luncheon and about fifty members were in attendance.

The main part of the meeting got off to a good start with Gene Howerter as MC. After several timely announcements, Gene introduced our presenter to the group and then introduced Garry G. Cushinberry from CoreFirst Bank and Trust. To everyone's delight, Mr. Cushinberry announced that CoreFirst Bank and Trust had appropriated a generous donation to the Combat Air Museum. This kind of support from the business community is greatly appreciated.

After that, Roger Aeschliman began his presentation on the history of the Balkan region, our military involvement over recent years, and some personal remembrances from his one-year assignment to Kosovo.

The presentation was greatly enhanced by the use of maps and other graphics on the big screen in the Bob Dole Education Center. Beginning with pre-history, Roger traced the development of the cultures in the Balkan region. With the excellent maps he provided, he made the strong point that trade routes have gone right through Kosovo for thousands of years. As he continued with the presentation, he pointed out the development of political and military power in the area beginning about 1000 AD and increasing in strength and influence until a battle in 1389 AD that resulted in the downfall of the Serbian Empire.

With the use of the maps, Roger showed the group how Kosovo was the "heart of Serbia" and how 2,000 years of history have shaped the geopolitical aspects of the area. He then moved forward to the early years of the Twentieth Century and talked about the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo, considered the event that started



Gene Howerter (left) with our guest speaker, Roger Aeschliman.

- Photo by Dave Murray

World War I. He followed that with a quick overview of the events in the Balkan region during that great war.

Roger then walked through the events of World War II, and the occupation of the area by the Nazis. That was followed by a few comments about the rise of Marshall Josip Broz Tito, a strong man who ruled over the political area known as Yugoslavia until his death in 1980. After that, the Balkan region became politically unstable, and war damaged the area.

NATO finally took action, and began to exert a stabilizing effect. The USA provided part of the NATO peacekeeping force, and made a significant contribution. As part of that, Roger was deployed as an Army Lieutenant Colonel, where he was tasked with keeping track of the travel, food, and equipment needs of several hundred peacekeeping soldiers from the USA. As he was concluding the presentation, Roger expressed the opinion that United States forces are no longer needed in the area and then countered that opinion with the worry, expressed by European nations, that war could break out in the area and that United States forces are still needed.

A short question and answer session finished the presentation. Several excellent questions were posed by the members, and Roger fielded those expertly. At its end, the members heartily applauded the professionalism of the presentation and the skill of the presenter.

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"Senator Dole,"

con't. from Page 1

Brownback. The Governor had previously served in the US House of Representatives, and then was elected to the Senate seat previously held by Senator Dole in 1996, holding that seat until 2011. He spoke of Senator Dole's accomplishments and his association with the senior Statesman. He also commented on Senator Dole's vitality and in a joking reference to his term as Governor ending in a couple of years said he knew Senator Dole knew a job opening was coming up.

Representative Lynn Jenkins followed the Governor and spoke of Senator Dole's support and called him, "a mentor and hero." Senator Dole campaigned for Representative Jenkins when she ran for Kansas State Treasurer in 2002. They remain in contact, and both visited the Museum in October 2014.

Gene was the next speaker and talked about Senator Dole's support for CAM including assisting in efforts to acquire aircraft for the Museum. He then presented to the Senator a plaque on behalf of the Museum.

Gene then gave a command to unveil the entrance way signs to the Bob Dole Education Center and the Bob Dole Aviation Gallery.

Following the unveiling, Senator Dole gave his remarks. He began by commenting that he was in the infantry and did not know why he deserved the award from the Air Force. Senator Dole's remarks were delivered as if he was visiting and talking informally with the people in attendance. He appeared to enjoy "plain talk" with the audience. He spoke of his appreciation for the military history CAM preserves and how he makes frequent visits to the memorials in Washington, D.C., to visit with veterans.

Following the end of the ceremony, Senator Dole went to the Education Center and spent over an hour visiting with individuals and often having his photo taken with them. It was truly a fine day for the Museum and everyone involved.

A couple of days after the ceremony, Dave Murray took a call on his cell phone. It was Senator Dole wanting to personally extend his thanks and gratitude for the ceremony and dedications Combat Air Museum had bestowed upon him. He advised Dave that the plaque we had given him had already been deposited at the Robert Dole Institute in Lawrence, Kansas.

Since his visit, Museum volunteers have held two "Young Aviators" education classes in the newly named Bob Dole Education Center. Copies of the class photos will be sent to Senator Dole's office in Washington for his information.

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The plaque presented to Senator Dole

COMBAT AIR MUSEUM
CELEBRATES THE DEDICATION OF THE
BOB DOLE EDUCATION CENTER
BOB DOLE AVIATION GALLERY

MAY 28, 2015

TOPEKA, KANSAS

THE MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS AND BOARD OF
THE MUSEUM ARE IN DEEP APPRECIATION
AND RECOGNITION OF YOUR
CONTRIBUTION AND
SUPPORT OF THE MUSEUM
DURING THE TIME YOU
SPENT AS A MEMBER AND AS
THE MAJORITY
LEADER IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA
YOUR EFFORTS WITHIN OUR MUSEUM AND
OUR COMMUNITY ARE APPRECIATED
AND WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED.

Opposite page, top to bottom: *Dave Murray, Senator Bob Dole, US Representative Lynn Jenkins, and Gene Howerter.*

Dick Trupp (left) and Dave Murray, standing, with Senator Bob Dole (left) and Gene Howerter, seated. Scenes from the ceremony.

This page top left and right: More scenes from the ceremony.

Outside entrance to the Bob Dole Education Center.

Above: Gene's comment raises smiles from US Representative Lynn Jenkins, Senator Bob Dole, Kansas Governor Sam Brownback, and Topeka Mayor Larry Wolgast.

-Photos by Don Thun

Upper right: Representative Jenkins and Senator Dole look at the plaque presented by Combat Air Museum.

-Photo by CAM Curator Danny San Romani

Project updates

Fokker E.IV Eindecker Replica

Don Dawson has installed a mounting plate and pipe flange to the Fokker engine bay and has the dummy propeller shaft and propeller hub completed. He also ordered the beam clamp and cable to suspend the aircraft. Don is currently working on the slings design to support and attach the Fokker to the suspension cable.

Gene Howerter ordered a propeller from Culver Division of Valley Engineering in Rolla, Missouri. The seven foot prop was built to fly, but nicks in the wood made it unusable, and Gene got it for the Fokker at a much reduced cost. The dummy engine will be an enlarged photo of an Oberursel III engine used by the Fokker E.IV, mounted on a PVC backing.

When everything is ready for suspending the Fokker, we will ask the Dawn Patrol to come to Topeka to help assemble the aircraft. We will wait until then to mount the propeller.

EC-121T Project

Four members spent a few frustrating days near the end of June finding out what it is like to remove rudders from an aircraft that has been outside for 34 years. Gary Naylor, Wes Barricklow, Dennis and Danny San Romani spent three days working to get the right upper rudder off the EC-121. Over the years the rudder fabric had failed on both rudders, and they became nesting sites for starlings. They needed to come down for repairs.

Every access panel the crew opened was full of bird nests and droppings. Initial efforts to get the rudders to swing were not successful as the rudder pedals did not move. Dennis and Danny, then Dennis and Gary were inside



the tail to trace the rudder cable and control system and then see what could be taken loose or apart to get things to move. Dennis and Danny attached a length of angle iron to the lower left torque tube flange for the left rudder and this, in effect, became a rudder tiller. Repeated pushing and pulling on the tiller finally got both left and right rudders to swing in unison. Then the real work began as very few fasteners turned any more. Hammers and chisels and sawzall became the tools of necessity. On the third day, the right rudder was finally on the ground. A small piece of aluminum embedded in Gary's left eyelid that needed medical attention and a hard rain shower stopped further work that day.

The following Monday, Gary and Danny got the left rudder down. The right one had been the learning curve. Wes has stripped what was left of the fabric from both rudders, and they are in Hangar 604 for repairs.

Wes has also made several trips to the Museum to power wash the Connie. He has washed the forward fuselage and has been working on the tops of the wings. Most recently, he stripped the deteriorating rubber covering from the nose of the aircraft.

BQM-34A Firebee Drone

On June 15, Eric Showalter of Washburn Institute of Technology delivered the rear fuselage and tail assembly of the Ryan BQM-34 Firebee drone. This is the last assembly of the drone that Eric and his auto collision repair class students had been working on. Before the end of the week, Eric delivered a box of panels and other parts to finish off their work.



Clockwise from the top: Wes Barricklow removed deteriorating rubber from the nose and power washed it. Both rudders stacked together after Wes removed their remaining fabric.

The EC-121T with rudders removed.

- Photos by CAM Curator Danny San Romani





The forward fuselage, rear fuselage, and wings were all on their own roll around stands. The wings were by the C-47, the forward fuselage in the north end of the hangar, and the rear fuselage was by the RU-8D about halfway between the wings and forward fuselage. Gary Naylor and Danny San Romani moved an engine and the crew cab of the Hiller helicopter around some, and rolled the two fuselage sections down by the wings. After some measuring, they decided at least the wings of the drone could be mounted inside the hangar. For ease of assembly, the mating of the fuselage sections would be better done outside, using the forklift.

On the morning of July 3, Don Dawson, Dave Murray, Dick Trupp, Stu Entz, Bill Stumpff, and Danny San Romani mounted the wings to the rear fuselage, then rolled the two fuselage sections outside and fastened them together. With two of three roll around stands now empty, they were stored outside and space was available to roll the assembled drone back into 604.

Dick has since installed the tail cone and ventral stabilizing fin to the drone, and Danny added a plate to the top of the rear fuselage for bird proofing. Dick also ordered some sections of bird preventer spikes to mount on the tail fin and pitot tube. There are several covers and panels to yet install and more bird-proofing to do before we mount the drone to its stand. The markings also will be applied.

→ → →

Top row: Dick Trupp (left) and Stu Entz work to remove the Firebee's wing from its stand.

Don Dawson bolts the wing to the rear fuselage.

2nd row: The rear fuselage and wing assembly ready to unbolt from its stand.

Don Dawson guides the forward fuselage under the rear fuselage.

Bill Stumpff (foreground) and Don Dawson check alignment of the two fuselage sections.

Below: The major assembly is complete and going back into Hangar 604 for addition of smaller parts and bird proofing.

- Photos by Dave Murray



Dillon's rewards program continues to contribute to Combat Air Museum

by Gene Howerter

An email from Dillon Stores to Gene Howerter gave the second quarter 2015 status of the Community Rewards Program to Combat Air Museum. Our supporters (households) increased from 19 in the first quarter to 43 in the second, and they contributed to a total donation of \$428.75 for the period April 1 through June 30, 2015. This program works!! Thank you to all our households participating in this program.

I encourage our members in Kansas who are not registered in this program but who shop at Dillon Stores to take part in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Once registered, the use of your Dillons Plus Shopper's Card helps contribute to a quarterly donation from the program to Combat Air Museum.

If you do not have email or you simply do not want to register your account information on line, call 1-800-576-4377, select option #3, and you will talk with a person. You will need a Dillons Plus Shoppers Card. Give them the code numbers which are printed on the back under the bar code. When asked which organization you want to register with, tell them the Combat Air Museum; our number is 43200.

If you do not have a Dillons Plus Card you can get one at all Dillon's check out or customer service counters. If you want to register online go to <https://www.dillons.com/communityrewards>. CAM will be credited at 5% of each purchase every time you use your Dillons Plus Card; excluding gas, liquor, etc. Please ask your family and friends to support us; they do not need to be a member of CAM. Thank you. ➔

Fly-In Market Update

by Marlene Urban

We are now collecting smaller, new (unused) items for the 2016 FLY-IN MARKET which is held in conjunction with the Celebrity Pancake Feed. Items may be placed on the table in the Gift Shop back room from now until the 2016 Pancake feed. Many of these items can possibly be marketed through the Gift Shop before the event. This is a great time to take advantage of retail store sales, estate sales, etc., and purchase bargains for this event. All proceeds will be used to support the Museum's day-by-day operation. Questions? Call Marlene Urban - 379-5306. ➔

Supporters

New Supporters

Cheryl, Jurgen, Elizabeth,
Alex & Christopher Right

Renewing Supporters

Wes Barricklow
Robert & Barbara Bunten
George Catt
Mrs. Bill Davis
Michael & Tammie DeBernardin
Donald & Olga Fluke
Richard Gates
Tom & Diane Gorrell
Mark, Brenda, Megan
& Nick Harwood
Samantha, Juan Bravo-Suarez
& Ian Bravo-Lowell
Becky Mathers
Rebecca Norburg
Clint, Amy, Grant & Ella Patty
Dan Pulliam
Carl & Betty Quarnstrom
Gerry Sibley
Herschel, Jaqueline
& Lillian Stroud

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2015 Events

August

3-7 – Young Aviators Class
10 – Membership Luncheon

September

26 - 11th Annual Winged Foot
5k/10K Run and 5K Walk

October

12 – Membership Luncheon

November

1 – End Daylight Savings Time
26 – Thanksgiving Day;
Museum closed

December

14 – Membership Luncheon
25 – Christmas Day;
Museum closed

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A correction for directions to the grave of Capt. Milburn Apt, Buffalo, Kansas

Danny San Romani reported the wrong directions for Captain Milburn Apt's gravestone at the Buffalo, Kansas, cemetery in the last issue of Plane Talk. Loren Otis of White City, Kansas, a CAM member, drove to Buffalo to visit the grave. Depending on his route, it was about a 135 to 155 mile drive.

Using San Romani's directions, Loren walked the whole northern end of the cemetery without finding the gravestone. He then drove into town and found its City Hall where someone gave him the correct directions and a hand drawn diagram.

Captain Apt's grave is along West road, not North road, and near the southwest section of the cemetery, not the northwest. Loren visited the Museum after his trip and left the diagram with San Romani. Danny extends his apologies for his poor sense of cardinal points of a compass.

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Visit our website at
www.combatairmuseum.org

Calendar of Events

August

Monday – Thursday August 3-7

Young Aviators Education Class
Bole Dole Education Center
9:00 am – 12:30 pm
This class is full

Monday, August 10

Membership Luncheon
Bob Dole Education Center
11:30am
Dr. Percival Pascua, Colonel USAF and KSANG
(Ret.) of Topeka
is our guest speaker.

September

Saturday – September 26

11th Annual Winged Foot 5k/10K Run
and 5K Walk
Topeka Regional Airport Business Center
Combat Air Museum Hangar 602
8 am start.

There is no Membership Luncheon in September.
The next luncheon will be Monday, October 12.

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Visitors

During **May**
the Museum had
1,268 visitors
from 39 states, and
Australia
Austria
Canada
Costa Rica
Germany
Great Britain
Italy
New Zealand
Poland
Saudi Arabia
Switzerland

During **June**
we had
1,420 visitors
from 39 states, and
Puerto Rico
Australia
Bulgaria
Canada
Denmark
Germany
Great Britain
Hong Kong
Italy
Moldova
Netherlands
Northern Ireland
Romania
Russia
Saipan
Scotland
South Africa
Spain
Ukraine

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**Join the
Combat Air
Museum!**

Tom Sawyer would be proud!

Volunteers join a Paint Party



During the third week of a very rainy May – the third wettest on record for Topeka – a crew of volunteers had a clear day to paint the concrete buttresses on the exterior sides of Hangar 602. Mike Welch, Paul Frantz, Gene Howerter, Dave Murray, Wes Barricklow, Gary Naylor, and Scotty Larimer worked with scrapers and wire brushes to remove any loose paint, and then applied new, white paint with brushes and rollers. Some worked on ladders, others worked at ground level. The crew also painted the concrete foundation of the hangar and the overhang to the member's entrance door. Gary and Gene removed ivy that had grown

on the northwest corner of the hangar.

The crew worked through the morning and finished the north side. With some paint still left from opened containers, they moved to the south side of the hangar. Here, the existing paint had not weathered as badly as the north side, reducing the amount of scraping and brushing needed. The crew painted two buttresses before the opened paint was done. They will reconvene to finish the south side at a later date – when heat and humidity are not so high.

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Clockwise from top left: Mike Welch on the ladder. Standing, left to right, Paul Frantz, Gene Howerter, Dave Murray, Wes Barricklow, Gary Naylor, and Scotty Larimer.

Mike Welch painted a lot of the upper buttresses.

Volunteers working high and low.

Wes Barricklow painting the easternmost buttress.

- Photos by CAM Curator Danny San Romani



The 11th annual Winged Foot 5K/10K run and 5K walk

It's coming Saturday, September 26th - the 11th annual Winged Foot 5K/10K run and 5K walk. The race course is on the grounds of the Business Center of Topeka Regional Airport, starting and ending by Hangar 602. The course is 5 kilometers, and a double loop is run for the 10K race.

We do need a number of volunteers to operate this event. The following positions are where we need people:

- running the registration tables
- setting up and taking down awards tables and the speaker system
- setting up and taking down mile posts and cones for turns on the racecourse
- course marshals to ensure participants turn at appropriate corners
- manning a water table on the backstretch of the course
- one person on the south end of the course at its turn-around point

- setting up and taking down the finish line and finish chute
- several people at the finish line to monitor finishers, record bib numbers, and record backup finish times.

Volunteers who work the registration tables need to be at the Museum by 6:30 am. Other volunteers need to arrive by 7:15 am. For additional information, please contact Gene Howerter at chairman@combatairmuseum.com or 785-862-3303, or contact Deloris Zink at office@combatairmuseum.com and the same phone number. Race brochures are printed and available in the Gift Shop. Forms can be downloaded from our website: www.combatairmuseum.org. You may also register and pay at www.active.com.

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One more Young Aviators Education Class is offered this summer

There is one more opportunity to join the Combat Air Museum's "Young Aviators" Education Class this summer. The class is for youth age eight to twelve years, and will be held August 3 to 11, Monday through Thursday.

The four-day course is held from 9 am until 12:30 pm. The class fee is \$50 per student. The instruction sessions will cover a brief history of early aviation, fundamentals of flight theory, aircraft structures, including control systems and engines, weather, and how to read aviation charts and maps.

There will be hands-on time in the Museum's computer Flight Simulator, the phonetic alphabet, used for aviation contact and control, and a guided tour of the Museum.

Visits outside the classroom will include the 108th Aviation Regiment of the Kansas Army National Guard (H-60 Blackhawk helicopters), the 190th Air refueling Wing of the Kansas Air National Guard (KC-135 tankers), The Metropolitan Topeka Airport Authority Fire, Rescue, and Security Station (Firetrucks) and The Topeka Regional Airport Control Tower.

Enrollment is limited to 20 students per class, and the Museum will accept youth on a first-come-first-serve basis.

For details, please call the Museum's Office Manager (785-862-3303) between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm on weekdays. →

Class is full, but students can be added to the wait list.

Guest speaker for next Membership Luncheon

By Dave Murray

Our guest speaker for the August Membership Luncheon is Dr. Percival Pascua, Colonel US Air Force and Kansas Air National Guard (retired.) Dr. Pascua is a volunteer and member of the Museum of the Kansas National Guard. He has two topics he will share with us during his presentation. One is about the Harmonica. Dr. Pascua will talk about this wonderful musical instrument as an aid in preventative medicine (breathing, posture, and mental attitude.)

His second presentation will deal with the Japanese occupation of the Philippines during World War II. The Japanese occupied the Philippines from 1941 through 1944. Dr. Pascua was four years old at the time and will talk about his family's experiences with the occupation. His father survived the Bataan Death March and was subsequently interred by the Japanese in Cabanatuan Prison Camp for the Duration. Dr. Pascua and his remaining family had their house burned to the ground, and they were forced to hide and live in the hills of Arayat Mountain on Luzon Island, about 37 miles north and west of Manila.

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Topeka City Flag is presented to CAM

In July Topeka Mayor Larry Wolgast met with Gene Howerter and presented a Topeka City Flag to Combat Air Museum. It measures 3x5 ft. Gene and Les Carlson hung the flag next to others along the open corridor leading to the Museum offices.

In 1975, a 13-year-old Eagle Scout named Dana Villeme of Topeka, along with his Scout Troop #43, took on a community bicentennial project to produce an official city flag to present to then Topeka Mayor Bill McCormick and the citizens of Topeka. Villeme began the project by first contacting the Mayor's office. He was instructed to meet with local architects to assist the Scouts with the design of the flag. After consulting with them, a design was approved, and Villeme and Troop #43 went to work.

Villeme and the Troop spent many hours over the next two years in the sewing and embroidery of the flag. The goal was to use the city crest/coat of arms. It was to be sewn on the left side of the flag while the city colors of green and gold were added in color blocks on the right side. Villeme and Troop #43 presented the finished flag, a poplin flag, 2 x 3 1/2 ft. to Mayor McCormick and the City Council in 1977. CAM's flag bears that design.

The flag is made of three panels. The hoist half is vertical with a white background and the crest/coat of



arms is centered in the white. The crest/coat of arms is a golden-yellow shield outlined in light green. GOLDEN CITY is across the top third of the shield. Three images are in the lower two-thirds of the shield, separated by a zigzag chevron with nine stars. The upper left image is a locomotive drive wheel with a beehive at the lower right of the wheel. The upper right image is a KAW Native American hut with a cornstalk along the upper left side and an arrow along the upper right. At bottom center is an image of the state capitol building. A scroll below the shield reads TOPEKA 1854 KANSAS. The second half of the flag is two horizontal, equal blocks, one over the other, with golden yellow over light green.

Dana Villeme died in an automobile accident in 1996. A memorial plaque in his honor was placed at the City Hall flagpole.

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