



# The Wing Script



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

Museum Membership Newsletter **Spring 2022** is published by the Museum Volunteers.  
The publication name, "The Wing Script" is taken from the former air base newspaper

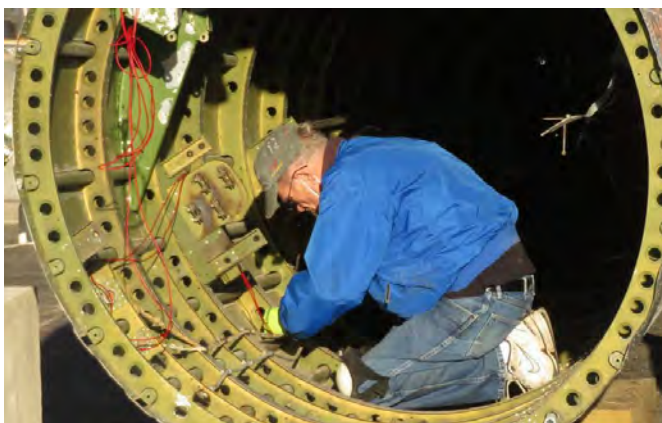
## Charlie 119 Project – 2021



The Restoration Team worked inside a hangar during the winter to clean and repair Charlie 119 components.



The Charlie119 Restoration Team members contributed 9,000 hours of labor to the project during 2021.



About 1,750 ft. of new electrical wire had to be installed in the airplane for the interior and exterior lights.

## President Nick Firestone Remarks

This is a first for the Wing Script! We have doubled the typical number of pages so we can show you more of what we accomplished last year. Even though the museum was only open 3 days a week in 2021, there was a lot of activity. Here are some highlights:

- After 14 months of work by our dedicated volunteers, Charlie 119 was moved from the restoration hangar to the display site, where restoration will continue in the spring.
- We hosted tours from three grade schools, a home school group, Boy Scouts and a summer camp.
- We also hosted a cookout and meeting of the local chapter of the EAA, a visit from the Grand Indiana Auto Tour and a gathering of the members of the 71<sup>st</sup> SOS.
- Our Media Center was used for meetings of the DAR, Bartholomew County Genealogical Society, BCRC Fliers and the KodaKronies Photography Club.

The museum is now open Thurs.-Sat. from 10am to 4pm. This year you will find some changes including:

- A flight simulator – to open soon
- A different Jeep – this one's a Ford
- A POW/MIA Missing Man display
- An updated 71<sup>st</sup> SOS display case
- An improved and reorganized library

So please plan to visit "the best kept secret in Columbus, Indiana".

- Nick -

The Atterbury-Bakalar Air 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.

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## Charlie 119 Project - 2021



Force Construction Company built the display site.



All of the fabric covered flight control surfaces (rudder, ailerons, trim tabs) had to be stripped, cleaned, and recovered. The rivets, and all sharp edges of the aluminum framework, were first covered with 1,900 feet of cloth tape.



After the fabric was glued and riveted to the aluminum frame, heat was applied to shrink the fabric. This gave it a smooth, tight surface.

## Charlie 119 Project - 2021



One thousand square feet of fabric was needed to resurface all of the control surfaces.



Charlie 119 was towed out of the hanger in the spring and the various restored components were reassembled.



The assembly effort required the use of lifting equipment. Much of the equipment used by the team was provided by Sunbelt Rentals.

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## Charlie 119 Project - 2021



On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Charlie 119 was towed across the airport to the display site. The wings were not attached due to the buildings and lamp poles that lined the route. The airplane spent the night parked in front of the museum.



On the morning of May 18<sup>th</sup>, a very large crane from R.H. Marlin, Inc. was used to move Charlie 119 the final 100 feet to the display site. Three steel supports for the landing gear were embedded in concrete. The airplane had to be positioned precisely over these supports.



Charlie 119 is airborne for one final trip.

## Charlie 119 Project - 2021

After Charlie 119 was permanently bolted to the display site, the restoration work continued.



The wings, propellers, and rudders were then attached.



A new electric power line to Charlie 119 was installed by Duke Energy. An HVAC system was installed to heat and cool the interior of the airplane.

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## Charlie 119 Project – 2021



Scaffolding was constructed to allow access to all parts of the airplane. The old paint had to be stripped off before the clean, bare, surface was primed and painted.



The primer paint is yellow. The final paint scheme will be mostly grey with white on the top of the fuselage. This matches the appearance of the 434<sup>th</sup> airplanes that were stationed here in Columbus.



It will take 108 gallons of paint to cover the exterior of Charlie 119. Forty-three gallons were applied in the fall of 2021. The remaining paint will be applied in the spring of 2022.

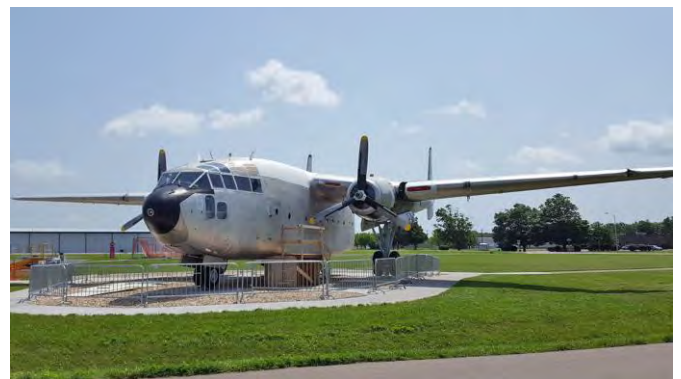
## Charlie 119 Project – 2022 Goals

The major restoration work on the exterior of the airplane is suspended for the winter. The goals for this spring and summer are:

- Finish painting the exterior of the airplane
- Attach the fabric covered flight control surfaces
- Install the flight crew seats
- Finish detail restoration work on the interior

A dedication ceremony will be held this summer.

The interior of the airplane won't normally be open to the public. The public will be able to walk through the airplane on special occasions.



This is how Charlie 119 looked at the fall of 2021. A lot was accomplished by the Restoration Team in the past year. Charlie will look even better after the entire exterior has been painted.



Charlie 119 has attracted much attention from the public even though it is still a work in progress. Visitors to the Hangar 5 Restaurant, or traveling on the People Trail, will often pause and look over the airplane.

## Special Events

School tours resumed in 2021, with COVID precautions.



Students from Taylorsville Elementary School, Tree City Home Schoolers, Southside Elementary School (4<sup>th</sup> grade), and the Tabernacle Christian School, visited the museum



Airport Manager Brian Pane shares the story of Charlie 119 with students.



Museum volunteer Skip Taylor leads a group of students around the museum.

## Special Events

The museum is also responsible for maintaining the historic Jeanne Lewellen Norbeck Memorial Chapel.



A Cub Scouts Pack offered to help out with some landscaping projects around the Chapel.



The Bartholomew County Radio Control Fliers used the museum's Media Center to hold their meeting.

## Special Events



Museum volunteer Jim Reid talking about the history of the airfield with members of Trail Life USA Chapter 110.



The Grand Indiana Auto Tour stopped by the museum.



The Columbus Chapter of The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) used the Media Center for two of their monthly meetings.

## 71<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Squadron (SOS)

The 434<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing was stationed at the Columbus Airport from 1949-1970. In 1968 one of the two squadrons was recalled to active service for duty in Vietnam. About 300 reservists from the Columbus area deployed to Vietnam in 1968 and returned in 1969. Ever since then these veterans have held a reunion at the museum once or twice a year.



The 71<sup>st</sup> SOS veterans have always been loyal supporters of the museum. They have also provided a great deal of help with the restoration of Charlie 119.



One of the 71<sup>st</sup> SOS displays at the museum was upgraded this year. A wooden plaque was added which is modeled after the squadron patch. Two 71<sup>st</sup> SOS coffee mugs were also added to the display

Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum, Inc.  
4742 Ray Boll Boulevard  
Columbus, Indiana 47203  
Phone 812.372.4356  
atterburybakalarairmuseum.org

## Museum Improvements

The museum is closed during the winter months to allow the museum volunteers to clean and repair existing displays and to build new displays.



Work on the flight simulator is almost completed.



Museum visitors will be able to “fly” a variety of different aircraft, including a C-119.



A beautifully restored 1941 Ford Jeep is on loan to the museum from Lindsay Clark.

## Museum Improvements



A display honoring POWs and MIAs has been added.



The museum library has been reorganized. The books are now grouped by subject matter. A new database has been created that will make it easier to find a particular book.

In addition to the museum Web site and Facebook page, a museum YouTube channel has been created.

The videos posted at the channel are:

1. Videos of recent events at the museum.
2. Historical videos about the museums past.
3. A collection of historical documentaries, mostly from the World War II era.

[www.atterburybakalarairmuseum.org](http://www.atterburybakalarairmuseum.org)

[www.facebook.com/atterburybakalarairmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/atterburybakalarairmuseum)

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCSjdo3z\\_Wb8rZPIbN9kINKQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSjdo3z_Wb8rZPIbN9kINKQ)

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## Charlie 119 Project – Engraved Bricks



## CHARLIE 119 PROJECT – DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Donations of **\$100 - \$499** qualify for an engraved 4" X 8" brick with 3 lines of text with a maximum of 16 characters per row, including spaces.

Donations of **\$500 or more** qualify for a C-119 T-shirt and an engraved 8" X 8" brick with up to 6 lines of text with a maximum of 16 characters per row, including spaces.

Donations of lesser amounts are always gladly accepted.

Please make checks payable to: **Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum** and state on the memo line: **Charlie 119**.

Brick order forms and T-shirt order forms will be mailed or e-mailed to qualifying donors.

Fill out the form below, cut on the dotted line and mail the bottom portion with your donation to:



**Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum  
Charlie 119 Project  
4742 Ray Boll Blvd.  
Columbus, IN 47203**

**Thanks for your generous support!**

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Charlie 119 Restoration Project

Amount of donation: \_\_\_\_\_

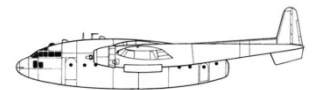
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2 \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

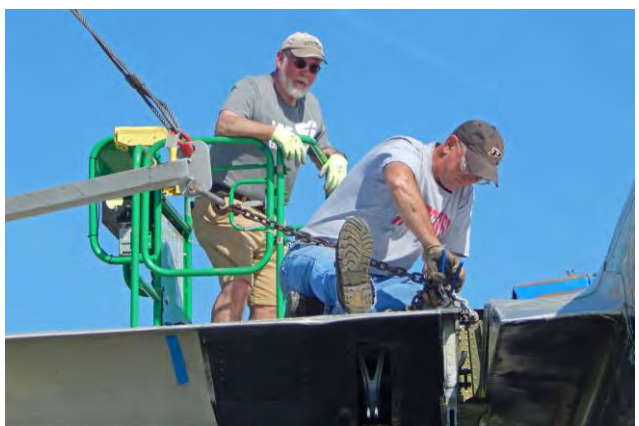




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Volunteers are always needed. Or, you can support the museum with a financial contribution.



## Help support the Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum by becoming a contributing member

Your tax deductible donation for a new or continuing membership helps us maintain the museum and make it available to the public at no charge.

Clip off the form below, fill it out, and mail it to:

Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum  
4742 Ray Boll Boulevard  
Columbus, IN 47203

- Yes, Please enroll me as a member of the Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum
- Individual Membership      \$30
- Family Membership              \$40
- Sustaining Membership        \$100
- Patron Membership              \$250
- Corporate Membership        \$500
- Special Recognition            \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Cut here for your receipt*



Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All 2022 membership contributions are Tax deductible, as the Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum qualifies as a 501(c)(3) organization

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_