

Historic Aviation Memorial Museum



**PROP WASH
MAY 2021**

Museum

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Board Members

- Bob Strong, Pres——2021*
- Jack Downing ——2021*
- Jerry Murdoff ——2021*
- Lou Thomas, ——2022*
- Ken Toby——2022*
- Warren Moore, VP——2022*
- Michael Hilgert, VP——2023*
- Ivan Torres ——2023*
- Chip Williams ——2023*
- Jack Downing—(Secretary)

*Term Expiration Year

Museum Staff

Chip Williams——Curator

Karon Gilmore ——Finance

Gail Strong—— Librarian

MUSEUM OPENING

The Historic Aviation Memorial Museum had to close on February 16th due to water damage caused by a frozen fire suppression pipe that burst on the evening of the 15th. By the time we could get the water turned off, we had about 1 1/2 inches of water throughout the Museum. After much hard work by several of our HAMM volunteers, outside contractors and the airport maintenance staff, the Historic Aviation Memorial Museum was finally able to open to the public on April 23rd. Had you been here on the first weekend that we reopened, you could have enjoyed an impromptu free air show provided by Randy Ball of Fighter Jets Inc. It just so happened that he had made arrangements with the FAA to practice his full air show routine here at the airport. Several of our patrons got to witness the show and then bought T-shirts which Randy signed for them. Now that Covid restrictions have been lifted, the Museum has gone back to a full five day schedule. As of May 4th, the Museum is open from Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 to 4:00. Ironically, we reopened the museum in May of 2021, while the original grand opening of the Museum, on this site was May of 2008. It doesn't seem possible that we have been at this location for 13 years now. However, we do invite you and your friends to stop by and visit with the staff and look over some of our new and refreshed exhibits.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Museum is in dire need of some new volunteers. We especially need more volunteers as docents to escort and inform our guests about the various artifacts and aircraft on display. We have recently lost some of the active volunteers due to surgeries. Some of them will be returning as docents but others won't be able to because of failing health. The restoration hangar is always looking for volunteers to help refurbish and ready our aircraft for display at the museum. The gift shop is in need of help greeting our guests and collecting the entry fees. There are several other areas within the organization that volunteers can help the existing staff in their duties. Please stop by or call the Museum to inquire about helping our organization continue to serve the general public.

Texas African American Museum

This new museum in Tyler is located at 309 W MLK Jr. Blvd and run by Mrs. Washington. Tim Spence and Warren Moore of HAMM have been helping Mrs. Washington set up some exhibits and working on converting the overhead lighting to LED fixtures. Tim provided a mannequin dressed in a WWII army uniform while Michael Hilgert assembled a P-51B model, provided by Tim, and finished it in the correct paint scheme for the Red Tails. These, along with some reference books, were set up at the museum as displays. Now that HAMM is up and running again, Tim and Warren will finish up the lighting in Mrs. Washington's office and that will end their commitment. Even though the individual HAMM members donated their time and money towards these projects, they had a plaque created and placed within the museum that stated HAMM had provided the help. Kudos to these members and the work they did.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

The museum had a couple of opportunities this past week to spread the word about who we are and what we do. The Property Shoppe Group, a local real estate company, contacted us and asked if we would do an interview and video that they could post on their website. They have taken videos of several different tourist sites of Tyler that might be of interest to visitors and Tylerites as well. We replied in the affirmative and they came by on the 26th when Michael Hilgert showed them around the museum and answered questions they had. That interview should be posted on their website soon. The second opportunity occurred when a local group, Tyler Connections, asked if one of our members would be a speaker at one of their luncheons. In this case Ivan Torres said he would be glad to and I'm waiting to hear back how that went and how much interest was shown by the participants. If you hear of, or know of, an organization or opportunity for the Museum to participate and get the word out to the area that we are here be sure to let us know.

BRICK BY BRICK

With Memorial Day fast approaching this might be a good time to go ahead and purchase that memorial brick dedicated to a loved one that has served our great country. We would be proud to place it in our Memorial Garden along side so many others that have been honored by their families. If this is something that you have been putting off, please contact one of our volunteers and let them assist you in completing this tribute.

UPCOMING EVENTS

East Texas Modelers Meeting 1:30 PM June 5th

Board of Directors meeting 3:00 PM June 23rd

General Membership Meeting 10:00 AM June 26th

The speaker will be Erasmo Pinero who works at Bell Textron in the field of propulsion analysis. He was a Naval Flight Officer; had two aircraft carrier deployments and logged 800 hours in 12 different aircraft. His topic will be the invasion of The Bay of Pigs in Cuba.

Rose City Airfest at Tyler Pounds Airport July 2nd

The Warbird Expo at HAMM July 2-4

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