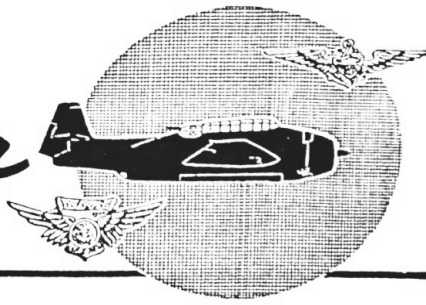


The Avenger

U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION - FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER of the NAS FORT LAUDERDALE MUSEUM MAY 2016

Website: nasflmuseum.com E-mail: nasflmuseum@yahoo.com By Appointment: (954) 359-4400

Editors: Matheus Barreto, John & Minerva Bloom, Deborah Hamilton. Helpers: Dorothy Riser, Sebastian Carreras, & Murray Morton.

NASFL MUSEUM
4000 W. Perimeter Rd.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

MEDIA MAIL

WE'RE STILL HERE! LIFE WAS HECTIC FOR VOLUNTEERS, BUT WE'RE BACK WITH OUR PRINT NEWSLETTER
We update our *Events Blog* frequently: you can go to NASFLMUSEUM.COM for the most recent news !

IN MEMORIAM

Our deepest condolences to the families of the following NASFL Museum members: [Bill Law](#) 86, passed away August 20, 2015. [George F. Weixler](#) 90, September 18, 2015. [Carolyn McElhiney](#) 86, September 23, 2015. [David Epstein](#) "Parachute Dave" 95, January 9th, 2016. [Phillip Balyeat](#) 100 yr old, May 3, 2016.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Individual members: Robert J. Coopman, Brian W. Boyd, David L. Chiras, Charles Ermer, Joan Leo, Timothy Moloney, and Joyce Stewart. **New Life members:** Woody Woodbury, Barbara Markis, Ray Ferrero, Willy Cook, Buddy Galvin, Scott Hahn, Jules Harper, Gary Kilbride, Steve & Brian Buckley. **Family members:** Zachary Adams & Dawn Hanna, Richard & Anne Blattner, Anthony & Christy Complo, Tom Carney Family, Keith & Linda Mullaney, Frank N. Seller & Kim Parker.

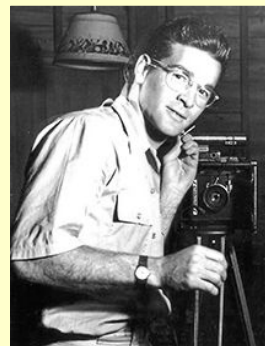
NEW BIOGRAPHIES FROM OUR WWII - VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT



[William Law USNR](#)
NAS Banana River
Joined US Navy at 14



[Louis J. Belzarine Jr.](#)
S2/c USNR
Deadliest Crash at NASFL



[Phillip Balyeat, USNR](#)
Naval Aviation Cadet Program
Athletic Training Officer
NAS Fort Lauderdale



[CDR Harvey N. Hop, USN](#)
Naval Aviator
Pilot for Admiral Nimitz, WWII

We're working on these Bios: **Jerome Zimmerman, William Zuendt, Ralph Flaherty, and Clint Westberry**

FLIGHT 19: 70th Anniversary Flight 19 Memorial Ceremony

The Flight 19 memorial ceremony is an annual event celebrated at the museum on December 5th. 2015 not only marked the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, but also the 70th anniversary of Flight 19's disappearance. The ceremony commemorates the fourteen crewmen from the 5 TBM Avenger airplanes, and the Mariner rescue plane with thirteen aboard—all vanishing on December 5th 1945. Flight 19 began the myth of the Bermuda Triangle, and is one of the great aviation mysteries. The Memorial Ceremony is a public event celebrated on the grounds of the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum, which is on the National Register of Historic Places—and now a Florida Heritage Site.

State Representative George R. Moraitis, Jr., US Navy Veteran



Frank Loconto, and Doug Webster Deputy Director BCAD



NASFL Museum Director John Bloom with Dr. Bjorn Madsen "Flight 19 Club" Denmark



"Flight 19 Proclamation" Charles McLaughlin USMC, Vietnam

FLIGHT 19 VOLUNTEERS: Dr. Bloom, Dr. Atwood, Gary Adams, R & L Rivera, Debby Hamilton, G & B Kilbride, Doro Riser, Murray Morton, M. Bloom, Dr. B. Madsen, A. Piraino, L. White, B. Lamberto, M. Bullock, Tom Sheridan, Marvo Taitt.

And thanks to KEN KAYE from the Sun-Sentinel for his help!



Congratulations !
to volunteer Larry Rivera son of WWII & Korean veteran Ray Rivera. Larry received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Museum, awarded at our Flight 19 Ceremony.



CONGRATULATIONS BRIAN BUCKLEY!

Congratulations !
to the Buckley family for celebrating their son Brian's *Eagle Scout Ceremony*. They hosted a great and well attended party at the Museum!

November LUNCHEON

We had a superb Luncheon with Captain A. JAY CRISTOL USN (Ret). A lecturer in law of naval warfare, and a former U.S Navy aviator, and lawyer (JAG). Author of *The Liberty Incident*, and *The Liberty Incident Revealed*. Cristol was chief judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida (1993-1999). He is currently Chief Judge Emeritus for the Southern District of Florida.



Capt. Cristol relating his job as a tail hooker in USS Princeton



Capt. Cristol shares his experience as an aviator on the Grumman AF guardian



Landing his plane on the roadway !



The Clipper A. Jay Cristol



Woody Woodbury with Capt. Cristol

NEXT LUNCHEON

Next luncheon will be held at the Lauderdale Yacht Club, **Saturday, June 25th at 11:30 am.** Our guest speaker will be **RADM Samuel J. Cox (Ret), Director of Naval History and Heritage Command, Washington, DC.**

MEMBERSHIPS

Note: DUES were due on January 1st. If you have not paid, please do so: Individual Memberships \$35 (1 yr), Family \$60 (1 yr), Corporate \$100 (1 yr), Student \$15 (1 yr), Lifetime \$300 (One time charge).

NEWEST EXHIBIT DONATIONS (Please forgive us, if you don't see your name)

- Ship plaques, military books, magazines, and navy memorabilia from Allan McElhiney's family.
- Ben Langley, US Navy ship spyglass/telescope.
- Woody Woodbury, vintage model Aircraft F-86.
- Gary Adams, magazines, & military books.
- Tom Sheridan, military books, manuals, models.
- John Cook, photos of his time at NASFL in WWII.
- Robert Taylor, WWII battle lantern.
- Barbara Geohegan, Avenger Newspapers (1944).
- Mark Chow, Eastern Airlines ticket counter sign.
- James Lansdale, military books, original framed art.
- Mary Babcock, WWII purple heart, & navy books.
- Wade Porter, Navy blanket, aircraft control stick.
- William Zuendt, WWII Japanese Mortar Fuse, and Artillery fuse with case.
- L. Coleman, vintage photographs
- Bonnie & Bob Miller, aviation books.
- John Schwarz, First Day Stamp Cache Issuances.
- Chad Turner, vintage models.
- Barbara Montgomery, military books, Eastern Airlines memorabilia.
- Ed & Sharon Binkerd, vintage framed aviation art.
- Ronald Walker, WWII artifacts, books, and manuals.
- Donald Prichard, WWII manuals, navy ball caps.
- Beverly Scarlett, NASFL's Louis Belzarine info.

AND THANK YOU TO NUMEROUS OTHERS WHO HAVE DONATED ANONYMOUSLY!

THANK YOU TO OUR NEW VOLUNTEERS !!

Library: Eric Gleissner LCDR, USN (Ret). **Docents:** Murray Morton, Tom Sheridan BSO (Ret), Sebastian Carreras. **Intern:** Lani Day who has created several PowerPoint presentations for our website. **Newsletter:** Matheus Barreto for coming to our rescue with his expertise! and to **Instructor:** Mike Zuazo from McFatter Technical College, who will be collaborating with 3 of his students for the Museum's Internship Program.

LINK TRAINER BUILDING #8: Historic Marker

We got our [historic marker](#) !! After months of filling out countless forms and completing requirements with the Florida Division of Historical Resources and the Florida Department of State: we can say that the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum is a *Florida Heritage Site*. Our historic marker was purchased with donations from members of the Association & Museum. It is a beautiful, solid metal, navy blue plaque, with white letters: detailing the history of the Link Trainer Building #8. It was installed in the entrance to the museum, by members of NOSC Miami on April 10! Thank you to Mr. Michael Hart, Historic Sites Specialist at the Florida Department of State for his guidance and help. Come and visit so you can see it!



MEMORIAL BRICKS PROJECT

Thank you to the nine excellent crew from the USS BATAAN for helping with our Butterfly Memorial Garden, on Thursday May 5. It was a pleasure to show the crew of the USS Bataan around the Museum, and to see what an efficient team they are. Thank you for helping the Museum and the community! Stay safe. Lifetime Museum member B. Doyle—a Master Gardener, is heading this garden project. All the memorial brick pavers that were temporarily installed by our Navy Reservists, will be permanently installed in this area. The garden will be in the shape of a TBM/TBF Avenger (brick path), and there will be benches and other contemplative objects.



For the past 15 years, we have been fortunate to have the tremendous support from **NOSC Miami and VTU0808G**. The members of this Navy Reservist Unit have been all constant and capable volunteers throughout this period. Without their help, this Museum truly may not exist. We plan projects in anticipation of their presence, each 1st Sunday of the month. The amount of work accomplished on each of their visits has been very significant. Their help and partnership with the Museum's [Navy Heritage Project](#) is vital for our Museum's future. Our profound thanks go to: CAPT Scott Hahn (Ret), CAPT Stephen Schaffer, CAPT Michael McGehee, Chief Deborah Krieger, Bruce Fuchs USN, CDR Rey Horta, CDR Mike Fleming (Ret), CDR Rich Silva, HM2 Richard McGowan, Rodney Lewis USN, CAPT Jeff Jerome (Ret), Catherine Weidman (Ret), MAC Patrick Bowden, and Mike Clark USN.



If you already purchased a Memorial Brick paver, you can come visit the Museum to see it personally, or you can [view on our website](#). The list updates alphabetically, as more and more bricks are being completed. If you would like to [purchase a Memorial Brick](#) you can download the form from our website—or fill out the form included with this newsletter.

CAPT KARL BORK

SGT. HENRY (HANK) PETRI USMC WWII
LETS NEVER FORGET

GEORGE DEVLIN USNR
AOM3C – FT 19 – BKLYN, NY
YOUR HONORED FAMILY

FOR CARMINE MAFFEI
LOVING HUSBAND,
DAD & GRANDPA

NASFL MUSEUM BENEFACTORS

David A. Golden – Eastman Chemical
 Howard Schneider
 Edgar Galvin
 Robert D. Woodbury
 John V. Carpenter
 Kenneth C. Berner
 Gary & Susan Gulbransen
 Frank N. Sellers Jr., Trust
 The Buckley Family

K.E. & L.H. Mullaney
 John P. “Jack” Seiler
 Chip LaMarca
 William Zuendt TTEE
 Lillian Hessing
 Catherine Clare
 Thomas C. Beach
 Ron Lowther & Carlyn Burns
 Friends of “Parachute” David Epstein



Eileen Hamilton Bolton
 World War II Rosie the Riveter
 Avenger Torpedo Bomber

Thank you to Eileen Hamilton Bolton for her gracious donation of this photograph.

Eileen was a real World War II *Rosie the Riveter* working on TBM/TBF Avenger torpedo bombers in Long Island, NY.



THANKS to volunteers Ray & Larry Rivera for painting & refurbishing the wood railings, ramps, and steps of the Museum building!



Martin PBM-5 Mariner
BuNo: 59225

Andy Marocco Keserach
 Photo Copyright © NAS FL Lauderdale Museum

The NASFL Museum has the only known photo of the “real” Training-49 PBM-5 Mariner.” — Andy Marocco.

Project Mariner

An Expedition of the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum

This expedition has been formed to locate the PBM Mariner - Trainer 49 (PBM-5 BuNo 59225) sent to search for Flight 19 (one of the great aviation mysteries). This Mariner took off on December 5, 1945 at 19:27 from NAS Banana River (now Patrick Air Force Base), called in a routine radio message at 19:30, and then was never heard from again. Through several years of research, aviation archaeologist [Andy Marocco](#), and Flight 19 expert & aviation historian [Jon Myhre](#), have compiled extensive and compelling data about the disappearance and the possible location of the Mariner. **Be part of History!**

For more information please go to [Project Mariner](#) or contact Museum: nasflmuseum@yahoo.com

PS: A memorial plaque was purchased by the Museum to be placed in the former NAS Banana River. More news about this event will follow.

WE NEED HELP WITH OUR PRINT & DIGITAL NEWSLETTERS! Volunteers needed for: editing, research, news, events, photography, proofreading, graphic design, and publishing. Also, volunteers needed for: folding, sort, revise, & complete. You can also help digitally from far away!! If interested please contact us at: nasflmuseum@yahoo.com