

Preddy Memorial Foundation Newsletter

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April 2000

Board Meeting, May 8th (VE Day)

Board Meeting

This year the spring meeting will be a board meeting only. We will meet at Morton Lester's facilities at the Blue Ridge Airport in Martinsville, Virginia. The meeting will convene at 10:30 A. M., and at noon we will break for lunch. We will plan to re-convene after lunch so we may see Morton's collection of aircraft and other memorabilia.

To get to the Blue Ridge Airport (MTV) from Greensboro, take 220 North to the Martinsville Bypass. Go west on the Bypass until you pick up US58 West. Follow 58 for about 10 miles until you get to Spencer. Then follow the airport signs to Blue Ridge Airport.

Morton will reserve space in a restaurant for lunch, so we must have a fairly accurate count of those planning to attend. Please RSVP no later than April 25th, sooner if possible. Call Bill Black, 336/288-4844, or Joe Noah, 804/374-2781. Or email Joe at the address above.

WWII Plaque Now at GHS



Greensboro (now Grimsley) High School was the site of a ceremony designed to honor GHS alumni who gave their lives during WWII. This ceremony was held on December 8, 1999 and described in our January 2000 Newsletter. We had to use a mock-up of the

plaque because the bronze had not been completed.

Walker Rucker took delivery of the bronze plaque, and with the help of his carpenter and Bill Black, installed it on March 21st. Incidentally, the plaque weighs 110 lbs. Here is a photo of the plaque after it was installed. With Walker is Mrs. Jane Teague, GHS Principal. Robert Gorrell, a neighbor of Walker's, donated the major share of the cost of the duplicate plaque. The PMF is most grateful.

As the plaque was being installed, a teacher came by and made a terrific suggestion. He said that one of the history classes may be interested in doing research to find out a bit about each of those 97 men and two women listed

on the plaque. Mrs. Teague introduced us to Mr. Larry Williamson, history teacher, who said that he thinks they can pull it off next year. Bill Black has a complete and legible list of the 99. If you think you know something about one or more of them, please call Bill.

White Flight



Otto Gaskins and Joe Noah have placed copies of the print *White Flight* in several airports where they will be framed and displayed: Greensboro's Atlantic Aero and Piedmont Hawthorne,

Concord Regional, Lynchburg Regional, and others. If any of you have a favorite airport or other place, let us know and we will donate a print.



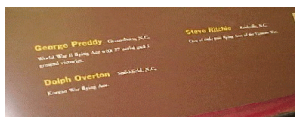
Preddy Bust Update

Harding Shinn has been successful in placing a bust of George Preddy in the terminal building of Charlotte's International Airport. Harding also presented them with a painting of Cripes A'Mighty 3rd donated to PMF by Troy White. Here are three photos

that show the exhibit case, a close up of the bust, and a name plate (with George Preddy, WWII ace; Dolph Overton, Korean War ace; and Steve Ritchie, Viet Nam ace). The bust is in the lower front corner of the exhibit case, the painting in the top rear. The exhibit is close to the entrance to the Airport Authority's offices.

Otto Gaskins placed a bust with the Peddycord Museum in Asheboro where we have the large scale model of Cripes A'Mighty 3rd on display. This is the model constructed gratis by Foley Manufacturing Company of Roanoke Rapids, NC. Joe Noah shipped a





bust to the USAF Museum in Dayton where we planned a formal presentation by John Edwards, a retired colonel who

flew with George. John's health prevented that from taking place.

A formal presentation of the bust was made to the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum in Savannah. Bob Powell arranged for the presentation. Bob and his wife, Betty, met the Noahs, Sam and Sarah Sox, Rachel Preddy Harris and her family (Ann and Carl Gordon, daughter and son-in-law, and George Harris, son) and the Bryans and their friends. Don Bryan flew with George when George took command of the 328th Fighter Squadron in late 1944. Don became CO after George was killed in action. A replica of Don's P-51, *Little One III*, hangs in the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum.



The photo on the left shows Rachel unveiling the bust; the photo below shows, from left to right, Joe Noah, Ann Gordon, Rachel, and George Harris.

Bill Espie and Ross Smart, 352nd Fighter Group Honorary Associates from England, will present the

Preddy bust to the American Air Museum in Britain on April 19th. The AAMB is in Duxford, close to Fowlmere where Bill Preddy was stationed.

At our Board Meeting on May 8th, the PMF



Executive Committee will ask the Board to approve the acquisition of a bust of Bill Preddy for the Greensboro Historical Museum. Director Bill Moore said that he would like to have it for his planned WWII exhibit.

We plan to have the same artist who did George's bust do Bill's, Penny Call-Morris. Bill's bust will cost \$1,000. Bill Moore has the original of George's bust. We expect he will display them together.

George Preddy's Portrait

Two years ago, Troy White donated a large portrait of George Preddy to the PMF. The PMF loaned the painting to the Mighty 8th AF Museum, and



they displayed it over a door in a conference room on the 2nd floor. That painting has now been deeded to the 8th Air Force Museum by the PMF. Please note the photo of the painting with George Harris in the doorway. There is a striking resemblance between uncle and nephew!



Award

Walker Rucker conceived the idea of an annual award to be made by the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce in the name of the

Preddy brothers. Walker and Bill Black approached the Chamber last year and made their proposal. The award has been approved. The Preddy Service Award will go to the outstanding citizen who puts "service above self." The award will be initiated in the year 2001.

352nd Fighter Group History

The 352nd Fighter Group Association is going to have their history book reprinted. They asked the PMF to finance one third of the cost, about \$6,000. The decision had to be made by the end of March, so the Executive Committee agreed to do it. We will ask the Board to ratify our decision. In return, this edition of the book will be dedicated to George Preddy. Walker Rucker has agreed to store the books. We fully expect to make a profit on the sale of the books.

Financial Summary

The PMF has \$3,700 in our checking account, \$5,000 in our money market fund, and \$38,000 invested in stock/mutual funds. In addition to the \$46,700 in liquid assets, the PMF has \$38,000 in other assets such as the Exhibit Case/CDI, lithographs, works of art, and video rights. Total equity is now about \$85,000.

PS - The 30-minute program that Sam Sox & Joe Noah taped last year in Charlotte for the Carolina Aviation Museum has been aired. Dale Brisson said it was well-received, and told me how to get a copy.

