

Preddy Memorial Foundation

September 2004 Annual Report



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Eddie A. Smith
York, SC

Samuel L. Sox, Jr., CLU
Myrtle Beach, SC

New President & Board Meeting

Bill Black nominated Bill Moore to take over as president of the PMF, and Bill Moore was elected at our May board meeting in Burlington, NC. We thank Bill Black for his outstanding service, and we thank Bill Moore for agreeing to take over. Bill Moore set **November 11, 2004 (Thursday) at 10:30 A.M. at the O.Henry Hotel in Greensboro** as our next meeting time & place. Please let this notice serve. A separate letter will be mailed only if this time and place change.

Halls of Fame

George Preddy was nominated by the PMF to be inducted into the **American Combat Airmen Hall of Fame (ACAHoF)** in December 2001. He was selected in January 2004 and will be inducted on October 1st in Midland, TX during the Annual Meeting of the Commemorative (Confederate) Air Force. Joe Noah, a first cousin to George, will accept the honor on behalf of the family and the PMF. Unfortunately, Rachel Harris, George's sister, will be unable to attend this event. Several members of the PMF will attend the Induction Banquet with Joe & Betty and stay for **AIRSHO 2004**. They include Robert Noah, Steve & Susan Forsberg, Col. & Mrs. Stephen Hicks, Pat & Susan O'Hern, and Arnaud & Catherine Beinat all the way from Metz, France. John Hoagland from Dallas plans to attend, and Ed Allen of Clarksville may attend. Joe will present the **American Airpower Heritage Museum** with a bust of George (our last one) and a print of **American Patrol** by Troy White.

The PMF also nominated George for the National Aviation Hall of Fame (**NAHF**) in January 1997. We were told at the time that the process may take 10 years; we have high hopes Preddy will be selected. Gen. Robin Olds is being inducted into the **ACAHoF** this year with George, and he is already a member of the **NAHF**. We are still waiting on NC to establish an aviation hall of fame so we can nominate George and help The Honorable Tim Valentine nominate Gen. Frank Armstrong.

George Preddy Bust

The original bust of George Preddy was sculpted by Penny Call-Morris in 1997. We had 25 copies of the bust made by a manufacturer in High Point. We have distributed all of them. Here is a list of some of the museums where we have placed his bust: Southern Museum of Aviation,

Birmingham; Chino, CA, Planes of Fame; NC Aviation Museum in Asheboro; USAF Museum in Dayton; Weeks Air Museum in Tamiami; Douglas Airport in Charlotte; original to Greensboro Historical Museum; American Air Museum in Britain; Virginia Air National Guard in Richmond; San Diego Aerospace Museum; 8th AF Museum in Savannah; American Fighter Aces Association now in Seattle; Major George Preddy VFW Post 2087 in Greensboro; Virginia Aviation Museum in Richmond; Piedmont Triad International Airport; Wings of Freedom; Morton Lester, Martinsville, VA; Ken Wagnon, Wichita, KS; Smith Reynolds Airport; Carolinas Aviation Museum, Charlotte; Sun 'n Fun, Lakeland; CAF Midland, TX. Punchy Powell has one bust he is trying to have placed in the Warner Robins Museum, Macon, GA.

In the year 2000 we had Penny sculpt one of Bill Preddy. The Greensboro Historical Museum has the original of Bill; no copies have been made.

Greensboro's PTI Airport Terminal

The PMF display at PTI Airport in Greensboro continues to be an excellent visual display for remembrance of the Preddy Brothers. Otto Gaskins and Tim Key have made modifications over the past few months to the audio visual portion of the display to deter onlookers as well airport cleaning staff from adjusting the volume of the monitor or turning it off completely. The primary problems seem to be solved. The large model of Cripes A Mighty 3rd hanging in the front foyer area draws the attention of people walking through the airport. Quite often Tim observes someone standing under our display looking at it or taking a photograph. The next time you visit PTI Airport in Greensboro, please take time to visit our display. Otto is currently working with airport staff to hang some of our artwork in the airport. This would be a great opportunity to display our paintings and prints. The print of **White Flight** is hung in an area that is not seen by the public.



Charlotte's Douglas Airport Terminal

Jennifer Shouse has found a prominent place in the terminal building to display three original oil paintings of Cripes A'Mighty: **American Patrol**, the painting by Troy White used on our dust cover of the hard back book, **George Preddy - Top Mustang Ace**; the first painting of



Cripes done by Troy and given to the PMF (the largest painting in the photo); and Sixth on the Sixth by Russell Smith. All of these paintings belong to the PMF and are on loan to Douglas Airport. They have been kind enough to hang them out of reach where they will be protected. The PMF has commissioned Troy White to paint a portrait of George to go with the display at Douglas. A photo of the painting which will be complete by October 9th is shown on the cover of this Annual Report. The fourth painting shown is of Elliott Springs, SC's top ace from WWI with 16 victories. The Preddy portrait will be a great companion piece for the Springs portrait. Harding Shinn watches over our interests at Douglas and the Carolinas Aviation Museum.

Carolinas Aviation Museum (CAM)

Marsha Hanna of the CAM has designed and installed a new exhibit case on George which includes his bust and a model of Cripes A'Mighty 3rd. They also have a copy of *American Patrol*, a print on canvas. All three were donated to the CAM by the PMF. The museum's Gift Shop carries the Preddy book and VHS video. This is the same museum that produced a 30-minute video of an interview of Sam Sox and Joe Noah several years ago. The video has been shown on a local Charlotte TV station several times.

352nd Fighter Group Association

The 352nd Fighter Group is having another reunion. This one will be held in Savannah at the Marriott Riverfront Motel October 9-12. We will have easy access to the 8th Air Force Heritage Museum nearby. As you know, the documentary of the 352nd entitled *The Last Reunion, A Gathering of Heroes* has won several awards. But it wasn't the last reunion. The 352nd FG is still going strong! Several PMF Members plan to attend this reunion.

NC Aviation Museum

The NCAM has a new manager, Mark Vuncannon, as of June of this year. Mark says that they hope to have their B-25 flying by the end of this year. The Museum now has eleven aircraft. He would like to have the model of Cripes A'Mighty 3rd back when they complete the Hall of Fame annex. The Hall of Fame is planned to be in a building that connects the two existing hangars. Mark says that Bill Kurdian is still in charge of establishing the NC Aviation Hall of Fame.

As of 2004, we have two one-fifth scale models of Cripes A'Mighty 3rd, one is displayed in the Pioneers of Aviation hall at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh. The other is pictured above as it hangs in the PTI Airport terminal building.

Christmas Day 1944

That's the day George Preddy was accidentally shot down by friendly anti-aircraft fire. We have never been able to prove the exact location of the crash site. We now have the coordinates of the site, and a PMF Member, Joe Hutton, has just recently visited Langerwehe, Germany to search for metal parts. He found and mapped a number of hits with his metal finder, but was unable to dig for parts. He plans to go back after the field is harvested this fall. Joe was using a non-ferrous metal detector that will not detect steel or iron – only aluminum, brass, bronze, etc. Perhaps he will be able to dig out some of the parts detected when he returns. We wish Joe the best of luck, and we thank him for his efforts.

Models & Decals

Sam Sox continues to promote Cripes A'Mighty with the modelers and the decal manufacturers. During the past year he completed a new presentation which includes the

marking/decals for all of Preddy's Mustangs. The 15-page publication includes numerous supporting pictures of all of the P-51s that Preddy flew including the most illusive first Mustang he named *Cripes A'Mighty* as he did his last one. GMP Limited Edition Replicas selected Preddy's *Cripes A'Mighty 3rd* for one of its large, highly detailed diecast models. Sam volunteered to critique the model which is scheduled to be released later this year. Having supplied Mustang owner Ken Wagon's aircraft restorer the details for his 2001 Oshkosh *Grand Champion Award* winning presentation of Preddy's last *Cripes A'Mighty*, Sam worked closely this past 18 months with another *Grand Champion Award* winner, Bob Baker of Alva, OK. Baker received the 2004 award at Oshkosh. Baker chose the scheme of 487th FS pilot Lt. Bill Pattillo's Mustang, *Sweet and Lovely*.

PMF Lapel Pin

Last February Betty and Joe Noah visited the Tennessee Museum of Aviation where they met Bob Minter, Director. PMF Member Tom Patten suggested we donate a bust of George to the museum. We took a bust of George and a print of *White Flight* with us in our Comanche, and donated both to the Museum. Bob gave us two lapel pins, one for the Tennessee Museum of Aviation, and the other for the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame. That's where the idea for a PMF lapel pin originated. The pin was designed by John Mollison, Sam Sox and Joe Noah. See a photo of the pin below. The 27 stars represent George Preddy's air-to-air victories; the Mustang silhouette and the Army Air Force wings represent the aircraft flown by and the wings earned by the Preddy brothers. Please let me know if you would like to have one or two pins. A donation of any size will qualify you to receive two pins. If you want more, just let us know on the return envelope. We would like you to wear the the pin with pride, and give them to your friends who may want one. The pin will become a collector's item.



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 is on the internet, and we have had several folks collect names on paper. We now have about 1200 signatures online, and another 1200 on paper. This is far short of a ground swell. Eddie Smith has taken up this issue with his congressman in SC. Most recently, Bill Moore met with Congressman Howard Coble to discuss this topic. Bill reports that Rep. Coble is still working on this, but believes that we should not try to introduce a bill to have the name changed. Bill Moore and Eddie Smith will discuss this in depth at our next board meeting.

PMF Finances

As of 8 September 2004, the PMF has \$5800 in it's checking account, \$3400 in our money market core account, and \$30,000 in stock and mutual funds. We have current liabilities of \$3500, and we hope to raise more funds through this mailing so that we can continue our projects. This year we have donated \$1,000 to the 8th Air Force Heritage Museum, and placed George and Bill on more Walls of Honor. You may view their names, for example, at the Udvar Hazy Museum at Dulles.