

Preddy Memorial Foundation

September 2005 Annual Report



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Board Meetings

Bill Moore arranged for a fantastic board and luncheon meeting which was held at the O. Henry Hotel in Greensboro on November 11, 2004. Guest speakers were Congressman Howard Coble and Mayor Keith Holliday. Our spring board meeting was held at the Greensboro Historical Museum on May 18, 2005. Bill is planning to hold this year's fall meeting at the **Major George Preddy VFW Post 2087** now located at 2605 S. Elm-Eugene Street. The board meeting is scheduled for 10:30 AM on November 10, 2005. This date was selected to avoid a conflict with Veterans Day activities. If all goes as planned, we will have a re-dedication of Preddy Boulevard at that time. Bill is planning to have guest speakers and a catered luncheon at the VFW Post. Board members will be notified by mail.

Halls of Fame

George Preddy was inducted into the **American Combat Airmen Hall of Fame (ACAHoF)** on October 1, 2004 in Midland, TX during the Annual Meeting of the Commemorative (Confederate) Air Force. Joe Noah, first cousin to George, and Col. Steve Hicks, accepted the honor on behalf of the family and the PMF. Joe and Col. Hicks presented the **American Airpower Heritage Museum** with a bust of George and a print of *American Patrol* by Troy White. The medal (front & back shown above) given George is now on display in our exhibit case in the PTI Airport terminal building.



George remains on the list of nominees for the **National Aviation Hall of Fame (NAHF)**. There are 185 nominees, and only four or five are selected each year. We were told that the process may take 10 years before George is selected by the Board of Nominations; we have high hopes Preddy will be selected by 2007. Incidentally, Morton Lester is a member of the Board of Nominations; unfortunately he has only one vote and there are 140 members. George Nunemacher and his wife, Virginia, attended this year's Induction Ceremony held in Dayton, OH on behalf of the PMF. We thank them for attending. The 2005 Enshrinees were: Ben Rich, Nancy Love, John Alison, and Betty Skelton Frankman..

At the most recent board meeting of the NC Aviation Museum, it was decided that the boards of the Museum and the **NC Aviation Hall of Fame (NCAHoF)** will be combined. The PMF nominated George Preddy

for the **NCAHoF** the week following the board meeting. Bill Moore was asked to serve on the new board. He is considering it.

George Preddy Bust

A member of the 328th FS, Ignasio Marinello, was successful in having the **Cradle of Aviation Museum** on Long Island (near Mitchel Field) accept one of the last busts we have of George Preddy. Now Iggy is trying to get them to place one of the portrait prints of Preddy near the bust. We have one bust left. We listed the recipients of all busts last year in the 2004 Annual Report.

George Preddy Portrait at Douglas

The painting of George's portrait was completed by Troy White and brought to the 352nd Reunion in Savannah last year. Eddie Smith brought it from Savannah to our board meeting last November. It has now been hung in the Douglas Airport terminal building with their History Exhibit. Prints of the portrait are available from Troy White in Australia. The print is beautiful on heavy archival stock and measures 22" x 28" which includes a 2" white border. The retail price is \$135 for regular prints and \$200 for the 10 artist proofs. Shipping cost to the USA is \$20. The PMF bought five prints. One has been framed and will be presented to the VFW Post 2087.



Jennifer Shouse is having the 1:5 scale model of *Cripes A Mighty 3rd* hung with their History Exhibit. The model is identical to the one hanging in the Piedmont Triad International Airport terminal building. The model is the one we had displayed at the NC Museum of History for two years.

PTI Airport Terminal & VFW Post 2087

The PMF display at PTI Airport continues to be an excellent visual display for keeping the memory alive! Otto Gaskins removed two paintings and one print on loan to the VFW Post 2087 when he heard they were moving to new quarters. He has been successful in having all three hung in the Business Center of the PTI Airport Terminal Building. They will get far more public exposure there than they would at the VFW Post. Tim Key had a plaque made identifying each. Note the plaque beneath the painting by Fred Baumann III, son of Fred Baumann who was a cadet with Bill Preddy, and served on our board for many years. The other painting is by Paul Wagaman, and the third is a



print of *White Flight* by Darrell Crosby. The new commander of the **Major George E. Preddy, Jr. VFW Post** is Greg Woodard, USN (Retired). Upon hearing about the monument marking Preddy Boulevard, Greg, with help from Larry Hobb of New Holland Company, moved the monument from its old location to the VFW Post.

It is now ready to receive the bronze plaque (pictured on the cover) which was removed several years ago by Bill Moore and stored in the GHM for safe-keeping. The monument and grounds had not been maintained at its initial location near the intersection of S. Elm and I85 for years. The new location is also near the intersection, and will be maintained by the VFW Post. A new P-51 model has been donated to the PMF for the VFW Post.. This one is 1:6 scale. Allan Critcher is completing the model of **Cripes A'Mighty 3rd** that Ed Allen bought and started. The model will be presented to the VFW on November 10th.

Pope-Preddy Air Force Base

The PMF has been trying valiantly to show a ground swell of public opinion in favor of re-naming Pope AFB by petition. The petition features Congressman Coble on the internet, and we have had several folks collect names on paper. We now have about 1500 signatures online and another 1500 on paper. This is far short of a ground swell. Eddie Smith has taken up this issue with his congressman in SC. Most recently Eddie Smith delivered a letter to Congressman Coble suggesting that a bill be introduced directing the Air Force or Army to change the name.

Gifts and Donations Made By PMF

We continue to make donations to organizations associated with the 8th Air Force and American aces. Last year we made a \$1,000 donation to the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Savannah. This year we have donated about \$3500 to the Air Force Memorial Foundation, the American Air Museum in Britain, the American Fighter Aces Association, the Museum of the Air Battle over Krušnohóff of the Czech Republic, the Carolinas Aviation Museum, and others. We also gave busts, models, paintings and prints to those willing to display them publicly. This year a diorama featuring Cripes A'Mighty 3rd was given to Don Hickey to place in a museum near his home in Illinois. See photo. A mahogany model of Cripes A'Mighty 3rd was given to the NC Aviation Museum to display with other Preddy memorabilia such as George's bust and painting of his P-47, and Bill's rudder pedal.

486th FS Mini-Reunion in Dayton

Those who attended for all or part were Roy Wanda, the Rushmans, Ed Williams, the Nunemachers, the Sandorses, the McKibbens, Joe Noah, the Fuhrmanns and Charlie Price. Most brought wives, but Fuhrmann brought his son-in-law and grandson and Rushman brought daughter Amy and friend Kim. We were joined in all our activities by our Dayton friend Ritva who also entertained the group in her home.

352nd FG Reunion in Wichita

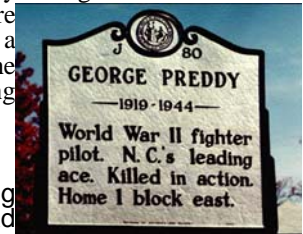
Ken and Louise Wagnon have graciously offered to host the upcoming reunion in Wichita, September 22-26. Ken is the owner of the restored Mustang he named **Cripes A'Mighty** and christened in Danville, IL on November 5, 2001. He invited and transported Art and Doris Snyder, Sam Sox and Joe Noah, to and from Danville for the christening. Art placed the price of his haircuts on the crew chief's side of the P-

51, and Sam had provided Mike Vadeboncouer, the restorer, with the detailed markings George had on his last Mustang. It was an unforgettable day! I'm sure the upcoming "gathering" promises to be the same. Thanks much, Ken and Louise, for all you are doing to perpetuate the memory of the 352nd Fighter Group and George Preddy. The first photo shows Ken, Louise and son Jay standing by the newly restored Mustang. The second photo shows Art standing by the barber pole he painted on the crew chief's side of Cripes A'Mighty. On this day, Art had only to paint the price he charged for a haircut.



The Preddy Home

The Preddy home at 605 Park Avenue in Greensboro has been bought by a couple both of whom teach at UNC at Greensboro, or UNCG. Bill Moore met them first, then Joe Noah and Eddie Smith visited them recently. They are restoring the home. We discussed the possibility of having the home placed on a historic register. The couple is not opposed to the idea. Jim Rucker looked into this a couple of years ago. The owner at that time was less than cooperative. There is a NC Historical Marker located a block away that calls attention to the home and to Preddy, NC's leading ace.



Inventory & Retail Outlets

We are close to running out of the PMF brochure. We had 20,000 printed in 1999 for about \$1500. We will order more soon. We have one bust left and it is in Clarksville. We have many prints of **White Flight**. We have given copies of the print to some organizations that are willing to frame and display the print. We shall continue to do this. Bob Cissell, Don Littge and Don Hickey have taken some of the prints to place in FBOs and other public places. If you know an organization that may be willing to frame and display one, please let one of our officers know the name and address. We still have a good supply of both hard and soft cover books. It is doubtful that we will have that book reprinted. We have asked Tom Ivie to consider re-writing the book. Tom is considering it.

The PMF sells Preddy books, videos, prints, post cards and other items through several retail outlets: gift shops in museums such as the Greensboro Historical Museum, the National Museum of the Air Force in Dayton, and the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum in Savannah. Rick Drisko sells some at a museum in Tulsa, OK. And we sell books and videos online at Amazon.com and Ebay.

PMF Finances

As of 28 August 2005, the PMF has \$6700 in its checking account and money market core account, and \$43,500 in stock and mutual funds. The PMF has current liabilities of about \$2500. Bill Black and Bill Craft suggested PMF consider giving scholarships/fellowships, and work with UNCG in this regard. Please make your donations to PMF and mail to PO Box 523, Clarksville, VA 23927-0523.

KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE



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Robert P. Gorrell
C. M. Hunt, Jr., M. D.
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Seven-Star Ace's Club \$5,000 - \$9,999

Microsoft Corporation
Van B. Noah, M. D.

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Florence P. Reese
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Robert B. Reese, Jr.

Note: PMF has over 50 Honorary Members who also receive this newsletter. Some donations have been made in memory/honor of others. To conserve space and keep this report to it's original size, those names are kept on file. All donations are listed above.