

# AMC MUSEUM



FOUNDATION INC.

1301 Heritage Road Dover AFB, DE 19902-5301  
www.amcmuseum.org

7 Aug 17

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Dear Friend of the AMC Museum:

On behalf of our staff & volunteers, I am writing to ask you to join our 2017 Annual Campaign to raise money in support of our continuing mission to be a world class educational and historical facility. As in the past, your *tax-deductible* gift will be used by the Foundation to restore and maintain our aircraft, care for our artifact collection, construct new exhibits, develop more educational programs and support our volunteers. Please help us broaden our outreach to the general public and the Air Force community.

Our surveys tell us that most of our visitors hear about the Museum from their families and friends. The internet and road signs are the second and third most popular ways to get the word out. However, how fortunate are we to have our best advertisers *in the Museum* every day – our VOLUNTEERS!

Out of our one hundred fifty museum volunteers, eighty-one are tour guides, fifty are on the restoration crews and thirteen work in the store. Others cover the archivist, volunteer coordinator/scheduler and librarian roles. The AMC Museum Foundation is also made up of folks who dedicate their time and efforts to the AMC Museum, although with a few exceptions, it's generally more of a "behind the scenes" volunteerism.

Each of these volunteers plays an important role in the success of our Air Mobility Command Museum. They're retired and active, military and civilian, mechanics, electricians, construction workers, school teachers and even a state legislator. Ranging in age from 18 to 96 (just *one* of our WWII veterans), our volunteers are here to have fun doing what they love to do and sharing that joy with our lucky visitors! Then those same visitors leave and share that enthusiasm with their families, friends and neighbors. And before you know it, we're setting another record for visitor numbers and grabbing yet another one of TripAdvisor's "Certificate of Excellence"! Well done!

How are our volunteers also our advertisers? Very simply, it's the **AMC Museum experience** that our guests leave with. With a visitor's initial entry into the museum, they're apt to run into a store volunteer or a tour guide and get a warm welcome. As our guides show them what we've got and tell some of their stories that go along with the



A recurring car show at the AMC Museum offers a rare opportunity to intermingle classic "Wings and Wheels".

exhibits, it can't help but make an impression. And there's no doubt that we have some of the finest restored aircraft of any museum in the world!

This combination of pride and professionalism from our volunteers has been sending our visitors home with an encounter they don't soon forget – and they're telling their friends. You've certainly read it here before – our Museum couldn't exist without the backbone of our volunteer force!

The Museum staff and the Foundation have always been in complete agreement that the AMC Museum, quite frankly, would simply be a ramp with some hardware without the dedication, selflessness and hard work of our volunteers. Give them a “thanks” next time you see one. We cannot do it without them!

Over the years, the Foundation has often been called upon to help with some of the day-to-day expenses of the Museum. One very important expense, since 2015, has been the Foundation-funding of an employee (AMC Museum Restoration Chief) who's been a knowledgeable and skilled jack-of-all-trades for the Museum. Thanks to his knowledge, skills and initiative, his presence continues to take a huge load off the Director and Deputy Director -- and the Museum wins.

On a fairly regular basis, because of the way the Museum is funded through the Air Force, there are instances when the Foundation will step up to fill shortfalls. One example might be that those shortages could cause our restoration volunteers to be ready to work, but not have the appropriate tools, hardware or other miscellaneous “stuff” to keep ‘em restoring. Those shortages might be caused by budgetary constraints, complicated procurement processes, or simply a short-notice requirement. We're happy to step in – it's what we do. The Foundation tries to stay vigilant for great prices and smart buying, constantly fine-tuning that process to ensure that our spending of your money is being properly managed.

Similar to past years' funding, last year the Foundation support for the Museum included the AMC Museum website support ([www.amcmuseum.org](http://www.amcmuseum.org)), vehicle support, some Thirtieth Anniversary expenses, the Hangar Digest, volunteer support and of course, aircraft restoration.

We carefully monitor our operating costs for the administration of the Foundation. Those include expenses like accounting fees (from an independent downtown firm), liability insurance, membership and brick program management (contracted), and postage and office supplies



Our “Bench Program” has proven to be a popular and self-sustaining way for our visitors to be a lasting part of the Museum.



The view from the AMC Museum's control tower cab. It's the actual unit that was used at Dover AFB from 1956 until 2009, spanning the propeller-driven C-54 Skymaster era thru today's modern jet-age C-17 Globemaster III.

Like all the other AMC Museum volunteers, all Foundation Board members also serve voluntarily. Let me introduce you to a few of our board members, to give you an idea of why they're here, what they do and how much they enjoy their partnering with the Air Mobility Command Museum.



Bob Mench's latest project for the Museum was to supervise the creation of a "clean room" for the graphics shop in the restoration hangar.

**Bob Mench**, a six-year board member, said it has been a great experience working with other board members, mostly former Air Force, but with a cross-section of business, professional, industrial and other government members – all who freely give their time and efforts. "We are very proud of our Museum" Bob said. "It has been a pleasure and an honor to help raise funds to supplement the Air Force budget; money to supply anything from pickup trucks, storage sheds, and restoration supplies to hats, tee shirts and dinners for volunteers". And you can be sure that over these six years, Bob has consistently been one of our most dedicated, and fruitful, fundraisers.

Former *Dover Hardware* owner, **Bob Berglund** has been a windfall to the Foundation for the ten years



Bob Berglund's advertising insights have saved the Foundation thousands of advertising dollars over the last ten years.

he's been with us. With forty-plus years in the retail trade business, and having had the opportunity to serve on several 501(c)3 boards, he's been able to bring *both* perspectives to the Foundation, especially in the areas of retail sales and advertising. "One of the great benefits to me" he said "is to enjoy the company of like-minded veterans . . . the educational mission is so important to remind the public of the need for strong air power. If pride is one of the seven deadly sins," he reminds us, "aren't we all guilty about the museum?"

Foundation Board Secretary (for 16 years), **Phil White**, said the work "has been a very enjoyable experience in helping to preserve a bit of Aviation History". He went on to say that as a non-profit organization, we're able to supplement the AF funding received by



Seems like just yesterday (Jan 2016) that Phil White was selected to be Volunteer of the Quarter. The board's *secretary extraordinaire* is the longest-serving member of the AMC Museum Foundation Board!

the Museum and play "an integral part, although behind the scenes and seldom noticed, of keeping the Museum afloat. The joy comes in knowing the public can visit the Museum for FREE and leave having gained tremendous knowledge from the Museum's outstanding all-volunteer Tour Guides. The restoration Team and Store volunteers also play an important part in making this Museum the **MOST VISITED FREE ATTRACTION IN THE STATE FOR THE PAST**



"Let there be light!" AMC Museum Foundation Vice President, Paul Gillis, is always moving. For the last several months, his engineering skills have highlighted – literally - several of our exhibits and many of our aircraft.

**6 YEARS."** And of course he finished saying that none of it would be possible "without both the 170+ volunteers and the AMC Museum Foundation". Now how's THAT for a cheerleader!!

In 1988, Foundation Vice-president, **Paul Gillis**, was asked by his neighbor to help work on Shoo Shoo Shoo Baby. After helping with the top turret installation he started filming engine runs – and also became an expert at propping engines. Already a well-established "go-to" guy in the 512<sup>th</sup>, Paul was

then asked to be the operations officer for the project. On the day of the Wright-Patt flight, Paul had expected to fly in the C-130, but got asked if he'd like to fly in one of the escort P-51 Mustangs! Not a bad welcome into the Museum family. After his retirement, Paul accepted an invitation to join the Foundation; he said it was a great opportunity to pursue his interests in history. It was also a great opportunity for the Foundation and the Museum to take advantage of his rock-solid dedication and his underutilized engineering training. A Volunteer-of-the-Quarter in 2012, Paul has updated most of the Museum's lighting displays and added LED lighting to many of our aircraft, even wiring some with solar power. That's important, to us and to him, but it's not the only reason he's here. "I really like talking to the people about AF history and our aircraft, especially the occasional WWII vet." In talking about a loadmaster he'd taken on a C-119 one afternoon, he said the Korean War veteran "just stared at the back of the plane for a few minutes and then proceeded to tell me and his two sons about dropping the bridge to save the Marines at the Chosin Reservoir. He was one of the six who did it." Small world.

There you have it in a nutshell; you see what we do, who we are, and what part we play in the Air Mobility Command Museum. We're working hard to keep our Museum a "must see" attraction for the state of Delaware. We're trying hard to have fun, whether it's talking with a veteran who's made history on our aircraft or talking a local business into donating some money to help support our grand cause. We're happy to keep supporting our great volunteer force, whether it's blue aircraft paint or blue golf shirts. Your support makes that possible.



So now that you've received this letter in the mail asking you to support this year's AMC Museum Foundation fundraiser, take some time to come out for another visit. Tap into some of those stories that our guides so love to share. Be amazed at the craftsmanship involved with our restorations. Take pictures. Stop by the store and see what unique gifts we just might have for that hard-to-buy-for special someone. Then go home and post your pictures on your Facebook page, tell your family, friends and neighbors what a great time you had – and tell 'em why it was so great.

And then sit down and send us what you think we're worth.

Y'all have a great summer!

Fly safe! Blue skies and tailwinds,



Don Sloan, Colonel, USAF Reserve (Ret.)  
President, The AMC Museum Foundation



We're pleased to still be able to offer our \$50 donors a chance to win a sightseeing flight in a 1941 PT-17 Stearman OR a giclée of your choice from our AMC Museum's Aviation Art series.

New this year, we'll also send our \$100 (or more) donors something a little novel from our Museum Store. You'll receive a custom dog tag, an AMC Museum dog tag, two rubber silencers, a 4.5 inch chain and a 24 inch chain. The order form is included in this package.

