

PREDDY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



Brothers in Arms by Troy White



Mott's Military Museum



Stinson Reliant by PMF at DAN



5th AF Bronze Plaque at NCAM



Preddy busts at Twinwood, UK



Preddy Brothers at Hickory Avn Museum

**ANNUAL REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2008**

Preddy Memorial Foundation

September 2008 Annual Report



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Board Meeting

The Board Meeting held May 9th had the pleasure of guest speaker Randy Breedlove, Board Member of Carolinas Aviation Museum (CAM) at Douglas Int'l Airport, and currently Secretary of the Carolinas Historic Aviation Commission. He gave an excellent presentation of the future of the CAM and its dedication to the Preddy cause.



Applying the Preddy Name

The Foundation continues in its efforts to influence the eventual renaming of Pope Air Force Base, as it is turned over to the Army. It has contacted legislators and military brass to instill the idea of a *Pope-Preddy Army Air Field*. Favorable publicity in the *Raleigh News & Observer* and the *Greensboro News & Record* has been beneficial. And toward the western part of the State, an *ad hoc* committee led by Board Member Walker Rucker met in November of 2007 in Greensboro with Henry Isaacson, Chairman of the Piedmont Triad Airport Authority, reminding him of its past leaning toward applying the Preddy name to any renaming of the Triad Airport. Unfortunately, working against it is the "concept of regionalization"

Medal of Honor

For years PMF has tried to find the document written by George's CO, then Lt .Col. John C. Meyer, recommending Preddy for the Medal of Honor. In 1973, Gen. Meyer told Joe Noah during a Pentagon interview that he had recommended George for this, but instead he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, second to the Medal of

Honor. Searches for a copy of that recommendation took PMF futilely through the Secretary of the Army, the National Archives & Records Administration, and the Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell AFB. We did receive recent publicity (July 2008) in a great article in the *Greensboro News & Record* about these efforts. But we may just have to give it up.

National Aviation Hall of Fame

We are fortunate to have Morton Lester serving on the Nominations Committee of the

National Aviation Hall of Fame. Morton's vote has kept George's name on the list of nominees for ten years. NAHF's summer issue for 2008 *Heroes &*



Legends contains a beautiful photo of *Cripes A'Mighty*. The caption mentions that *Cripes* was "flown by the late George E. Preddy, a NAHF nominee for enshrinement." That bit of publicity may help next year.

NC Aviation Hall of Fame

And in the local arena, the newly established North Carolina Aviation Hall of Fame in Asheboro has been slow to get off the ground. PMF feels certain about George's chances when the first inductees are selected.

Preddy Exhibits

PMF has been instrumental in establishing and expanding Preddy exhibits at various museums and airports. Recently it has devoted its energy and resources to Hickory Aviation Museum, San Diego Air &

Space Museum, Mott's Military Museum, Twinwood Museum in England, Piedmont Triad International Airport, North Carolina Aviation Museum, Carolinas Aviation Museum, Fayetteville Airport, and Planes of Fame Museum in Chino, CA (on left, Rev. Ken McCoy making presentations to Ed Maloney, founder of Planes of Fame). Plans are in the making for a plaque to be made for the Military Wing of the N C Museum of History, one which will list all Tarheel aces. In this regard, please view *Top Ten American Aces* on the PMF web site and find that George is USA's seventh ranking ace of all time.



Contributing to Causes

PMF has remained active in its giving to worthy organizations and facilities. A donation was given to Korean War Veterans Association, with both George and Bill being placed on the Wall of Remembrance at the NC Korean War Memorial in Mint Hill, NC. A contribution was given to Museum of Flight in Seattle for completion of its Personal Courage Wing, where George's name will be placed on its Wall of Courage. Other recipients this year include the UNCG Women Veterans, Major George Preddy VFW Post in Greensboro, North Carolina USO in Charlotte, Danville Air Show, and Memorial Courtyard at the new NCSU Park Alumni Center.

Twinwood Museum, United Kingdom

Thanks to John Harris, UK, Steve Ananian of the 339th FGA, Steve Hicks & Tim Key, PMF, we now have a Brothers exhibit in a museum in England. Steve Hicks took busts of George and Bill to Twinwood when he and family flew to England to visit his son, an active F-15 pilot!

Mott's Military Museum

Thanks to George Nunemacher, we have an excellent display in Columbus, Ohio at Warren Mott's museum, also shown on the cover page.

Hickory Aviation Museum

This museum has an outstanding display of memorabilia on the Preddy brothers. Last year we thought an entire room would be devoted to them, so PMF gave/loaned it many items. As things worked out, there is not a room set aside, but that may be to our benefit...the Preddy exhibit is in the main room of the museum where it cannot be missed. (See photo on cover page) They have a 1:48th scale model of every aircraft flown by the

Preddy brothers, built by Jim Malcolm and other members of the **Sabre Society**.

Danville Air Fest 2008

The PMF sponsored the Stinson Reliant owned by the Carolinas Wing of the Commemorative Air Force (CAF). The PMF was given a model of George's P-40 *Tarheel* made by an IPMS member Caz Dalton. Thank you, Caz. We have donated that model to the Carolinas Aviation Museum.

Brothers in Arms

Troy White has painted a depiction of the Mustangs flown by George & Bill even though they never flew together. We have donated a print to the museums at Hickory, Asheboro, Mott's in Columbus and Twinwood in the UK. (See the cover page for a photo of the painting)

NC Aviation Museum, Asheboro

The plaque on the cover page (donated to NCAM) is a copy of a bronze placed in Darwin after WW II by M/G Hutchinson, CO of the 49th Pursuit Group when George was a member.

Special Gift

Donald Ward of Etowah, NC was kind to give PMF two encased articles on George and Bill, and two models of **Cripes A'Mighty**. Thanks, Donald!

Otto Gaskins 90th

We celebrated Otto's 90th birthday, and we were fortunate to have his younger brother, Tom, with us for the cake cutting! This photo shows Bill Preddy with his mother Clara and Tom Gaskins.



PMF Finances

The Foundation is on solid ground financially. As of May 2008 it had \$38,762 in its portfolio and \$4,368 in its bank accounts. There were no liabilities. We continue to sell books and videos on the Preddy brothers. We must 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** at www.guidestar.org.

KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE!



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