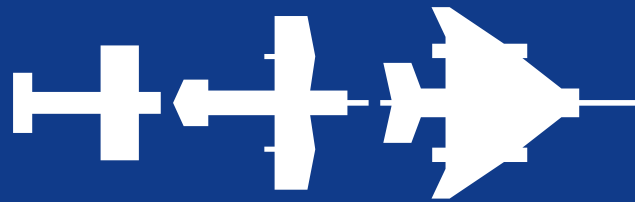


CONTRAILS



CASTLE AIR MUSEUM - PRESERVING MILITARY AVIATION HERITAGE

SPRING 2022

ON APPROACH

By: Joe Pruzzo, Executive Director

Our new year began with one of the most sweeping acquisitions in the history of the Museum. Four helicopters acquired from the former Barbers Point Naval Aviation Museum on the Island of Oahu, Hawaii have joined the collection! These are a Bell AH-1W Cobra, SH-60 Seahawk, Sikorsky UH-3 Seaking and CH-53 Seastallion! These four aircraft coupled with our HH-43 Huskie, CH-47 Chinook, and UH-1V Huey now gives the Museum Rotary Wing Aircraft from all four U.S. Military services! This momentous undertaking would not have been possible without generous donations and support from Pasha Hawaii Shipping, which underwrote the \$150,000 plus dollar cost to donate all shipment! Museum member and Volunteer Mr. Sam Knaub of Specialized Aviation Services, Sam and his crew for disassembly and packing for shipment, and Kirby Manufacturing of Merced for their donation of roundtrip trucking, hauling the Aircraft from the Port of San Diego and returning the empty trailers back to the Port! Thank you to all for this outpouring of support and generosity in sharing the mission of “*preserving military aviation heritage for future generations.*” Thank you to all of our generous individuals and corporate donors for your unbelievable support!

Looking ahead to the upcoming Spring we have our Memorial Day Open Cockpit Day on May 30! We should have two of our newly acquired Helicopters out on display by this date! Please keep checking our website along with Facebook and Twitter postings for the latest developments!



CAM Warbirds at sunset.



Volunteers finishing concrete for the new helicopters.



Anderson crew paving our pathway. Thank you Merced Breakfast Lions club for your donation.



HANGAR HAPPENINGS

By: Jeff Heyer, Restoration Manager

Spring is here and our restoration team has started moving out of our hangar to work on the display aircraft. Wingtips are going on the B-58, posts were installed around 6 more aircrafts, plus we flew (craned) three new water filters over the fence for our irrigation system. We are proud of our UC Merced students some are close to graduation and are accepting jobs in the aerospace field. We would also like to thank all of our supporters, both large and small, it all helps. I would like to invite all museum members to stop by restoration and see the behind the scenes happenings in our hangars. We are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8am-5pm.



Thank you Ric Kirby for delivering the F-4S Bunny afterburners.



AH-1W Cobra arriving courtesy of Pasha Hawaii Shipping and Kirby Mfg. of Merced.



Another view of the AH-1W Cobra arriving.

Events/Volunteer/Gift Shop/RV Park Coordinator

By: Don Covington, Events, Volunteer Coordinator

Welcome to the New Year and we are off to a running start. January, February and March are behind us we had several tours during those months, and we just had a very successful Charity Golf Tournament. Right on the heels of the Golf Tournament is our Open Cockpit on May 30. We are excited with the

anticipation of a banner year. Lots of food, vendors, helicopter rides and 30 to 35 open cockpits. The Gift Shop is stocked and ready for business. The RV Park is pretty busy year-round and we are in the preparation of enlarging the park. Our volunteers are hard at work at the restoration hangar and on the grounds.



IN MEMORIAM

TOM ROSENBERG ~ HARRY KAUFFMAN ~ EILEEN DUDDY



FROM THE CURATOR'S DESK

Timothy D. Brown, Museum Curator

Here in the heart of Spring we are seeing the culmination of a highly successful Winter coming to an end. Our attendance, and most importantly, our visitor satisfaction, at Castle Air Museum stays at an all time high. The impact our new helicopter exhibits, ongoing restoration efforts and infrastructure endeavors will be profound. No longer will we hear the old joke “I visited the air museum; nothing was in it.”

This Fall and Winter we had true pieces of history on the move from Oahu to Castle Air Museum. We obtained a Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk Naval Medium Utility helicopter and a USMC Bell AH-1W Cobra Attack Helicopter; both will soon be on display. On the way are a Sikorsky CH-53 Heavy-Lift Transport helicopter and a Sikorsky UH-3 Sea King. These aircraft will join our UH-1V Iroquois and CH-47 Chinook and will bring collectively a group of helicopters into our “Wagon Wheel” area located in a highly visible corner of the museum. We found that in this location few visitors or passersby were taking the time to visit the area of the museum. They were either in too big of a hurry, or after a long and enjoyable day with our other aircraft artifacts, passed by suffering from “museum fatigue.” What a missed opportunity for us not to be able to share some very significant pieces of history relevant to tens of thousands of Airmen, Soldiers and Marines. During the Winter we relocated some aircraft artifacts and are creating a wonderful historical helicopter display.



Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk in restoration.



SH-60 arriving courtesy of Pasha Hawaii Shipping and Kirby Mfg. of Merced.

You have heard “They just don’t make small airplanes anymore” and finding an exhibit footprint here at Castle Air Museum is getting tougher, but we are a strong staff. We’ve alluded in the past that a Lockheed F-117 Nighthawk Stealth Attack aircraft is in our future. The future is here, and we are expecting the aircrafts arrival before the Winter. Storage and then reassembly will be two major efforts on the part of our restoration volunteers. It is a big, impressive aircraft and will be a remarkable addition to the museum collection and assist in telling the story of Stealth Technology and the F-117 Nighthawks involvement in our nation’s conflicts.

In glancing over the Castle Air Museum our wish is that you not only see the wonderful grounds, indoor exhibits and historical aircraft but understand that almost every single exhibit deal with men and women in airplanes putting themselves in harms way all for the good of the rest of us. Fighter pilots, bomber crews, ground staff and maintenance, who saw every battle from a different perspective, yet shared in a common destiny.

On your next visit with us, stop by and enjoy some conversation with the dedicated volunteers and staff who maintain the museum departments. The current changes at the museum are just one more in a long chain leading us to new indoor facilities and museum exhibit possibilities.

Like they say at the Origami Museum, we’ll keep you updated as the story unfolds.

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The smaller of the above bricks will be the one used in our display. They are a standard 4"x 8"

We have settled on a brick design for our "Memorial Heritage Park" which will be installed in an area next to the SR-71 by the Castle & 93rd signs. The standard 4" x 8" brick will be available for purchase at \$250.00 per brick. We have chosen the "Regimental Red" for the display. You may have up to three (3) lines of text with up to 20 spaces per line.

We have applications and photo examples in the office and gift shop if you are interested. Or, if you prefer we will be happy to mail you information on this project.

This will be a wonderful way to commemorate a loved one or an event and to support Castle Air Museum at the same time. Again, if you have any questions, please contact the office or gift shop.

CASTLE AIR MUSEUM FOUNDATION, INC. "MEMORIAL HERITAGE PARK"

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Select: Number of bricks () Cost: \$ _____ (@ \$250.00 per brick)

Credit Card # _____ Exp. _____

Order Date ____/____/____

Text on Brick #1 (up to three (3) lines - with up to 20 spaces per line):

Text on Brick #2 (up to three (3) lines - with up to 20 spaces per line):

Text on Brick #3 (up to three (3) lines - with up to 20 spaces per line):

**CONTACT TIM BROWN, CURATOR - (209) 723-2178 EXT. 306
OR DON COVINGTON, VOL. COORD. - (209) 723-2178 EXT. 305**

Add additional sheets for each additional Brick ordered.