



# PLANES OF FAME AIR MUSEUM

NEWS

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A majestic line-up of North American P-51 Mustangs from a previous Planes of Fame Airshow.

## 2014 PLANES OF FAME AIRSHOW: A SALUTE TO THE MIGHTY EIGHTH

**Mooney International Corporation** is proud to present the Planes of Fame Airshow, May 3rd and 4th, with the theme: "A Salute to the Mighty Eighth", a recognition of the historic Eighth Air Force.

Activated in January of 1942, the Eighth Air Force introduced a new generation of American pilots, gunners, and bombardiers, and a new generation of flying machines called the B-17 Flying Fortress, the B-24 Liberator, the P-47 Thunderbolt, and the P-51 Mustang fighter. During WWII, the Eighth Air Force were stationed in Britain, and soon became known as an army of hard-fighting, hard-playing flying men. Always taking on their challenging missions deep in enemy territory with pride and bravery, they suffered more fatalities than the entire U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific campaign of World War II.

When the Air Force became a separate service from the Army on 18 September 1947, the 8th Air Force continued and currently remains an effective strategic force. An estimated 650,000 have served in Eighth Air Force since WWII!

"A Salute to the Mighty Eighth" provides the backdrop for this year's Planes of Fame Airshow that will showcase over 40 historic aircraft flown in each of the WWII theaters, Korea, and Vietnam performing for your enjoyment, as well as flight demonstrations featuring other unique historic aircraft.

In addition to amazing demonstrations of

historic and aerobatic aircraft in the sky, there will be planes on static display, military vehicles and ground war demonstrations, a Kids Zone, delicious food and beverages, a terrific selection of merchandise at the



Vendor Marketplace, and a panel of honored veterans will be discussing their experiences.

We are especially pleased to announce the U.S.A.F. F-22 Raptor will be here flying a demo and Heritage Flight, plus other not-to-miss events scheduled include; Sean D. Tucker and Team Oracle Aerobatics, the Bremont Horsemen P-51 Mustang aerobatics, the Sea

Fury Aerobatics by Sanders Aeronautics, and the ever popular Rob Harrison, the Tumbling Bear.

Gates open at 8am **FREE PARKING**, Kids 11-years and under are **FREE!** Adult Admission \$25, Preferred Parking \$15, Reserved bleacher seating is available at an additional cost.

Current Planes of Fame Air Museum Members receive one day **FREE** admission to the Airshow, and are asked to download their tickets from the Planes of Fame web site **BEFORE** April 20th. Members can also obtain their tickets from the Planes of Fame Gift Shop in advance of the Airshow. For non-members, tickets can be purchased in advance online or at the Planes of Fame Gift Shop.

Gates for both Saturday and Sunday will open at 8:00am, with the flight demonstrations scheduled between 11:00am and 4:00pm.

Airshow sponsorships are still available! Sponsors at the \$1,000 or greater levels have access to the VIP Chalet, along with special parking and other amenities.

**SPECIAL NOTE!** On May 2nd, the public is invited to an Airshow Preview Event consisting of aircraft arrivals and practice flights. Please see our website for more information.

**Get all the Planes of Fame Airshow 2014 details from our website:**  
[www.planesoffame.org](http://www.planesoffame.org)

## PoF VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY



We value each & every volunteer! PoF volunteers gather on March 8th in honor of their special day.



Museum Founder Ed Maloney presents volunteer Kirsten Volmer with the Founder's Award.



Museum President Steve Hinton presents volunteer Brian Boyer with a special PoF Bomber Jacket.

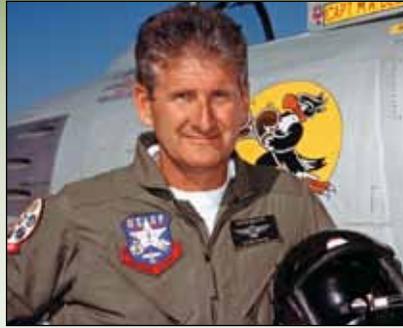


Steve Hinton presents David Landier, Ray Operacz, & Lisa Collinsworth with the President's Award.



We are privileged to present our volunteers with special awards for all their hard work.

## President's Message



Planes of Fame Air Museum President Steve Hinton with the F-86F Sabre.

As we move along in 2014, Planes of Fame Air Museum staff and volunteers continue supporting our mission to preserve aviation history, inspire aviation interest, educate the public and honor aviation pioneers and veterans. In 2013, 412 volunteers worked 47,423 hours.

Our new collections department is fully operational working on the process of cataloging and preserving our unique collection of books and aviation memorabilia started at Archivapalooza last November. The collection of books, aircraft parts, uniforms and personal items from donations grows on a daily basis. We now have the means to care for these items and insure they will be around for use in displays and research for years to come.

Many volunteers at Planes of Fame work at aircraft restoration and maintenance. Volunteer restoration work on aircraft like America's first jet, the Bell P-59 continues. Planes of Fame plans to complete it by early 2015. Other projects include:

-The North American O-47 "O Bird" as it is called, was the first aircraft produced by North American Aviation in 1938. With a few thousand more volunteer hours it too will fly again.

-The Navion is very close to completion and will assume its place in the flyable collection soon.

-The Buchon, the Spanish version of the ME 109, has had its structure repaired and assembled and is now going through system overhaul. It should be nearing flyable status by the end of 2015.

-The Douglas C-47 crew is in the middle of a lengthy inspection/repair process. They still have many steps to complete before the C-47 will fly, but progress is being made. We have recently learned the aircraft saw action in Europe in WWII as a British Dakota.

-The B-17 crew is making great progress on the aircraft restoration. The fuselage is nearing completion. The 17 still has a long way to go, but ongoing efforts to raise the necessary means to bring it back to flying status are in progress.

Planes of Fame's flying aircraft are used continually at Chino and other display sites year round, inspiring aviation interest. The aircraft displayed include: A6M Zero, B-25 Mitchell, P-51 Mustang, Northrop Flying Wing, P-38 Lightning, P-40 Warhawk, P-47 Thunderbolt, F4U Corsair, SNJ Texan, SBD Dauntless, TBM Avenger, F-86 Sabre, MiG-15, T-33 Tbird, YAK-3, L-19 Bird Dog, Stearman and BT-15 Tora Val to name a few.

Our aviation discovery program continues to grow. In the coming months we will host over 350 elementary school students, introducing them to aviation. In 2014 Planes of Fame will welcome 60,000 visitors at our two locations; produce our 29th annual air show "Salute to the Mighty 8th" May 3-4; conduct 12 monthly Living History events, telling the stories of our aviation veterans; and attend more than 15 air shows with various aircraft in California, Washington, Arizona, Idaho, Nevada and England. We are happy to announce our 8th Annual "Taste of Flight" Gala, honoring veterans and aviation pioneers, is set for October 25th. We will also host more than 40 separate events such as weddings and business parties in our facilities as well.

I would like to commend all of our volunteers, staff, donors and patrons for making Planes of Fame what it is today. Planes of Fame is more than just a museum, it is where aviation lives.

*Keep 'em flying!*

*Steve Hinton*

President



**PLANES OF FAME**  
AIR MUSEUM

On March 8th the Museum honored those in the Volunteer Program who help make Planes of Fame the world-renowned preservers of aviation history it is today. In the memorable words of Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle, "There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."

Volunteer appreciation was a great success! "Thank you!" to all of our volunteers for everything you do, we could not achieve our mission without you!

- Total Hours for 2013 – 47,423 hours were logged by 412 volunteers
- Total Hours since we started logging hours in 2008: 239,834 hours donated by 708 volunteers!

We would like to give a special shout-out/thanks to David Landier and Ray Operacz, the people behind our time tracking system. Without their efforts, we would not have a way to easily track our volunteer hours, manage Airshow tasks, print badges and perform so many of the tasks we all count on. So gentlemen, THANK YOU!



## DOUGLAS SBD DAUNTLESS COMBAT VETERANS AT CHINO

By: Frank B. Mormillo

The Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bomber was featured during the monthly Living History Flying Day hosted by the Planes of Fame Air Museum at the Chino Airport, California on February 1, 2014. The principal guest speaker for the event was ex-U.S. Marine Corps SBD Dauntless gunner Staff Sergeant Sidney H. Zimman. During 1944, Zimman flew 40 combat missions with VMSB-341 from Munda in the South Pacific, many of which were against the heavily defended Japanese stronghold at Rabaul. For his combat service in July and August 1944, Zimman was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and five Air Medals.

When he enlisted in the Marine Corps, Zimman signed up for radio operator's school. At the end of that training, sign-up sheets were posted with the letters "A" and "G." He didn't know what the letters meant, so Sid simply signed on the "A" list. It turned out that the "A" stood for air and the "G" stood for ground. "If I had signed up under "G," I would have wound up walking through the jungle carrying a heavy radio on my back" he said. As an aircraft radio operator, Sid also wound up going to gunnery training before being shipped off to join VMSB-341.

According to Sid, because the missions on which he flew had such good fighter protection from land-based Marine Corps and Navy F6F Hellcats and F-4U Corsairs, Army P-38 Lightnings and Royal New Zealand Air Force P-40 Warhawks, he only saw a Japanese fighter plane in the air once. "On one mission, I looked to the left and saw a Zero making a pass on us from left to right. He came by so close that the 'meatball' looked like it was as big as the fuselage. It made a great target, and got off three short bursts at him before he dove away. I don't know if I hit him, but I'd like to think that I shot him down," Zimman said.

At the conclusion of the event's seminar, Planes of Fame volunteer pilot Ron Hackworth conducted an aerial display with the museum's Douglas SBD-5 Dauntless NX670AM, BuNo. 28536. Also a combat veteran, the Planes of Fame Dauntless was manufactured in 1943, shipped to Pearl

The Dauntless finally took to the sky again in 1987, subsequently flying in several movie and television productions, as well as taking part in numerous air shows, displays and civic events over the years.

For the 1988 television mini-series "War and Remembrance," the SBD was finished in a scruffy, temporary Hollywood Battle of Midway-era color scheme, and actually made a takeoff from the aircraft carrier USS Lexington. Although the director reportedly hoped to see the Dauntless dip toward the water a bit after clearing the carrier's bow, Planes of Fame pilot John Maloney had other thoughts on that idea, and was actually well airborne by the time that the airplane passed the ship's island structure!

During the Living History Flying Day seminar, Zimman noted that the intended successor to the Dauntless was to have been the Curtiss SB2C Helldiver. However, it took awhile to work out some of the Helldiver's initial handling problems, and the Dauntless wound up serving until the very end of the war. The Dauntless was also used by the U.S. Army Air Forces in the South Pacific as



Ron Hackworth starting the engine on the Douglas SBD-5 Dauntless before taking the airplane up for an aerial display.



WWII USMC aerial gunner S. Sgt Sidney H. Zimman getting re-acquainted with the gunner's seat in the dive bomber.

Harbor, Hawaii in October 1943 and then flown to Espiritu Santo in March 1944. Assigned under the Lend Lease Program to the Royal New Zealand Air Force, the airplane flew 32 combat missions with Number 25 Squadron from Bougainville before being returned to the U.S. Navy at Russell Island and then shipped back to San Diego, California in June 1944.

After World War II, BuNo. 28536 wound up as a static prop on a Hollywood sound stage before finally being obtained (minus wings) by Ed Maloney for his air museum in 1958. Planes of Fame volunteers obtained some new wings and began restoring the Dauntless to airworthy condition in 1982.

the A-24 Banshee, and saw combat service as well with the French in Europe near the end of World War II and in Indochina after the war. The true successor to the Dauntless wound up being the Douglas AD Skyraider, which did not enter service until after World War II, but then saw extensive combat service in both the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Of the 5,938 Dauntless dive bombers manufactured by Douglas between May 1940 and the summer of 1944, less than 20 are known to still exist. A dozen are static displays in museums, several others are under restoration, and four are flyable - three A-24s now in Navy colors and the Planes of Fame SBD-5.



## FREE AIRSHOW TICKET FOR MEMBERS!

### RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

#### YOUR SUPPORT KEEPS OUR DOORS OPEN & THE AIRCRAFT FLYING!

As an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Planes of Fame Air Museum receives no government or public agency funds.

- ✪ **FREE ticket to the Planes of Fame Airshow** (restrictions apply)  
(Sat. May 3rd or Sun. 4th ~ *that's a \$25 savings!*)
- ✪ **FREE admission to the Planes of Fame Museums**
- ✪ **FREE admission to Living History Flying Day events**

**RENEW OR GIFT A MEMBERSHIP TODAY! (909) 597-3722 ext.1**

**WWW.PLANESOFFAME.ORG**



\* You must sign-up or renew your membership online before April 20th to redeem your airshow ticket.

*Save the Date!*

## 8th ANNUAL 'TASTE OF FLIGHT' GALA

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2014**



Wine and beer tasting, historic pilot stories, delicious food & deserts, entertainment, a silent auction of amazing items, and much more!

For more info visit: [www.planesoffame.org](http://www.planesoffame.org)

Sponsorships and table reservations are available, inquiries:

**Karen Hinton at (909) 597-4754 or e-mail to:**  
[karen.hinton@planesoffame.org](mailto:karen.hinton@planesoffame.org)



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### TWO LOCATIONS!

#### Planes of Fame, Chino Airport

7000 Merrill Avenue, #17  
Chino, California 91710  
**(909) 597-3722**

#### Planes of Fame, Valle Airport

755 Mustang Way  
Valle-Williams, Arizona 86046  
**(928) 635-1000**