



A **ready room** is the room on a Navy aircraft carrier where air crews hold their pre-flight and post-flight briefs. Crews serving during WWII considered the ready room to be a clubroom.

“The funny thing about a ready room is that you get attached to the hole. As much as you are attached to the ship. It's more than sentiment. It's an urge for protection. The loneliest feeling in the whole of a carrier pilot's world is when he's at sea with the gas running low, and he can't see his carrier. You think of the ready room then, and the noisy guys who make it the most desirable place in the world. It's your office, you live in it, it is the big thing in your life. [...] You sweat and worry in it, and grouse and argue, and you get mad at it when you can't hear yourself speak because everyone is yelling at once, but you're deeply attached to the place.

— Tommy Booth

*"Wildcats" Over Casablanca*

## Wing Leader's Report

We have had a busy summer so far. Lots of ride flights in the Stearman. Thanks to everyone who has helped with the Stearman this year. We continue to clean and fix up our hangar home. We can now actually walk in the PX room and find things when needed. Lots of folks helped with this project. Thank you.

In a couple of weeks we will have a tent set up and the Stearman on display at the KC Airshow. Volunteers will be needed to sell rides and keep an eye on the airplane. It is estimated that several hundred thousand people will attend the Airshow over Labor Day weekend. We will be getting some free publicity from KSHB TV, Channel 41 on the Friday before the Airshow. They interviewed John and I for some footage to help advertise the show and tell the KC area viewers about the CAF. As soon as we know, we will let you know when it will air.

I hope everyone is having a great summer and hope to see you at some of our events this fall.

**EDUCATE – INSPIRE - HONOR**

-- Steve Zimmerman

**NEXT MEETING:**

**17 SEP, 10:00**



## Money Matters

I can't believe that the year is more than halfway gone! It has been a busy year so far and now is a good time to give you a snapshot on where we stand financially.

If you have seen the latest edition of the Dispatch magazine (Volume 49, Number 4), Hank Coates talks about diversification in revenue streams. It almost seemed as if he was talking about us, as we have several means on which we bring in money. Here's how 2022 has shaped up so far:

- Dues – these make up about 10% of our income budget for the year. Fortunately, we have added a number of new people and almost all of our 2021 dues-paying members have paid again in 2022. We have collected nearly \$4900.
- Aircraft Rides and Flyovers – this was a big revenue source and we're really just getting in to the busy time of the year. So far, we've brought in \$6100 in rides, flyovers, and gift certificates for the Stearman (and some other member volunteer aircraft).
- Events – Jim Neese has spearheaded getting the hangar used for weddings and corporate events. Our income so far this year is just under \$8500.

Please...if Jim asks for help with these things, help him out!

- Fundraisers – we have had two outstanding fundraisers this year: the Hangar Dance in May and the Authors, Art and Appetizers in June (done in conjunction with the visit from Doc). These have been exceptionally successful. Our net – after expenses – for these two events was over \$8900!
- Investments – not a bright spot this year. If you have any investments at all, you know what I mean. Fortunately, these are paper losses at present, but our investments are down over \$12,000 in the first half of the year.
- Open Hangar Days – these have historically been good sources of revenue for the Wing. We've only had one so far this year, so be on the lookout for ways to help.
- Other sources – in addition to all of these, we receive rent for a couple of guest airplanes in the hangar, we get donations to help cover expenses and for airplane restoration, and even the food at Wing meetings helps to bring in money.

If you take the investment losses out of the mix, we've brought in over \$45,000 in the first half of

the year. This compares very well to 2021, when while in the throes of the pandemic, we had brought in about half that amount.

Now let's add a dash of reality to that picture. Inflation and age are affecting the Wing, as I am sure it is doing at your house! A couple of lowlights in this arena:

- We have been notified that our cost for water and web site hosting will be going up this year.
- Most dramatically, fuel for the Stearman has gone sky high (pun intended). We started the second quarter paying \$4.95/gallon. It has gone as high as \$7.68/gallon and the most recent fill up cost us \$6.85/gallon, a 38% increase in less than two months.
- Our HVAC unit shot craps a few months ago. We were able to get new units installed for the Education Center that provides heating and A/C for that area at a cost of just under \$8,000. We must determine if that will be sufficient from a heating perspective or if we'll need to do something with another heating source. With the old system, electric heat was our nemesis, with over \$2700 already spent this year just on electric bills.
- The PT-19 work is progressing. In 2022, we have spent over \$7200 this year on its restoration and we expect the work – and bills – on the wings and

fuselage to be starting very soon. There is still a long way to go on this and we only have \$24,000 in our airplane account for the -19.

- While mundane, we pay a lot of money for insurance. Fortunately, HQ has been able to keep things in check, but the bills this year have been over \$15,000.
- And that doesn't even get into some of the capital projects that we've been discussing!
- The bottom line is that we're down about \$18,000 for the first half of the year. Two thirds of that is the losses in the investment accounts, but even still we have spent \$6000 more than we have brought in so far.

I always kid about having your rich relatives make donations to the Wing, but it's only half kidding. We always need money! So, if you do have any rich relatives that would like to adopt us, or if you want to make a donation to the wing (it's tax deductible if you itemize), please send money our way. If you don't have such resources, consider helping out at an Open Hangar Day, setting up for a wedding or other Wing event, or helping with a work day around the hangar. Every little bit helps.

Thanks for your support of the wing!

Tom McChesney



**Did you know that we're archiving the newsletter on our webpage? Go to the "about us" drop down and you can read or download prior editions. Additionally, we've got a few printed copies on the bookcase shelf at the rear of the meeting room, and there are some hanging on the bulletin board across from the kitchen counter downstairs. Feel free to take some and share them around!**

# THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD

Published Twice Weekly By The Farmers Publishing Company, La Grange, Texas      Devoted to the Interests of the People of Fayette County and of Texas  
VOLUME XXXII      LA GRANGE, TEXAS, FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 1945      NUMBER 43

## World War II Is Over - Peace On Earth Again!

# JAPAN SURRENDERS!

### LHS WILL OPEN SEPT. 12 FOR 1945-46 TERM

Supt. Miles Gives  
Program For The  
Entire School Year

The La Grange public schools open for the new term on Monday, September 11, with an assembly program at the gymnasium starting at 8:35 a.m. It is announced by Supt. S. C. Miles.

The school faculty will meet for organization the Friday before, September 8 at 9 a.m. Details of the school calendar for the 1945-1946 year, as given by Mr. Miles, follows:

October 10, first school week ends.  
November 20 and 21, Thanksgiving holidays.  
November 29, second school week ends.  
December 21, Christmas holidays begin.  
January 1, 1946, school week ends.  
January 21 and 22, school week ends.

### COMMANDER



Gen. Douglas A. MacArthur, named supreme Allied commander to receive the Japanese surrender.

### Teenville Club Schedules Second Meeting Friday

The La Grange Teenville club, composed of teenagers and girls, and Tuesday night is in final stages of their coming home party at the La Grange Fraternal Co. hall. The party will be held on Friday, August 11.

### Am I A Good Citizen? Do I Always Vote?

The election on August 28th is an important one at which every qualified voter should cast his or her ballot for or against the proposed amendments, so he or she may properly.

We have not the slightest intention of trying to tell the voters how to vote on these amendments. Our readers are intelligent enough to vote their consciences without any advice from us or any other source. But, to refresh the voter's memory, we believe it is proper that we restate what these proposed amendments would do, if adopted by the people.

We will discuss them as they appear on the ballot.

No. 1. This amendment would permit members of Uncle Sam's armed forces to vote without a poll tax receipt for 12 months after the end of war. This includes soldiers, sailors, airmen and others who are dependent on the government for support. It also includes those who are in the service of the government in any capacity.

### PRESIDENT



Pres. Harry S. Truman, who announced the Japanese surrender, something that the late Franklin D. Roosevelt did not live to see.

### NEWS OF PEACE TAKEN QUIETLY

Peace came to La Grange late Tuesday afternoon, just as it did to the rest of the world - but millions of eyes of the late war were closed in death. The news of peace was not taken quietly.

### FAYETTE AREA SCOUTERS HOLD MEETING HERE

Extension Needs,  
Leader Training  
Cited At Session

Fifty Scouters, visitors and guests attended a quarterly Fayette district meeting of the Boy Scout Group on Monday night.

Opening the most extensive session was a talk by Mr. E. J. Plunkett, and then P. F. Hackett, followed by several reports.

Following the most delicious meal, there were panel discussions on various departments of scouting, which included cooking, maintenance and equipment, organization and extension, leadership training, advancement, and awards.

### MAC ARTHUR WILL OK FORMAL TERMS

Pres. Truman Announces Capitulation  
Of Enemy Tuesday At 6 P. M.; Regarded  
As Unconditional; Allies 'Cease Fire'

World War II is over and once more there is peace on earth! Japan has surrendered unconditionally. Pres. Harry S. Truman announced to the nation Tuesday afternoon at 6 o'clock.

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur has been designated supreme Allied commander to receive the surrender. Offensive operations were ordered to suspend immediately everywhere.

V.J. Day is to be proclaimed only after the surrender has been formally accepted by Gen. MacArthur.

Pres. Truman said he regarded the surrender as "unconditional." The Japanese note, however, directly followed one from Secretary of State James F. Byrnes in which the Allies agreed that the Japanese would be permitted to keep their emperor at least for a time. The Byrnes note provided that the emperor should be completely controlled by the Allies, and that the Japanese people should have an opportunity later to decide the kind of government they want.

Mr. Truman read the formal message relayed from Emperor Hirohito through the Swiss Government in which the Japanese ruler pledged the surrender on the terms laid down by the "big three" conference at Potsdam.

Pres. Truman made this statement: "I have this (Tuesday) afternoon received a message from the Japanese government in reply to the message forwarded to that government by the secretary of state on August 11.

## 15 AUGUST 1945

# UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER OF JAPAN ANNOUNCED

On August 6, 1945, the United States military detonated the atomic bomb "Little Boy" 1,900 feet above Hiroshima, Japan, causing initial casualties of over 70,000. Three days later, "Fat Man" was detonated 1,540 feet above Nagasaki, causing initial casualties of over 40,000. After six days of debate between Japanese Emperor Hirohito and his military leaders, an announcement of unconditional surrender was delivered on August 15, effectively ending the Second World War. Debated to this day is the issue of whether these two weapons were needed to force Japan's surrender.

Amphibious invasions never carry a guarantee of success, but they usually involve great cost in lives. The conquest of Okinawa had cost the Allies

(mostly Americans) more than 84,000 casualties; Japanese forces suffered nearly 83,000 casualties, not counting the more than 75,000 listed among the Japanese civilian population. The shock of these extremely high losses sparked an inquiry by the U.S. government. Yet, an invasion for Japan had to be planned.

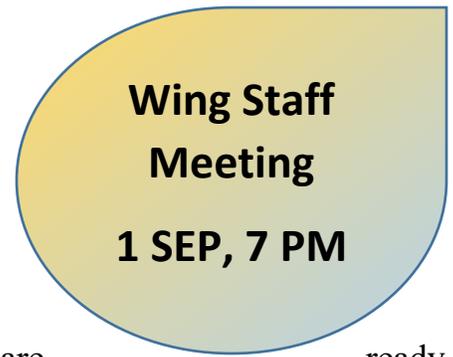
Such unusually high casualty estimates for the invasion, combined with the Japanese refusal to accept the ultimatum, caused President Harry S. Truman to force Japan's hand. Hiroshima and Nagasaki ultimately were chosen as targets because of their military value. Radio Saipan broadcast warnings across Japan between bombings, but no reaction came from Japanese authorities.

National Park Service  
World War II Memorial

<https://www.nps.gov/wwii/learn/historyculture/august-1945.htm>

## PT-19 Restoration Crew

We've got some great news on the PT-19 restoration front; Wing member Ken Tyler has agreed to take on the job of Project Coordinator. Ken will be organizing volunteers' efforts so we can expedite the final stages of the restoration.



For those that don't know: our PT-19 has been in restoration for the last few years. The tail surfaces have been rebuilt in Wisconsin and are ready for final paint colors. AirBase Georgia (formerly the CAF Dixie Wing) was rebuilding our wings, but due to manpower shortages they can no longer help. Therefore, we sent the wings on to a rebuilder in Pennsylvania, who should be able to complete that part of the project in the next year or so. We're going to complete the fuselage restoration here at home, and hopefully we'll putting the airplane back together soon after the wings return.

In order to complete the project Ken is organizing teams to catalog, clean or repair, and ready the airplane parts for reassembly. There's still a lot to be done! The PT-19 Restoration Crew meets at the CAF hangar Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. currently. If you'd like to be involved come on out!

You can call Ken at (618) 691-9711 or email him ([tyler.kenneth68@gmail.com](mailto:tyler.kenneth68@gmail.com)) for more information.

In addition, we'll be participating in the CAF's "12 Planes of Christmas" campaign again this year. We've raised a bunch of money for the restoration through the campaign over the last several years, but we still need more! Keep an eye out for the campaign to start in September, and please help us out with a donation if you can.



**We're holding an organizational meeting to form a crew to finish the PT-19 restoration. We'll be meeting Wednesday evenings, 7-9 p.m.**

**We need volunteers to help with everything from sweeping floors to flying test flights. There's lots of work to be done, and we'll need lots of help to do it!**

**Our tail surfaces are finished; our wings are undergoing restoration in Pennsylvania; and we're restoring the fuselage and other parts here at home.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!**

**If you want to help we'll find you a job!**

**All dues-current CAF-HOA members are eligible to help out, be it sweeping out the shop or spraying the color coats (if you've got airplane painting experience or a paint booth please let us know!). Ken Tyler has volunteered to act as Project Manager for the restoration (Thanks, Ken!). If you've got questions or want to be added to his email list give him a call at (618) 691-9711, or email him at [tyler.kenneth68@gmail.com](mailto:tyler.kenneth68@gmail.com).**

**Or you can just show up next Wednesday evening (August 10), 7 p.m. at the CAF-HOA hangar.**

**WE'LL SEE YOU THEN!**



Our Wing Leader, Steve Zimmerman, has initiated a push to start repairing and cleaning up the hangar. He has been identifying small projects and looking for volunteers to accomplish the work. One of the needs was the replacement of several panels on the trailer door. It was unsecurable and certainly not weather tight. It was not an easy project but Bill England volunteered and took the lead on the project. Luke Klenke, Steve Zimmerman, and Brian Von Bevern were his crew members. Great job! If you would like to help on a project, contact Steve Z. It's fun and rewarding.



## August Open Hangar Day

We had another great Open Hangar Day August 6. Our featured guests were the KC Vintage Japanese Motorcycle Club. They brought dozens of Japanese-company manufactured motorcycles to display; ranging from those built immediately post WW2 to 21st Century bikes. In addition to the motorcycles the Stearman was busy flying; we flew 4 rides before it got too hot and bumpy. Thanks to all the volunteers who came out and made the event possible; and special thanks to Jim Boughan for coordinating with the club, and Janet McKenny and Beth McCale for leading the event.

We've got another Open Hangar Coming up September 10. We'll need volunteers to help. Come out and join the fun!



### Max Deweese

Our friend and fellow CAF-HOA member Max Deweese passed away last month at the age of 101 years old. Max enlisted in the Marine Corp in January 1942. Assigned to the 2nd Marine Division he was in the first company to land on Japanese soil, on Tulagi in the Battle of Guadalcanal. He also was in campaigns on Tawara, Saipan and Tinian. He received Purple Hearts on Tawara and Saipan. Max was a staple around the HOA the last few years and will be sorely missed.

Some of our members attended his services at Country Club Christian Church, while more watched the event live-streamed on the Church's website. His ashes were interred later that day, and we were able to performed a three-airplane overflight\missing man formation for the interment.

Blue skies, Max. Blue skies.



## WORLD WAR TWO

Published July 6, 2022 10:29am EDT

### **Last surviving 'Band of Brothers' member Bradford Freeman dead at 97**

Bradford Freeman of Easy Company served in almost every major European engagement of World War II

By [Timothy H.J. Nerozzi](#) | [Fox News](#)

Bradford Freeman, the last surviving member of Easy Company that was portrayed in the [World War II series](#) "Band of Brothers," has passed away. Freeman, 97, died Sunday at Caledonia, Mississippi's Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle, according to [Stars and Stripes](#). His death was announced in his local newspaper, with an obituary composed by his children.

"Our dad was always astounded that a country boy from Mississippi was able to see so many places and meet so many interesting people," Freeman's daughters wrote in his hometown obituary.

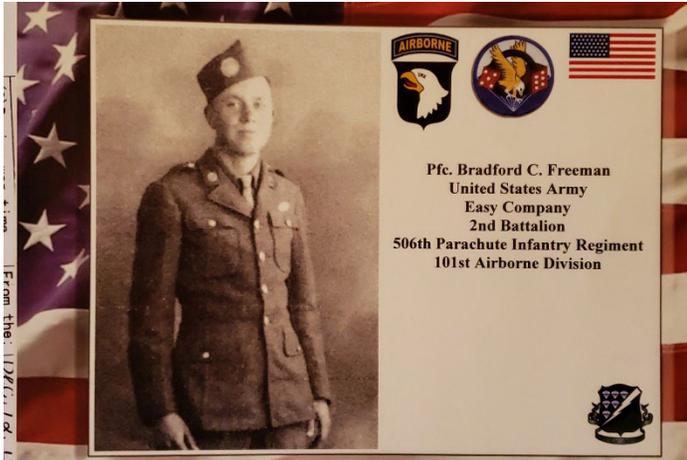


The [military legend](#) is survived by a sister, two daughters and four grandchildren. He is also survived by 10 great-grandchildren. Freeman was the last surviving soldier who helped to inspire "[Band of Brothers](#)," a seminal television series depicting life in combat during World War II.

The "Band of Brothers" HBO miniseries, based on a book by Stephen Ambrose, followed the members of Easy Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne Division from training in Georgia in 1942, through some of the war's fiercest European battles and through the war's end in 1945. Its producers included [Tom Hanks](#) and Steven Spielberg.

Another Easy Company member Bill Wingett died in 2020 at an Oregon veterans home in Lebanon at the age of 98. He was buried with full military honors at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland.

Richard "Dick" Winters, Easy Company commander, died following a several-year battle with Parkinson's disease, longtime family friend William Jackson said Monday.



An intensely private and humble man, Winters had asked that news of his death be withheld until after his funeral, Jackson said. Winters lived in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and died in suburban Palmyra.



The Heart of America Commemorative Air Force has been asked to host the Anniversary Celebration to celebrate the 80th Olathe Naval Air Station Anniversary and 55th year of the Johnson County Airport Commission. The JoCo Airport Commission has asked for this event to be very similar to the Open Hangar Days that we hold each summer season. The event will be on October 1st from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Gardner Museum will be present as usual for our Open Hangar Days, but will be expanding the historical aspects of the Olathe Naval Air Station, including more historical poster boards, souvenirs for sale, and the Olathe Historical Society video of ONS. Our own CAF Museum curator, Darren Roberts, is also working on more history of ONAS and will show the Naval Air Station video upstairs. Activities for children will include our flight simulators, Jeep rides, the HAFFA organization "make a glider group", the dog tag machine, and of course many different airplanes on the ramp to explore as well as the helicopter. Lunch opportunity is pretty much the same as for Open Hangar Days—hot dogs, chips and drink, for a donation! There are a number of different activities still in the exploring stage so stay tuned! **SAVE THE DATE!** October 1, 2022, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Beverly Wittenborn

80<sup>th</sup> Olathe Naval Air Station | 55<sup>th</sup> Johnson County Airport Commission

# Anniversary Celebration

Oct. 1, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Commemorative Air Force Hangar  
6 Aero Plaza, New Century, KS 66031

**Activities**

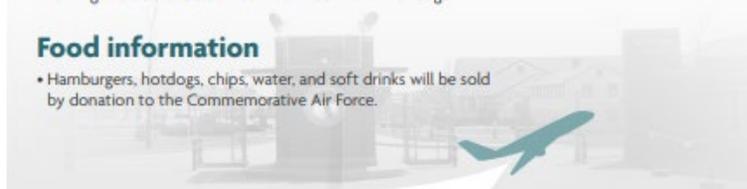
- Face painting
- Flight Simulators
- Commemorative Air Force museum
- Photo boards
- Paper airplane contest

**Parking information**

- Parking will be available across the street from the hangar

**Food information**

- Hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, water, and soft drinks will be sold by donation to the Commemorative Air Force.







**JOHNSON COUNTY KANSAS Airport Commission**

Contact 913-715-6000 for more information

## **HELP WANTED, APPLY WITHIN -**

Another hot, busy month has come and gone. A precious few volunteers continue to donate a great deal of their spare time helping with rides. Pilots, ride desk, ride crews, mechanics; all are contributing their time and excellent talents keeping our Stearman busy in the air. Busy keeping history alive. Busy showing all who fly with us the finest professional, courteous, and friendly treatment to "ice the cake" of riding with the Heart of America Wing. The weekday hours may be odd for those of you who work but some weekends are available. Help would be welcomed in all facets of operations. If you have the time and desire, we'd love to have you join in the fun. It is most rewarding.

We have a BIG airshow coming to our airport over Labor Day Weekend featuring the USAF Thunderbirds. Like last year, we will have our Stearman on static display by our tent. We will need crews to converse with the crowds and keep a watchful eye on the PT-13. More details to follow at our next General Meeting. Spend a little time with the public and watch the show. Like last year, I expect we will meet over at Cosentino's old grocery store parking lot in Gardner to carpool to the event each day. You need not commit to the entire long day. Any help will be much appreciated. Details to follow.

Bob Robinson

## More Of Our Usual Antics!...



*The CAF's YouTube channel did an episode about Airbase Georgia August 17. They talk about the HOA PT-19 project a little, in conjunction with the discussion about restoring their PT-19. You can watch the episode by clicking this link:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkA7F69SQBk>

*The part discussing our project starts around the 23:40 mark.*

**Wing Elected Staff Officers:**

**Wing Leader:** Steve Zimmerman

**Executive Officer:** John Wittenborn

**Finance Officer:** Tom McChesney

**Operations Officer:** Bob Robinson

**Maintenance Officer:** Mark  
McMahon

**Safety Officer:** Jim Boughan

**Adjutant:** Beth McCale

**Development Officer:** Beverly  
Wittenborn

**Education Officer:** Janet McKenny

**Wing Appointed Staff  
Officers:**

**Guest Speaker/Veteran Outreach:**  
Dave Dyer

**PIO:** Brian VonBevern

**Open Hangar Day Operations:** Beth  
McCale, Janet McKenney, and  
Bev Wittenborn

**Facility Rentals:** Jim Neese

**Wing Newsletter:** Anita Mack

**Museum & Library Curator:** Darren  
Roberts and John Curatola

**Photographer:** John English

***Celebrating 65 years!***



**COMMEMORATIVE  
AIR FORCE**