### VALLE,

# PLANES OF FAME AIR MUSEU







## THE 10TH ANNUAL 'TASTE OF FLIGHT' GALA, AN INCREDIBLE EVENING WITH BUD ANDERSON

By Frank B. Mormillo

The 10th Annual "Taste of Flight" Gala hosted by the Planes of Fame Air Museum at the Chino Airport, California on the evening of October 22, 2016 paid special tribute to World War II 16.25victory P-51 Mustang ace Colonel C.E. "Bud" Anderson. The featured speaker at the gala, Anderson went on to enjoy a distinguished post World War II career in the United States Air Force as a test pilot and fighter squadron and fighter wing commander before retiring from active duty in 1972 and going to work for McDonnell Douglas in flight test management.

At the "Taste of Flight" Gala, Anderson talked about his involvement in the FICON (Fighter Conveyor) Project of the 1950s, testing the feasibility of carrying high-performance jet fighter planes in the bellies of Convair B-36 Peacemaker strategic bombers. The idea was to carry the fighters long distances toward potential targets, release them for high-speed dashes into enemy territory, and then recover them for the flight back home. Anderson described the initial difficulties involved in maneuvering the fighters into position for attachment to the bombers in flight. featured airplane at the gala was the Planes of Fame Air Museum's RF-84K which was finished in its original 91st SRS colors and markings specifically for the event. Prior to the gala, Planes of Fame asked Anderson to supply an RF-84K photo as reference for the colors and markings, and purely

by chance, the photo he supplied was of the

Delicious food and drink was served by caterers, vintners and brewers that helped sponsor the event.



museum's jet, #52-7265. At the conclusion of his presentation, Anderson received the museum's Planes of Fame Achievement in Aviation Award from President Steve Hinton and Chairman Tom Nightingale.

A major fund raiser to help support aircraft preservation, educational programs and new displays at the Planes of Fame Air Museum, the "Taste of Flight" Gala also presented guests with the opportunity to enjoy wine and beer tasting, a variety of food and dessert options and a silent auction featuring a plethora of aviation memorabilia, aviation-themed attire, gift packages, travel and entertainment packages, and even aviation-themed bicycles and motorcycles. Also auctioned off for vocal bidding were autographed bottles of Old Crow whiskey provided by "Bud" Anderson; "Old Crow" was the name on the North American P-51 Mustangs that Anderson flew in combat with the 457th Fighter Group in World War II. Great Food, Beverages, and People made the evening an enjoyable and informative event for all. The event also raised funds to 'Help Keep em flying'. Thank you to all of the Sponsors and Volunteers that helped make the '10th Annual Taste of Flight' a pleasurable success..

Top left: Bud Anderson captivates the audience with his test pilot presentation.

Top right: Bud Anderson receives the Planes of Fame Achievement in Aviation Award from Tom Nightingale and Steve Hinton.

PAGE 2 PLANES OF FAME AIR MUSEU

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### PLEASE JOIN US FOR KILROY COFFEE KLATCH

We invite all veterans to join us, meet other veterans from the area, and share whatever is on your mind. Museum admission is waived for attending veterans and their guests.

Meetings will be held in the Maloney hangar, on the first Tuesday of every month from 9 - 10 am.

We are honored to serve as a venue for our veterans, and we hope this monthly meeting will provide an enjoyable and meaningful exchange of ideas.



# Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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# 2016 YEAR-END APPEAL



By Karen Hinton

With Halloween and Thanksgiving behind us Christmas is just around the corner. It's time to reflect on the year, and plan ahead to maximize your charitable contributions before December 31.

For us at Planes of Fame, 2016 meant the loss of our founder, my father Ed Maloney. As tough as it is to get through the absence of our patriarch, we are very fortunate to have his legacy which sustains us and encourages people from all walks of life to continue to participate in aviation. Our volunteers and staff are more motivated than ever to continue his mission here at Planes of Fame.

That mission has always been to keep 'em flying. And we did that in 2016 with your support. The air show was the best ever, a display of aviation history and current air power as well as the pilot prowess of top aerobatic performers like Sean Tucker.

Over 30,000 people attended here at Chino, but countless more thousands enjoyed seeing the aircraft perform at over 30 air shows this year. Plus we held 12 Living History events this year showcasing rare aircraft here at the museum. Knowing that visitors also love to learn about our nation's aviation history, we have been working on our displays to tell more stories. Our WWII veterans have passed their stories on to their children, but the current generation does not necessarily have that personal narrative to draw on when touring the museum. Our docents work hard to tell the stories. Take a tour the next time you visit. You'll be amazed at the docents' passion for their subject. Even better, go out to the B-17 and talk to WWII veteran Wilbur Richardson about his missions as a ball turret gunner in the B-17.

Speaking of veterans, the Kilroy Coffee Klatch is held at 9:00 a.m. the first Tuesday of each month in the Maloney

hangar. We encourage all veterans to attend as our guest, enjoy some coffee and relax with each other surrounded by historic aircraft. Thank you to Starbucks at Euclid and Schaffer for donating the coffee each month.

What does it take to sustain this level of activity? Well, dedicated volunteers first and foremost. But it also takes significant capital to keep these activities and the aircraft running strong. I hope you will consider supporting Planes of Fame as you pull out your checkbook or credit card to make your year- end donations. Every dollar counts! To quote Sir Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Support Planes of Fame and enrich not only your life, but the lives of others. Thank you for believing in our mission, keeping my father's legacy alive for another generation. The very best to you and your families in the upcoming holiday season!





# After 72 Years, Veteran is Reunited with F4U Corsair

Columbia resident Mr. Ferrill Purdy was clearly overwhelmed by the number of people who had come to hear about his life and military service, and see one of the planes he flew in combat during WWII take to the skies over Colombia Missouri.

On a crisp Saturday in October, more than a hundred people filed into an empty hangar at the Columbia Regional Airport in Missouri. A fire truck with ladder extended and flag flying sat out front, and, in the rear of the hangar sat an F4U-1 Corsair — a plane that was used by marine fighter pilots in the Pacific theater during WWII. The Corsair was flown in from Planes of Fame Air Museum in Chino, CA.

All of these people – veterans, active military and civilians alike – had come to honor the

service of one Mr. Ferrill Purdy – or Lt. Col. Purdy as he was known during the war.

90-year-old Fred Bethman, a fellow WWII vet, was among them. He was an army man or "ground cruncher," as he referred to himself, during the war. He said that his reason for coming was two-fold.

First of all, he said he wanted to honor a fellow WWII vet "because there aren't many of us left."

And he wanted to see the F4U-1 Corsair fly because he had only seen them from below while he was also stationed in the Pacific theater during the war.

People milled around chatting, looking at Purdy's old wartime memorabilia and admired the plane until Purdy entered. Then the room erupted in applause, and Purdy was nearly at a loss for words.

"I want to thank every one of you for everything you did during World War II and since," Purdy said.

Lt. Col. Ferrill Purdy saluted the crowd gathered to honor him and his service, and to see the F4U-1 Corsair he flew in 1944 take to the skies over Columbia.

After the presentation of the colors and a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, those

gathered took their seats. First to speak was Michele Spry, the author who had discovered the connection between Purdy and the plane.

She met Purdy when he came into the business she and her husband run – Purdy needed to get a lamp fixed for his wife. "And it just went from there."

Spry spent time talking with Purdy about his time in the military, and used his log books to learn more about the planes he flew while deployed. It was when she began looking through his flight log books that she discovered that one of the planes Purdy flew in June 1944 was still around, still functioning and owned by the Planes of Fame Air Museum in Chino, California.

records and it actually was sold to MGM studios," O'Bryan said.

He said they don't really know what MGM used the plane for, if anything, but since the museum purchased the plane in the 1970s, it has been busy. It appeared in TV shows like Baa Baa Black Sheep and Airwolf, and in films like Flags of our Fathers.

But they were missing a lot of the history of the Corsair's time in service – until Michele Spry called. Since discovering Purdy's connection to this plane, they have found two other veterans who flew the Corsair. One of whom was Mr. Purdy's wingman.

Michele Spry talked about Purdy's experience in the Pacific

"On his first tour, he was flying his aircraft and he was shot at by the enemy and it hit his oil cooler. And he was in the Corsair and he was hit in the oil cooler and it drained all of the oil out of his engine and stalled the engine.

Purdy had to make an emergency landing into the ocean.

"And his wingman stayed right next to him when his plane went into the water, and made sure to circle him so the other boys went back to get a Navy destroyer. Mr. Purdy says John [his wingman] saved my life."



Cory O'Bryan points out the days when Lt. Col. Purdy flew the F4U-1 Corsair serial # 17799 in combat during WWII that visited Columbia in October.

So she sent them an email.

"We just knew it had to been in combat somewhere and I had been searching for log books for any history I could find on it with no luck," Cory O'Bryan, a volunteer at the museum said. "Out of the blue then I got an email and a phone call one day and here we are – and that was only a couple of months."

Spry introduced O'Bryan, as well as the Corsair pilot Robbie Patterson, and asked them to tell the crowd a little more about the history of the plane.

"When it came back in August of '44, they overhauled it and it went into different training squadrons, so we know the history from then on. In August of '45 it was stricken from the

Following a brief rundown of Purdy's service during WWII by Spry, and a little more history about the Corsair from O'Bryan and the Corsair's pilot Robbie Patterson, the time came.

Mr. Purdy was taken outside, and more than 72 years after he last entered the cockpit of this F4U-1 Corsair number 17799, he patted the belly of the plane and smiled.

by Rebecca Smith NBIA

All of this was made possible by the fund raising, determination and organization of Michele Spry. Thank you Michele!



Are you shopping for one of those people who have everything? We have the antidote to your quandry: Purchase a Planes of Fame Air Museum memorial bench in their honor! A name, company, squadron etc. can be engraved on a sturdy bench that will be positioned in one of the seven hangars at the Museum. Your wonderful gift will give visitors an attractive, convenient resting place

AND be a tribute to the individual or group you "gift" the bench for.

Benches are \$1,500 and help the Museum further its mission. Call or email Kristen Maloney to order your bench today!

Kristen can be reached at (909) 597-4754 or at Kristen.maloney@planesoffame.org.

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