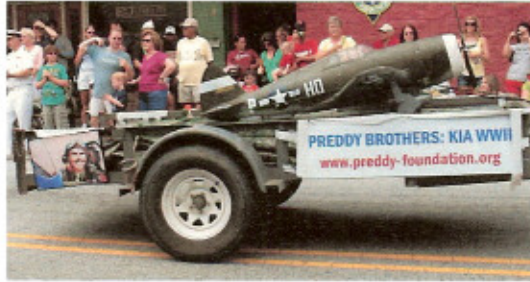


# PREDDY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



Memorial Day Parade, Thomasville, NC



Carolinas Aviation Museum, New Hangar

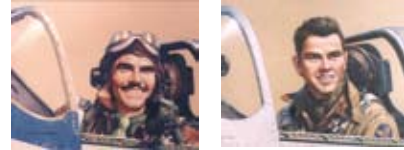


Busts of George & Bill at the Greensboro Historical Museum  
Cripes A'Mighty painting by Sonny Schug at PTI Airport

## ANNUAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2010

# Preddy Memorial Foundation September 2010 Annual Report

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## **Board of Directors**

Rachel Preddy Harris  
Honorary Director

### **Officers:**

Van Noah, M. D.  
President  
Clyde M Hunt, Jr. M. D.  
Vice President  
John Faircloth  
Secretary  
Joe Noah  
Founder/Treasurer

### **Directors from the Triad:**

William J. Black  
Thomas Brock  
Susan Dusenbury  
Col. Bruce Guard (Ret)  
Tim Key  
Curtis Laughlin  
Harold R. McCollum  
W. B. Mills, Attorney  
William J. Moore  
James G. Rucker  
Walker F. Rucker

### **Directors from outside:**

Marc Hamel, Raleigh, NC  
Col. Stephen Hicks, Oak Hill, VA  
Morton Lester, Martinsville, VA  
Dolph Overton III, Smithfield, NC  
Jack L. Pickard, Burlington, NC  
Robert H. Powell, Atlanta, GA  
James R. Preddy, Concord, NC  
Robert B. Reese, Winter Park, FL  
W. Harding Shinn, Charlotte, NC  
Eddie A. Smith, York, SC  
Sam Sox, Jr. Myrtle Beach, SC

### **Directors Emeritus:**

Carson Bain, Greensboro  
Otto Gaskins, Durham  
Robert Huddleston, Chapel Hill

## **Board Meeting**

The Board Meeting was held in Greensboro on May 15, 2010 at the Painted Plate. The event was highlighted by commentaries from two guest speakers, Carl Adams, a WWII Navy deckhand aboard a small carrier who showed previously unrevealed films of deck activities in the Pacific Theater, and Fred Goss, Director of the Greensboro Historical Museum, who discussed the latest happenings there as well as its plans for the future. Additionally, there were wonderful pro-PMF comments from international guest Himanshu Tewar, a business advisor in Mumbai, India, who came with two friends from Toronto. Other special guests included retired mechanic Carl Wagle from Alabama and more locally from Virginia Zeke Saunders, retired Senior VP of Operations for Piedmont Airlines, Baxter Shipman, a graphic designer from High Point, and Paul Holt, a genealogist residing in Greensboro.

The Board was delighted to have its eldest member and old friend of George Preddy, Otto Gaskins, return to the area from St. Louis, although this move was precipitated by the unfortunate death of his wife Helen. At this meeting he was elected to Emeritus status along with Robert Huddleston.

## **New Board Member**

In June IT specialist Jack L. Pickard was elected to serve on the Board of the Preddy Foundation. He has placed Preddy exhibits in the airports at Sanford and Siler City, and he is very active in the Commemorative Air Force. Welcome, Jack.

## **NC House of Representatives**

Board Member John Faircloth won the Republican primary for District 61, defeating three other candidates with a margin that avoided a runoff. He is on the November ballot unopposed and will take the seat in January. Congratulations to John.

## **North Carolina Aviation Museum**

PMF's greatest achievement for the past year was probably its

contribution to the North Carolina Aviation Museum in Asheboro. It purchased from PMF Member, Tom Smith, a modified 1/5<sup>th</sup> scale model of the P-47 *Cripes A'Mighty*, and loaned it to NCAM. It is backdropped by a Bill Garmon painting of the P-47 *Cripes A'Mighty* previously donated.

## **Preddy Artifacts to CAM**

PMF Founder Joe Noah over the years has accumulated many artifacts pertaining to the Preddy Brothers. These include books, files, photographs, models, magazines, plaques, audio-visuals, and many pictures. During the last two years he has sensed a need for a permanent place for these items. Negotiations with the Carolinas Aviation Museum resulted in a placement with their Dolph Overton Library. The library is named in honor of the F-86 Ace and recent recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, who additionally has served on the Board of PMF since it was incorporated in 1996. The Museum already has a fine exhibit on George Preddy. Many of these worthy pieces can be filed or displayed for the education and enjoyment of the public.

## **Spreading the Word**

As the Preddy Foundation has seasoned with time, good publicity seems to just happen. Unsolicited have been creations where no thought was given by the Board on its own behalf. Examples are Mustang calendars, restoration of a P-51 Mustang with *Cripes A'Mighty* markings, unexpected publications in both aviation and general interest magazines, an inclusion into the educational website [www.NCVisualHistory.com](http://www.NCVisualHistory.com), and even George's being a "participant" in an elementary school Wax Museum in Montana.

## **Preddy on View**

As the years march on, it becomes apparent that the Preddy name is clearly on view and that the public is more aware than ever of the legend of the brothers. Clearly, the dissemination of artifacts by the Preddy Foundation has been instrumental in name recognition. Last year's Annual Report spelled out this footprint, listing more than twenty-five commemorations and displays regionally, nationally, and internationally.

A favorite of PMF is Darrell Crosby's *White Flight*, a depiction of George Preddy's flight of three Mustangs the day he downed three Me-109s in about five minutes. Reproductions of this painting have been given to no less than twenty facilities, most recently to the Sanford-Lee County Airport (TTA), the Siler City airport (5W8), and the airports at New Bern, Kinston, Smithfield and Beaufort, NC. Special consideration was rendered by PMF to a special friend, the Piedmont Triad International Airport (GSO). The Foundation purchased a painting of *Cripes A'Mighty* by artist Sonny Schug, which is now proudly displayed in the Business Office of the terminal building.

Occasionally the PMF is called upon to make presentations at various events. Recently Joe Noah was asked to be prepared to address Air Force Association Chapters in North Carolina. He was also asked to participate in the Veterans Fair held in Woodstock, VA, a fair that 352<sup>nd</sup> FG pilot and PMF member Ray Mitchell played a large role. Joe was unable to attend but sent display material on both George and Bill Preddy.



### Medal of Honor

As reported last year, the Board has all but given up its quest for a post-humous Medal for George Preddy. Some sources indicate that achieving this goal has become even more difficult.

### Halls of Fame

Another year has passed with new inductees introduced into the National Aviation Hall of Fame, unfortunately not including George. Our disappointment, though, is certainly not outweighed by our optimism that this honor might occur in the future. Similarly, we find ourselves waiting for his more certain induction into the North Carolina Aviation Hall of Fame, but only when it becomes officially established.

### Renaming Pope Air Force Base

A good case has been presented by PMF for engaging the Preddy name to the new air field as Pope AFB is transferred to the Army this year. In the face of reasonable publicity with much support from North Carolinians, it appears that a name such as Pope-Preddy Army Air Field just is not going to happen. The reason for rejection by the Army was given in a reply to Congressman Coble; the Under Secretary of the Army made it clear that an honor once bestowed would not be replaced. Board Member Eddie Smith has been extremely diligent in pursuing this dream, and, knowing Eddie, he may just plow right through this dead-end.

### Memorial Day Parade, Thomasville

On Memorial Day of this year, Board Member Bruce Guard played a key role in organizing the Parade in Thomasville, the largest Memorial Day Parade in NC. He invited the PMF to prepare a float using the 1/5<sup>th</sup> scale model of George Preddy's P-47 *Cripes A'Mighty*. That model was on loan by PMF to the NC Aviation Museum. NCAM made it available for us to use in the Parade. Bruce and his son, Eric, built the float and brought it to the parade. (See photo on cover) Bruce introduced Joe Noah who spoke briefly about George & Bill Preddy.

### Contributing to Causes

Even in bad times PMF has continued with its tradition of gifts to institutions related in purpose to the memory of the Preddy name. Cash gifts of over \$5000 were dispersed to ten such establishments, including Carolinas Aviation Museum, Hickory Aviation Museum, Motts Military Museum, Greensboro Historical Museum Commemorative AF for the American Combat Airman Hall of Fame, Museum of Flight, Grimsley High School in Greensboro, Mighty 8th AF Museum, and NC Aviation Museum. That much more was given to others in the form of artifacts.

Some consideration exists to sponsor a scholarship, perhaps to Grimsley, in the memory of the Preddy brothers. Our corporate charter does not allow the PMF to distribute a scholarship directly, but we could probably participate in some way.

A more ambitious thought is to buy a full-scale model of *Cripes A'Mighty* for the Carolinas Aviation Museum. Such a creation should look very smart among the famous aircraft now occupying the new hangar at CAM. See cover photo of the hangar. If the Board decides favorably, it would set up a special fund for donations from you and the public. In the mean time, all donations to the PMF will help us continue our gifts in memory of the Preddy brothers.



P-51 in Imperial War Museum, London

### PMF Finances

The financial status compared with last year at this time has improved about 8%, in spite of the poor economy. Current assets total \$31,412; there are no liabilities. Potential donors are advised that a financial statement is available upon written request from the Office of Consumer affairs, Commonwealth of Virginia, PO Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218. You may also visit us on [Guidestar](http://www.guidestar.org), [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org).



**KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE**