
Preddy Memorial Foundation Newsletter

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March 2001

Biennial PMF Meeting, May 8th (VE Day)

Biennial Meeting

This year the spring meeting will be a joint board and members meeting. We will meet at the PFAC Flying Museum located on the Asheboro Municipal Airport (W44) in Asheboro, NC. The meeting will convene at 10:30 A. M., and at noon we will break for lunch. We will re-convene after lunch and watch aircraft in flight, both full-scale and radio-controlled. Dress casual.

To get to the PFAC Flying Museum, take 49 S out of Asheboro. Turn left on Tot Hill Farm Road and follow the signs.

Please reply no later than April 15th, sooner if possible. Luncheon will be catered. To help offset the costs associated with this meeting we ask that you please reply by returning the enclosed envelope with your check for \$15 per person. We need a close count on the number attending because we must obtain tables and chairs for the catered event.

War Memorial Planned for Greensboro

The PMF is planning to support the War Memorial now being designed for Greensboro. The PMF plans to sponsor the Air Force exhibit which may cost \$5,000. Bill Craft will tell us more about the memorial at the May 8th meeting. However, if any of you want to make a donation, please use the enclosed envelope and so note the amount you want set aside for the War Memorial.

WWII Plaque & Exhibit Now at GHS

Greensboro (now Grimsley) High School was the site of a ceremony designed to honor GHS alumni who gave their lives during WWII. This ceremony was held on December 8, 1999 and described in our January 2000 Newsletter. Walker Rucker took delivery of the bronze plaque, and with the help of his carpenter, Bill Black and Curtis Laughlin, installed it on

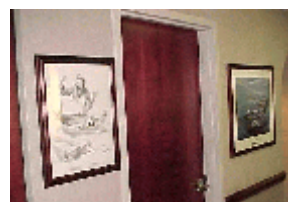


March 21, 2000. The window exhibit has now been completed; it is next to the bronze plaque. Note that the window exhibit contains a bust of George Preddy, the hard cover edition of the book, *George Preddy, Top Mustang Ace*, a scale model of George's Cripes A'Mighty 3rd, and a captioned photo of both George and Bill. The captions give their names, ranks, high school graduation dates, and when killed in action. The background photo is a copy of the dust cover art by Troy White. The PMF takes this opportunity to again thank Mrs. Jane Teague, GHS Principal, for allowing us to place a duplicate plaque and an exhibit in the main hall. The plaque lists the names of the 99 alumni who were killed during WW II. The window exhibit of the Preddy brothers draws attention to the bronze plaque. We thank Walker Rucker for conceiving the idea and chairing the ceremony.



Art Works

Otto Gaskins and Joe Noah have placed copies of the print *White Flight* in several airports where they are displayed: The PTI Airport Authority's offices, Greensboro's Atlantic Aero and Piedmont Hawthorne, Concord Regional, Lynchburg Regional, and others. If any of you have a favorite airport or other place, let us know and we will donate a print. This photo shows the location of two Preddy prints in the terminal building at Concord Regional Airport.



Preddy Bust Update

The most recent placement of GEP busts have been with the Wings of Freedom Museum in Huntington, Indiana, and with the Ken Wagnon Foundation. The Wings of Freedom Museum has as its focus the P-51D flown by Gen. Robin Olds who scored 13 aerial victories

and 11 on the ground during WW II. Then he scored four more victories over Migs in 1967 during the Viet Nam conflict.

Ken Wagon is having a Mustang restored to the markings on George Preddy's last Mustang, the one he was flying on Christmas Day 1944 when he was killed. Ken is now a five-star ace with the PMF. His Mustang is being restored by another member of the PMF, Mike Vadeboncouer.



The bust of Bill Preddy has been completed and delivered by the sculptor, Penny Call-Morris. Bill Teague and Otto Gaskins are designing and building a base

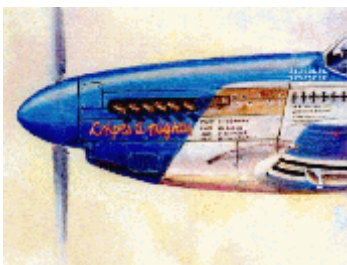
for the bust. The bust will be donated to the Greensboro Historical Museum at the May 8th meeting. The plan is to display it with the original of George's bust which is now owned by the GHM.

CRIPES A'MIGHTY 2ND



Cripes A'Mighty 2nd

After many years of looking and hoping, Sam Sox has finally discovered a photo of George Preddy's first Mustang named *Cripes A'Mighty 2nd*. As you may recall, *Cripes A'Mighty* was the name given to his P-47 Thunderbolt, his first ETO fighter aircraft. The markings on the photo Sam found were not legible to the naked eye. Sam did his magic with the photo and brought out the markings very



clearly. John Lambeth has built a model, and Troy White painted the profile of Cripes 2nd for us. Note that this is a P-51B with a Malcolm hood which gave the pilot better visibility than the original hood. A close up shows the details of the name on the nose section. Also, as you may recall, *Cripes A'Mighty 3rd* is the most famous of Preddy's aircraft because that was the one he was flying the day he set the ETO record of six enemy fighters downed in one mission. This P-51D is depicted in the painting by Darrell Crosby entitled WhiteFlight; one may obtain a print of this painting from the PMF. George's most famous aircraft was also depicted on the dust cover of the hard back edition of *George Preddy, Top Mustang Ace*.



American Patrol

Troy White, the artist, entitled it *American Patrol* and sells prints of it on his site:

<http://www.starduststudios.com/bluemain.htm>

htm.

The PMF is buying the original painting to display in a prominent and public place in Greensboro. We haven't identified the place, yet. If you have a suggestion, please pass it on to one of the officers or board members.

NC AVIATION HALL OF FAME

Morton Lester, Joe Noah and Dolph Overton attended a meeting in Manteo last December to discuss North Carolina's need to have an aviation hall of fame. Representatives of NC Division of Aviation, Carolinas Historic Aviation Commission, Peddycord FAC Flying Museum, First Flight Commission, the Ninety Nines, and others, attended. It was agreed that an organization should be set up first, and that the location of the HoF and Museum should come later. As a result, board members of the PFAC Flying Museum have now set up a non-profit corporation to further the objectives of the hall of fame. They are seeking influential and interested citizens to serve on the board of directors. Suggestions should be given to Bill Kurdian, 336/629-4161.

**Please sign up for the May 8th meeting
no later than 15 April.**