

The BFTS Link



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SPRING 2024

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Visit us at:
119 Silent Wings Blvd
Terrell, TX 75160
972.551.1122
www.bftsmuseum.org

Email:
info@bftsmuseum.org

Museum Hours
Wednesday – Saturday
10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Open other times by
appointment.

Holiday Closings:
Monitor our website for
updated closing
information.
www.bftsmuseum.org

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Freedom Fest Returns July 4th

The 2024 Freedom Fest will return on Thursday July 4, 2024. The gates will open this year at 6:00 PM. Fireworks (Terrell Chamber of Commerce; Platinum Collection of Dealerships, Presenting Sponsor) will commence at around 9:30 PM.

Our thanks to the Freedom Fest sponsors: U-Rent-It, Madix, JS Helwig & Son, and Texas Bank & Trust.

The Freedom Fest will once again feature a car show, museum exhibits, food trucks, and the always popular kids zone.

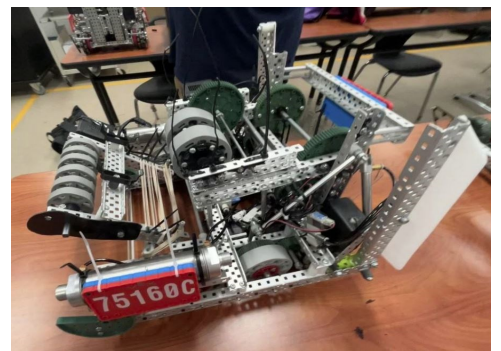
Bring your friends and family and join us as we celebrate our Nation's birthday!

**TERRELL
FREEDOM
FEST** 



Summer Robotics Program at BFTS Museum

Students from the Robotics Club at Terrell High School will demonstrate their robots to the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum from 10 am till noon on Saturday, June 1. The Terrell Robotics Club is a student led organization at Terrell High School that includes 24 students ranging from freshmen to seniors.



F-117 Program Presented by Matt Byrd

A large and enthusiastic crowd heard Hillwood Aviation president and CEO Matt Byrd (pictured, right) tell of his experiences flying the F-117 Stealth Fighter and other unique aircraft at the BFTS Museum on April 18. We were honored to have Mayor Rick Carmona in the audience. Mr. Byrd had three tours of duty in the Middle East during Desert Storm and has flown over 50 types of fixed wing and rotorcraft airplanes during 40 years of flying.

For more than 20 years, Mr. Byrd has held a variety of positions with The Perot Group of Companies which focuses on real estate, investments and aviation related business opportunities including Alliance Texas, a 27,000 acre master planned, mixed use development in north Fort Worth.

A special surprise of the evening was the announcement that Mr. Byrd is donating a ride in his aerobatic aircraft to some lucky bidder at the Museum's Casino Night on Sept. 21.



Above: Former U. S. Air Force stealth fighter pilot Matt Byrd speaks about his experiences flying the F-117 during the Gulf War.

*****NOTICE*****

If you would prefer to receive your BFTS Link Newsletter by email please send an email to info@BFTSMuseum.org.

Below: The infamous V-1 Flying Bomb used by the Germans in World War II. The V-1 pictured below is part of the **Fantasy of Flight Collection** in central Florida. Director Patrick Hotard visited that museum as well as other museum and archival facilities in Clewiston, Titusville and Daytona Beach while travelling in Florida in March. The Fantasy of Flight collection is truly extraordinary.



Tom Snow

Terrell attorney and BFTS Museum supporter Tom Snow passed away earlier this year. The museum always appreciated his support and advice. He will be sorely missed by the museum and the greater Terrell community. *Note: Mr. Snow's mother worked at the BFTS during the war.*

Right: Nicholas Tooth, son of Cadet James A. Tooth (Course 1) recently visited the museum. Nicholas Tooth now lives in the DFW area and will be presenting a program at the museum in August.

Right, below: Chris Williamson points out the photo of his dad, Cadet W. A. Williamson, in the photo of Course 16. Chris reports that his dad left the RAF in 1948 and returned to the US, settling first in Dallas and later in Houston. This was his first visit to the museum.



Left: Vincent and Filomena Loschiavo of Melbourne, Australia visited the museum while in the states for the Total Solar Eclipse in April. Several Australians visited the museum during the weekend of the eclipse and some observed the eclipse from the apron behind the museum.



Right: Graham and Amanda Gabriel visited the museum over the winter. They traveled from York in the United Kingdom and were made aware of the BFTS through the wife of Cadet A. D. L. Smith (Course 25).



Left: Cindy Kusel and her husband Bill toured the BFTS and reviewed some items in the collection that relate to the late E. Van Lloyd, No. 1 BFTS's Chief Flight Instructor.

Ms. Kusel, who lives in Galena, Ohio is the niece of Mr. Lloyd.

Right: Volunteer historian George Cozens (far left) toured the BFTS Museum with Jenny Covey (right) and her husband Martin. Mrs. Covey is the daughter of Cadet J. G. Heard (Course 25), the subject of the ongoing micro-exhibit curated by George with the assistance of Mrs. Covey. This is the second such cadet-focused micro exhibit completed by George Cozens.



Giving News

Our Special Event Sponsors are rolling in!

For Freedom Fest (4th of July):

U-Rent-It

Madix

J. S. Helwig & Son



For Monte Carlo Casino Night (Sept. 21st):

Platinum Level and Location Sponsor - Platinum Ford

Madix

J. S. Helwig & Son



We also thank Texas Bank & Trust as an events sponsor.

BFTS Museum has received a \$5000 grant award from the Summerlee Foundation in support of our *Stories from the BFTS Museum's Collection* project! The project will allow the museum to share the BFTS story utilizing aspects of the collection in off-site presentations.

Anonymous — \$1200.00

In-Kind Donations by: Gary Weaver, Brent Fonville, Hugh Fraser, & Brookshires Supermarket

Image of the beautiful garden plot in front of the BFTS Museum. The Terrell Garden Club's in-kind labor and plant donations maintain this landscaped area surrounding the historic marker near the entrance. Thanks to Ann Embry for years of volunteering.



New Sign Donated by Longtime Volunteer

Right:

The British Flying Training School Museum was the recipient of a substantial in-kind gift from longtime volunteer Hugh Fraser. Hugh donated a new sign (the old sign was heavily scorched by the intense heat of last summer) for the facade of the BFTS Museum.

This generous donation was made in memory of his wife Marie. Marie passed away several months ago and was a longtime volunteer in the museum giftshop. She will be missed by all who knew her.



2024 Solar Eclipse at the BFTS Museum

Numerous visitors came to the museum to observe April 8th's solar eclipse. The BFTS provided lots of free activities during the day and witnessed visitors from as far away as Holland and Australia.

Solar Physicist Jo Ann Joselyn, PhD, recently retired from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Colorado, presented three brief talks at 11 am, 11:20 am and 11:40 am that were repeated at noon, 12:20 pm and 12:40 pm. She explained what a total solar eclipse is, described what individuals would see and how people know about eclipses including how early peoples were able to predict them. She also covered how to protect your eyes and camera. These presentations were very popular (see image to the right) and informative.



Special photo opportunities were available to youngsters at the Gleim flight simulator (currently used to train pilots), a restored, vintage AT-6 Texan trainer and the museum's mural of a Stearman bi-plane (1941 model) similar to the one cadets flew over Terrell during World War II. Outside, automotive fans saw a real London taxi and a surprise visitor - the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile (see below), making its first visit to Terrell.



March Program Presented Via Zoom & Facebook Live

The role women pilots played during World War II is not known by the average American but the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum presented a program on March 21st that told their story. Our speaker was Texas Woman's University Professor of History, Katherine Sharp Landeck, Ph.D. She has spent two decades researching and explaining their roles in the war effort. Prof. Landeck joined the museum audience via Zoom and her remarks were broadcast live on Facebook. This is a museum first for our series of educational programs.



WW II Veteran Visits BFTS



Above: World War Two Army Air Corps veteran Robert Matteson toured the BFTS early in the year and he was kind enough to pose for us in Gallery One. Mr. Matteson flew B-25's during the war and proudly served the USA in the European Theatre of Operations.

BFTS Director Visits Canadian Consulate in Dallas

Below: In February BFTS Director Patrick Hotard was honored to visit with Canadian Consul General Susan Harper to discuss ways in which the BFTS can work with the consulate to spread the word far and wide about the museum and its mission.



Upcoming Events

Monitor the website at www.bftsmuseum.org and follow our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/No1BFTS for event [schedule updates and changes](#).

6-1-2024

Terrell High School Robotics Club Demonstration
10 AM — 12 noon

6-8-2024

Free Continental Breakfast [for Veterans](#)
9 —10:30 AM

7-4-2024 Freedom Fest

6 PM to 10 PM
Fireworks, Kids Zone, Food Trucks, Car Show,
Museum Open to the Public

8-3-2024

Public Service Program
Care & Maintenance of Your Shotgun for Hunting
Season presented by Nicholas Tooth
9 AM (check website for details in coming weeks)

8-10-2024

Free Continental Breakfast [for Veterans](#)
9 —10:30 AM

9-5-2024

Educational Program
Speaker and topic TBD

9-14-2024

Free Continental Breakfast [for Veterans](#)
9 —10:30 AM

9-21-2024

SAVE THE DATE!

Monte Carlo (Casino) Night

7-10 PM Tickets: \$100.00

at Platinum Ford in Terrell

Call the office to reserve your tickets!

All events, unless otherwise stated, will be held at the BFTS Museum at 119 Silent Wings Blvd in Terrell, Texas.

Ford V8 Club and JR ROTC Visit the Museum

The Early Ford V8 Club (see right) visited the museum in March bringing over 60 guests to the BFTS. An interested and engaged membership, they had a slew of intelligent questions about the important training that occurred at the Terrell Airport during the war. Many of the members drove to the museum in their beautifully restored period automobiles (see image below, right).

The Junior ROTC program once again visited the BFTS Museum in the spring. The cadets, from both North Forney High School and Forney High School, received orientation tours from our volunteers including Beverly Mardis (pictured below with a group of Forney High School Jr. ROTC cadets).



RAF Wing Commander Visits The BFTS Museum

The museum's board of directors and Terrell Mayor Rick Carmona welcomed RAF Wing Commander Dylan Eklund from Headquarters Air Command, RAF, High Wycombe, UK for a brief visit on Sunday, March 3. Commander Eklund was in the US to visit RAF teams at various American bases. The British Embassy in Washington recommended he stop by Terrell to see where the 80+ years of cooperation in training British pilots in America began in 1941. Using Board Member Carl Best's AT-6 as a backdrop, Board Chairman Bill Huthmacher, left and Executive Director Patrick Hotard, far right, presented the school's soccer (football) jerseys to Commander Eklund and Mayor Carmona. Wing Commander Eklund recently published an article in *Royal Air Force News* about his visit to the BFTS Museum.



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Yes, I want to support the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum!

Donor Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Individual (\$45) _____ Individual-Senior (\$25) _____ Family (\$80) _____

Cadet Patron (\$250) _____ Flying Officer Patron (\$500) _____

Squadron Leader Patron (\$1,000) _____ Air Marshall Patron (\$2,500) _____

Static Aircraft Display Patron (\$5,000) _____

Other (\$ _____) _____

Thank You for Your Support! Please return this section with your payment. Thank you!!

Gifts may be made by check (drawn on US Bank), Credit Card or Online via PayPal at www.bftsmuseum.org/donate

Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Card Number _____

Expiration _____ Security Code _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Address, City, State, Zip (if different from above) _____

Please Note: Our system will not accept debt cards without the card present.

_____ My gift qualifies for a matching gift by my employer. See employer form enclosed.
_____ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.



**NO.1 BRITISH FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL MUSEUM
GREETINGS FROM TERRELL, TX**

This newsletter is also available on our website
Visit us at www.bftsmuseum.org/news

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