

Flight Line



VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2015

FIRST EDITION HITS THE STREET

Welcome. To Flight Line.

You are reading the inaugural edition, Volume One, Number One, of the Aviation Heritage Park newsletter.

Flight Line is a quarterly publication intended to keep AHP friends and supporters informed and up-to-date on events and happening of the park. The AHP Board of Directors is excited about this new opportunity to tell readers about Aviation Heritage Park. "We are proud of the park and what it represents to our area. This latest initiative offers an excellent venue for telling our story to a much wider audience", Jim Wright, president of AHP said. "Through this newsletter we can tell more people more news and information about the purpose, history and progress of the park and keep them informed of the exciting things happenings as we grow the park."

Each issue will have news articles, feature stories and pictures telling the latest news about the park, reports on progress of new artifacts and improvement being made, plus stories featuring the many pilots, aviators and enthusiasts from south central Kentucky who made their mark on American aviation.

The newsletter will also include a calendar of upcoming AHP events, educational information of interest to area students at all levels and aviation related stores and happenings from around the state and country. "Our vision for this publication is to enlighten and enhance interest and knowledge about aviation, its role in south central Kentucky and the local personalities that made history in the air," Wright said. "We hope you enjoy reading Flight Line as much as we enjoy bringing it to you."

Readers are encouraged to submit stories and photos. Reader feedback and comments are encouraged and welcomed. See page 4 for AHP address, phone number, etc.



T-38 TALON #901 Ready for display at Aviation Heritage Park

America's Race to Space

AHP Displays Newest Artifact

The NASA T-38 took its place last October making it the 5th aviation artifact on display at Aviation Heritage Park. The T-38 Talon was flown by 82 of 85 astronauts in the United States Astronaut Hall of Fame, including Neil Armstrong, Alan Shepard and John Glenn. AHP joins the elite prestige of being one of 13 parks to have a T-38 on display. AHP added this particular artifact to its park to pay honor to a local hero, Col. Terrance "Terry" Wilcutt. Col. Wilcutt a native of Russellville KY and a graduate of Western Kentucky University had an exemplary military career and went on to become an astronaut with NASA. Wilcutt, a veteran of four space flights served as commander for two of them. Currently Col. Wilcutt serves as the Deputy Director of Safety and Mission Assurance at Johnson Space Center in Houston.



Photo by Bob Pitchford
Russellville native Col. Terry Wilcutt



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Gen. Charles Bolden

NASA Officials Attend T-38 Dedication Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies for the event Larry Bailey began by thanking the over 250 guests who were in attendance. He then welcomed NASA Administrator Charles Bolden and astronauts, Col. Terry Wilcutt, Capt. (Ret) Robert "Hoot" Gibson and Dr. Rhea Seddon to the dedication of Aviation Heritage Park's newest Artifact, a restored NASA T-38 Talon.

See Dedication page 3



Jim Wright

From the Cockpit:

Jim Wright, President

Aviation Heritage Park is all about people. It's about visitors who connect with a relative or friend by coming face-to-face with a historic aircraft. It's about a veteran bringing to life ancient and nearly forgotten memories as he or she lovingly reconnects to a sacred part of his or her life.

There is more, for among us still walk virtual living legends in aviation accomplishments. Our aircraft represent stories of great Americans that include USAF Brigadier General Dan Cherry and USAF Colonel Arnie Franklin with their aerial achievements to remind us of those who served, and of families that stood behind them. It is about young boys and girls who will be inspired to reach for goals that may seem impossible until they hear stories of young men and women just like themselves, who achieved great accomplishments to serve our country in time of need. It is a history where they can touch and gain a connection. Today our children and grandchildren make paper airplanes, but tomorrow they will lead us to limitless reaches of space. It can begin right here, here at Aviation Heritage Park.

The inaugural edition of the Flight Line, our quarterly newsletter will help illuminate your understanding and experience at AHP. You will also discover we are more than a collection of fascinating aircraft as we highlight our history of those we are so proud to present. You will also learn our future ambitions and goals. We hope you will enjoy this publication and look forward to future editions as much as we do.

We invite you to share in the legacy of a proud heritage that celebrates our past and present with a dedicated eye looking forward to the future. We encourage each of you to walk among the history of our aviation heritage, to bring a friend, and know that our story is still being written, perhaps by the very children who also come to visit. Let them dream big, and strive for greatness, for this is what we are about. The sky isn't our limit. If you think it is, just ask our astronaut USMC Colonel Terry Wilcutt from Russellville, Kentucky.

Serving as President of AHP for the last two years has been a rewarding challenge. We have seen our park enhanced and improved as visitors continue to increase, as well as dedicate two more exceptional aircraft. It has been positive and exciting, made all the better by exceptional community support. We are proud that AHP is independent of government funding. AHP was built by private donations, mostly through our annual Hangar Party. We acknowledge so much support from the Judge Executive and the Magistrates which allocated the corner of Basil Griffin Park to AHP. Our local media and the leadership from WKU has been a large part of our positive impact to Warren County. Looking to the future we have made provisions to ensure our displays are maintained to make the community proud as well as develop into an even greater attraction for families and community events. It has been a great flight for me made better by working with the best and brightest talents who share in our common purpose to show honor, respect, appreciation and admiration for the benefit of future generations. It has been time well spent.

Blue skies!

Jim Wright

The Wright Stuff



PAC Regional finalist from left to right: Tajma Bektic (Jody Richards Elementary), Meadow Decker (Jody Richards Elementary), Prince Patel (Jody Richards Elementary), Ariel Lopez (South Warren Middle), Preston Moore (South Warren Middle), and Carrress Zehner (Dishman-McGinnis Elementary)

Winners Announced...

Paper Plane Contest Takes Flight

Two high flying Warren County Students claim top honors in the first annual Aviation Heritage Park Paper Airplane Contest. Prince Patel, a fifth grader from Jody Richards Elementary, won the 4th-6th Grade division launching his plane 23 feet. Tanner Cosby a South Warren Middle School 8th grader, took the trophy for 7th-8th Grade division with a flight distance of 81 feet. Besides trophies both pilots received scholarships to Aviation Summer Camp at the Bowling Green/Warren County Regional Airport next June.

Aviation Heritage Park successfully hosted its inaugural paper airplane contest on November 22, 2014 at the Bowling Green Junior High School.

Competition was open to all local elementary and junior high schools. The rules were simple, planes had to be made from a single piece of typing paper. Each school was asked to hold a paper airplane contest and send its winner to represent his/her school at the regional event. More than 450 students participated at the school level.

"Our goal for this event is for students to use their own initiative with the support of their parents and teachers to learn and have a fun and exciting experience beyond their classroom," Board Member Eric Gregory said. "By working together with the local teachers we were able to bring about opportunities for students to succeed in areas of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education."

Next year AHP plans to include schools from surrounding counties.



(Above left) Prince Patel prepares to launch his airplane.



(Above right) President Jim Wright presenting Prince Patel with the 4th-6th grade



(Left) Tanner Cosby launches his plane. (Above) Tanner Cosby received the award for 7th-8th grade with a launch of 81 feet.

Local Hero Inducted Into KY Aviation Hall of Fame

One of Aviation Heritage Park's own was inducted in November into the Kentucky Aviation Museums Hall of Fame.

Col. Arnold Franklin USAF (Ret), a Distinguished Flying Cross recipient, was recognized for his award winning combat in Vietnam and for his successful strike mission from England to Libya in 1986 where he led 18 General Dynamics F-111s from Royal Air Force Station, Lakenheath, England, on a mission bombing three targets in Libya. The mission lasted more than 14 hours. The bombing run over Libya lasted a long 2 minutes.

Col. Franklin, a local hero, was born in Franklin, KY and graduated from high school in Bowling Green, KY. He then went on to study at Western Kentucky University where he earned a degree in Engineering Physics in 1966. He later went on to graduate from the Air Force Institute of Technology with a Master's degree in laser physics in 1975. Additionally, he graduated from Air Command and Staff College in 1980 and National War College in 1988.

"There are more people than I can possibly remember to thank tonight," Franklin said during his acceptance speech.

"This is truly an honor and I am humbled by receiving it."

Franklin received this honor surrounded by many family members and friends. Before Franklin was introduced, Gen Cherry asked that all representative from Bowling Green to please stand and almost half the room stood to welcome Franklin onto the stage.

Franklin was nominated for this prestigious honor by Brigadier General (Ret) Dan Cherry.



Franklin addresses the crowd after being inducted in the KY Aviation Hall of Fame.

2014 Board of Directors

- Jim Wright, President
- Bob Pitchford, Vice President
- Joe Tucker, Secretary
- Drew Hensley, Treasurer
- Jim Allen
- Larry Bailey
- Rob Barnett
- Larry Beam
- Jim Bohannon, III
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- Dan Cherry
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- Eric Gregory
- Carroll Hildreth
- Tim Hurst
- Basil Jones
- Kim Kirby
- Julia Roberts
- Gerald Roark
- Mike Steen
- Joe Tinius

Director Emeritus

- Ray Buckberry
- Arnie Franklin

The Annual Organizational Meeting will be on January 28, 2015. 2015 Slate of Officers will be elected at that time.



David Finney in front of a T-38

He also talked about the importance of the history of each of the pilots that flew each plane located at Aviation Heritage Park.

During the ceremony, Col. Wilcutt spoke about the accomplishments of Finney as he served our country and NASA. Finney served as a pilot during the Vietnam War. After retiring from the Navy he joined NASA as a civilian research pilot. During his speech, Wilcutt reminisced about flying under the watchful eye of Finney, "He would inform you if you made a slip," Wilcutt said. "His technical expertise, moral courage, personal integrity, and leadership set a standard for all of us."

Finney's wife Jill along with Gen. Bolden unveiled David Finney's name, which was appropriately placed on the rear cockpit, the instructor's seat. Following the unveiling, Finney's brother, Rear Admiral (Ret) James Finney spoke about the pride he and his family felt for David's accomplishments.

Dedication (continued from page 1)

The Talon honors Col. Terry Wilcutt and the late David Finney of Auburn. Finney retired from NASA in 2008 where he served as the chief of the Johnson Space Center Aircraft Operations Division in the Flight Crew Operations Directorate.

Gen. Bolden was honored with the opportunity to dedicate the T-38 Talon in honor of Col. Terry Wilcutt. He spoke about the importance of engaging youth of our community about flying and the space program.



Gen. Bolden and Col. Wilcutt unveils the T-38 Talon reader board which tell about the pilot and plane.



2015 Calendar of Event:

- January 29.....AHP Board Meeting
- February 26.....AHP Board Meeting
- March 26.....AHP Board Meeting
- June 6.....AHP Hangar Party

Personalized Bricks

Make your mark in the Park!

Be a part of our tomorrow with a personalized brick or bench in Aviation Heritage Park Memorial Plaza!



As Aviation Heritage Park continues to grow and memorialize aviators of South Central Kentucky, you can be a part of our future with a handsome personalized brick, set in our Memorial Plaza. With this permanent record you can commemorate military service, anniversaries, graduations, and friendships... the important event in your life.

For a donation of \$100 your brick will have three lines of engraved characters. Each line may contain up to 20 characters. Or sponsor one of our comfortable benches with an engraved plaque. A 6 foot bench can be sponsored for \$2,000. For more information visit our webpage at <http://aviationheritagepark.com> or call 270.202.7248.

Field Trip Opportunities

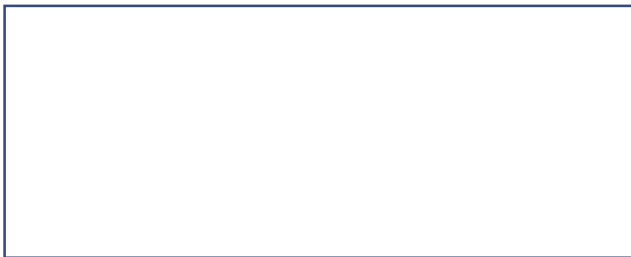


Aviation Heritage Park (AHP) offers the use of the park as an educational tool for teachers and students grades K-12. In addition to serving public, private and home-schooled students, we welcome Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, JROTC, and other youth groups.

Engaging in this beyond-the-classroom experience while teaching about the parts of an airplane, investigating the forces of flight, and exploring the history of flight will allow teachers to bring opportunities to students to succeed in areas of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

For more information or to schedule a field trip please contact Sandra Pence via email at aviationheritageparkbg@yahoo.com or by phone at 270-202-7248.

If you would like to be added to our electronic mailing list for the Flight Line please email Sandra Pence at AviationHeritageParkBG@gmail.com or to register by phone call 270.202.7248



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