

MINNESOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD HISTORICAL FOUNDATION  
**MINNESOTA ANG MUSEUM NEWS**

*Minnesota Aviation History - Learn of the Past*  
*Fall 2017*



**New Maj. Gen. John Dolny display**  
**by Karen Wolf**

Over the last couple of years, former 133rd Airlift Wing commander Maj. Gen. John Dolny talked about giving some of his memorabilia to the museum and the idea of having a display to showcase his career started to grow. Earlier this year, after listening to a presentation on the merits of developing such an exhibit, the Board of Directors voted to allow this project to go forward.

Lew Wolf, with input from museum volunteers and Dolny himself, designed and built the display over the summer. A model of the design was presented to the Board of Directors for their approval. From there, Lew tweaked and improved the first iteration to come to the design we have now. The display for Dolny was unveiled on Oct. 22, 2017. That day saw over 50 people crowded into the museum, including family and many friends of the general. Brian Wyneken, Board Chairman, and Col. Dan Gabrielli, current 133rd Airlift Wing commander, commented on the career of Dolny and Lew Wolf described the process of making the exhibit. A social hour then followed.

*Dolny story continues on page 2*



At the unveiling of the display commemorating the contributions of Maj. Gen. John Dolny at the museum on Oct. 22, 2017 are: Lew Wolf, Karen Wolf, Gisela Dolny, John Dolny and current 133rd Airlift Wing commander, Col. Dan Gabrielli.  
*photo by Ray Pittman*



Museum volunteers assist visitors enjoying the F-4 Photo Phantom at the 'Wings and Wheels' Air Show in Osceola, Wisc. on May 9, 2017.

**F-4 Photo Phantom summer events 2017**  
**story and photos by Ray Pittman**

The Photo Phantom (PP) recently received several improvements. The ejection seats were reconditioned, the fuselage paint touched up, new decals applied to the fuselage, and more, making it more enjoyable for visitors during events in the summer of 2017.

Summer was a profitable season for the museum. We were fortunate enough to be involved in several events that kept the PP crew busy for quite a few weekends and even a few days during the week. There were a few setbacks also, as can be expected. We had a cancellation at the Duluth Air Show due to unforeseen last minute problems and the Rush City Fly-in Breakfast was a rainout. Luckily, we were watching the weather closely so we had enough warning and canceled the event early that morning.

This year we were invited to a few new events: The Patriot Riders Motorcycle Rally at the Anoka County Airport, the Dakota County Fair in Farmington,  
*Summer events story continues on page 5*

**Also inside:**

- *Collection inventory update*
- *In memorium: Thomas Gemza*
- *F-101 "Voodoo"*



## Our volunteers: Ron Kaup story and photo by Terry Morris

St. Paul native Ron Kaup (affectionately known as ‘a walking military history encyclopedia’) is a 30 year member of the museum’s volunteer staff. He joined after coming across one of the museum’s brochures in a hobby shop. Later that year he met Stan Christianson who recruited him to become a volunteer.

His interest in military history started much earlier. Though unable to serve in the military due to medical reasons, Ron came from a line of family members who served at various points in the nation’s history including the Civil War, WWI and WWII. He had one family member who served during WWII in the Pacific as a P-51 pilot on Iwo Jima and another who served in North Africa.

He is especially proud of his uncle, Sgt. Larry Kaup, who served as a combat infantryman in Europe during WWII for which he was awarded a Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts. He participated in the D-day invasion and the Battle of the Bulge



during which he took part in the capture of a German colonel.

Since joining the museum, Ron has assisted on a number of aircraft restoration projects including the P-51, F-89, C-47, C-45, F-102, C-131, the Oriole, the Photo Phantom, and the Jenny along with occasional maintenance on the T-33. Being an enthusiast, he has amassed an incredible amount of military aviation knowledge. In the mid 90’s he began sharing that knowledge with visitors both on the road supporting the Photo Phantom and at the museum as an exhibit tour guide. His detailed knowledge of military aviation and its history allow him to provide visitors with an exceptionally rich experience. His ability to participate in the P-51 restoration has given him the most pride after having a family member fly one in combat.

When asked what he likes best about being a volunteer, Ron replied that it’s the opportunity to help preserve the history of the Minnesota Air National Guard and bring that history to the public.

(BTW....His favorite airplane is the .....P-51)

### *Dolny story continued from page 1*

The exhibit has three parts—one for display of various artifacts from Dolny’s career. The second part is a diorama to display the main aircraft he flew during World War II to include the A-36, P-40 and P-47. The third is a compendium of Dolny’s military career. Dolny flew eight different aircraft throughout his military life, was the 133rd AW commander for 25 years and then went on to be the Special Assistant

to CINC ADCOM before retiring. John Silliman and Verne Burque are writing short summaries that will illuminate Dolny’s World War II experiences as a fighter pilot in Italy, both the every day and the heroic, as well as his long history with the Wing.

The 133rd AW provided new carpeting for the main floor area, which will help the museum’s roll up to the 100th anniversary of the MNANG. The museum volunteers have continued to freshen up all areas of the museum, including the tireless work by Pete Backlund to renew the displays in the main exhibit room.



You are invited to visit the museum to see this new addition to our museum as well as all of the other improvements the volunteers have put in place throughout. Hope to see you soon.

Guests mingle at the unveiling of the display commemorating the contributions of Maj. Gen. John Dolny at the museum on Oct. 22, 2017.  
*photo by Ray Pittman*

## Mission Statement

*The mission of the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation is to preserve the heritage and traditions of the Minnesota Air National Guard.*

### Board Members

Chairman: Brian Wyneken  
Vice Chairman: Karen Wolf  
Secretary: Terry Morris  
Executive Dir./Dir. of Operations: Jim Atwell  
Operations Assistant: Anja Drescher  
Treasurer: Tom Simonet  
Members: Rick Dow, Mike Drews, Brig. Gen. Greg Haase, Rick Heinecke, Herb Ketcham, Ray Pittman, Jerry Schultz, Lowell Ueland  
Wing Advisor: Col. Dan Gabrielli  
Legal Counsel: Kelly & Lemmons, P.A., Joe Kelly and Kevin Beck

Newsletter Editor: Jim Atwell  
Assistant editors: Sharon Drews and Mark Moss

Past Newsletters can be accessed on the museum website at: <http://mnangmuseum.org>

### Museum Hours and Access

Tours can be arranged through Stan Christianson ([stanangmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:stanangmuseum@gmail.com)) or call him at 612-713-2523. Special events, such as a birthday party, can be arranged through Nancy Wilson ([nanc.mn.ang.museum@gmail.com](mailto:nanc.mn.ang.museum@gmail.com)) or call 612-458-8012.

Address all correspondence to:  
Minnesota Air Guard Museum  
P.O. Box 11598  
St. Paul, MN 55111-0598

*(The Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization and not affiliated with the Dept. of Defense, Minnesota Air National Guard, or the 133rd Airlift Wing.)*

The Foundation would like to thank Harry Alton for the generous donation of a 6-person golf cart for use at our museum. This cart will be used to transport visitors around the exhibits in our airpark who otherwise would not be able to see these aircraft and engines up close. Other contributors who helped with this donation are Alan Morphew, Jack Dennehy, Steve Marks and Paul Bardal.

Pictured with the cart on July 19, 2017 are: Harry Alton, Stan Christianson and Jim Atwell.  
*photo by Mike Drews*

## Chairman's comments

Congratulations to the volunteers and members for what seems to have been another successful "open" season for the museum operations. In the coming months we will be more earnestly discussing ideas and plans for the Minnesota Air National Guard's 100th anniversary, exploring options for preservation and repairs of the air park aircraft, transitioning from completing our inventory to deciding what to do with our inventory, and holding board elections for board members and for officer positions (Chair, Vice, Treasurer, Secretary, Museum Executive Director). Again, this year we are looking for members to seek election for some of these officer positions, particularly that of treasurer.

As we work on these plans for the future, short and long term, please let the board members hear your ideas and insights.

AirSpace Minnesota continues to progress in its strategic planning. Their co-chair, Dr. Gregg Strathy, visited the Smithsonian this past summer to consult with experts on the development and capital planning for the new museum. As I mentioned in our spring newsletter, while our formal relationship has altered such that our Foundation focuses more on current collections and museum operations, we remain committed to supporting AirSpace.

Thank you again for all of your efforts and support.

Sincerely – your Foundation Board Chair,  
Brian Wyneken



## The collection inventory report

by Kirk Ransom

As we reported in earlier newsletters, we have been inventorying the collection of the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation - also known as The Air Guard Museum.

We received a grant for \$50,000 from the Minnesota Historical Society for inventorying 3D artifacts. Lindsay Marshall inventoried 6,061 items of which 5,757 are cataloged in our museum's computer program, 'PastPerfect.'

In inventorying all of the artifacts, there were 3,292 individual aircraft and flight related items. These included, but were not limited to, instruments, clothing, manuals, etc. Additionally, 557 Restoration Support items, 1,456 plastic aircraft models and 875 related books were found.

Our other grant is from the Support our Troops program of the State of Minnesota Adjutant General's Office. This grant was for \$57,250.00. So far about 13,156 archives (2D items) like papers, manuscripts, newsletters, maps, photographs (and negatives), and much more have been recorded and logged into the computer. There is so much more that there simply is not enough room to report everything here.

This is significant because all these artifacts and archives are now logged into databases. Each item is assigned a unique number. That same number is placed on the item

so you can pick up an object or archive and see the number. Then you can look up the number in the computer and find all kinds of information about the item.

An inventory of this scale has never happened before. We still have hundreds if not thousands of items in the collection to be inventoried, cataloged and cared for. A collection is the soul of a museum where the living history of its past can be found. The exhibits of a museum exist because of the collection. The collection is where researchers can find the history of the past and look to the future. So great care is given to a museum's collection to ensure it is available for future generations.

***But now we need HELP to keep the initiative going.***

We need staff - volunteers - to input data from inventory forms into the computer databases. Volunteers can work just one day a week for four or five hours or several days a week. Whatever is available.

We need volunteers to inventory many more artifacts and archives. Volunteers are also needed to photograph items for the catalog and to try to find the history of each object.

If you want to see the collection and find out how you could help, set up a visit to the Museum by calling Stan Christianson at 612-713-2523 and setting up a 'tour'. You can also call Kirk Ransom at 952-250-8656 to ask about what you can do.

Hope to see you soon.

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## Work behind the scenes to improve visitor experience

by Jim Atwell

On July 1 we had a great turnout at the museum to begin a program to adjust exhibits, develop better visitor pathways around exhibits, reorganize the gift shop, and improve overall safety for our volunteers and visitors. I am pleased to report it was a productive day with many improvements achieved. We have made much progress, but more work is needed.

For the foreseeable future, we will continue operations in bays 3 and 4 only. With limited space and many items to store, we are continuing the process of making these areas safe and clean, with better exhibit placement for visitors and volunteers. We are continuing this activity within the administrative area, ensuring our visitor experience is even better.

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The museum's main lobby display cases have been installed and filled with artifacts. Volunteers put in many hours of work refurbishing the cabinets and changing the lighting to LED to protect the artifacts. Pete Backlund and Taylor Juvland have done a wonderful job putting the chronological displays together. The cabinets have allowed the museum to display many more historical items. The branches of the military are represented by the flags displayed above the cabinets, and the new Honeywell display case, along with the 52" flat screen TV to show videos, are also great additions to the museum lobby. We are hoping you will visit us soon to see the improvements we've made at the museum.

by Mike Drews, photo by Ray Pittman



## Preserving museum artifacts

by Herb Ketcham

Like all museums, there are thousands of artifacts in our inventory that are not put on public display. Many of them consist of items such as photographs, official documents, drawings, memorabilia, clothing, equipment, etc. These artifacts are of significant importance, however, in recording the history of the Minnesota Air National Guard in war and in peace time. To that end, the artifacts have been carefully documented and catalogued by qualified archivists.

Once catalogued, they are stored in museum-approved containers which do not add to the deterioration of their contents. Currently these containers are being stored on storage racks located in the museum's north hangar bay. The issue we face is the deterioration rate of these artifacts due to the hangar environment, such as changes in heat, humidity, temperature, airborne contaminants, etc., even though they are stored in museum-approved containers. We are therefore planning to build a temperature/humidity-controlled enclosure around the storage racks to significantly reduce the deterioration rate. The new enclosure is designed to provide constant levels of heating, cooling, and humidity control year-round for the interior air environment that will significantly reduce the current rate of artifact deterioration for many years.

The dimensions of the new load bearing enclosure will be approximately 41 ft. long x 14 ft. high x 6 ft. wide and constructed around the existing storage racks.

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### *Summer events story continues from page 1*

and the Bloomington Heritage Days in Bloomington. These were not aviation oriented events, but it was decided to try some new events to increase our chances of raising money for the museum. All were fun to attend and it was worth everyone's effort! Chances are very good that we will be returning to these events again next year.

The State Fair was a success again this year! This time we were allowed to put out a donation box and it was well received. The PP is always a big hit at the Fair with many people taking advantage of the opportunity to sit in the cockpit and get their picture taken. It's a very good way to expose the museum to the public in addition to air shows. So many interesting people stop by with comments and ideas to share with us.

The Flying Cloud Air Expo was a hit again this year with very large crowds and many interesting aircraft on display. The PP and gift shop volunteers were quite busy during the two-day event.

Access to the storage racks will be from the shop/storage area side, through the new enclosure's two levels of double doors that will give access to all archival material.

A small mechanical area will be located on the east end providing housing for an air conditioning/heat pump, dehumidifier and humidifier to maintain environmental control. The painted sheet rock enclosure on the front of the exhibit area is integrated with a new screen wall that separates the shop/storage area from the exhibit area. The new continuous wall will face the exhibit area creating an opportunity for portraying the history of the Guard graphically and with artifacts.

We are presently in the process of developing construction documents for final pricing and code compliance reviews with all required governing agencies. Once these tasks are completed, we will be able to obtain financing for the project and begin construction sometime during the coming winter months.

Engineering drawings are currently being worked on for final pricing of the project through these volunteer companies: MJB – Brion Szwed, Structural Engineer; MCE – Marty Smith and Kerry Cooley Bruggemann, Mechanical/Electrical Engineers; and Sheehy Construction – Ned Blankenship, Contractor.

On behalf of the museum, I'd like to personally thank each of these individuals and their respective companies for donating their time, knowledge and expertise in helping the museum create this important new asset.

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'The Gandy Dancer' Air Show in Siren, Wisconsin, and the 'Wings and Wheels' Air Show in Osceola are our only two out of state events that we attend and they have always proved to be very profitable for the museum. These two events are always well attended and the PP is a very big hit with the air show crowd.

I want to thank everyone who gave up a lot of their own free time to come to these events and help out with the gift shop and the PP. I assure you that it is very much appreciated by everyone at the museum. These off base events are a large percentage of our museum income and we could not be successful without you.

We are always looking for new members and volunteers to pitch in and help at these events during the summer. It would be greatly appreciated if any members out there can lend a hand during the 2018 season. If you are interested, please call the museum and let us know in what capacity you can help.

*More Summer events photos on back page.*

## In Memoriam: Thomas Gemza by Pat Gemza

Tom joined the Air National Guard in Law Enforcement & Security after five years active duty. His unit responded to the tornado destruction in Anoka in 1965 and the Hormel strike in Austin. His deployments included Mississippi, California, England and Germany. Tom and wife Pat were both involved with the base chapel and served as Eucharistic ministers. The guard was like a family and they made many friends along the way.

He rose in rank until his retirement in 1993 (35 years including active duty) as a Senior Master Sgt. Shortly after Tom retired militarily (he stayed on as a state employee) he was critically injured on his way home from his shift in security when he stopped to assist at the scene of an accident. After 33 surgeries over a period of 20 months, they amputated his left leg. During that time the air guard family stepped in and held fundraisers for Tom which paid for parking while Tom was at HCMC for four months. Civil engineering built a ramp for Tom making it possible for him to come home. Col. Terry Sieben put a bill in the legislature for state employees to donate sick or vacation time to Tom easing the financial burden for us.

Although Tom could no longer meet the physical requirements of his job in security, he continued to work elsewhere for another nine years until age 65. He became involved with the Air National Guard Museum and volunteered there for many years. He was approached by the prosthetic company to model their



Thomas Gemza, age 76, of Woodbury, Minn., passed away on November 29, 2016. He had served in the 133rd Airlift Wing and was active at the Minnesota Air National Guard museum.  
*photo provided by Lisa Skifton*

brand at conferences attended by professionals around the world. This led to Century College employing him to work with students in the prosthetic program. Tom also volunteered at the VA until he could no longer drive. He suffered a stroke in 2010 leaving him with short term memory loss and balance issues. In 2012 he was diagnosed with Dementia/Alzheimer's. Through all of those years of disability Tom kept his sense of humor which helped his family and friends accept his losses as well.

Tom and Pat were married 50 years last November, blessed with children Greg, Shelley and Lisa. Also, grandchildren Anika, Lukas and Natalie among other family members. Their loss is great. Tom was dearly loved by his wife and family, a friend to many, and is sorely missed. His sense of humor, faith in God, and volunteering spirit brightened and inspired the lives of many.

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## Help keep our heritage alive! by Tom Simonet

The Eva Hope and Brig. Gen. Ray Miller Scholarship was originally founded by Eva Hope Miller to honor her husband, Brig. Gen. Ray Miller the first commander of the Minnesota Air National Guard. Mrs. Miller knew the importance of education and set aside in her will \$100,000 as a scholarship fund for members of the Minnesota Air National Guard. Miller represents the foundation of our unit and a direct link to our heritage dating back to World War I.



file photo of Richard Wiessner, WW II pilot

After the recent passing of Lt. Col. Richard W. Wiessner, his family donated to the scholarship fund to keep the memory of these two great aviators alive.

Wiessner represents the heroic efforts of airmen during World War II. Wiessner flew 82 combat missions in Africa, Italy and Germany in a P-47 fighter. He continued his military career with the Minnesota Air National Guard including being the 109th Squadron commander.

With these two patriots, we are able to keep the scholarship and the memory to these great individuals alive. One scholarship is set for \$1,000 and the other scholarship will be for \$500. Each one will be awarded to an individual in the name of their school.

This year the fund will give the scholarships in honor to these dedicated individuals who served our country, state and Minnesota Air National Guard. Details regarding the submission of an application and general selection criteria can be found on the museum web site: [www.mnangmuseum.org](http://www.mnangmuseum.org).

To honor the scholarship individuals, Ruth Welsh is donating her book *The Real World War* as a thank you to the winners. Ruth spent hours collecting information from casual conversation with Richard, reading personal letters from family members to Richard and verifying facts using newspaper articles. The book captures a fast-moving story of death-defying combat illustrating what war was really like.

If you are interested in donating to the scholarship fund, consider a gift. The scholarship fund is part of the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation, Inc a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Contact us at 612-713-2523 or [mnangmuseum1@gmail.com](mailto:mnangmuseum1@gmail.com).

# McDonnell F-101B "VOODOO" USAF SERIAL # 58-0300 RCAF SERIAL # 101067

by Gregory Bastyr

The F-101B was flown by the 179th Fighter Interceptor Squadron in Duluth, Minn. From 1972 to 1976, before the unit converted to the RF-4C Phantom II. This aircraft, also a member of the "Century Series" jet fighters, was a supersonic military jet fighter which served with the USAF and the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). Initially designed as a long range bomber escort for the Strategic Air Command (SAC), the Voodoo instead was developed as a nuclear armed fighter bomber for the Tactical Air Command (TAC). There was also a photo reconnaissance version based on the same airframe.

The Voodoo, also known as the "One-oh-Wonder" was developed from the XF-88 "Voodoo" and first flew on September 29, 1954.

There were a total of 807 built.



On the cover and above: The F-101B in Royal Canadian Air Force days. *file photo*



Left: The museum's F-101B today. *photo by Jim Atwell*

Below: The "One-O-Wonder" patch.



**Cost: \$1,754,066**  
**Crew: 2**  
**Length: 67 Feet, 5 Inches**  
**Wingspan: 39 Feet, 8 Inches**  
**Height: 18 Feet, 0 Inches**  
**Engines: 2 Pratt and Whitney J57-P-55 afterburning turbojets, 16,900 pounds of thrust each in full afterburner**  
**Maximum Speed: Mach 1.72 (1,134 mph) at 35,000 feet**  
**Range: 1,520 Miles**  
**Service Ceiling: 58,400 Feet**  
**Armament: 4 AIM-4 Falcon Missiles, or 2 AIR-Genie nuclear rockets plus 4 AIM 4 Falcon Missiles**

Interesting Facts: The museum F-101B has the distinction of having made the very last Voodoo flight in the USA when it was flown from Canada to its present location on April 7, 1987. This aircraft, having transferred from the USAF to the RCAF was modified to a one of a kind EF-101B Voodoo, nicknamed the "Electric Voodoo". The aircraft, when with the RCAF, was painted all black with red markings and also had the nickname "The Black Knight." It was used as an electronic jamming aircraft simulating missile strategies of the day.

Also of interest is the reconnaissance version of this aircraft, the USAF RF-101A from Shaw AFB, SC flew reconnaissance sorties over Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962. The RF-101s also saw heavy service during the Vietnam War, in some 35,000 sorties, 39 aircraft were lost, 33 in combat.

**Minnesota Air National  
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Above: The gift shop and Photo Phantom at Osceola, Wisc. on Sept. 9, 2017. On the right on the Photo Phantom are Jim Atwell, Mike Drews and Anja Drescher.  
Below: The Minnesota Air National Guard museum display is near the upper left section in this view of the Patriot Riders Motorcycle Rally at the Anoka County Airport on July 8, 2017.  
*photos by Ray Pittman*

