The AMC Museum Hangar Digest is published quarterly and is dedicated to the preservation of our airlift and tanker heritage. All articles, unless otherwise noted, are written by the editor. Viewpoints in this publication are those of the contributing authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The AMC Museum Foundation or of the Museum’s staff. Subscriptions are free and are mailed via nonprofit standard mail to paid-up members of The AMC Museum Foundation Inc.

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What is the Air Mobility Command Museum?

Located in Hangar 1301 on Dover Air Force Base, Kent County, Delaware, the AMC Museum is part of the National Museum of the United States Air Force’s field museum system.

One of the reasons your AMC Museum continues to provide a great educational experience is that we stick very closely to our reason for being.

So exactly what is our mission? Broken down by numbers our mission is 70 percent airlift and air-refueling, 20 percent Dover AFB history and 10 percent Air Force general history. Our aircraft and artifact collection sticks very closely to that breakdown. But we work hard to be much more than numbers. We tell the stories of the people who have served in our nation’s Air Force, and we offer the only opportunity for many visitors to see the actual aircraft and meet the people who have served our country.

Hangar 1301 was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. Although located on Dover AFB proper, entrance to the Museum must be made from Delaware Route 9, south of the base. Admission to and parking at the Museum is free and military identification is not required. The Air Mobility Command Museum is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. It is closed on Mondays and all federal holidays except Veterans Day. For more information, call 302-677-5938 or 302-677-5991.

We like to say we are a window to your Air Force. Let us know how we can continue to improve our outreach and family-friendly experience.

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Veterans Affairs
Val Camarillo informs vets visiting AMC Museum

Information is the heart and soul of any museum, but visitors to the AMC Museum were able to get a little extra education during 2019 thanks to the efforts of Air Force veteran Valerie Camarillo.

A community outreach specialist with the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Wilmington, Del., Camarillo was on hand once a month to provide some one-on-one help to veterans visiting the AMC Museum.

“I wanted to get the word out to veterans about what benefits they’re eligible for,” Camarillo said. “I also want veterans in Delaware to know the Wilmington VA has nearby VA clinics in Kent and Sussex counties. They don’t have to travel to Wilmington to see a primary care doctor.”

The Museum’s staff was eager to take advantage of Camarillo’s expertise, AMCM Operations Manager Mike Hurlburt said.

“Val reached out to us to see if she could set up during our Open Cockpit Days to inform veterans of the services that the VA has available,” he said.

Open Cockpit Days are held the third Saturday of each month between April and October. Because the Museum strives to open as many planes in its collection as possible, these days usually see a larger number of visitors, Hurlburt said. Many of those are service veterans who bring their children and grandchildren to see what the AMCM has to offer.

Taking charge
A native of Erie, Pa., Camarillo was assigned to Dover AFB, Del., upon enlisting in 1997. She’s never left.

Camarillo joined the Delaware Air National Guard as an operations controller upon leaving active duty in 2001. After earning her bachelor’s degree, she taught for about 10 years at the Campus Community School in Dover.

She worked tirelessly on her education, eventually earning her master’s degree in Education. She’s served both in the ANG and with the 512th Airlift Wing at Dover, advancing to the grade of master sergeant before receiving her commission as a second lieutenant in 2012. Now a captain, she serves as a force support services officer and was the Delaware Air National Guard’s first full-time sexual assault response coordinator.

It was while working with the Delaware ANG that she learned of a vacancy for an outreach coordinator with Veterans Affairs.

“I met outreach specialist Mark Taylor, who knew of my dedication to helping veterans in need and asked if I’d be interested in applying as a VA outreach specialist,” she said.

“I was ecstatic when I was offered the position.”

Her primary role is to inform veterans, veteran service organizations, and elected state representatives about VA healthcare options available to eligible veterans. She also assists veterans with enrolling in VA healthcare.

“Many veterans don’t know they’re eligible for VA medical care and don’t know their benefits,” Camarillo said. She has also found they need help enrolling in the program and receiving assistance with filing claims.

“A lot of times veterans don’t realize that if they qualify for VA health care, it doesn’t affect any other health insurance they may have,” she explained. “VA health care is just an added benefit for them to use.”

For some veterans, health care through the VA may be the only medical benefits they have, Camarillo added. Many are surprised to find that, with few exceptions, VA health benefits come at no cost.

During her time with the VA and those Saturdays at the AMCM, Camarillo has learned many veterans are unfamiliar with the new Mission Act, which went into effect in June 2019.

The act gives eligible veterans new options when dealing with their healthcare. For example, they can opt into Community Care and see an outside provider, as long as the VA has scheduled the appointment. The VA covers the cost.

Urgent care visits at participating centers may be had without preapproval or cost. Veterans also will receive a $30 co-pay from the VA after the fourth visit in a calendar year.

“To be eligible, veterans must be enrolled in the VA’s health care system,” Camarillo said. “This option makes it easier to get medical attention, particularly when away from home.”

The stories, the experiences
Camarillo has been successful in her primary mission of helping vets understand the VA system. She’s even assisted with enrolling some of the Museum’s more than 100 volunteers.

“I love hearing all the stories the AMC Museum volunteer staff share with me,” she said. “The history they have experienced and the things you would never have known happened. They share them with me, and it’s truly an honor to hear them.”

“I love the fact that they can come to me and talk to me about their healthcare needs.”

She’s also gotten reaction from when they come back from their first VA appointments.

“I love it when one of them come up to me and share their current experience at the VA and how happy they are with the services they now are receiving, services they never knew they were eligible for before.”

She’s also learned a lot of younger veterans don’t ask for help right away.

“At the Museum, I have had a lot of senior veterans asking for my assistance in enrolling their sons or daughters who are veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.”

“While at the Museum, a father came up to me and said his son, who was a veteran, was having addiction issues. I met with his son and assisted in getting him enrolled with the VA. And to think the father had just come in to look at airplanes with his grandchildren,” she said.

“A lot of times, veterans will come to me and say they can’t get hearing aids because they’re so expensive. I tell them if they qualify, they can get them for free,” she said.

Homeless veterans also are an area of major concern.

“I work to get them going in the right direction, I connect them with VA and state resources to learn about housing and health care,” she said. “One of my main focuses this year is suicide prevention. We are losing too many veterans to suicide.”

And although she’s been on the job now since January 2019, she and Taylor have assisted in enrolling over 500 veterans.

Not one to rest on her laurels, Camarillo is working to return to the AMCM during 2020.

“I’m planning to come back because I’m a resource that can provide information on health care veterans may be eligible for,” she said. “Being at the AMCM has been a great avenue to explore, and it has been worth it.”

Camarillo’s work covers all Delaware, and she can be reached at 302-357-8715.

If you are a service member or veteran in crisis, call 1-800-273-8255, then press 1 to speak to someone 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
I am very proud of the Museum team and their accomplishments. To see a diverse group of individuals of all ages, with a myriad of skills, continue to develop together as a successful team is rewarding.

Our faithful volunteers provide their time and expertise supporting the museum mission of preserving military aviation history.

In 2019, the museum volunteer team of 140 contributed 33,000 hours performing duties as tour guides, archivists and other essential areas such as aircraft restoration, library, store, visitor reception, and volunteer event coordination.

Our current permanent staffing is well on its way to getting healthy. Museum efforts to achieve additional staff have been approved by the Air Mobility Command and supported by the 436 Airlift Wing.

Two major aircraft restorations are in progress; the KB-50J and C-119B. New exhibit projects, volunteer awards, and facility upgrades are keeping everyone busy.

The Museum team developed a community outreach program to bring the heritage of the museum to schools and the local community. Volunteers in realistic World War II uniforms bring history alive and accurately demonstrate personnel roles, such as Women Air Force Service Pilots, glider pilots, and artillerymen.

Current Museum restrooms are getting a complete renovation thanks to the support of the 436 Airlift Wing and should be complete by March 2020. We do have heated restroom facilities in the meantime, so do not let the construction keep you from visiting.

Also, in 2019 the Museum developed its inaugural 25-year Strategic Vision.

Our vision is to create the most definitive military airlift and refueling museum and to be the benchmark of quality for the USAF Heritage Program Field Museums. Priorities will be to maintain an unrivaled inventory of mobility aircraft and exhibits, inspire and educate new generations through educational outreach, develop and maintain a professional and proficient staff, and build and sustain world-class facilities.

The Museum opened its doors to 140,000 visitors in 2019. The Museum team has been hard at work on many fronts and ready to welcome in 2020.

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Hello! As the AMCM’s deputy director, I will be providing a snapshot of museum aircraft restoration and exhibits.

On the restoration front, the KB-50J is coming along well. With the support of the 512th Maintenance Squadron, we gained major ground in restoring the fuselage structure which had deteriorated in the salt air at MacDill Air Force Base. More than 20 brackets have been replaced outright along three bulkheads in the rear of the aircraft and several major panels were fabricated to replace ones that were corroded through. Sheet metal personnel also replaced several longerons heavily damaged from corrosion.

Museum volunteers, headed by the aircraft crew chief Tim Maurer, continue to work on interior components by cleaning, sanding, priming, and painting on a mass scale. Tim replaced the majority of the cockpit windows to get the forward fuselage weather-tight for the winter. With the cold and wet season, new challenges are in store to continue the restoration at a pace to ensure the aircraft is ready for its spring dedication.

The weather will no doubt slow the pace as the crew continues to battle the elements into the winter months.

The C-119B is structurally in a far better place. Museum volunteers are finishing up the installation of external panels removed before the aircraft was shipped. We’ve learned the real challenge will be replacing internal pieces of the aircraft as it was pretty much stripped out over the years. We’re looking for sources for replacement instruments and fittings to get the aircraft interior into spec.

One component of the aircraft that was missing are the empennage end planes that were removed when the aircraft was modified to the C-119C configuration during its service life. Volunteers are working with the original drawings to see what could be produced to fabricate and install them.

Eventually, the aircraft will be painted to reflect its historical place in history as one of eight aircraft that dropped M2 Treadway bridge sections to the U.S. Marine and U.S. Army personnel during the Korean War with their withdrawal from the Chosin Reservoir in 1950.

After a flurry of additions to the hangar display area, including the completion of the stage for the CG-4A glider and the addition of several information “crates,” Museum Collections Manager and Exhibit Specialist Hal Sellars has completed work on the walls of the entrance hallway to the museum. The new look greatly enhances the appearance of the hallway as visitors get their first look at our facility. A new POW/MIA memorial display is in the works that will feature an aircrew seat to commemorate the prisoners of war and those who remain missing in action. The display will be quite fitting.

The replica Dover AFB guard shack exhibit has moved to the entrance of the hangar from up on the mezzanine. We had it reduced in size to make it less bulky and it is far more accurate to the original shown in the historic 1940s photo than what we’d had on display. A new guard display will be at the entrance to the hangar complete with a new mannequin and props that will be more accurate to the photo we have grown to know quite well by now.

Plans are in place to add another set of paratroopers to the existing C-47 display, and more artifact-friendly versions will replace several mannequins now in the cases. These new mannequins are really bland compared to the originals; in fact, they have no details at all. However, it has been learned that just about all of the detailed mannequins you see today are not archive-safe for the apparel and equipment that are on them. The vinyl hands and faces, for example, will “sweat” after a while when the constituent oils start returning to their natural state, causing the oil to soak the apparel, destroying it in the process. The National Museum of the USAF is working to replace hundreds of such mannequins and having seen the damage sweating has done first hand, it is a necessary evil. This won’t affect mannequins with replica attire, but for ones with original apparel, the new “form-a-foam” mannequins will be used.

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John Taylor
Director

Eric Czerwinski
Deputy Director

The Museum’s Korean War C-119 will be painted to look like it did when it dropped M2 Treadway bridge sections at the Chosin Reservoir.
Hi folks! Mike Hurlburt here, to provide some insight on Museum operations. 

The AMC Museum is excited to announce we have completely revamped the volunteer recognition program. This new initiative includes new categories and awards at certain levels.

For the first time, we will recognize as Volunteer of the Month the person who displays exceptional dedication and devotion to the efforts of the AMC Museum. That person will receive a small trophy as well as a designated parking spot at the museum for the month following their award.

We will continue the Volunteer of the Quarter level, but with a whole new award we believe anyone would be proud to display. This recognition will go to the volunteer who demonstrates hard work and leadership qualities over three months.

Another new level is the Volunteer of the Year award, which will go to the person who shows true devotion to the Museum throughout the entire year.

With this being the very first Volunteer of the Year award, it was simply impossible for the Museum staff to select a single person worthy of this recognition. Since we have so many truly wonderful people, we have decided to present this award to three volunteers for this inaugural year only.

We also are recognizing those volunteers to have contributed their efforts over many years. The 5,000-hour award has changed from a plaque to a very elegant desk clock. We felt it was appropriate to give back time to those that have donated so much of their own time to the Museum. Those reaching the 10,000-hour mark will still receive an airplane of their choice from the Museum gift store.

We are also proud to say our new electronic timekeeping system is working very well. It has drastically reduced the time required to manually input volunteer hours but has also enabled us to achieve real-time data in support of museum operations. In 2019, museum volunteers have supported over 200 scheduled tours for 5,600 guests.

These tours continuously receive rave reviews, not only about the knowledge of the docents but the amazing quality of the aircraft, which speaks volumes about our superb restoration team.

Throughout 2019 we hosted several special events that included speakers such as North Korean defectors, Holocaust survivors, an engineer from ILC Dover, and our staff and volunteers doing presentations about Operation Market Garden and the history of housing on Dover AFB.

In 2019, the Museum hosted a commemoration for the 75th anniversary of D-Day, which was a huge success. The museum assisted with the Thunder over Dover Air Show we also educated 96 students during the Aviation Summer Camp and hosted the Geographical Information System day for more than 250 students. We held tribute events such as the 9/11 memorial, Veterans Day, a Ground Zero commemoration flag ceremony, the 911 tribute flame and a tribute truck. All of these events were only possible with the assistance of our truly amazing core of volunteers.

Mike Hurlburt
Operations Manager

Museum, Foundation members named to Hall of Fame

Six Delawareans, including current and former members of the AMC Museum and AMC Museum Foundation, were named to the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame in ceremonies held Nov. 2, 2019.

Harry Van Den Heuvel’s aviation career began at the ripe old age of 17 when he enlisted in the Air Force following the outbreak of the Korean War. Over the following 21 years, he flew on or worked on the C-119, B-47, and C-130, serving in maintenance positions at bases in the United States, to include Dover and New Castle, Del., as well as Germany, Saudi Arabia, and Okinawa. Following his Air Force retirement, Harry was a member and leader of many aviation-related organizations, to include the Air Force Association, the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame, the Civil Air Patrol, Friends of the Bellanca Airfield, as treasurer of the Air Mobility Command Museum Foundation and as director of aviation for the Delaware Department of Transportation. While in the latter position, he is credited with effecting numerous improvements for aviation facilities and functions in the First State. He flew his own airplanes and bought and painted a replacement airport beacon tower for Bellanca Airfield.

Born in Manhattan, George Schofield joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in March 1942, serving as a navigator with the Air Transport Command. He was a member of the 6th, 20th, and 2nd Ferrying Groups, navigating B-24s, B-25s and C-47s to the Pacific Theater and C-46s, C-54s, B-26s, A-20s and A-20s across South America to England and India. He was awarded the Air Medal after amassing more than 2,000 flight hours and at least 160,000 miles, flying in war-weary aircraft using what now are considered primitive navigation practices, often in unpredictable, hazardous weather. He left the Army Air Forces in December 1946 but retained his commission in the Air Force Reserves, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel. Returning to Manhattan, he joined the New York City Fire Department, rising to the rank of captain over a 35-year career. George contributed personal accounts of his experiences to the revised issue of “The History of the 2nd Ferrying Group,” and has recorded oral histories of his experiences for the University of Delaware. Living today in Camden, Del., at the age of nearly 100 years, he still serves as a guide at the Air Mobility Command Museum, escorting visitors through some of the same aircraft he navigated almost 80 years earlier.

After graduating from the Air Force Academy in 1973, Don Sloan flew more than 13,000 hours in Lockheed’s C-141A/B Starlifter and C-5A Galaxy. He’s flown combat support missions in operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. He retired from the Air Force Reserve in 2006 after serving as commander of the 512th Operations Group at Dover AFB. Since then, he has flown his 1941 PT-17 Stearman and 1947 L-16 Aerocna Grasshopper, taking hundreds of enthusiastic aviators, pilots, and non-pilots of all ages on sightseeing rides over Delmarva. Don joined the Air Mobility Command Museum Foundation as a member in 2005, was elected vice president in 2006 and has served as president of the Foundation’s board of directors since October 2008.

Other honorees included U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. James Connell, who died a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, U.S. Air Force Reserve Lt. Col. Gaylan Crumley, for his service in the Air Force, as a civilian airline pilot and as an aviation instructor, and Homer “Sonny” Rehm, who oversaw the development of the spacecraft used during the Apollo lunar missions.
Awards

Volunteers feted at annual recognition dinner

The annual AMCM Volunteers Recognition Dinner was the occasion as AMC Museum Director John Taylor, Deputy Director Eric Czerwinsk and Operations Manager Mike Hurlburt announced the results of the Museum’s revised volunteer recognition program.

In a first, something Taylor said only will happen in 2019, three individuals — Paul George, Don Hall and Timothy Maurer — were named Volunteer of the Year. The selection committee had to recognize all three due to their equally significant impact on the Museum, he said.

About 100 volunteers and family members attended the Dec. 12 Christmas dinner, funded in part by the AMC Museum Foundation. Hurlburt spearheaded the revitalized program, which included redesigned physical awards and plaques, also provided by the Foundation.

The Museum’s 147 volunteers spent more than 33,000 hours showing visitors through its displays and aircraft, Taylor added. The Museum received a 95 percent 5-star rating, determined through visitors’ questionnaires and a similarly positive rating through the TripAdvisor travel website. Based on 803 visitor reviews, the site rates the AMCM as the number one attraction in Dover.

“It doesn’t get any better than that,” Taylor said, “and all of that is directly related to everyone in this room, including the spouses.

“You all amaze me every time I walk into the Museum,” he added. “You bring together all this diversity and talent into a team that just blows me away.”

Kudos to all of our outstanding AMCM volunteers . . .

Paul George
AMCM Volunteer of the Year – 2019
Wing Staff Agency and 436th AW Volunteer of the Quarter

Paul contributed more than 1,150 hours of service to the Air Mobility Command Museum, fulfilling responsibilities as the volunteer coordinator and scheduling manager, providing critical services to the operation of the Museum, coordinating with the base populace and local community. He took the leadership role in scheduling more than 5,000 guests for tours, events, and activities. He researched and coordinated all aspects of an initiative to create a more visible and efficient scheduling concept for the Museum’s operational programs. For the first time, the Museum’s scheduling process has been electronically centralized and is being shared with staff and tour guides for all Museum calendar events for more than 50 monthly activities. He amazes staff and all who visit the AMC Museum with his professionalism and dedication and continues to volunteer at the AMCM four days a week.

Don Hall
AMCM Volunteer of the Year – 2019
Wing Staff Agency and 436th AW Volunteer of the Quarter

Don contributed more than 970 hours of service to the Air Mobility Command Museum. He fulfilled responsibilities as a volunteer docent providing educational tours of the AMCM to a good portion of our more than 140,000 annual visitors. Month after month, Don consistently receives outstanding reviews for his knowledge, personality, and simply providing visitors with an experience of a lifetime. His motivation and dedication to the Museum, its visitors and its artifacts enhance the experience for all who meet him. He is the most requested docent from returning visitors and has received outstanding accolades from visitor surveys and social media outlets. As a mentor to other docents, he has trained more than 30 new tour guides on the proper procedures and techniques of giving an informative and educational tour.

Timothy Maurer
AMCM Volunteer of the Year – 2019
Wing Staff Agency and 436th AW Volunteer of the Quarter

Tim has contributed more than 940 hours of service to the Air Mobility Command Museum and the preservation of U.S. Air Force aviation history through his work as a restoration volunteer and as the KB-50J aircraft crew chief. Managing a team of seven volunteers and three sheet metal technicians, he has worked in the heat of the summer months, coordinating resources and direct hand-on expertise for the continuing restoration of the earliest extant aerial refueler in the world. Through his motivation, dedication and skills he has provided the Air Force heritage program and the AMC Museum with priceless manhours toward the preservation of Air Force aviation history, enhancing the experiences of all. He coordinated efforts with an aviation engineer to evaluate the KB-50J aircraft for its overall structural integrity. He established a robust restoration plan and prioritized repair areas, avoiding work stoppages and saving countless manhours. He is a natural leader who inspires others around him.

(Paul George, John Taylor and Don Hall)

(Tim Maurer and John Taylor)
Patrick O'Neill  
**AMCM Volunteer of the Month – Nov. 2019**

Patrick contributed more than 25 hours of services during November 2019, both to the AMCM and the local community. He has played a vital role in the creation and presentation of the AMCM’s new “Living History” program, leading a three-man team of volunteers who portray a variety of World War II soldiers, including glider pilots, infantrymen, and mechanics, bringing history to vivid life for visitors. Patrick also takes his uniforms, accessories and knowledge to local events along with the Museum’s outreach team to explain all that the Museum has to offer. Constantly getting rave reviews and positive comments for his portrayal of what life was like for soldiers during World War II, he and his team have significantly increased the visitor experience while at our Museum.

*(Eric Czerwinski, Patrick O’Neill, John Taylor and Mike Hurlburt)*

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Doug Degraves  
**AMCM Volunteer of the Quarter – Oct. – Dec. 2019**

Doug has contributed more than 100 hours of service to the Air Mobility Command Museum and the local community. He has fulfilled his responsibilities as head of the Museum’s outreach team in assembling a robust travel kit including displays, tables, tents, and pamphlets to reach out to members of the local community to inform the public about the AMC Museum. This program provides information that includes what is available to visitors of all ages as well as volunteer opportunities at the Museum. He has been a constant presence at all Dover AFB newcomers’ briefings as well as many base and community events throughout Dover and Kent County. His tenacious attitude in promoting the Museum has brought several volunteers and countless visitors to the Museum’s doors.

*(Doug Degraves and John Taylor)*

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Don Rynes, right, was recognized by Museum Director John Taylor for his more than 10,000 hours of volunteer service. Don quickly selected a model of the C-5 for his award.

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Bill Judd also was honored by Museum Director John Taylor and Operations Manager Mike Hurlburt on reaching the 5,000-hour volunteer mark.
Public television highlights AMCM volunteers

The Air Mobility Command Museum is well known as Kent County, Delaware’s prime tourist attraction. Now, thanks to public television, the Museum has gained a far wider audience.

A video crew from Philadelphia’s WHYY-TV was at the Museum Tuesday, Oct. 29, to interview its volunteers for its public information program, “You Oughta Know.”

Led by producer/director Brian Drouin, the team spent the day filming inside and outside Hangar 1301 and talking to the volunteers as well as Operations Manager Mike Hurlburt.

“You Oughta Know” is a 30-minute lifestyle magazine show, Drouin said.

“We look at people, places, and things that you ought to know about within the tri-state area,” he said. “You Oughta Know” airs Thursday nights and features several segments per program. Shirley Min and Regina Mitchell co-host the series.

“We try to tell about some of the interesting things in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, and the people in the area while trying to have a little bit of fun,” Drouin added.

‘Some really cool stories’

A former Air Force dependent, Drouin learned about the AMC Museum several years ago from his father, who once worked at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey.

“He used to go to Dover for training, and he knew I was looking for stories,” Drouin said.

“He told me there was a museum down there that was restoring old airplanes. I went on the Internet and found it.”

His most recent effort was Drouin’s third story about the AMCM; his initial project profiled work done by Museum restoration crews while the second examined how the railroads were integral to the effort to win World War II.

But Drouin also has visited the Museum on his own time.

“Every year, my family and I go down to the [Delaware] beaches for vacation. We’ve done that since my son was in diapers, and he’s 10 now,” he said. “We always made the Museum a stop on the way where we’d have lunch and walk around.

“We like the Museum, and it has some really cool stories to tell. We were here in September, and when we were leaving, it occurred to me we should do a story about the volunteers who volunteer there.

“They’re such a major part of the Museum,” Drouin said. “So, I reached out and it just jumped off from there.”

“Brian is a regular visitor to the Museum,” Hurlburt said. “He only recently realized that most of our volunteers are veterans so when WHYY was looking for a Veterans Day piece he thought of us and asked if we’d be willing to participate.”

Hurlburt said there are more than 100 active volunteers who contribute about 3,000 hours of their time each month. About 75 percent are military retirees or veterans, and while most were in the Air Force, the other services are represented as well.

“The idea was to show the vets and showcase they’re doing this work, but you also want to tell people there is a museum, and you want to tell them about it,” Drouin said.

“Most people fly past it during the summer. You know, they might see the planes, but you want to tell them a little bit about the planes and why they’re here.”

The Museum’s volunteers are a living history resource, Hurlburt said.

“They bring an individual experience, each and every one of them,” he said, “and they share their stories with our visitors, and it’s just priceless.”

To honor veterans

Seven Museum volunteers appeared on camera during the segment.

It took about one hour to do the actual interviews and about four more to shoot background video, Drouin said.

Working against ever-present time constraints, Drouin sought highlights with each interviewee, many of whom described their years of service and showed photographs of themselves while on active duty.

“You know they all have stories to tell, but you don’t have the time,” he said. “My goal was to say, here are these guys, they served, when they served and to try to get a sense of what they did and what they do now at the Museum.”

For some, military service is a multi-generational affair; several volunteers have parents who fought in World War II and who encouraged their children to take up the uniform. Some of those second-generation military personnel have children and even grandchildren who continue to serve.

“One of the things is to honor prior veterans and current service people,” volunteer Bill Lee said during the segment. “It’s so important they understand what that generation gave.”

Drouin learned many volunteers have real, hands-on experience with the more than 35 aircraft in the Museum’s collection.

“I always find it interesting that these guys flew in or worked on these airplanes,” Drouin said. “It takes coming to the Museum to a whole new level.”

He’s also gained greater admiration for the volunteers, many of whom are in their 60s, 70s, or even 80s.

“You get a sense of their dedication,” Drouin said. “They don’t have to be doing this. They could be hanging out with their grandkids or out fishing.

“But they’re here to provide visitors with a sense of history and place in that history.

“They’re not that far removed from those events,” he said. “They all have great stories, and you wish you had the time to get them all.”

Putting it together

In addition to himself, Drouin’s team included two technicians who recorded each interview and shot background video.

Drouin took the footage and edited it into a four-minute segment that aired with several others. He also directed Min and Mitchell on the “You Oughta Know” set with the co-hosts introducing each segment.

The completed episode aired Nov. 7, just before Veterans Day 2019. It took eight days from shooting the video until final airing.

“We’ve got more stories in the can and a lot of stuff coming up next year,” he said.

Producing and directing the AMC Museum segment was a rewarding and enlightening experience he hopes “You Oughta Know” viewers will take advantage of on their own, especially because of the volunteers.

“When you go to any museum, you can see stuff. But until you talk with people like the volunteers, you don’t get a real sense of what the collection is trying to tell you,” he said.

“You get that at the AMCM.”
A little bit of crosstown collaboration between the Air Mobility Command Museum and the city of Dover’s public library has led to a new home for a set of 10 historic United States flag reproductions.

Library Director Margie Cyr said she was contacted in May 2018 by the Museum, which was undergoing remodeling, about finding a new home where the flags could be cared for, safely displayed and viewed by the public.

(Editors note: According to former Museum Director Mike Leister, the flags had been on display at the Delaware Trust Bank before being donated to the Museum. The bank was sent a letter of appreciation for their thoughtfulness, Leister added.)

After years at the Museum, Cyr thought the spacious library seemed to be a perfect fit as a new home for the banners.

So she took a trip across town and met with AMCM Deputy Director Eric Czerwinski to look at the flags.

During that initial meeting, Cyr and staff from both the library and Museum agreed the library would be a good setting for the flags.

Moving the flags proved to be challenging because of their size and age, and it took several trips to get them to the library.

After the flags arrived, work commenced on the framing. The Holly Branch National League of American Pen Women, which coordinates an art gallery on the library’s first floor, managed the necessary cleaning and repair work.

The next challenge was to find a place to display the flags since the library’s first floor contains displays of work by local artists that are changed throughout the year.

As the flags were going to be a permanent display, Cyr decided to place them in the building’s second story.

“Locating the flags on the second floor also made sense because of the proximity to the library’s Dover Room, which houses books and memorabilia of Delaware and of Dover history,” Cyr said. “We have our regular history and genealogy collections in that area, too.”

The flags are hung higher on the walls than normal for safety and security reasons.

The ten flags are reproductions of flags dating from the Grand Union Flag of 1776 to an 1877 Centennial banner and represent different periods and geographic areas during the early years of the United States. A plaque accompanies each banner, providing descriptive text that explains the flag and its history.

“The plaques were destroyed in the removal process, but the museum had preserved them in pictures,” Cyr said. “It was really important to us that the plaques were a very close duplicate to what was in the original display.”

The Delaware Public Archives agreed to work with the library in replicating the plaques as they had appeared in the museum.

Corey Marshall-Steele, marketing and exhibits manager for the Delaware Public Archives, said the staff there “happily participated in the conceptualization and production of the plaques” for the project.

Cyr said she relished working together in coordination with the AMCM, Pen Women and Public Archives on the flag project.

“We are grateful to the staff at the Air Mobility Command Museum for appreciating the value of the historic flags and for the support of the Public Archives and the Pen Women who tied it all together,” Cyr said.
Welcome to retired Chief Master Sgt. Mike Wysong, one of our newest AMC Museum Foundation Life Members and our newest AMCM Foundation Board member. Mike and his wife Patty come to us from New Jersey, where they both served with the 514th Air Mobility Wing at McGuire Air Force Base before their retirements.

Enlisting in 1967 as an aircraft weapons technician, in 1974 Mike entered the Air Force Reserve and served as a flight instructor and flight examiner loadmaster on the C-141A/B Starlifters. He rose to the position of aircraft loadmaster superintendent, where he managed a department with more than 50 reservists and civilian employees, responsible for training, evaluating and ensuring their wartime mission-ready posture.

Mike has served in Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, was one of the USAF’s Twelve Outstanding Airmen of the Year, has served as chairman of the AF Enlisted Council and an AF Reserve Council member. He retired in 2005 with 38 years of military service. He also was employed by the Department of the Air Force between 1975 and 2005 as an Air Reserve Technician, a federal civil service position with duties comparable to his Air Force Reserve assignment, he also retired from civil service in 2005.

As an active life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars since 1978, he has served in a variety of leadership positions throughout the VFW at every organizational level. Appointed by the governor of New Jersey, he served on the state’s Veterans Service Council from 1999 to 2005.

Follow-on employment as the director, National Security and Foreign Affairs for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States in Washington, DC (2005 to 2009) he was responsible for representing and promoting VFW interests before various U.S. government policymakers, federal agencies, and other veterans’ groups. He worked closely with all branches of the armed services and the Department of Defense as well as state and Homeland Security. He developed the strategy and implemented the VFW National Security and Foreign Affairs program, with duties taking him on numerous global fact-finding missions to visit with U.S. Armed Forces personnel, U.S. government officials, and host nation leaders.

Before moving to Delaware, he was serving as president and on the board of directors for the Armed Forces Heritage Museum, where he was instrumental in putting the museum on a solid financial footing by developing and instituting a detailed line-item budget. He presently volunteers as a home builder with Central Delaware Habitat for Humanity.

Mike and Patty moved to Delaware in December 2018 and live in the small town of Cheswold. They have one daughter, Jennifer, who is married and lives in Idaho.

You’ll notice in this issue of the Hangar Digest that the Museum has revamped the AMC Museum Volunteer Recognition Program. Operations Manager Mike Hurlburt is developing an outstanding platform with the goal of better recognizing the backbone of the Air Mobility Command Museum – our volunteers. Look forward to getting to know our volunteers, the fantastic group of men and women who meet and greet – and WOW – our visitors every day.

A final note: Museum Store Manager Kelly Hurlburt has taken leave of the Foundation. Kelly brought some much-needed innovation to the AMC Museum store, resulting in consistently increased sales. Her coordination with the volunteers, the Museum and dozens of her vendors kept our store a benchmark among museum stores; Kelly often was the one who would step up when scheduling conflicts left a hole in the schedule. Certainly, many of her behind-the-scenes efforts went unnoticed because, well, they were behind the scenes. For all Kelly Hurlburt has done for the Store, the Foundation and hence the AMC Museum, we are very grateful. Thanks!

Fly safe!
Don Sloan
Community sponsors buoy Summer Fundraiser

The AMCM Foundation is grateful in being able to count on the private individuals and businesses shown below whose donations during the summer of 2019 supported our efforts as part of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force’s field museum system.

Special thanks go out to Mitten & Winters Certified Public Accountants, who more than doubled the Museum’s requested donation; we also want to give a special shout-out to the Delaware State News and Dover Post, who contributed in-kind advertising in their respective newspapers. Your support is greatly appreciated! For more on our sponsors, visit amcmuseum.org/support-the-museum.
Anthony Agnone and Rick Lozano look over the AMCM’s food display, documenting the different types of meals served to airmen throughout the years. Lozano was at Dover Air Force Base as a dependent in the late 1960s and was in town visiting his mother. “I think it’s great,” Lozano said of the AMCM. “What I really like was all the documentation and displays.” Agnone, who described himself as a “techie,” was fascinated by the many displays of aircraft components. “That Norden bombsight [from the B-17] was the kicker,” he admitted.

C-17 loadmaster Thomas Annitto, center, and his wife, Jocelyn, welcomed his in-laws, Tami and Carlos Arevalo of Springfield, Fla., to Dover over the Christmas holidays. The couples stopped at the AMC Museum, where they posed at the replica 1940s guard shack and toured the other exhibits. Carlos said they’d already seen a Globemaster III and were anxious to visit the AMCM’s C-141: “That’s what the C-17 replaced, and I want to see what’s changed.”

The Ryan Page family of Magnolia, Del., examine the recent upgrades to the AMCM’s lobby. From left, in front, are China, Diana, and Ryan Page; in the back are Rod and Isaiah Page. Ryan had just started his terminal leave before retiring from the Air Force as a loadmaster. His retirement ceremony had been held the day before at the AMCM.

Tour guide Chet Hollingsworth explains the different versions of the Medal of Honor to visitors Gregory and Vanessa Staine-Pyne, of Harlem, N.Y. The couple was visiting family in Dover which included their first trip to the AMCM. “We wanted to visit the Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., but were short on time,” Vanessa said. “My cousin said, “Well, we’ve got a great museum right here in Dover!”

NOTE: background cloud photographs on Page 12 and Page 13 were taken at Omaha Beach, Normandy, France.
New names added to AMCM’s Commemorative Garden

An additional 18 names on memorial bricks were added to the walkway at the Air Mobility Command Museum’s Commemorative Garden in conjunction with Veterans Day 2019.

The bricks, inscribed with names, organizations and other tributes, are added to the garden each Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

- In memory of Don “Doc” Adams, friend Wally
- In memory of CMSgt. Alexander Auchterlonie, 1939-2019; Vietnam veteran, beloved husband
- In memory of CMSgt. Alexander Auchterlonie, Uncle Sandy, from your favorite nieces
- In memory of Gary Burris, Restoration Wizard, 2,418 volunteer hours, 2007-2019
- In memory of Albert Castrey, US Army veteran
- Anthony W. Green, CMSgt, 436AW/CCC, Mar 2018-Jul 2019
- Jeff Kirwan, AMCM Volunteer, 1,000-plus hours
- Gary Long, AMCM Volunteer, 1,000-plus hours
- Col Larry Nance, 436OG/CC, Servant, Leader
- Marty Ogorkalek, AMCM Volunteer, 1,000-plus hours
- Patti Papineau, AMCM Volunteer, 1,000-plus hours
- Bill Reilly, AMCM Volunteer, 1,000-plus hours
- Brian Roth, AMCM Volunteer, 1,000-plus hours
- Tricia Upchurch, AMCM Volunteer, 1,000-plus hours
- In memory of Carl Wesley Sr., US Navy veteran
- Bill Whited, AMCM Volunteer, 1,000-plus hours

Because of formatting requirements, the information presented in this listing may not exactly match the inscription on the bricks.
To our members: you keep us soaring high

The Air Mobility Command Museum Foundation could not do its job without the support of the airmen, former airmen, members of the Air Force’s sister services and civilians. They truly represent everyone whose spirits fly with those who guarded and still guard our nation’s skies.

Here’s our annual listing of AMCM Foundation members. Thanks for all you do!

Crew Member


Flight Crew Member


Squadron Commander


**Group Commander**
John L. McClure, Robert C. Monroe, Robert J. Penny, Jon Sellin, and Keith D. Wentzel

**Life Member**

**Eagle Donor**

**Silver Eagle Donor**
Greg Moffitt

**Gold Eagle Donor**
William H. Willis

**Platinum Eagle Donor**
Col. George H. Chabott (USAF, Ret.), Michael S. Estes, and Howell M. Estes III

(Current as of 31 Dec. 2019)

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**Billie Westergard**


Billie was a 22-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force and the Delaware Air National Guard. He was a project engineer for DuPont, retiring in 1992, and a contractor for DuPont and Sargent & Lundy.

He is survived by Sylvia, his wife of 58 years, four children, Shelly Westergard and Holly Westergard, both of Wilmington, Del., a son and daughter-in-law, William and Patricia Westergard of Newark, Del., and a daughter and son-in-law, Lara Lea and Chris Tozer, also of Newark; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Donations in Billie’s name may be made to the AMCM at amcmuseum.org/support-the-museum.
Visitors approaching the Air Mobility Command Museum on Delaware Route 9 first will encounter an unusual sight: a group of headstones, fenced off from the highway, near the AMCM’s gate.

The 18 markers are all that’s left of the former John Wesley African Methodist Episcopal Church and its cemetery. The long-abandoned churchyard is part of the land making up Dover Air Force Base, having been purchased by the Department of Defense as part of a 1990 expansion. Although fenced off and generally not accessible to the public, Museum visitors can stop for a few minutes to look at the grounds through the chain-link fence.

Vandalism and neglect
The burial ground was purchased for the church in 1867 by its parishioners, many of whom were former slaves.

The wooden building housing the Wesley church had been built that year and the congregation experienced its heyday between 1880 and 1899. As it entered the 20th century, however, membership declined and the church had been closed by 1940. The building was severely damaged six years later and demolished in 1950.

It’s estimated between 140 and 160 people were buried on the grounds, including some Civil War veterans. But only about 100 markers remained as late as 1950, and many of those slowly disappeared as the site lay untended for more than 40 years. Only 13 still stand today, due to vandalism on the then-unfenced property. Some remaining stones are cratered by bullets, the result of their being used in target practice.

Despite periodic attempts to clean up the 3/4-acre site after it was annexed into the base, the former churchyard remained a sad sight, with poison ivy, mattresses, weeds, and garbage littering the grounds. Groundhogs had dug into many of the graves, scattering human bones among the headstones.

Beginning in 1995, the base began a series of studies with an eye toward cleaning up the grounds, a project that evolved into a complete restoration effort.

The 436th Civil Engineering Squadron’s Environmental Flight had overseen archaeological investigations that located the foundations of the former church and plotted each known grave. As the restoration work commenced, the tombstones were marked using global positioning satellite technology, then removed. Several feet of fill dirt was added to smooth out the landscape and a new fence installed with rodent barriers extending at least three feet underground. With that work complete, the gravestones were replaced.

Human remains tossed up by the groundhogs were reburied in a communal grave using a casket provided by the base.

The $70,000 project was completed using money from the base’s environmental conservation fund.

700 cemeteries
A 2013 report by the Department of Defense on maintenance practices for military cemeteries showed that while several DoD installations include such cemeteries on their property, many more are home to civilian cemeteries.

The study, which did not specifically address the John Wesley Church cemetery at Dover AFB, found at least 700 civilian graveyards are within the confines of military installations. Most of those are on U.S. Army posts.

The cemeteries run the gamut from known burials without any markers to those with large and sometimes ornate tombs. Like the Wesley cemetery, these predate the military’s occupation of the sites. Some of the surveyed graveyards still were under the care of their parent churches and even accepted burials, while others, like that at Dover, had been abandoned.

The 2013 study found there is no set guidance for maintaining these old cemeteries and no funding provided for their operation and maintenance.

This did not mean that such cemeteries were being neglected by installation commanders.

The report noted that “Generally, commanders are maintaining the civilian cemeteries by: allowing and maintaining access to the sites, cutting the grass around and inside each cemetery, removing fallen trees and limbs and maintaining (if present), a fence around the site.”

However, most commanders tended to keep a hands-off approach to maintaining tombs and headstones, not taking action to repair the structures if they somehow were damaged.

The report concluded with a recommendation to set operating standards and a discrete funding stream for the upkeep of these civilian graveyards.

The recognition they deserve
The refurbished cemetery site was rededicated on May 1, 2009, in a ceremony attended by ministers from Methodist congregations to which the Wesley church once belonged. They were joined by officials from Dover AFB and family members of those buried in the graveyard.

The event marked a closure of sorts for those associated with the lapsed congregation, whose members shared a common belief in God with their white brethren, but who worshiped separately from them because of the color of their skin.

“What this means to me is the best of America,” said the Rev. Winton M. Hill III, presiding elder of the Delaware Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. “I see this as an American story, not an African-American story.

“It means we are one country,” he said at the time.

It was a good day, decided the descendants of Rachel Demby, as they gathered about her grave. Demby, who had American Indian blood, was the mother of at least 12. Her grave stands alone in the middle of the cemetery; the family speculates her husband, Thomas, lies in a nearby unmarked grave.

“It is good we’ve given these people the recognition they deserve,” Lewis Jones, Demby’s great-grandson, said at the ceremony. “They deserve our respect and the honor of recognizing them existed. Without them, we would not be here.”

“It’s great to know [the cemetery] will be preserved and that we can pass it on down the family line,” added Daniel Jones of Dover, another great-grandson. “We can come out here now and see where they are buried.”

Today, the site is maintained by contractors with the 436th CES, who regularly cut the grass and trim around the headstones and fence line. A locked gate keeps possible vandals away.

Access is allowed on a very limited basis, and benches have been set up inside the fence for use by those infrequent visitors.

This article includes information provided by the 436th AW Public Affairs Office.
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<td>FLIGHT CREW MEMBER</td>
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<td>Crew member benefits plus challenge coin for each family member (maximum of five)</td>
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<td>SQUADRON COMMANDER</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Flight Crew member benefits plus recognition in Hangar Digest newsletter, name engraved on plaque</td>
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<td>$250</td>
<td>Squadron Commander benefits plus two museum coffee mugs</td>
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<td>WING COMMANDER</td>
<td>$500</td>
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- ☐ 3
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- ☐ 5

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