

Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum, Inc.

The Wing Script 25th Anniversary Edition

Atterbury Army Air Base-Bakalar Air Force Base Columbus, Indiana

Museum Membership Newsletter January 2017 published by the Museum Volunteers.

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the museum and the 75th Anniversary of Building T-48 Jeannie Lewellen Norbeck Memorial Chapel.



The Bakalar Air Force Base guard house as it was, in the middle of the street as you entered and departed the air base on now Middle Road. The wide spot in the street is still there as you enter the Columbus Municipal Airport property that sits on the original 2,000 acre former air base land.



As part of our community outreach and education efforts the museum participates in community events such as pictured here at the Bartholomew County Library Plaza during a
The Museum complex consists of the museum and William "Bruce" Dalton Media Center, the Jeanne Lewellen Norbeck Memorial Chapel and the Historical Markers on Bakalar Green. Bakalar Green is the preserved green area between the F-4 Phantom Jet static display and the airport rotating beacon.

2016 topped 2015 with another record setting year for museum visitors and tour groups since our 2014 museum expansion.



The F-4 Phantom Fighter and the museum are iconic landmarks at the Columbus Indiana Municipal Airport along with the control tower. This is also the 75th year aircraft have been flying from the former air base. From B-25 Bombers to C-119 Flying Boxcars and now private, corporate and military aircraft visit the airport daily. The airport is the fourth busiest and number one for military traffic in Indiana.



Welcome to the museum lobby. Never a charge to visit the museum. New floor tile and carpeting installed in the lobby to welcome guests.

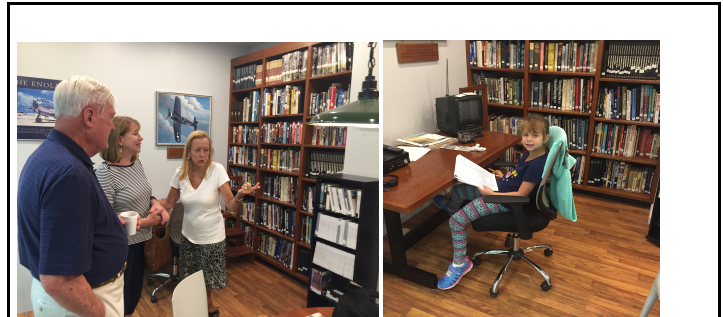


Did you know the original Indiana University Purdue University, IUPUC building was the Air Force Base Building #200, the Base Headquarters building built in 1959? The campus has expanded and has a different look now.

The Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum is a private 501c3 non-profit museum with no paid staff, all volunteer. No government funds are used at the museum. The museum depends on the generosity of the community and guests for gifts, grants, donations and in-kind donations to operate.



A view of part of the south museum gallery as work is being completed on some of the displays. All the museum displays have been designed and/or built by the museum volunteers. A volunteer group of about thirty hard working and dedicated people do the work. The museum is fortunate to have designers, engineers, wood workers, retired aircraft maintainers, IT specialists, media specialists and a host of other skills. Many volunteers are retired military, former military and those who support our mission of preserving the history of the former air base.



The museum library is a popular spot with guests of all ages. It is a regular lending library and books and DVD's may be checked out. Museum founder and volunteer Tom Vickers a retired Cummins Vice President talks with guests in the library. The library accepts donations of books that are oriented toward the historical period that the museum preserves and displays.



Our most senior volunteer and founding member is a retired Cummins Engineer, John Walter who is talking with special friends of the museum who visit from France, Elodie Lang with her husband and young son.



The museum and chapel is accessible in all areas which include the restrooms and entry ways. Museum volunteer David Day hosts some guests. Our volunteers host guests, clean the museum, build displays, and do anything we need at the museum and chapel. Our youngest volunteer is a sophomore in high school and senior volunteer is ninety-five and flew B-17 Flying Fortress Bombers during WWII. Most of our volunteers just walked in one day and said I'd like to help and be part of your group.



This barracks display represents part of barracks T-50 and how it looked during WWII and Korean War eras. The barracks were heated by three US Army #1 Space Heaters like the one in the display. This is one of the more popular displays. A coal bucket with coal is in the display. It brings back memories and discussion from many veterans



The ladies from the Flower Lane Garden Club of Columbus keep the flowers and plantings around the chapel and museum looking good. We thank them for their good work. Jan Ross is a member.



The museum hosts many tour groups, some with international guests. Museum volunteer Jim Reid, a retired Navy Aviator and former aircraft carrier F-4 Phantom pilot hosts this tour group of ladies. 2016 was a record year for scheduled tour groups for local, state wide and out of state.



American Legion Patriot Riders tour visits the museum.

This scheduled tour group really enjoyed their visit. One of them liked our conference room and kicked back for a few minutes. The AC119G Gunship wall paper impressed them.



Some scheduled tour groups come by the bus load.



The museum was pleased to host the Columbus Municipal Airport Board of Commissioners meeting in the museum's media center with a standing room only crowd.



One of our new displays is one featuring Major General Mark Pillar's flight uniform displayed next to the Major General John Hoff uniform display. General Pillar has a long distinguished history with the 434th Wing as did General Hoff.



C-119's AT BAKALAR A.F.B. ARE ALL EQUIPPED WITH AUTOMATIC PILOT

Here is a post card from Bakalar Air Force Base probably from the late 1950's or early 1960's. We have not been able to identify the lady in the C-119 cockpit photo. Can you help?

The Jeanne Lewellen Norbeck Memorial Chapel, building #T-48 celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year. Built in 1942 as a temporary barracks style building and converted to the base chapel during the Korean War host many guests.



The chapel hosted some weddings this year and the guests are always commenting how nice the chapel is. Lots of hard work by the museum volunteers went into the restored chapel and preservation.



The museum volunteers use the chapel frequently for special programs and meetings.



Christmas dinner, SOS breakfast, the museum volunteers won't pass up an opportunity to have a meal and invite special guests. Periodic open house for the public are held.



The museum's class room size media center is used every day with visitors, meetings, tour groups. Pictured here a group of soldiers visited and were fascinated by the museum's 9-minute WWII newsreel about the CG-4A gliders like the ones stationed at the former Atterbury Army Air Field during 1945.



Columbus Municipal Airport Director Brian Payne briefs the museum volunteers about Columbus Municipal Airport activities.

The William "Bruce" Dalton Media Center is being upgraded with new audio visual equipment to be compatible with current electronic equipment requirements used by the museum staff and guests.



The F-4C Phantom Jet static display always draws visitors year round. Lots of photos are taken, cars stop to look, bikers peddle up, walkers and joggers stop and fly-in visitors walk over just to see the jet and then many visit the museum. Jet put on display in 1988.



Gustav Potthoff Hospice Military Service Pinning Ceremony.

Major General Mark Pillar USAF (Ret.) with museum volunteers Bob Miller, Jim Reid, Jim Sellars, Nick Firestone and Gordon Lake pay honor to museum volunteer Gustav Potthoff.

Remembering the museum volunteers who passed during 2016, Dick Cain, Gustav Potthoff and Golden K volunteer Ray Frede. They are missed.

New Work Shop and Storage Building Project

A fund raising effort is underway for the museum's planned work-shop and storage building to be built to the rear of the museum with a patio area between the two buildings. When completed, it will allow the current work room to be converted into additional display area. It will also take paint fumes, sawdust and the noise of building displays out of the museum. A separate informational mailing will be forthcoming soon with more details about the project and how you can help.

Thank you to the Columbus Aviation Board of Commissioners, Airport Director, the Mayor & the City of Columbus, the financial donors large and small and the visitors who support the Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum mission of preserving the rich military history of the former Atterbury Army Air Field/Bakalar Air Force Base.

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