

WWII U.S. GLIDER PILOT'S BRIEFING

NATIONAL WWII GLIDER PILOTS ASSOCIATION
OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE

SPECIAL EDITION



In the background, prior Commander, Lt. Col. Jeremy Lushnat, USAF (ret.), is looking on as World War Two Glider Pilot , Flight Officer Roger Smith, exchanges salutes with Commander, Lt. Col. Chad M Davies, 94th Flying Training Squadron,. The National World War Two glider Pilots Reunion attendees were graciously invited by the cadets to spend the day with them.

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Beth STRIPLING - Reunion,;
Barbara WOODS—Medals project

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SPECIAL EDITION

Fall 2023 General Order #12-A

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You are receiving this quarterly briefing as a valued member of the National World War II Glider Pilot Association. Our association operates as an independent 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization with the primary mission of supporting the education and preservation of the history of World War II glider pilots and their remarkable contributions. The content within this briefing is diligently curated by our dedicated members, all of whom contribute their time and expertise voluntarily without financial compensation. Our aim is to provide you with exclusive insights into glider operations and other troop carrier narratives, accompanied by a wealth of information, captivating images, and historical accounts sourced directly from U.S. Military archives and other rare repositories not typically accessible to the public. If you wish to discontinue receiving these publications, please feel free to reach out to Claudia Coggin at claudia.coggin@gmail.com. Your preferences are important to us, and we are here to assist you in any way we can. Thank you for your ongoing support and membership in our association.

EDITOR'S NOTE

I want to express my great thanks to all those who had a role in making sure this year's reunion was such a roaring success! Thanks for the hospitality shown by the officers and cadets of the US Air Force Academy, all guests thoroughly enjoyed their time.

If you attended the reunion and have a thought you'd like to share about your experience, please send a brief note for inclusion on the Winter Briefing to:

briefingeditor.nwwiigpc@gmail.com

Please keep your notes to 150 words or less.

Letter;

About an article.

Signed Trevor S.

Oceanside, CA

We look forward to hearing your thoughts!

Best,

Trevor Shimulunas

SILENT WINGS

December, 1983



From a cartoon drawn by Dale Oliver (S/Sgt) and published in the Kirtland Field, New Mexico BOMBSIGHT of October 17, 1942. This issue of the publication contained a Salute to the "Men Who Fly on Silent Wings" — America's Glider Pilots.

51st ANNUAL REUNION
NATIONAL WWII GLIDER PILOTS ASSOCIATION
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
12 November 2023

SUBJECT: 51st Annual Reunion Report.

TO: National WWII Glider Pilot Association (NWWIIGPA) Executive Council and membership.

1. In compliance with the NWWIIGPA Bylaws, dated 23 June 2023, subject as above, the following report is submitted:
 - a. October 2023 marks another milestone in the life of the NWWIIGPA. After a year of discussions and planning we were finally in Colorado Springs, CO for our 51st Annual Reunion.
 - b. Ninety (90) attendees registered for the Reunion.
 - c. Two WWII Glider Pilots were our guests on Friday.
 - Flight Officer (F/O) Roger W. Smith, 100 yrs young, 8th Tc Squadron / 62 TC Group, SOUTHERN FRANCE, August 1944.
 - 2nd Lt Raymond F. Chambers, 101 yrs young, 45th Troop Carrier Squadron / 315th TC Group and the 73rd TC Squadron / 434th TC Group, NORMANDY, June 1944 and HOLLAND, September 1944.
 - d. A very special thanks to Lt Col Chad “Sloth” Davies, Commander, 94th Flying Training Squadron (FTS), United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) for his incredible support of the NWWIIGPA and for being our keynote speaker on Friday evening.
 - e. A special thanks to 2nd Lt Lauren Reed and the officers and cadets of the USAFA 94th FTS for their help in setting up all the events and conducting tours at Davis Field.
 - f. 51st Reunion NWWIIGPA challenge coins, pins, and t-shirts were designed and procured by member Rob Beahan and Vice Chair, Joan Abrahamsen.
 - g. The Reunion Agenda was developed by Reunion Chair Mary Roemer and Reunion Co-Chair, Jeremy Lushnat.
 - h. The Reunion Plan / Outline was built on the Agenda and was completed with last-minute updates made to the Daily Scripts by Gary Stripling.
2. Having been appointed by the Executive Council the following graciously accepted the

51st Annual Reunion Report. Cont.

p. Color Guard and Taps coordinator: Beth Stripling.

q. Annual Reports: Bruce Overman, Claudia Coggin. Colin Henderson, Patricia Overman, Joan Abrahamsen, Gary Stripling, Sharon McCullar, Don Abbe.

r. Presentation #1-Sat: *SOUTHERN FRANCE 80 years ago –Dragoon*, RT members Jean Michel Soldi, Zach Cromley, and Member, Mike Shelley.

s. Scholarship Award Presentation: RT Member, Mark Vlahos,

t. Hospitality Suite: Mark Vlahos, Doreen Avritt, Mary Roemer, Chuck Hobbs.

u. Quilt Raffle and Silent Auction Coordinator: Susan Pinter.

v. Table Decorations: Beth Stripling.

w. 2024 Officer elections: Bruce Overman.

x. 2025 52nd Reunion location: Dayton, OH, Mary Roemer.

3. In gratitude for their hard work, the above are relieved from their 51st Reunion assignments and duties until further notice of 52nd Reunion planning.

Gary Stripling
NWWIIGPA Chair



LEE WHITMIRE
Power Glider Pilot

88th Troop Carrier Squadron
438th Troop Carrier Group
78th Troop Carrier Squadron
435th Troop Carrier Group
435th Glider Pilot Infantry Co.
4th Platoon 5th Squad

Bastogne
Rhine Crossing
Battle of Burp Gun Corner
Flying Pipeline

Honor badges were introduced for the first time, providing a visual representation of the WWII veteran each family was commemorating. This addition to our name tag lanyard was well-received by the attendees, adding a meaningful and appreciated element to the event.

2023 National WWII Glider Pilot Association 51st Reunion / Symposium Colorado Springs

WEDNESDAY Oct 11th

The Exec Council Dinner and meeting was held in the hospitality room where anyone could attend. Besides discussing last minute reunion action item we voted to enter into an affiliation with the Air Force Historical Foundation. Details will be in the Winter Briefing.

THURSDAY Oct 12th

Pick up of registration packets in the hospitality room began at noon on Thursday, October 12th. There were two items new this year in the packets; besides the well designed pin, the new items were Honor Badges and a challenge coin.

Susan brought in the quilt to be raffled and what a beautiful quilt it is. The pattern is called Wind Drifter. Very appropriate for our Group. There are 21 different fabrics in the quilt front and the same 21 fabrics were used in the scrappy binding.

We were honored to have one officer and three cadets from the 94th Flying Training Squadron, Lt. Lauren M. Reed, Cadets Mihiri Fernando, Matthew Kleczynski, and Samuel McCabe attend our dinner. The Cox family graciously invited Samuel McCabe to join their table and the others sat with the Overmans. After dinner we had two excellent presentations:



Elizabeth Susan Pinter, Chaplain. showing the back of the 2022 quilt. Below is the 2023 quilt that was raffled on Saturday night.



THURSDAY NIGHT PRESENTATIONS

Who were the Glider Pilots of the ETO and CBI?
Glider pilot Recruitment and Training
Presented by Monique Taylor



There exist numerous misconceptions and generalizations surrounding the identity of World War II glider pilots. Monique's presentation expertly debunked these myths, addressing the essential question of the evolving requirements for volunteers in the glider pilot program. Most notably, she highlighted the replacement or elimination of criteria such as flight experience, age, eyesight, and the level of combat training provided.

Monique also delved into the significant role that rank structure played in shaping the glider pilot experience, a factor that has contributed to many myths, generalizations, and questions overall. Her presentation skillfully distinguished

between the experiences of glider pilots in the China-Burma-India (CBI) theater and the European Theater of Operations (ETO).

Monique's presentation was well-received, successfully unraveling the complexities of this topic and making it accessible to a broad audience. With two decades of experience teaching complex subjects at the college level, her expertise shone through in delivering a clear understanding of this intricate subject matter.

Monique just completed the Book; *Suicide Jockeys: [The making of the WWII Combat glider Pilot.](#)*

THURSDAY NIGHT PRESENTATIONS



Preparation, Execution, and Recovery: The 435th Troop Carrier Group's Glider Ground and Air Crews and Operation MARKET-GARDEN

Presented by Dr. Jeff McGovern., PhD

Jeff is currently serving as the USAF's Twelfth Air Force (Air Forces Southern) Historian. Jeff also was a battle staff ride historian.

Staff rides are classrooms in the field; you can't beat being "in place" when communicating lessons learned from history.

One of his particular foci is on the World War II history of 435th Troop Carrier Group covering the 75th, 76th, 77th and 78th troop Carrier Squadrons.

Jeff frequently travels to Europe for these staff rides and he is the administrator to the blog titled troopcarrier.blog



What did it take for the glider elements of Troop Carrier to get ready for, execute, and recover from an operation? When discussing glider operations in WWII, the focus is often on the landings and the follow-on fighting by the Glider Pilots. Outside of the fighting, there usually is little detailed discussion about the preparations (e.g., training, coordination with Airborne forces, load plans, marshalling aircraft, etc.); the flights to the Landing Zones (e.g., weather conditions, air-sea rescue, etc.); the ground forces that were flown into the landing zones (e.g., what role did they fulfil, why did they fly in a particular serial, etc.); or what was involved with the recovery from an operation and the processes to get ready for the next operation. Looking at the experiences of the glider elements of the 435th Troop Carrier Group in Operation MARKET-GARDEN, Jeff provided some of those less discussed details about the glider forces. Glider forces that made WWII airborne operations a viable force multiplier.

This evening was presided over by
Gary Stripling,

Executive Council Chair and Reunion
Master of Ceremony



FRIDAY AT THE 94TH FLYING TRAINING SQUADRON

United States Air Force Academy
Presentations by the 94th Cadets



On Friday, Lt. Col Chad Davies, the Commander of the 94th Flying Training Squadron (FTS), extended a warm welcome to all the attendees of our reunion. The reception was made exceptionally special by the gracious presence of officers and cadet instructor pilots from the 94th, who hosted us in their newly renovated facility. A special acknowledgment goes to 2nd Lt. Lauren Reed for coordinating our visit and doing a commendable job. It was truly an honor to have distinguished World War Two Glider Pilots Raymond Chambers and Roger Smith as esteemed guests among us.



Cadets Samuel McCabe, Mihiri Fernando, and Riley Marsh, look on as WWII Glider Pilot Roger Smith shakes hands and presenting a RMO with Cadet Matthew Kleczynski.

In addition, Lt. Col Jeremy Lushnat, USAF Ret., the former commander of the 94th, served as our gracious host for the day. He initiated the afternoon program in their state-of-the-art ready room by introducing three captivating presentations.

The afternoon kicked off with an introduction led by four cadet instructor pilots, each sharing their personal backgrounds and aspirations.

They then proceeded to explore various aspects of the 94th FTS's operations, including Glider Cross country, Glider racing, and aerobatics competitions. In the far corner of the room was their impressive collection of trophies and pendants hanging in their hangar which showcased the squadron's dominance of their competitions. Subsequently, they graciously fielded a wide array of questions from our enthusiastic members.



FRIDAY AT THE 94TH FLYING TRAINING SQUADRON United States Air Force Academy Presentation by Patricia Overman

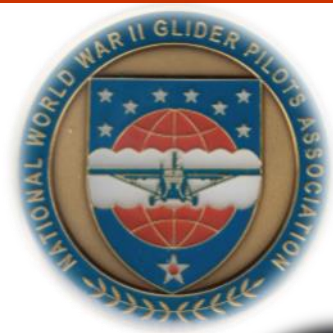


The following presentation delved into the illustrious history of the 439th Troop Carrier Group, with a particular focus on the 94th Troop Carrier Squadron and their pivotal role in the European Theater of Operations. This comprehensive presentation traced the troop movements to the UK and systematically covered each combat glider mission, including Normandy, Southern France, Holland, Bastogne, culminating with the Rhine Crossing and the [battle of Blumenkamp](#).

The innovative and brave spirit of the 94th TC Squadron shone brightly, exemplified by the prestigious "G is for Guts" award which the Association presents every year to the most innovative cadet at the G-Wings ceremony. Notably, the presentation also acknowledged the presence of relatives of several glider pilots from the 94th, pointing them out during the proceedings.



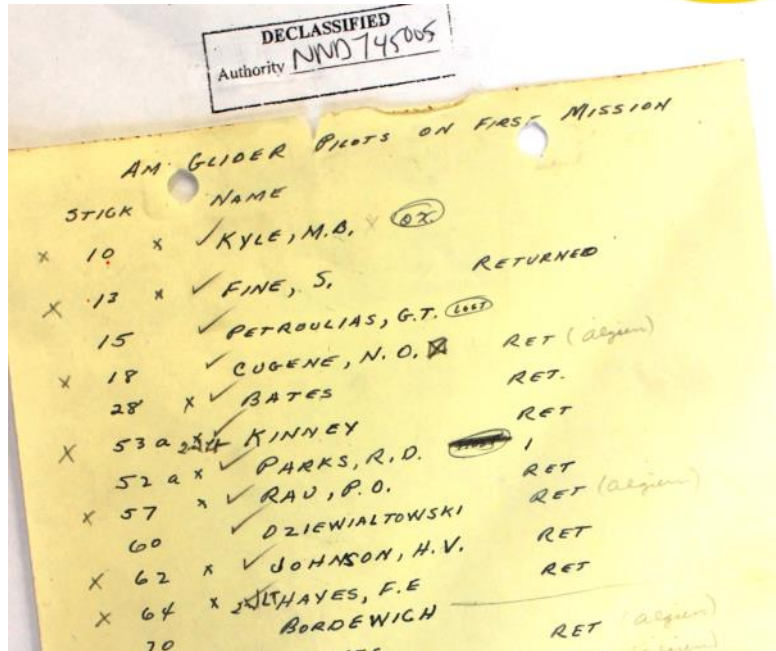
This photo captures the families mentioned in Patricia's presentation: Michael Addy, son of Noel Addy, 435th TCG; Chuck Hobbs, son of Henry Hobbs, 439th TCG; Patricia Overman, daughter of Lee Whitmire, 435th TCG; Beth Stripling, daughter of Claude "Chuck" Berry, 439th TCG; Bob Bodin, grandson of Robert Pound, 439th TCG; Peter Houck, son of Verbon "Pete" Houck, 439th TCG, POW Bastogne.



FRIDAY AT THE 94TH FLYING TRAINING SQUADRON United States Air Force Academy Presentation by the Col. Mark Vlahos, USAF Ret.



Our final afternoon session centered on commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Sicily Operation. The presentation was a testament to the depth of our presenter's knowledge, highlighting the differing perspectives of American and British historians regarding the American participation in the British operation. Notably, more than forty glider pilots played a crucial role in preparing for this operation, which included training the British to pilot the CG-4A glider. Twenty-six glider pilots subsequently flew alongside the British in the Ladbroke and Fustian missions, with our Troop Carrier Pilots towing the gliders in Ladbroke's contentious mission. Furthermore, Mark is set to publish a book in the near future, offering an American perspective and dispelling misconceptions surrounding this historic event for the first time.





FRIDAY AT THE 94TH FLYING TRAINING SQUADRON United States Air Force Academy Attending WWII Glider Pilots Acknowledged



We were blessed to have two WWII Glider Pilots, Roger Smith and Ray Chambers, attend the reunion at the 94th. It was quite an honor to have them there with Roger at 100 and Raymond at 101.

Here is Roger Smith who was everywhere meeting the cadets and checking out the TG-16 dressed in WWII colors with invasion stripes!





Roger did not hesitate to hop into the seat of this TC-16 glider. Here he is explaining glider flight, possibly a slip, to Jean-Michel Soldi, Zach Cromley and a 94th cadet.



Roger was very popular with the cadets. The wooden G Wings were carved by Roger back during the war.

Looking at the honor badge, Roger is meeting the son of Harold Goldbrandson who was also in LZ "A" when he was on the Southern France combat mission.



Lt. Lauren Reed, Roger and a cadet.



Roger is talking to Harold's daughter Lynne Reamey





ROGER SMITH
1026 Glider Pilot
8th TCS / 62nd TCG
Southern France



Above: Roger is greeting fellow glider pilot Raymond Chambers.

Below: Roger and Ray were asked to pose for photos.



RAYMOND CHAMBERS
1026 Glider Pilot
43rd TCS / 315th TCG
73rd TCS / 434th TCG

**Normandy
Holland**



Throughout the event, Lt. Col Chad Davies, the Commander of the 94th FTS, remained actively engaged, dedicating personal time to both WWII glider pilots. This commitment further deepened the meaningful connections established during our visit.

As a heartfelt gesture, the 94th FTS presented a photograph of the CG-4A glider adorned with the signatures of the 94th's officers and cadets to each of the WWII Glider Pilots.

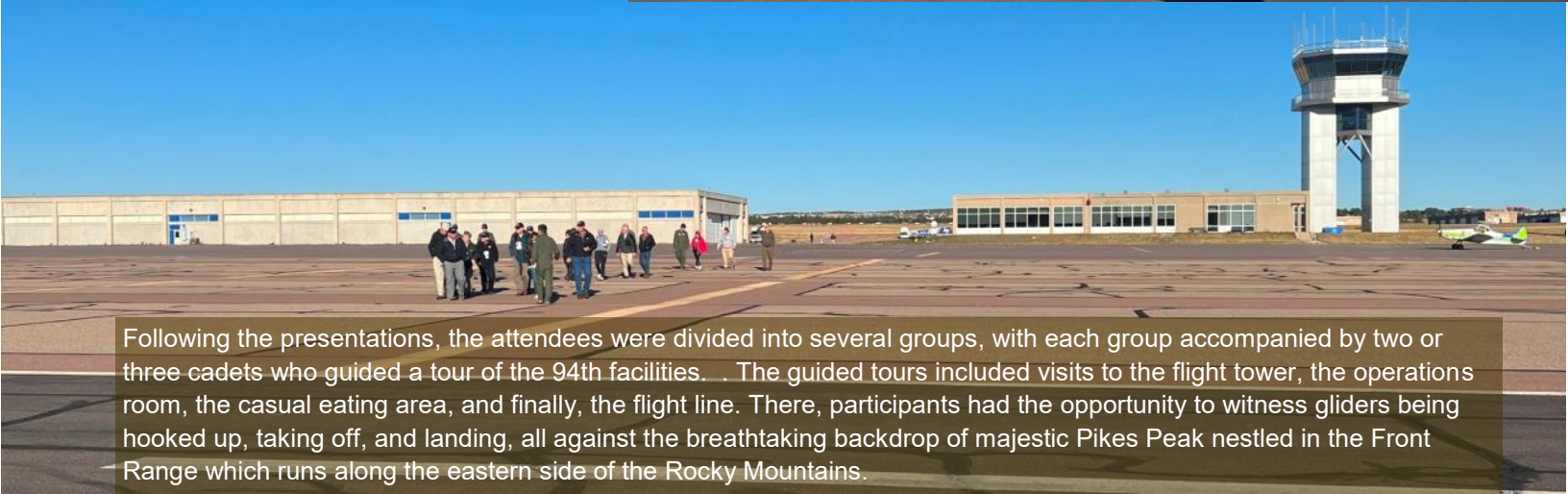




FRIDAY AT THE 94TH FLYING TRAINING SQUADRON United States Air Force Academy Tour of the new facility



*On the
flight line!*



Following the presentations, the attendees were divided into several groups, with each group accompanied by two or three cadets who guided a tour of the 94th facilities. The guided tours included visits to the flight tower, the operations room, the casual eating area, and finally, the flight line. There, participants had the opportunity to witness gliders being hooked up, taking off, and landing, all against the breathtaking backdrop of majestic Pikes Peak nestled in the Front Range which runs along the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains.



FRIDAY AT THE 94TH FLYING TRAINING SQUADRON

United States Air Force Academy
Friday night dinner with the 94th.



Col. Davies addressed the assembly, primarily engaging with the cadets. He conveyed his expectations of them, explaining the reasons behind those expectations and expressing pride in their accomplishments. Drawing insights from the historical context presented by our research team, Col. Davies made compelling points, emphasizing that while their tasks might not involve flying 400 feet above the ocean or maintaining formation for three hours, their

mission remains consistent—tackling challenging assignments both now and in the future.

Gary Stripling then presented Col. Davies with the WWII U.S. Glider Pilot Memorial as a token of appreciation for their exceptional efforts in preserving the history of WWII glider pilots. The evening was a memorable and uplifting experience for all involved.

SATURDAY AT THE REUNION


General membership meeting



On Saturday, approximately 46 members gathered for the general membership meeting in the morning. The session commenced with the posting of colors, skillfully presented by the American Legion Post 38 Fountain, Colorado. Our memorial service, presided over by Chaplain Susan Pinter, honored those who passed away in the past year. Chaplain Pinter read aloud their names and the units they served in.

Following the memorial service, council reports were presented, accompanied by two special presentations from Joan Abrahamsen, Vice Chair, and Sharon McCullar, Curator of the Silent Wings Museum. The membership then conducted the re-election for the upcoming year, reinstating Gary Stripling as Chair and Joan Abrahamsen as Vice Chair. Additionally, a collective decision was made to host our 2025 symposium in Tucson, Arizona. We adjourned to prepare to go to the National Museum of World War II Aviation.





DEDICATED TO WORLD
WAR II AVIATION
SATURDAY AT THE
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WORLD WAR II AVIATION
Afternoon Tour

Our afternoon unfolded at the National Museum of World War II Aviation. Upon our timely arrival, we gathered for lunch in the hangar adjacent to the Beechcraft Model 18 (C-45). Following this, we embarked on a comprehensive tour of the main collection. Divided into several groups, we enjoyed an intimate exploration of the aircraft, guided by a remarkably knowledgeable docent. It was unanimous among each group that they were fortunate to have the best docent leading their tour.



The museum boasts an impressive array of flying exhibits, housed in various vast hangars, including a dedicated reconstruction and repair facility. Inside, vast rooms are dedicated to the meticulous craft of manufacturing parts for propeller reconstruction or repairs, sheet metal work, body work, and engine maintenance. This is the hub for WWII aircraft owners country-wide would address any (continued)

SATURDAY AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WORLD WAR II AVIATION Afternoon Tour

issues with their planes. Remarkably, some of the machines utilized in this facility are of WWII vintage, ensuring the creation of exact replicas of WWII-era parts.

While most of the collection can be viewed on any given day at the museum, some aircraft may not be on display due to space limitations, maintenance requirements or touring commitments.



Utilizing original parts this Republic P-47 D Razorback will again fly and look like it did in its glory days of WWII. The photo to the right is a Republic P-47 Thunderbolt, a different version of the Razorback.



On the tour we gained a profound appreciation for the dedication and skill involved in preserving these historical aircraft.



SATURDAY AT THE
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WORLD WAR II AVIATION
Afternoon Tour



Above, Fred Boettcher is explaining the work that they do on the engines. Below: Fred talks about how they acquired the B-25

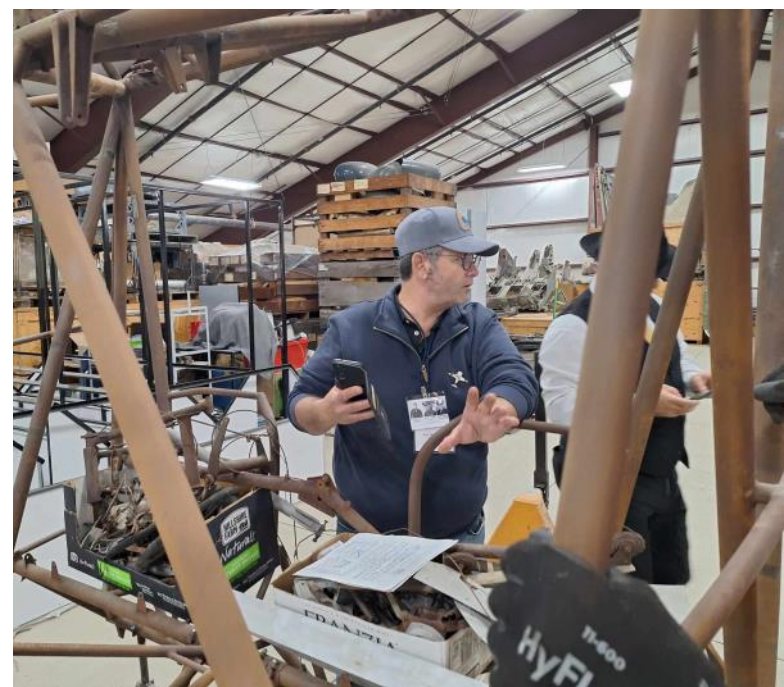
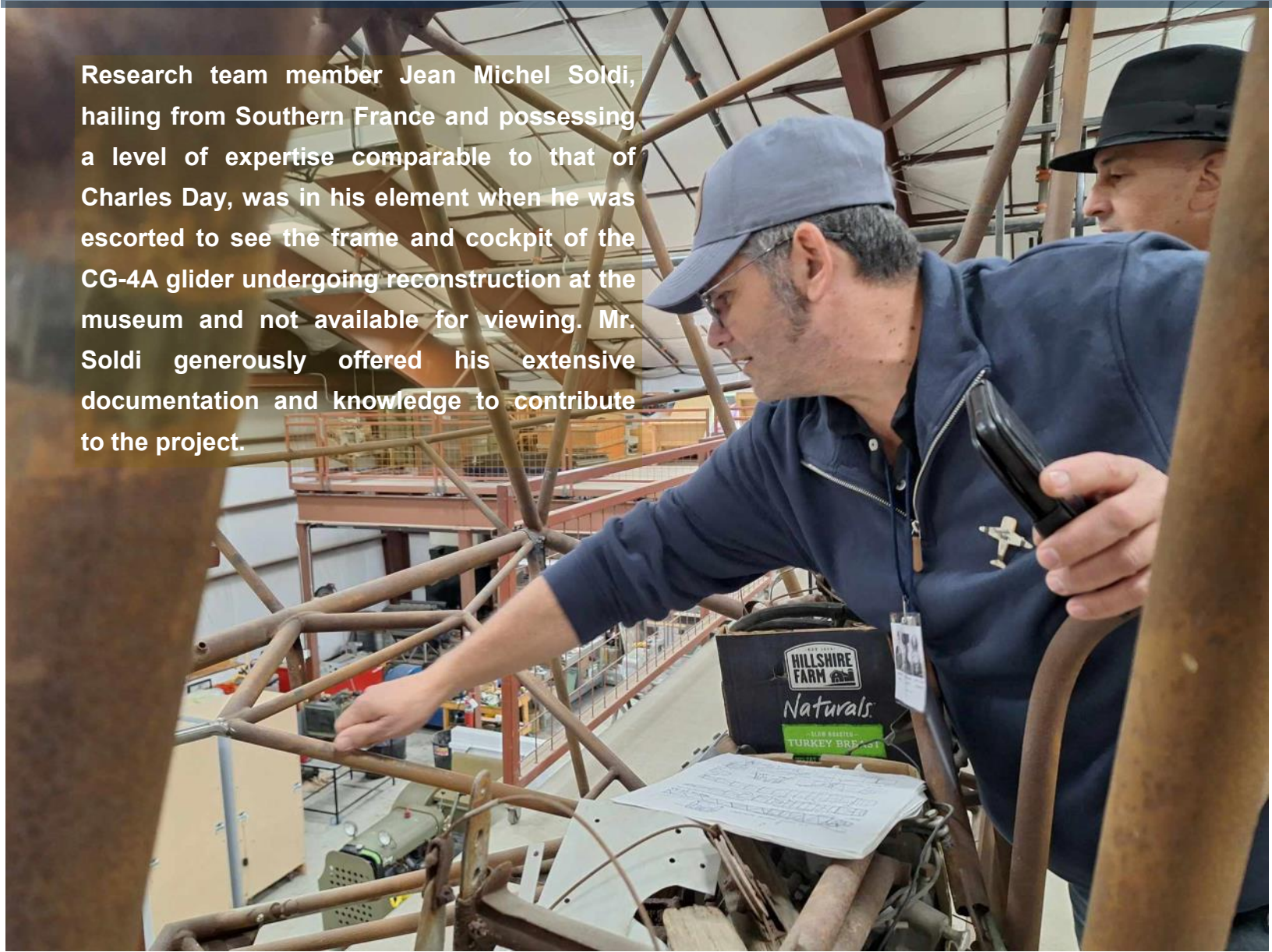


SATURDAY AT THE
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WORLD WAR II AVIATION
Afternoon Tour



SATURDAY AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WORLD WAR II AVIATION Afternoon Tour

Research team member Jean Michel Soldi, hailing from Southern France and possessing a level of expertise comparable to that of Charles Day, was in his element when he was escorted to see the frame and cockpit of the CG-4A glider undergoing reconstruction at the museum and not available for viewing. Mr. Soldi generously offered his extensive documentation and knowledge to contribute to the project.



SATURDAY AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WORLD WAR II AVIATION Awards Banquet

Saturday night's awards banquet was a memorable event filled with heartfelt tributes and acknowledgments. Following a delightful dinner, the evening commenced with a special presentation dedicated to WWII glider pilot Roger Smith, orchestrated by his close friend and neighbor, Zach Cromley. Through a poignant video, Zach shared glimpses of Roger's life, celebrating the essence of a remarkable individual and his bravery in flying a glider in the invasion of Southern France.



Continuing the focus on Southern France, Jean-Michel and Mike Schelley took the stage to shed light on Roger's mission. Jean-Michel, a native of France with a personal connection to the historical events, delivered a moving account of the atrocities inflicted by the Germans on his parents. He eloquently described the invasion of Southern France, an area intimately entwined with his own life.



SATURDAY AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WORLD WAR II AVIATION Awards Banquet

Despite his busy life as a farmer, managing a sizable vineyard and crafting wine, Jean-Michel graciously takes time to guide our visiting members to Southern France. Jean-Michel takes them through the significant locations associated with the American presence, such as aid stations, command posts, landing zones, and, still today, meeting with the French families who at the time were children witnessing the July 15, 1944, liberation.

Mike Schelley, accompanied by his wife Teresa, shared his recent experiences visiting Jean-Michel and his wife Corine, providing a unique perspective on the profound impact of their visit.

The climax of the evening was the announcement of awards. Col. Mark "Plug" Vlahos (USAF ret.) introduced the newest

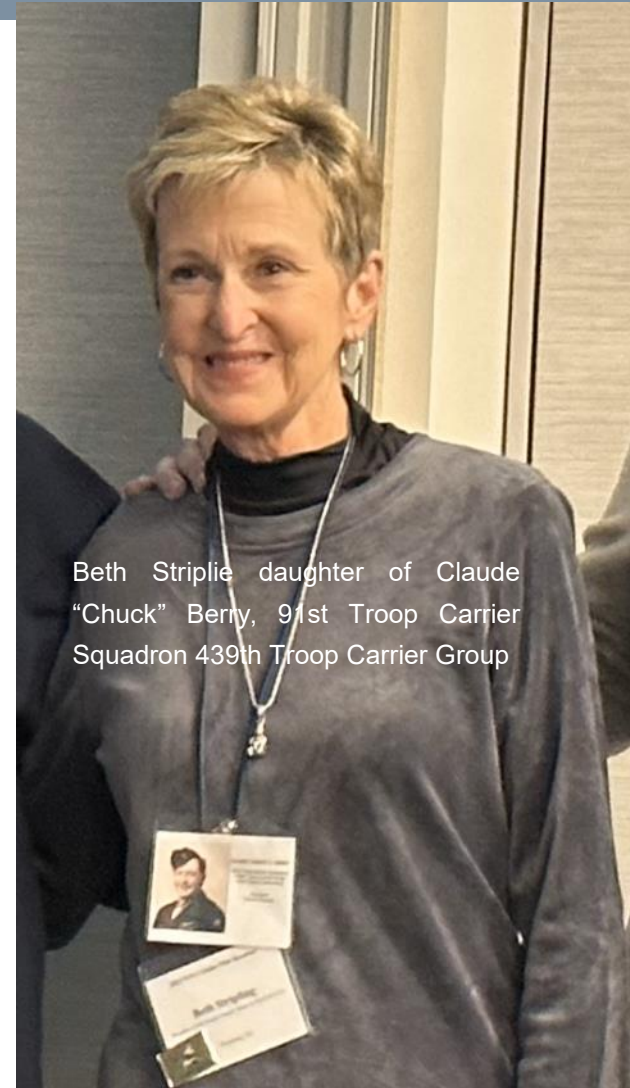
the awards roster—the National WWII Glider Pilots Association Scholarship recipient. Abigail "Abby" Kay Bradberry from Fort Worth, Texas, received the Otto F. Lyon's Scholarship gifting a \$1000 for her essay on the Glider Pilot Operations in the ETO. Abby is attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Prescott. Congratulations, Abby! Look for her article in the Winter Briefing.

Vice Chair Joan Abrahamsen took the stage to give a portrait of the exceptional contributions made to the National WWII Glider Pilot Association by this year's recipient of the WWII U.S. Glider Pilot Memorial Award. The plaque was then read by last year's recipient, Jean-Michel Soldi and he announced that Mr. Rob Beahan was receiving this prestigious award. Congratulations Rob for the well deserved recognition!



SATURDAY AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WORLD WAR II AVIATION Awards Banquet

The coveted quilt, raffled off every year and crafted by our Chaplain Susan Pinter was won by BETH STRIPLING!



Beth Stripling daughter of Claude "Chuck" Berry, 91st Troop Carrier Squadron 439th Troop Carrier Group

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the dedicated staff of The National Museum of WWII Aviation. The docents, engineers, and AV staff played pivotal roles in enhancing our experience. For those yet to visit, the museum it is a "must-see" destination. We look forward to information on the gradual reconstruction of their CG-4A glider.



DON ABBE TX Former Curator, Silent Wings Museum of Honoring all - ;
Sally ABBE TX Honoring all
Meredith ABBE TX Honoring all
JOAN ABRAHAMSEN NY Daughter of William E Schumacher - 61 TCG / 313th TCG; Holland
Robert ABRAHAMSEN NY William E Schumacher 62nd TC Group, 61 TCG / 313th TCG
MICHAEL ADDY CO Son of Noel D. Addy - 76 TCS /435 TCG; Normandy, Holland, Germany
Kay ADDY CO Noel Addy 76 TCS /435 TCG
DORENE AVRITT TN Daughter of MELVIN N. PLINER - 82 TCS (3D) /436 TCG; Normandy Southern France Holland Rhine Crossing
JAMES NORMAN TENN 82 TCS (3D) /436 TCG
DAVID BARNES KY Son of Ralph E. Barnes Jr. - 49 TC Squadron /313 TC Group; Holland
ROBERT BARNES FL Son of Ralph E. Barnes Jr. - 49 TC Squadron /313 TC Group; Holland
MELINDA BARNES FL Ralph E. Barnes Jr. 49 TC Squadron /313 TC Group
ROB BEAHAN MI Son of 1st Lt. Robert H Beahan - 810 TCS/810 TCG; Glider Flight Instructor
Cindy BRYANT TX Daughter of Jack Merrick - 84th TC Squadron /437th TC Group; Normandy, Southern France, and Holland
George BRYANT TX Jack Merrick 84 TCS (Z8) /437 TCG
Raymond CHAMBERS CO WWII Glider Pilot of WWII VETERAN - 43 TCS (UA) /315 TCG 73 TCS (CN) /434 TCG; NORMANDY AND HOLLAND
Heather HOLMESCO Raymond Chambers 315 TCG /434 TCG
NORMANDY AND HOLLAND
CLAUDIA COGGIN TX Daughter of Franklyn Stickney - 438th TC Group / 437th TC Group; Normandy, Southern France, Holland, Germany
BETTIE COX MS Daughter of Flight Officer Van R. Hatcher - 87 TCS /438 TCG; Flying Pipeline
Jonah ANESTIS NJ Van R. Hatcher 87th TCS / 438th TCG
ZACHARY CROMLEY CO Friend of Roger Smith - 8th TC Squadron 62nd TC Group; Southern France
BOB GODIN MD Grand Son of Robert Piund - 92 TCS (J8) /439 TCG; Normandy, Holland, Rhine Crossing
ANDREW GRAMLICH WY Son of Andrew J. Gramlich - 434th TC Group / 435th TC Group, BGC; Germany
Marc GONZALEZ CO
Colin HENDERSON OK 94th Flying Training Squadron of Air Force Academy Graduate - 94th Flying Training Squadron;
Christin BRODIE OK 94th Flying Training Squadron of Air Force Academy Graduate - 94th Flying Training Squadron;
Barbara HENDERSON CO 94th Flying Training Squadron of Air Force Academy Graduate - 94th Flying Training Squadron;
David HENDERSON CO 94th Flying Training Squadron of Air Force Academy Graduate - 94th Flying Training Squadron;
CHARLES HOBBS TX Son of Henry C Hobbs - 93 TCS /439 TCG; Normandy, Holland, Germany
SHARON HOHMANN UT Daughter of Everard H. Hohmann - 74th TCS, 434th TCG; Normandy, Holland, Rhine Crossing
Scott HOHMANN Ut. Everard H. Hohmann 74th TCS, 434th TCG
Shellie HOHMANN UT Everard H. Hohmann 74th TCS, 434th TCG
Ron CRANE UT Everard H. Hohmann 74th TCS, 434th TCG
Chelsea HOHMANN UT Everard H. Hohmann 74th TCS, 434th TCG
MICHAEL LARKIN O Son of James Larkin - 84th TC Squadron / 437th TC Group; Normandy, Southern France, Holland, Germany
PATRICK LARKIN CO Son of James L Larkin - 437th TC Group; Normandy, Southern France, Holland, Germany
TIMOTHY LARKIN LA Grand Son of James L. Larkin - 84 TCS (Z8) /437 TCG; Normandy, Southern France, Holland, Rhine Crossing

David LINDER CO Son of Chet Linder - 48 TCS /313 TCG; Holland

Bonnie LINDER CO Chet Linder 48th TCS / 313th TCG

Joe LINDER NE Chet Linder 48 TCS /313 TCG

Jeremy LUSHNAT CO Other Relative of 94th Troop Carrier Squadron - WWII Glider Pilot Legacy; Normandy, Southern France, Holland, Bastogne, Rhine Crossing, Flying Pipeline

JEFFREY MCGOVERN AZ Research, Author or Historian of Lawrence W. Kubale - 77th TC Sqd. 435th TC Group; Normandy, southern France, Holland

Philip NEEDHAM AK Son of Daniel L Needham - 77th Troop Carrier Squadron
435th Troop Carrier Group; Bastogne / Rhine Crossing

Julie NICHOLSHI Daughter of Robert Dial Robinson - 14th TCS / 61st TCG; Holland

Michael NICHOLSHI Robert Dial Robinson 14th TCS / 61t TCG

PATRICIA OVERMAN WA Daughter of Major Lee Whitmire, USAF ret - 438th TC Group/435th TC Group, BGC; Bastogne, Germany, Flying Pipeline

Robert COL. GOCKE, JR CO Robert P. Gocke 436th TC Group / 438th TC Group

Sharon MCCULLAR TX Silent Wings Museum

Pete HOUCK WA "Pete" Verbon E HOUCK 94 TCS (D8) /439 TCG
BASTOGNE POW Dulag Luft Grosstychow Dulag 12

R OVERMAN WA Son In Law of Major Lee Whitmire, USAF ret - 438th TC Group/435th TC Group, BGC; Bastogne, Germany, Flying Pipeline

E SUSAN PINTER TX Grand Daughter of A. Francis Arcier - Designer of the CG-4A Glider;

Raymond REAMEY LA Son In Law of Harold (Goldie) Goldbrandsen - 10 TCS /60 TCG; Southern France

Lynne REAMEY LA Harold (Goldie) Goldbrandsen 10 TCS /60 TCG

MARY ROEMERNC Daughter of David Trexler - 34th TC Sqd /315th TC Group;

Henry ROEMERNC

Robert CREASEY Yorkshire

MICHAEL SCHELLEY CA Son of Jerry Schelley - 4th and 8th TC Sqd / 62nd TC Group; Southern France / Dove

Teresa SCHELLEY Ca Jerry Schelley 4th and 8th TC Sqd / 62nd TC Group

Georgia SMALL LA Grand Daughter of Van R. Hatcher - 87th TC Sqd / 438th TC Group; Flying Pipeline

Scott SMALL LA Van R. Hatcher 87th TC Squadron / 438th TC Group

Annika SMALL LA Van R. Hatcher 87th TC Squadron / 438th TC Group

Slater SMALL LA Van R. Hatcher 87th TC Squadron / 438th TC Group

KEITH SMITH ID WWII Glider Instructor-CG-15A of WWII VETERAN - 75 TC Squadron/316 TC Group; INSTRUCTOR

Keith SMITH, III CA Keith Smith, Jr. 75 TCS /316 TCG

ROGER SMITH CO WWII Glider Pilot of WWII VETERAN - 8 TCS /62 TCG; SOUTHERN FRANCE

Linda SMITH CO ROBER W SMITH 8 TCS /62 TCG
Southern France

Michael SMITH CO ROBER W SMITH 8 TCS /62 TCG
Southern France

Vicki NORMOYLE-HIPP CO ROBER W SMITH 8 TCS /62 TCG
Southern France

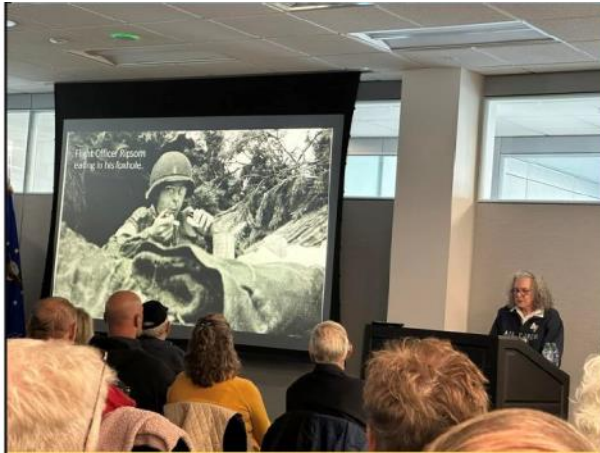
John HIPP CO ROBER W SMITH 8 TCS /62 TCG
Southern France

JEAN SOLDI 0 Research, Author or Historian of All Troop Carrier - ; Southern France

Corinne AUDIBERT Provence

MICHAEL SQUILLOIL Son of Piero Squillo - 313th TC Group / 316th TC Group; Flew the CG-13

ELIZABETH	STRIPLING	TX	Daughter of Claude Alvin Berry - 91st TC Sqd. 439th TC Group; Bastogne, Germany
GARY	STRIPLING	TX	Son In Law of Claude Alvin Berry - 91st TC Sqd. 439th TC Group; Bastogne, Germany
ANNEMARIE	TAYLOR	CA	Daughter of Paul W. Mousseau - 434 TC Group / 314 TC Group; Normandy, Germany
Robert	TAYLOR	CA	Paul W. Mousseau 434 TC Group / 314 TC Group
MARK	VLAHOS	TX	Research, Author or Historian of Author - 314th Troop Carrier Group; Mediterranean Theater
Julia	VLAHOS	TX	314th TC Group
COURTNEY	WERTH	IN	Research, Author or Historian of 72nd Troop Carrier Squadron - 434th Troop Carrier Group; Normandy, Southern France, Holland, Bastogne, Rhine Crossing, Flying Pipeline
Lori	WILLIAMSON	TN	Grand Daughter of Harold Melvin Goldbrandsen Sr - 10th TC Squadron / 60th TC Group; Southern France
Harold	GOLDBRANDSEN JR	TN	Harold Melvin Goldbrandsen Sr 10th TC Squadron / 60th TC Group
Judy	GOLDBRANDSEN	TN	Harold Melvin Goldbrandsen Sr 10th TC Squadron / 60th TC Group



THE 51ST NATIONAL WWII GLIDER PILOTS ASSOCIATION REUNION

This month, MSgt Werth represented the unit at the 51st Annual WWII Glider Pilots Association Reunion out in Colorado Springs. The organization is dedicated to the legacy of the badass Glider Pilots of WWII and has been helping us recover some of our lost WWII history. The 3 day long event included presentations from historians, a trip to the Air Force Academy including some integration with the glider program cadets at the 94th FTS and a trip to the National Museum of WWII Aircraft. She even had some time to meet up with both Derrek Portlock and Paul & Ann Gates.

We had a great time with MSgt Cortney Werth who is the historian for the 72nd Air Refueling Squadron of the 434th Air Refueling Wing. She is also the boom operator when refueling those jets and large tankers. The squadron took on the 72nd to honor their predecessor and the other squadrons in the 434th Troop Carrier Group.

It was so nice to have Cortney at the reunion. This write up was in her monthly Squadron newsletter. Come meet Cortney next year and so many others who are so dedicated to the troop carrier history.

We missed you Trevor Shimulunas, Hans den Brok, Al Bender and family, Philippe Esvelin and so many others who have promised to be at Dayton, Ohio next October. Mark your calendar! It will either be the first or second weekend in October.

RAY CHAMBERS WWII GLIDER PILOT FOR THE 73RD TCS, 434TH TCG

While she was there, she was able to meet an original 434th Glider Pilot. Ray Chambers flew for our group on D-Day under our sister squadron, the 73rd TCS. Ray is 101 years old and lives in Colorado. He was one of the 2 remaining glider pilots that were able to attend the reunion.



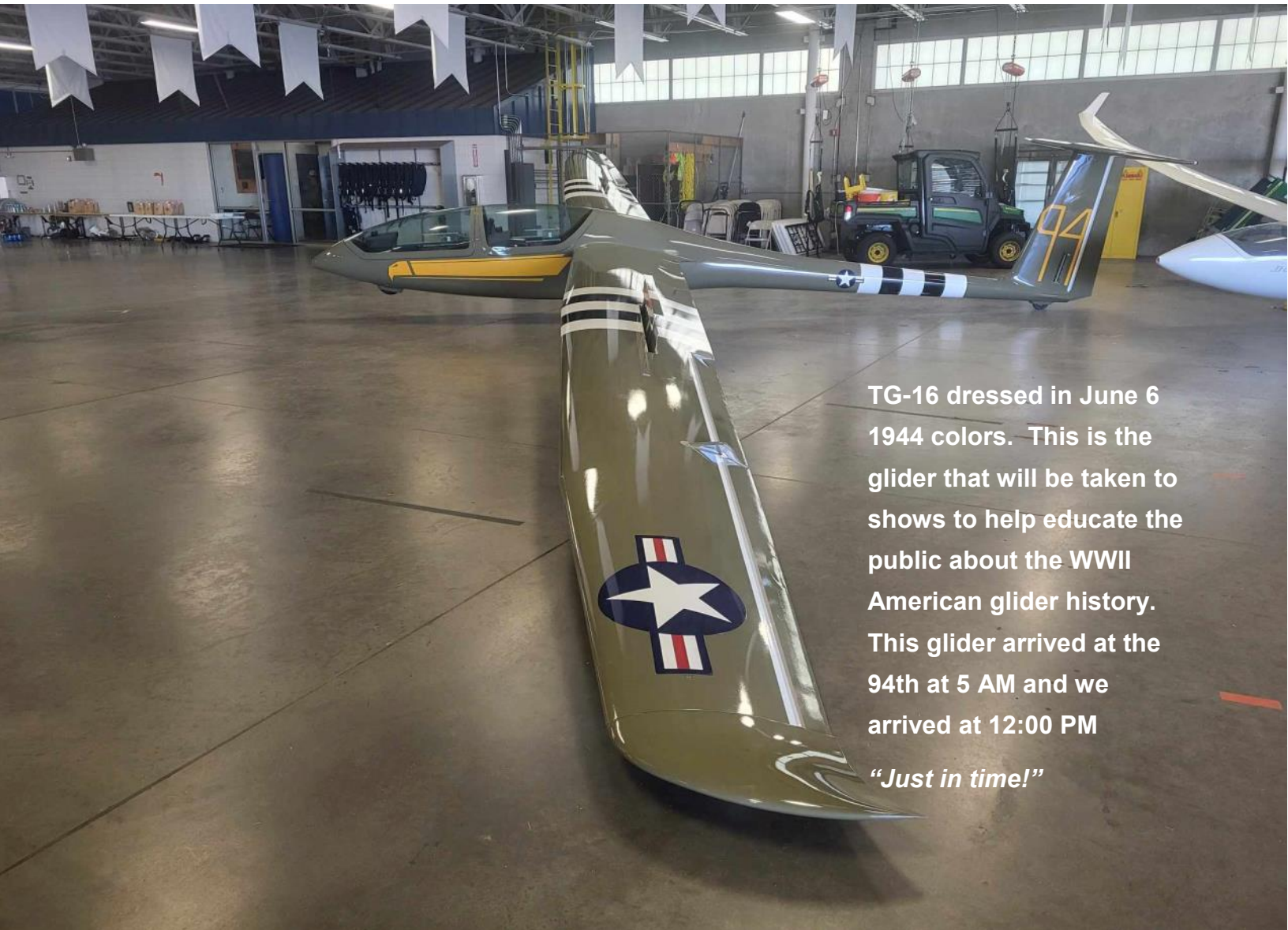
TROOP CARRIER MOVEMENT

“Keep Mobile!” See you next quarter!

JOIN OUR COMMITTEE AND HELP PRESERVE TROOP CARRIER
AND COMBAT GLIDER HISTORY



DONATE TO THE SILENT WINGS MUSEUM FOUNDATION



TG-16 dressed in June 6
1944 colors. This is the
glider that will be taken to
shows to help educate the
public about the WWII
American glider history.
This glider arrived at the
94th at 5 AM and we
arrived at 12:00 PM

“Just in time!”

Cover photo: World War II glider pilot Roger Smith saluted Col Chad Davies who is returning the salute.

Special note: World War II Power Glider Pilot Keith Smith, Jr. was scheduled to be here but a couple days before he had a family emergency preventing him from attending. He received a photo of the CG-4A with the cadets signature in the mail a few days after the reunion. He has vowed to be at the next G wings ceremony and the next reunion/symposium.

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