

MINNESOTA ANG MUSEUM NEWS

*Minnesota Aviation History — Learn of the Past
Fall 2022*



F-89 Dedication Ceremony

story by Deon Ford and photos submitted by Josh Shaffer

Saturday, October 1, 2022 was an historic day for the Minnesota Air National Guard Museum and its visitors. Several gathered for the dedication of the Northrop F-89H Scorpion to **Lt Col Russel “Russ” Jensen** (deceased). Since the initial opening of the museum in 1980, Russ was a Charter Member of the museum, a Lifetime Member and a dedicated volunteer until his passing in 2019. He served as the museum chairman in the late 1990s and directly participated in or supported a number of major projects including the two Curtiss “Orioles” and the Curtiss “Jenny”, as well as the acquisitions of the C-123 and the C-97.

At the start of the ceremony the President of the MNANG Historical Foundation, **BG (Ret) Greg Haase** welcomed visitors, and Museum Director **Mike Drews** introduced special guests **Stanley Christiansen**-Head Docent, **Sondra Forsman**-Former Museum Office Manager, the F-89 Restoration Crew - **Ron Hokanson, Terry Morris, Kevin Auger** and **Orhan Uner**, and **CMSgt (Ret) David Himmer**, a close friend to Russ.

Greg Bastyr presented information about the F-89 followed by “Memories of Russ, Museum Volunteer”, by **Terry Morris**. **Col Jamie Lindman**, MN National Guard Director of Staff, Joint Force HQ, gave a moving speech, followed by words of gratitude from Lt Col Jensen’s wife, **Col (Ret) Julie Eszlinger Jensen**.



The ceremony was concluded by Lt Col Jensen’s grandsons, **Connor, Joey and Sully Moore** unveiling Lt Col Jensen’s name on the F-89 to enthusiastic applause and champagne for all. **Laurie Jensen, Jamie Jensen, Jennifer Jensen Moore**, and **Julia and Mark Mosby**, Lt Col Jensen’s family, also helped celebrate the dedication. It was a memorable day for all in attendance. Lt Col Jensen’s contribution the Minnesota Air National Guard and the United States Air Force will not be forgotten.

Also inside:

- **Aeromed Book Signing**
- **History in the Making: 133rd CES**
- **Thanks from the Wing Commander**

Our Volunteers: Bruce Peters

story and photo by Terry Morris

Bruce Peters has always embraced new challenges and opportunities. The Lake City, Minn native grew up on a dairy farm with six siblings. One of those siblings is **Sharon Drews**, a key member of our museum family. In 1969 he embraced the opportunity to fulfill his military obligation and served with the United States Army in Vietnam. For 13 months he was stationed at Camp Evans near the DMZ with a reconnaissance platoon. His six-person team was assigned to fly in a Huey helicopter to various jungle locations and “find things”.



After completing his active duty, Bruce attended Winona State University and in 1975 earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Education. Though he substitute-taught at high schools in Hennepin County, Bruce continued to look for a better opportunity. That opportunity came when he applied for a management position with a then-upstart shoe store chain called “Foot Locker”. This was the start of a successful 40-year career for him in retail management. His assignments took him from stores in the Twin Cities to ones in Ohio, Kansas, Colorado, and eventually California. He loved the daily challenge of dealing with new situations, always being guided by the principle of “Leave It Better than You Found It”. He eventually became an auditor for the parent corporation which is based in New York.

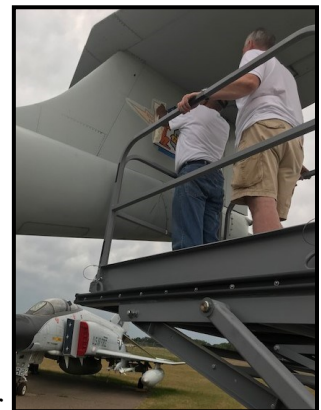
Although Bruce retired in 2015 and eventually returned to the Twin Cities, he continued to look for new challenges and opportunities. After learning about the museum from his brother-in-law, **Mike Drews**, he became intrigued with the challenge of maintaining the aircraft and thus decided to become a volunteer in 2021. Bruce immediately applied his retail experience to improve the museum gift shop’s sales by revamping its displays and rationalizing its inventory/pricing. He has also made contributions to several aircraft maintenance projects. He has especially enjoyed working with **Greg Bastyr** to replace windows on the C-130.

When asked what he likes best about being a museum volunteer in addition to the people, he replies it’s the variety and challenges of the projects.

Museum Projects

story by Mike Drews and photo submitted by Julie Eszlinger Jensen

This past spring and summer were quite busy for museum volunteers. A good deal of their time was spent maintaining the aircraft in the air park. Some of the projects they worked on included removing and replacing the cockpit windows in the C-130 and cleaning and touching up the F-89. Volunteers **Terry Morris** and **Kevin Auger** applied decals (*right*) to prepare it for a ceremony to dedicate the aircraft in honor of the late **Lt Col Russell J. Jensen**. Lt Col Jensen flew the F-89 out of the Cold War hangars that now house the museum.



Volunteers have also put together new displays, and the information panels created for the 100-year history of the Air Guard that were on display at the Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport in 2021 are now on display at the museum. During the coming winter months the museum’s display area and gift shop will be remodeled by the volunteers and they will also continue working on other museum projects.

Comments from the Board Chair

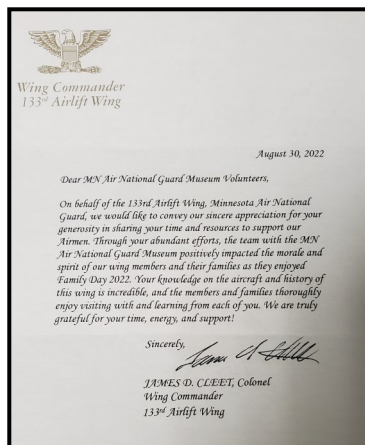
Fellow historians, airmen, servicemen and women, and loyal supporters of aviation, we are quickly coming to the close of celebrating the centennial of the “First Federally Recognized Flying Unit.” The final component to be completed is the centennial book, *Century in the Sky*. The book is finished and going through the final phases of publication. The process requires the writing team to reread the book and make any spelling or grammatical corrections. We’ve also found pictures displaced from their stories and bases that have relocated to new countries or states. For instance, somehow the 146th Airlift Wing, the unit at Channel Islands, California, was listed in the book as Channel Islands, Florida. We are certain that in over 500 pages, book-readers will still find many mistakes. If you do, please inform us as follow-on versions can be corrected. The book will go to the indexer in September and should be printed by the end of October. The first run of 1,500 copies will be hard cover, and we are likely to go soft cover after that.

There is also a great amount of work being put into relocating the museum. The first run of good news came when TKDA, the architectural firm for the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), offered to do two, two-dimensional concepts for a new museum building and then a single three-dimensional concept.

Comments from the Board Chair continues on page 6

Thanks to Volunteers from the 133AW Commander

story and photo by Deon Ford



The Commander of the 133rd Airlift Wing, **Colonel James Cleet**, sent his thanks to all the museum volunteers who worked to help make Family Day 2022 a success. Volunteers welcomed 133rd families and friends to the museum with guided tours of the facility and eagerly informed the visitors of the rich history of the Minnesota Air National Guard. Colonel Cleet complimented museum volunteers on both their vast aircraft knowledge and the history of the 133AW.

Museum members are grateful for the continued support of the 133rd, and our volunteers look forward to seeing lots of new faces visiting us in the future to learn about the amazing history of the Minnesota Air National Guard!

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, which includes the preservation of important artifacts and archives.

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Newsletter Editor: Deon Ford

Assistant Editors: Mark Moss and Sharon Drews

Past Newsletters can be accessed on the museum website at:

<https://mnangmuseum.org>

Museum Hours and Access: The museum has reopened for visits and tours. It hosts many new, interesting exhibits.

Please visit the website

<https://mnangmuseum.org> for updates and instructions for booking a tour.

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.)

Aeromed Book Signing

story and photo by Karen Wolf

Past and present commanders of the 109th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron hosted a book-signing celebration following the publication of *The Best Care In The Air*, written by retired unit members **Col Mike Germain** and **TSgt Richard “Chip” Childs**. Mike and Chip spent eight years compiling the complete 60-year history of this incredible squadron.



Book authors Mike Germain and “Chip” Childs with Historical Foundation board members Karen Wolf and Julie Eszlinger Jensen

The event took place at the Air Guard museum on Saturday of August UTA/RTP. Bay 2 was decorated to accommodate the over 100 past and present 109th AES members and their guests. Museum volunteers were great throughout and their assistance was much appreciated by all of the Aeromedes. Folks traveled from far and wide — including Arizona, Florida, New York, Wisconsin and South Dakota — not wanting to miss this historic gathering.

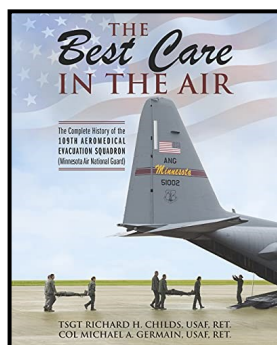
BG (Ret) Greg Haase, representing the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation Board of Directors, welcomed the group to *their* history museum and talked about the next book to be published soon, *Century in the Sky*, documenting the 100-year history of the Minnesota Air National Guard. This centennial book has been in the works for over three years and will be a wonderful addition to your knowledge of the evolution of the Air National Guard in the state of Minnesota.



BG Sandy Best (left) attended the festivities to recognize the new Flight of Honor inductees, of which the 109th AES has 4 members — **Col (Ret) Julie Eszlinger Jensen** was inducted in 2021. This year’s inductees include **Lt Col (Ret) Darcy Anderson**, **Lt Col (Ret) Henry Capiz** (posthumously), and **CMSgt (Ret) Steve Campos** (right). All are extremely deserving and have given tremendously to the unit, the Wing and the community.



Topping off the presentations was a talk given by Mike and Chip about their 8-year journey in writing the Aeromed history book. In its well-researched pages, unit members are able to appreciate how we “came to be”, the hard work and training it takes to become and remain a premier unit, and what world events and missions demand of current members. The rest of the evening consisted of buying books, getting them signed by the authors, and reminiscing with everyone.



The Best Care In The Air is available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), [barnesandnoble.com](https://www.barnesandnoble.com), [outskirtspress.comthebestcareintheair](https://www.outskirtspress.com/thebestcareintheair), or download on the Apple Books app. The museum gift shop also has a limited number of hard copies of the book at the author’s price of \$35!

DOUGLAS C-47 / DC-3C / R4D-6R SKYTRAIN

USAAF SERIAL NUMBER 42-49322

U.S. NAVY BUREAU NUMBER 50793

story and submitted photos by Greg Bastyr



The Museum's C-47 on display

The C-47 flew with the Minnesota Air National Guard with the 109th Fighter Interceptor Squadron until the late 1950s and with the 179th FIS until the early 1970s. It was a support aircraft carrying crews and supplies to deployed exercises. The C-47, nicknamed the "Gooney Bird", first flew as the DC-3 in 1935. The actual C-47's first flight was in 1941.

The C-47 is a military transport aircraft that was first developed as the DC-3 commercial airliner. It was used extensively during WWII and remained in front line operations through the 1950s with a few remaining in operation to this day. The C-47 differed from the civilian DC-3 in numerous modifications that included being fitted with a cargo door and strengthened floor. There were over 10,000 built.

Some notable contributions the C-47 made during WWII were its success in "Flying the Hump" and the "Berlin Airlift". Several variations of the C-47 flew with the USAF through the Vietnam War. After WWII thousands of surplus C-47s were converted to civil airline use with some remaining even today. Many of the flyable DC-3/C-47s have remained in the air for close to 75 years and are still going strong. The DC-3/C-47 was also license-built in Japan and Russia.



AC-47 Spooky also nicknamed Puff the Magic Dragon

Interesting Facts: The museum aircraft started out as a C-47 in 1944, MSN 26583, USAAF serial number, 42-49322, then transferred to the U.S. Navy and redesignated R4D-6R, Bureau Number, 50793. This aircraft was then transferred to the FAA, converted to a DC-3C in 1957 and registered as N33 and used for ILS and terminal approach inspections plus the detailed commissioning inspections of all new facilities. The FAA maintained a fleet of 60 of these aircraft. This aircraft was the first aircraft of this museum's collection. Another version of this aircraft, the AC-47 "Spooky" served as a very successful gunship in the Vietnam War, also nicknamed "Puff the Magic Dragon". Its primary mission involved protecting villages, hamlets and personnel from mass attacks by VC guerrilla units. C-47s are regular visitors at air shows across the country.

History in the Making: 133rd CES

TAMA HILLS, Japan -- The 133rd Civil Engineer Squadron (CES) traveled to Tama Hills, Japan to conduct a two-week Deployment for Training (DFT). The DFT program provided a welcomed opportunity for hands-on, real-world engineering training that the CES met with moxie.

Excerpts from:

Minnesota Moxie

Published Sept. 18, 2022
By Tech. Sgt. Bristol Evasco
133rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs



SSgt Morgan Johnson and
TSgt Jared Smith

Naturally concealed in the rugged forest terrain of Tama Hills, Tama Service Annex was the ideal place for the Japanese Imperial Army to produce and store their munitions in the 1930s and 1940s. Today, the area is maintained and operated by the 374th Force Support Squadron from Yakota Air Base and serves as a recreation area for Boy Scouts. Tama Hills offers full-service lodging facilities with multiple outdoor recreation opportunities, including hiking, golf, picnic areas, horseback riding, tennis courts, softball fields, archery range, basketball courts, and more.

What Tama Hills didn't have was a dining hall, bath house and recreation building. At least not until the 133rd CES arrived. Twenty-two Airmen from various CES career specialties, including structures, HVAC, utilities, and electrical, got right to work, tackling each project with vigor and excitement for this real-world training mission opportunity.



Sr Amn Nicholas Schmitz

What this DFT also provided was the opportunity to partner with local Japanese military contractors. Together, the CES, DFT support staff, and local contractors gathered necessary plans, supplies, and equipment.

133 CES Airmen renovated both interior and exterior portions of the three structures. Tasks ranged from hanging, taping, mudding, sanding, priming, and painting sheetrock to demolition of wrecked exterior walls, hanging siding and roofing. They also used their expertise to install and/or improve plumbing, electrical, and HVAC systems for each building.

In just 12 days, the 133rd CES renovated 7,833 square feet across the three buildings and completed hundreds of hours of proficiency training, upgrade training and cross training.

Comments from the Board Chair continued from page 3

The Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation is working with 133AW leadership to determine the viability of using the southeast corner of the wing property by putting a fence within a fence. The foundation is also exploring the use of the former Fort Snelling Officer's Club. The land at the club may also offer an opportunity to do a land swap with MAC to get a parcel closer to the runways.

Finally, let me pass on a heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who have been repairing and painting artifacts, putting up new displays in the museum and telling the story of the Minnesota Air National Guard to the many visitors that have passed through in the last few months. Karen Wolf also arranged to have the twelve large timeline panels that bracketed the display cases in Concourse C at the airport, to now be displayed at the 133rd Wing Headquarters building along the westerly wing. If you visit the wing, perhaps to get a new ID or talk to the recruiters for a grandchild or friend, stop by and take a look.

As the very warm breezes of summer pass into the more subtle fall temperatures please feel welcome to take some time and visit the museum. Generally, the museum is open on Tuesday mornings and the volunteers love to show our guests what the museum has to offer.

Greg Haase, Brig Gen (Ret), USAF/ANG

Help Support the Museum

by Mike Drews and Mark Moss

As the museum continues to go through changes, all of us can help with raising needed funds for future activities and events. It can be in the form of a direct donation, but it can also be as simple as linking your Amazon purchases via Amazon Smile to send a small portion of the purchase cost to the museum. Here's how you can help:

1. Mail tax deductible donations to Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation
P.O. Box 11598, St. Paul, MN 55111

2. Call 612-713-2523 and speak with someone at the museum.

3. Click on DONATE on the web site <https://mnangmuseum.org/donate>. The website accepts payment via PayPal or credit card.



4. When you shop online at Amazon, enable [AmazonSmile](#): The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate .05% of your eligible purchases to the museum when you choose the museum as the charity you wish to support, at no additional cost to you. On the AmazonSmile website charity list, the museum is listed as the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation, Inc.



You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on the product detail pages. Your donations help us to strengthen our programs and develop new, innovative projects to serve the community.

GiveMN.org's "Give to the Max Day 2022"

by Sharon Drews

Mark your calendars - "Give to the Max Day" is back for a 14th year on Thursday, November 17th. However, the *Early Giving* period begins on November 1st. You can make your donation to the museum by going to the **Give to the Max** website, givemn.org/search, type Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation in the search box then click on the shopping cart. It's so easy to participate in this great event and your donation will support an even greater cause!



Museum Tours

story by Mike Drews and photo by Mark Moss

This year has been an exciting time for tours at the museum. The museum opened to the public in mid-April 2022 after being closed for two long years due to the pandemic. When word spread that the museum was open again, calls and emails to schedule tours started flooding in. As of September 16, 2022 there have been 145 tours, over 870 visitors total, ranging in age from babies to senior citizens. Numbers of people visiting at any given time varied from one or two to over 50 people in a group.



There have been visitors from 21 states and 6 countries from as far away as Japan and Europe. Groups consisted of people from the 133rd and 934th Airlift Wings, Civil Air Patrol, Veterans, Scouts, school children and teachers, churches, and many families and friends. Several positive reviews were received, many of those stating that the MNANG Museum was "the best museum they have ever visited". Our visitors enjoy being able to sit in the simulators and the Huey helicopter as well as walking inside the C-130. They also enjoy listening to our knowledgeable docents explaining the history of the Air Guard, the artifacts and the aircraft.

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Exhibit Highlight - 148th Fighter Wing

photo by Deon Ford with excerpts from 148fw.ang.af.mil



The 148th Fighter Wing, located in Duluth, Minn, is one of only two Air National Guard wings in the state and is tasked to provide Suppression of Enemy Air Defense (SEAD) support for our nation. The unit flies the Block 50 F-16CM, Fighting Falcon, the newest and most capable F-16 in the United States.

The wing began as the 393rd Fighter Squadron, initially flying P-38Js during World War II. The 393rd flew its last mission of the war in 1945 and was deactivated.

The unit was reactivated September 17th, 1948 as the 179th Fighter Squadron and has grown from the original 50 members into the 148th Fighter Wing that we know today. The unit has changed aircraft several times over the years from the F-51D Mustang to the most current Block 50 F-16CM Fighting Falcon.