



# Friends of the Museum Newsletter



## Commemorative Air Force

455 Aviation Drive, Camarillo, CA 93010

(805) 482-0064

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[www.orgsites.com/ca/caf-socal](http://www.orgsites.com/ca/caf-socal)

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© Photo by Harlis Brend

**The CAF-SoCAWing's F6F-5 Hellcat (center) flying formation with our A6M3 Zero (right) and the Planes of Fame's SBD Dauntless as the highlight of our Wing's Special Event Day in commemoration of The Battle of Midway, the pivotal naval battle of World War II. See page three for a write-up of the Special Event Day.**

Dear Friends,

We're almost into the holiday season and the year is almost over. We wish you the happiest of holidays !

Our next big special event will memorialize **Pearl Harbor**, a dramatic instance that drew our country together to defend our freedom. We are looking for sponsors, and, if you can, please consider helping our Museum with this important commemoration.

A flyer for the Pearl Harbor event is enclosed, and on the back side is a form to complete if you can support our effort with a sponsor donation. **If you recently contributed to the Museum, such as for the aviation fuel at our last event, we are not asking you to contribute again. Many thanks to those who did!**

Please try to attend this event to be held on **December 6**, and bring your families. Col. Jim Hinckley is preparing another great presentation with informative exhibits, posters and handouts. We'll have fly-overs, antique cars, ride and photo opportunities. Remember to visit our Gift Shop, which will be stocked with great items for Christmas gifts!

Ceci Stratford

Friends of the Museum Program Director

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## Museum Update

By Ceci Stratford (for Sarah de Bree)

Wow! That's how I view our successful "Battle of Midway" special event! Many thanks to all our members who helped make it a success, either by working overtime, donating funds, or bringing friends. **The Planes of Fame** enabled Ron Hackworth to fly in their **SBD Dauntless**, an airplane that was significant in the Battle of Midway.

Docents helped show the 130+ visitors around our Museum and the airplanes.

Members helped with photo opportunities. Dick Witten provided a beautiful photo package that included a 5x7 framed personalized and dated photo along with special photos of the Midway flyer and information about the CAF, pages of warbird pictures, and a CD with more warbirds, worth far more than the \$15 we charged. Thank you Dick for your hard work and impressive package!

The **SBD** flew along with our **Zero** (piloted by Steve Barber) and our **Hellcat** (flown by Gary Barber)—three flyovers that thrilled the crowd. David Price brought his beautiful **P-51** over from Santa Monica. That's always a crowd pleaser! Thank to members and Friends of the Museum who donated funds for the aviation fuel fund—see the listing of the names of our fuel donors (below). We now have enough money to pay for another special event flying day!

Friend of the Museum Win Burkhardt, brought six beautiful vintage cars—a Mercury convertible, two Fords, a Lincoln Continental, a Model A Coupe & a Roadster.. They fit in perfectly with the airplanes.

Speaker Col. Jim Hinckley gave an informative presentation and provided colorful handouts and posters depicting the Battle of Midway statistics, aircraft, carriers and people involved. Jim spent weeks preparing his talk, doing research, compiling figures and photos.



© Photo by Harlis Brend

**One of the fabulous antique autos on display during our Special Event, thanks to Win Burkhardt, a Friend.**



© Photo by Dave Flood

**Ceci Stratford introducing main speaker Jim Hinckley. Jim spoke extemporaneously about the pivotal battle.**

Special exhibits were on display in the Museum. Sarah de Bree and Shirley Murphy spent many hours looking for appropriate photos, scanning them and presenting them in a crisp, easy-to-look-at display.

This event was very successful in its goals to present an entertaining as well as informative presentation that would also add funds to the Wing's operating accounts.

Here's a summary of income and expenses for the day:

**TOTAL INCOME: \$1,613**

**TOTAL EXPENSES: \$ 383**

**Aviation fuel donations: \$2,266** (from members, Friends of the Museum, visitors, the Kiwanis Club of Camarillo and Amgen). We don't have the fuel expenses yet, but they should be less than \$500. This leaves enough for aviation fuel for our next special event commemorating **Pearl Harbor**, scheduled for December 6, 2008.

### Donors to Aviation Fuel Fund:

**CAF Members** – Jim Hinckley, Al & Lois Watts, Charlie Valentine, Russ Drosendahl, Bill O'Neill, Gil Brice; Al Kepler, Dick Witten, Ceci Stratford, Chuck Kamphausen, Ken Barger, Shirley Murphy, Walt Metcalf, Terry Cedar, Marc Russell, Howard Ulm, Dave Flood, Robert Monetti, Sarah and Casey de Bree.

**Friends of the Museum** – Charlotte Craven, Floyd Caldwell, Clay Paschen, Joe Halcomb.

**Others** – Kiwanis Club of Camarillo (thanks to Walt Metcalf), Visitor donations in cash box (Museum).

**Matching Funds** – Amgen (many thanks to Dr. Halcomb for submitting the request!).

## Battle of Midway: Special Event

By Harlis Brend, EAA Chapter 723, Camarillo Airport

The Commemorative Air Force – Southern California Wing held a special event on Sept. 6, 2008 at their Camarillo Airport facility to commemorate the **Battle of Midway**. The event featured guest speaker Col. U.S. Army (Ret.) James Hinckley, who spoke in detail about the naval battle near Midway Island – June 3 – 6, 1942. Hinckley is a long-time CAF – Southern California Wing member, volunteer – and is on the Fairchild F-24R restoration team.



© Photo by Harlis Brend

### Col. Jim Hinckley discussing the Battle of Midway

According to historical sources, the Battle of Midway is regarded as the most important naval battle of the Pacific campaign during WWII.<sup>(1)</sup> The U.S. Navy decisively defeated the Japanese naval forces six months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The heavy losses permanently weakened the Japanese Navy. As a result of the Midway victory, the U.S. Navy was able to go on the offensive in the Pacific.

The Japanese plan was to lure America's few remaining carriers into a trap and sink them.<sup>(2)</sup> They also intended to occupy Midway Atoll to extend their defensive perimeter, conduct further attacks against Fiji and Samoa, and launch an invasion of Hawaii.<sup>(3)</sup> The U.S. Navy intelligence had broken the enemy's code, and learned of the Japanese plan to attack Midway Island through intercepted radio transmissions. As a result, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas, entered the battle with a very good picture of where, when and in what strength the Japanese would appear. In contrast, Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto remained almost totally in the dark about his opponents even after the battle began.<sup>(4)</sup>

The Japanese Navy lost 332 aircraft, four aircraft carriers (Akagi, Kaga, Soryu, Hiryu), one Mogami class cruiser (Mikuma) and 3,500 men, including over 200 experienced naval aviators.<sup>(5)</sup> The U.S. Navy lost 98 aircraft, one aircraft carrier (USS Yorktown), one destroyer (USS Hammann) and 307 men.

U.S. Navy/Marine aircraft involved were: B-17 Flying Fortress bombers; B-26 Marauder bombers; TBF Avenger and TBD Devastator torpedo bombers; SBD Dauntless dive bombers; F4F Wildcat fighter; and PBY Catalina scout planes. Japanese aircraft included the A6M3 Zero.

Aircraft fly-overs after Hinckley's presentation featured airplanes that were representative of the airplanes that were involved in the Battle of Midway. The most significant aircraft, the Douglas SBD-5 Dauntless dive bomber (damaged/sank three Japanese carriers within six minutes), was courtesy of the Planes of Fame Museum. The CAF's Zero and F6F-5 Hellcat (substituting for the F4F Wildcat) completed the formation. Additional displays included: F8F-2 Bearcat, SNJ-5 Texan, P-51 Mustang, PT-19A Cornell, as well as antique cars and the museum exhibits.



© Photo by Harlis Brend

### The Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bomber from Chino

### Next Special Event

The next CAF Southern California Wing special event, commemorating **Pearl Harbor**, will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2008, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Camarillo Airport CAF facility. The speaker at 1:00 pm will be Col. U.S. Army (Ret.) James Hinckley. Static displays and fly-overs will include aircraft from that era, and antique car displays. Special recognition will be given to veterans. Admission donation: \$7 adults; \$4 students; \$3 children.

### References:

1. "A Brief History of Aircraft Carriers: Battle of Midway," *United States Naval Aviation, 1910-1970* [NAVAIR 00-80P-1], *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*.
2. H.P. Willmott, *Barrier and the Javelin*; Lundstrom, *First South Pacific Campaign*; Parshall & Tully, *Shattered Sword*, pp 19-38.
3. For a detailed discussion of anticipated follow-on Hawaiian operations, see Parshall & Tully, pp. 43-45, & Stephan, *Hawaii Under the Rising Sun*.
4. Lord, *Incredible Victory*; Willmott, *Barrier and the Javelin*; Layton, *And I Was There; Pearl Harbor and Midway – Breaking the Secrets*.
5. Dull, *The Imperial Japanese Navy: A Battle History*, p. 166; Willmott, *The Barrier and the Javelin*, pp. 519-523; Prange, *Miracle at Midway*, p. 395; Parshall & Tully, *Shattered Sword*, pp. 416-430.

**COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WING**  
**World War II Aviation Museum**  
**455 Aviation Drive Camarillo CA 93010 (805) 482-0064**  
**www.orgsites.com/ca/caf-socal**

The CAF So Cal Wing offers a financial donation opportunity through the “Friends of the Museum” program. (Note, this is not a membership program. Rather, it is a fund raising program.)

The Museum operates on the support of members, events, and donations. The “Friends” annual donation entitles them to unlimited admission to the Museum, discounts at our gift shop, a “Friends Newsletter”, and special levels of benefits. At each level, donors have the satisfaction of knowing that their gift helps enrich our educational programs, expand our exhibits, and maintain our airplanes.

If you or someone you know is interested in supporting our mission of preserving aviation history of World War II and beyond, complete this form and send it to the CAF at the address above. (Feel free to make a photocopy of the form).

**FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM DONOR FORM**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if renewing. What is your Friend ID #? \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you are a current CAF Colonel

Form of Payment: Cash  Credit Card  Check   
 (Make check payable to “CAF SoCal Wing - Friends of the Museum”)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Check One Visa  MasterCard  Discovery

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to above address.

**COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE – SO CAL WING**  
**WORLD WAR II AVIATION MUSEUM**



**Select Participation Level** (Benefits for each level are listed below)

- Individual \$50
- Family \$75
- Supporter \$250
- Sustaining \$500
- Patron \$1000
- Benefactor \$5000

Friends of the Museum donation is valid for 1 year from the month of donation.

The CAF is a 501(c)3 organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible.  
 (See your Tax advisor for your individual tax situation.)

**Friends of the Museum Levels and Benefits**

BENEFIT	INDIVIDUAL \$50	FAMILY \$75	SUPPORTER \$250	SUSTAINING \$500	PATRON \$1000	BENEFACTOR \$5000
Unlimited Museum Access	X	X	X	X	X	X
Personalized Friends of the Museum ID Card	X	X	X	X	X	X
“Friends Newsletter”	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gift Shop Discount 10%	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wing Patch			X	X	X	X
Drawing for Ride in SNJ				X	X	
Framed Certificate					X	X
Ride in SNJ and Photo						X
Name on Plaque in Museum						X