

The Wing Script

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

Museum Membership Newsletter **Spring 2023** is published by the Museum Volunteers.
The publication name, "The Wing Script" is taken from the former air base newspaper

Charlie 119 Project – 2022



The restoration team resumed their work in May with the return of warm and dry weather.



The restored seats were reinstalled in the cockpit.

President Nick Firestone Remarks

Last year was the museum's 30th year of operation and it coincided with the September 9th dedication of our C-119 "Flying Boxcar" christened "City of Columbus Indiana" following a 3 year acquisition and restoration project by our volunteers. We still have more to do – see Page 4.

The C-119 was also the center of attention when the airport held a special free nighttime outdoor double feature movie event in October called Boxcar Cinema 119 with Disney's *Fire & Rescue* and *Jurassic World: Dominion*. The films were chosen because both featured C-119 aircraft.

Earlier in the year, our flight simulator was put into service on a limited basis while we trained our volunteers on its operation. It is now called the Flight Trainer and is available to visitors aged 16 and up when a trained docent is available.

Also, early in the year, two of our members began construction of a 1/8 scale B-26 "Martin Marauder". When completed, the aircraft will join the other 1/8 scale models in the museum.

In May, we were proud to add Jim Peters to *Our Gallant Men* wall. Jim retired from the Air Force, was a long time member of the museum and passed away in June, 2018.

In December, new, permanent stairs were installed for entry into the C-119 and we're planning to have periodic open houses this year.

We invite you to support us in our efforts to maintain, enhance and expand our "Living History Book", the Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum, by either renewing or beginning your museum membership for 2023.

If you received this newsletter via mail, you will find a Contributing Membership Application, a membership card and an envelope to mail your tax deductible membership application to the museum. If you do not have a membership application, please call or email the museum and we will send you one.

All of this wouldn't have been possible without the support of our many members, volunteers, airport staff, the Columbus Board of Aviation Commission, the Columbus Visitors Center and local businesses.

- Nick -

C-119 Dedication – Sept. 9, 2022



Finally, after three years of hard work, the C-119 was ready for the Dedication Ceremony. The Dedication Ceremony was held on Friday morning, September 9th, 2022.



The UH-1H Huey helicopter, from the Columbus Indiana Huey Group, also participated in the dedication.



Approximately 250 people attended the event. The entire 40 minute dedication ceremony was filmed. A video of the event can be seen on the museum's YouTube channel.

C-119 Dedication



Mayor Jim Lienhoop was one of the speakers.



The interior of the airplane was open to visitors.



Signs explained some of the unusual features of a military transport, and museum volunteers were available to answer questions.

Charlie 119 Project – 2022

The Restoration Team continued to work on the C-119 after the dedication ceremony.



Exterior flood lights were placed around the airplane.



The temporary, wooden, stairs were replaced with permanent aluminum stairs. These stairs were constructed by Central Sheet Metal of Columbus.

Charlie 119 Project - 2022



City of Columbus – 2023 Goals

Although exterior work on our C-119 is complete, there is still work to be done inside and outside the plane when warmer weather arrives. Here are some examples:

- Add two park benches outside the plane.
- Purchase and install fencing around the plane (current fencing is borrowed from the city).
- Design, purchase and install insulation inside the fuselage.
- Add radio equipment to the flight deck.
- Continue ongoing work to make sure the plane is weatherproof and bird proof.
- Continue ongoing work to add commemorative bricks to the display site.

Museum Tours

With the easing of COVID restrictions, many schools, and other organizations, have resumed organizing tours of the museum.



One of the 4th grade students from Schmitt Elementary School, Columbus asks a question.



A field trip for children from the Country Kids Day Care.



The museum is visited by a great variety of tour groups. Here is a group organized by a church.

Museum Tours



The local MOPS (Mothers Of PreSchoolers) group stops by the museum once or twice a year. The Media Center has some cartoons on hand for the little ones.



A Troop of Girl Scouts visited the museum to learn about the history of the airport. Afterwards they made some Thank-You cards that they gave to veterans.



The museum is also available for evening activities. This is a meeting of a local Cub Scout Troop. Please contact the museum several weeks in advance to schedule an event.

Special Events

Saturday, July 23, the first Splash Bash event was held at the airport. The event was intended to bring families to the airport for some water based fun.



Three different water slides were available.



The Columbus Fire Department was on hand.



Several additional water activities were available.

Many of the families also stopped at the museum to learn about the history of the airport.

Special Events

Another new event that was held at the airport was a movie night. An inflatable screen was erected behind the C-119 and two movies were shown after dark.



These two movies were selected because the C-119 played at least a minor role in the movie.



Major General Michael Keating of the British Army visited the museum. He had been participating in an exercise at Camp Atterbury. He wanted to learn a little local history when he had a few hours of down time.

Special Events

MSgt. James S. Peters USAF (Ret.) was added to the "Our Gallant Men" wall at the museum.

Jim Peters served in the Air Force from 1943-1965.

He flew 27 combat missions in a B-17 as a gunner/flight engineer during World War II. During the Korean War he serviced P-51s that flew close air support missions. During the Cold War he maintained B-36 and B-52 bombers of the Strategic Air Command.



Pat Billey, Museum Secretary, Jim Peters Jr. and his wife, Nancy Morris.



After he retired, Jim volunteered at the museum for many years. At the age of 94 he still attended the weekly volunteer meetings and worked as a docent.

Special Events



An event was held for all Vietnam veterans sponsored by the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Organization.



Museum volunteers visited Lincoln Elementary School in Columbus on Veterans Day.



A presentation was given to 150 children in K-3rd grades. This was followed by a second assembly for the 150 children in 4th - 6th grades.

71st Special Operations Squadron (SOS)

The 434th Tactical Airlift Wing was stationed at the air base 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 71st 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.

You can learn more about their tour in Vietnam by visiting:

<http://www.71stsos.com/>



The 151st Co. D Ranger (Airborne) veterans visited the museum as a part of their annual reunion. About 200 members of this Indiana National Guard unit were activated and sent to Vietnam in 1968. They were called to active duty at the same time as the 71st SOS from Bakalar AFB.

You can learn more about this Indiana unit by visiting:

<http://www.ranger151.com/history-of-the-indiana-rangers/>

Museum Improvements

Museum volunteers worked throughout the year to maintain the museum and to make improvements.



The carpet in the lobby was extended into the main gallery. This was done to protect the floor in areas of high traffic.



The fluorescent ceiling lights were replaced with LED bulbs. This was done to save money and to protect the artifacts on display. LEDs do not emit harmful UV light.

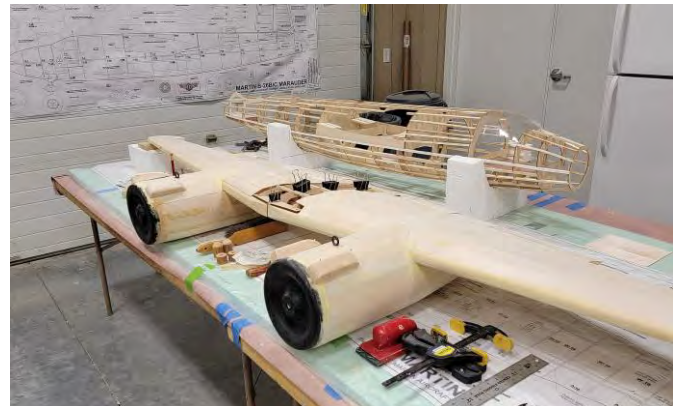


Minor repairs were made to the 80-year old chapel building. Additional work will be needed in 2023.

Museum Improvements



The First Financial Bank of Columbus held a book drive. They donated over 100 of the aviation books to the museum. Most of these books will be added to the museum library.



Some volunteers are building a 1/8 scale B-26 bomber. When completed, this airplane will be suspended from the ceiling along with the other aircraft models.



The flight trainer has been completed. Museum volunteers are now being trained in operating it.

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Volunteers Needed



When the museum reopens in March, we hope to resume a 5-days a week schedule (Tues-Sat.). For this to happen, we will need more active volunteers. Whatever your background or skill, there is a place for you at the museum. Note: You do not need to be a veteran to be a museum volunteer.

www.atterburybakalarairmuseum.org - The museum web site. This is good source for historical information.

www.facebook.com/atterburybakalarairmuseum - The museum Facebook page has information about coming events.

www.youtube.com/channel/UCSjdo3z_Wb8rZPIbN9kInkQ - The YouTube channel hosts videos and slide shows.

The Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum complex consists of the museum, Artifacts & Restoration Center, C-119 "Flying Boxcar" static display, 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.

Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum, Inc.
4742 Ray Boll Boulevard
Columbus, Indiana 47203
Phone: 812.372.4356
Web site: atterburybakalarairmuseum.org
Email: 434abmuseum@gmail.com

Donation Opportunities – C-119 Display



When The Charlie 119 Project began in 2019, engraved bricks were offered as an incentive for donations. All the bricks we received donations for have been installed, however, there is still space available for more engraved bricks and there is a need for donations to continue the project through its last stages. Below are the incentives for various donation amounts. The following pages contain the engraved brick and T-shirt order forms.

DONATION LEVELS

Amount	Level	Gift
\$ 100+	Rudder	4" X 8" engraved brick
\$ 250+	Landing Gear	4" X 8" engraved brick and a C-119 T-shirt
\$ 500+	Cockpit	8" X 8" engraved brick and a C-119 T-shirt
\$1000+	Wings	8" X 8" engraved brick and 5 C-119 T-shirts
\$2500+	Engine	8" X 8" engraved brick 5 C-119 T-shirts and permanent recognition at the Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum

NOTE: Donations of lesser amounts are always acceptable and appreciated.

4" X 8" Commemorative Brick Order Form

For Donations of \$100.00 - \$499.00

Please complete one form for each brick you would like to order.

Ordering Person's Information (Please print legibly):

Date: _____

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Bricks can be engraved with your name, an organization's name, or even in honor of another person.

To Be Engraved:

Each brick will be 4"x 8" and will allow for three rows of text 16 characters in each row (including spaces):

When the form is completed, please mail it with your donation to:

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



8" X 8" Commemorative Brick Order Form **For Donations of \$500.00 And Up**

Please complete one form for each brick you would like to order.

Ordering Person's Information (Please print legibly):

Date: _____

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Bricks can be engraved with your name, an organization's name, or even in honor of another person.

To Be Engraved:

Each brick will be 8"x 8" and will allow for six rows of text 16 characters in each row (including spaces):

When the form is completed, please mail it with your donation to:

Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum
C-119 Brick
4742 Ray Boll Blvd.
Columbus, IN 47203



T-Shirt Order Form For Donations of \$250.00 and Up

Ordering Person's Information (Please print legibly):

Date: _____

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Please indicate how many of each size and color T-shirt you are ordering and mail this form to the address below. Due to limited inventory, it may be necessary to substitute a different color.

ATTERBURY-BAKALAR AIR MUSEUM CHARLIE 119 T-SHIRTS			
SIZE	GREY	ROYAL BLUE	NAVY BLUE
S	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	
M			
L			
XL			
XXL			

When the form is completed, please mail it with your donation form to:

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