

# PREDDY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



**Batesville, IN Library**



**More parts from Bill's Mustang from CZ**



**Bricks at CAF-AZ Wing**



**GEP bust at CAF-AZ by Pat O'Hern**



**New Preddy Exhibit at CAM**



**Large P-47 model acquired for NCAM**

## ANNUAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2009

# Preddy Memorial Foundation

## September 2009 Annual Report



### **Board of Directors**

Rachel Preddy Harris  
Honorary Director

#### **Officers:**

Van Noah, M. D.  
President

Otto Gaskins  
Vice President

John Faircloth  
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Founder/Treasurer

#### **Directors from the Triad:**

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Tim Key  
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William B. Mills, Attorney  
William J Moore  
James G. Rucker  
Walker F. Rucker

#### **Directors from outside the Triad:**

Marc Hamel, Raleigh  
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Steve Parker, Fayetteville  
Dolph Overton III, Smithfield, NC  
Robert H. Powell, Atlanta, GA  
James R. Preddy, Concord, NC  
Robert Reese, Winter Park, FL  
W. Harding Shinn, Charlotte, NC  
Eddie A. Smith, York, SC  
Sam Sox, Jr. Myrtle Beach, SC

#### **Director Emeritus:**

The Hon Carson Bain  
Greensboro

### **Board Meeting**

The Board Meeting was held on May 9, 2009 in Greensboro. After a wonderful luncheon and to the delight of All present, Board Member Morton Lester presented his tribute to fellow Member Dolphin Overton, who had recently been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, and additionally the Silver Star with 3 OLC's and the Distinguished Flying Cross with 4 OLC's. Dolph was a Sabrejet F-86 pilot in the Korean War. Unfortunately, he could not be in attendance because of a reunion at West Point, therefore missing the wonderful humor in Morton's reminiscences.

Guests included Ben Marion and Mike Petram. Both are members of the Board of Directors of the N.C. Aviation Museum in Asheboro. Also present was Zeke Saunders, an ex-pilot and vice president for Piedmont Airlines.

During lunch Joe Noah tested on the members his newest creation, a PowerPoint presentation of the Preddys, but without narration. This was well received.

### **Passings**

It is with sadness that we report the deaths of Horace Kornegay and Becky Rucker. Mr. Kornegay was a former PMF Board Member who as an attorney served North Carolina with dignity as both a representative and as a noted tobacco lobbyist. Mrs. Rucker was the wife of Walker Rucker and the mother of James Rucker, both current members of the PMF Board.

### **Medal of Honor**

Past Annual Reports have conveyed to you the trials of attaining the Medal of Honor posthumously for Major Preddy. Searching the archives for some written indication that he had been recommended for this medal by his commanding officer, then Lt. Col. John C. Meyer, has reached a dead end. Dolph Overton has passed along information about his late award of the DSC that may help our efforts, but the

realization remains that any chance of success is slim.

### **National Aviation Hall of Fame**

Five new inductees have this year been named to this much respected commemorative foundation. It is unfortunate that George is not one of them. One of its Nominating Board Members is our own Morton Lester, who advises patience, thinking that our efforts will in time work.

### **NC Aviation Hall of Fame**

The sick economy has been detrimental to the opening of North Carolina's planned Aviation Hall of Fame at the NC Aviation Museum in Asheboro. When it does become a reality, PMF continues its optimism that George Preddy will be honored.

### **Applying the Preddy Name**

Efforts to influence the renaming of Pope Air Force Base in Fayetteville as it transfers to Army control have been fruitless...and frustrating. PMF had hoped that *Preddy* could in some way share with the Pope name. Politics appears to be the blocking force, and *Pope-Preddy Army Air Field* remains merely a dream. Disturbing has been the evasiveness of some of our representatives as well as a perceived complicity of a certain newspaper, as efforts to express our thoughts in a worthy opinion piece were rejected.

### **Preddy on View**

One has to stand back to appreciate the large footprint of the Preddy Memorial Foundation in its efforts to promote the Preddy brothers. There is an array of commemorations and displays locally, nationally, and internationally. Its presence in regional airports include Wilmington (ILM), Fayetteville (FAY), Piedmont Triad International Airport (GSO), Raleigh-Durham International (RDU), Hickory Airport (HKY), Charlotte Airport (CLT), Asheboro Airport (HBI), Goldsboro Airport (GWW), Louisburg Airport (LHZ)

Concord Airport (JQF) and Oxford-Henderson Airport (HNZ). Exhibits are in a host of museums, including Carolinas Aviation Museum, Motts Military Museum, Museum of Flight in Seattle, San Diego Air and Space Museum, Twinwood in England, Mighty Eighty AF Museum, Greensboro Historical Museum, NC Aviation Museum, National Museum of the USAF, Planes of Fame Museum, NC Museum of History, and Hoosier Air Museum. Memorials are present at the Korean War Veterans Association, the Mighty Eighth Roll of Honor, and NC State University. Numerous other facilities display the Preddy artifacts, and included among these are the VFW Post 2087 in Greensboro and the USO in Charlotte.

### **Preddy Boulevard**

A few years ago we noticed that Preddy Boulevard no longer appeared on Greensboro City maps. The reason it was inadvertently omitted was that no one lives on Preddy Boulevard. So, Joe Noah and Bill Moore approached the mayor's Communications Manager, Nancy Lindemeyer, and Gail Murphy, Greensboro Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, who said they would correct the omission next time maps were produced. Preddy Boulevard is that section of I-85 that goes through the heart of Greensboro. To our pleasant surprise it recently appeared on Google Earth.



### **A Special Friend**

Board Member Harding Shinn has been a notable volunteer at the USO in Charlotte. There he became close to Jack Ahart, Captain, USN (Ret), who now serves as Director for Regional Development, USO Southwest Asia. Through Harding he has offered to accept from us twelve copies of *White Flight* painted by artist Darrell Crosby. These he will have framed when they arrive in the Middle East, and PMF will help defray some of those costs. The framed prints will then adorn all of the USO Centers in Southwest Asia, including three in Kuwait, three in Iraq, two in Afghanistan, and one in Qatar, Bahrain, Dubai, and even in the Regional Office in Kuwait. Captain Ahart is indeed special.

### **Contributing to Causes**

In spite of unfavorable economic times, the Preddy Foundation continues to give to worthy causes. This year the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Savannah has received a framed print of *American Patrol* and a 1:72 scale model of *Cripes A'Mighty 3<sup>rd</sup>* that we had donated to be placed in the 352<sup>nd</sup> Exhibit Case. Other Institutions receiving donations include the Maj George Preddy VFW Post 2087 in Greensboro, the UNCG Women Veterans Project, the NC USO at Charlotte's Douglas Airport, and the NC Aviation Museum in Asheboro. Each received \$500.

### **A Model Opportunity**

PMF has had the chance to purchase a flying (radio controlled) 1/5<sup>th</sup> scale model of a P-47 with *Cripes A'Mighty* markings. It was built by Cdr. Thomas G. Smith, USN (Ret), a 1979 graduate of the Naval Academy and himself a member of the PMF. The Board unanimously approved this action and has agreed to pay \$3,000 for it, once appropriately modified for static display. The Foundation intends to loan the model to the North Carolina Aviation Museum in Asheboro, where it will rest in proximity to a painting of this same plane by artist Billy Garmon.

### **Publications**

Please be advised that all books are sold out and that none are slated to be reprinted. DVDs are the only thing available for distribution. Don't forget the Preddy website [www.Preddy-Foundation.org](http://www.Preddy-Foundation.org). And speaking of the internet, we were delighted to learn of the inclusion of the Preddy Brothers in NC Visual History, a creation of Baxter Shipman of High Point, who himself is an Ace as well as a member of PMF.

### **PMF Finances**

As has been the case with most foundations, the recession has eroded the value of PMF's assets. Compared with \$43,130 in May of 2008, this value currently is \$29,040. There are no liabilities. We advise potential donors that a financial statement is available upon written request from the Office of Consumer Affairs, Commonwealth of Virginia, PO Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218. You may also visit us on Guidestar, [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org).

### **KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE!**

