

WINGS



THINGS

GREAT PLAINS WING - COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

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4th Quarter 2023

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Photo: Freibert



Happenings at the Museum

From James Freibert:

We are working to add to the museum - integrating artifacts, art, models, and information. We are looking for notebooks and documentation in support and we are adding video displays, at last, to tell stories, and to highlight the displays and artifacts we have.

Our Uniform case is getting a major update. We have displayed the same uniforms for as much as twenty years and we are moving to a variety of Army, Air and Navy uniforms we've not had on display before.

“Lest We Forget”

Photo: Freibert



Photo: Freibert



Photo: Freibert

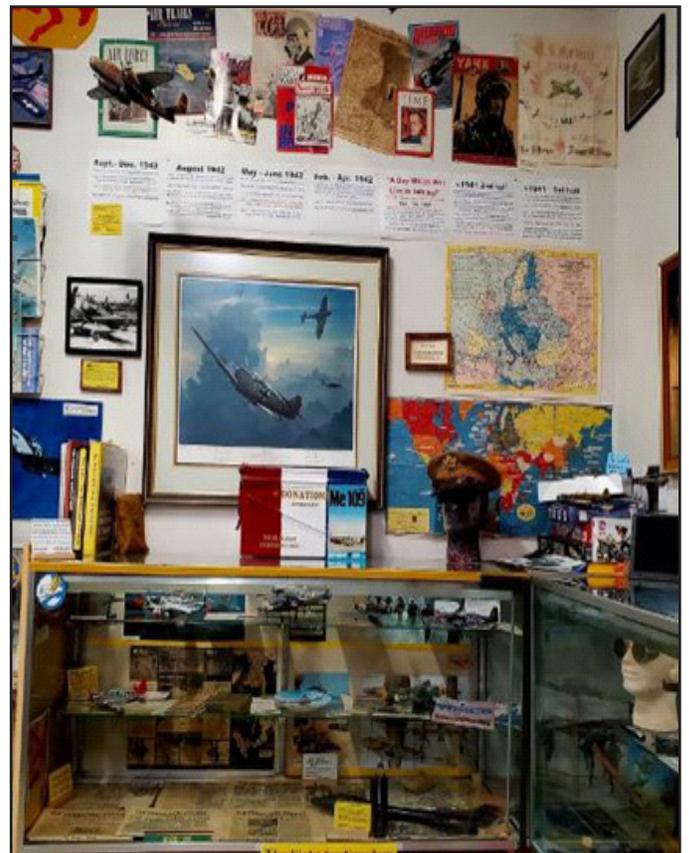


Photo: Freibert



Photo: Freibert



After those uniforms are updated, we expect a 1/72nd scale model 1945 USS ESSEX. Created after months of work by retired USN Lt. Cmdr Kenneth Hagerup, a veteran of several hundred carrier traps.

If we were getting a whole aircraft carrier, it would be 11 feet long, but Ken's focused on a very realistic show of the hangar deck, flight deck, and island/tower.

Photo: From the web



Essex in 1945

Using 3D printing, he has produced over 40 anti-aircraft guns, (the Essex had 4 5"/38 double mounts, 4 5"/38 single mounts, 8 40mm Bofors quad mounts and 46 20mm Oerlikon mounts), side elevator, observation walks above the flight deck, and twenty five incredibly detailed aircraft models from Essex flight groups.

He has a wide choice of aircraft to model, depending on the period he chooses to model.

CVG-83. McPherson's Air Group, came aboard in March, 1945 composed of:

- VB-83 equipped with 15 SB2C-4E (surface search radar equipped)
- VT-83 with 15 TBM-3
- VF-83 with 28 F6F-5, 2 F6F-5E (radar equipped), 4 F6f-5N (Night Fighter) and 2 F6F-5P (photo recon)
- VBF-83 with 36 F4U-1D

The aircraft models and numbers changed slightly through 1945, but the types in CVG-83 remained fairly constant through the end of the War.

He is including Ens. Don McPherson's F6F-5 Hellcat #115 Death N' Destruction.

Photo: From the web



McPherson's F6F

The Essex's move-in is dependent on our finishing an oak and plexiglass case to protect it - and offer visitors the best view of a thousand details!

This will probably be our most impressive display since the ROLLS ROYCE MERLIN and Wright R1820 engine restorations.

2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

Dec. 16 Wing Meeting 11:00 AM GPW Hangar

MONTHLY EVENTS

Council Bluffs Airport - Great Plains Wing hosts a monthly cookout on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from April to October - 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

York, NE Airport: EAA Chapter 1055 hosts a fly-in breakfast on the 1st Saturday of each month from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. (free-will offering)

Crete, NE Airport: EAA Chapter 569 hosts a fly in breakfast on the 3rd Sat. of every month from 8 to 10 a.m.

If you would like to put an event on this calendar, please send an email with the necessary information to Terry Helphrey at terry.helphrey@outlook.com