



# HERITAGE FLIGHT MUSEUM

Where History Flies in Skagit County

Member Newsletter

Summer 2020

## Heritage Flight Museum and the COVID-19 Inflection Point

By Greg Anders, Executive Director

We are passing through an inflection point with significant impact on a local level, national level, and world level. Some of the impact is behind us and is represented by loss of life, financial damage and challenges for businesses and people. Much of the impact will play out over the coming months and years on individuals, families, communities, nations, and the world. For this forum, I will narrow my focus and discuss one small facet of the impact on the Heritage Flight Museum.

Within this inflection point, I am most perplexed by the question of “Who are we?” When I ask this question about the Heritage Flight Museum, it becomes a two-part question: “Who are we and what is our value?” Within the scale of the issues brought forward by the pandemic, it is easy to feel irrelevant.

In my search for our relevance, my answer starts at the top. The mission of the Heritage Flight Museum is “Honoring Veterans and Keeping History Alive.” In light of the pandemic and civil unrest, I have to ask myself: is this important and can it help us through the crises of today? I believe the answer of “yes” is actually highlighted by these issues.

“Veteran” in our mission statement means any military member. So why is “honoring veterans” something of value for our community? Especially within the context of a pandemic and civil unrest, our veterans are individuals that chose to enter a life of service to their Nation. They had the courage and dedication to put defending the Constitution of the United States as a higher priority than maintaining their life.

It is this spirit that we work to honor and hope to set as an aspirational quality of who our

### Inflection Point:

“...an event that fundamentally changes the way we think and act. Usually, an inflection point isn’t a little change. It is a moment when – by choice or not – we pivot from the path which we are traveling and head in an entirely different direction.”

-Andy Grove, Founder and former CEO of Intel as paraphrased by Eric Sinoway in the book “Howard’s Gift.”

children could choose to be as they mature and enter our society. This spirit could lead our youth to join the military, or it could lead them to serve in many other capacities so effectively highlighted in the pandemic, such as EMT’s, nurses, doctors, or any of the other first responders that have chosen a vocation of helping others, even if it does put them squarely in harm’s way.

Our military members and first responders share that quality that we hope to shine a light on when we are “Honoring Veterans”: service before self. It is a quality I hope we can continue to honor and teach to our society. Heritage Flight Museum is one tool in Skagit County for accomplishing that mission.



“Keeping History Alive” rests on the fact that we are so much more than a museum of static artifacts and displays that tell historical stories. One of those static artifacts is Harry Ferrier’s hat. The bullet hole in Harry’s hat tells a truly dramatic story of an Oak Harbor resident that passed away in 2016. If you haven’t seen that hat, or read that story, you need to come by and experience the artifact that tells a story of such a close call for the Young Naval Aviator who survived the Battle of Midway. It is an incredible artifact that—even motionless—keeps that

# Heritage Flight Museum and the COVID-19 Inflection Point

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piece of history alive, even though Harry is gone.

But not only are we a museum of static artifacts, we are also a museum that chooses to walk one of the most challenging paths within the industry: keeping historical aircraft flying. Some of our artifacts are living, breathing, flying artifacts. And to keep them flying is an incredibly difficult task.

A P-51 is a beautiful aircraft just sitting on the ground. But at our museum, you can do more than visit this beautiful bird and acquire insights into its history while it sits on the ground.

You can experience it coming to life as it starts that amazing Merlin engine, taxis out to the runway at Skagit Regional Airport, and launches out so that you can see it in the environment in which it was born to exist: up in the air. History does fly in Skagit County!

There is much for us to do, and significant financial investment to pursue, to make our museum more effective in accomplishing its mission. We are working to take the last step in our facility development that will allow us to realize the potential of who we could be to our community. And we are poised to do that work.

But at this moment, I believe it is time to take a knee, mourn the loss of life our community has experienced within the pandemic, say a prayer of thanks to those who are on the front lines of the Covid-19 war, and thank God for the good fortune of living in a society so peopled by individuals willing to serve. And when that prayer is complete, I will rise again and fully understand that “Honoring Veterans and Keeping History Alive” is a critical mission that needs to be a part of our community. I am proud to serve our community in that fashion and I am thankful to those that help us to achieve our potential.



# Volunteer Spotlight

## Trent Hendricks

Heritage Flight Museum relies on our loyal Volunteer Corps, a group mostly made up of retirees, who generously offer their time and expertise to help keep the museum running. However, one of them is a long way from contemplating retirement; Trent Hendricks just graduated from Burlington-Edison High School one month ago.

Trent has been a volunteer at HFM since age fifteen. After attending his first Fly Day in May of 2017, he became a museum member and frequent visitor. The decision to sign on as a volunteer was a choice he calls “a no-brainer.”

Known to HFM staff as “The Walking Wikipedia,” Trent puts his aviation knowledge to work in his role as a docent, guiding visitors through the museum. He enjoys the hands-on work of cleaning the airplanes alongside

fellow volunteer and longtime family friend Linda Codlin. According to Trent, there’s nothing like getting up close and personal with HFM’s historic aircraft, with the possible exception of watching them fly.

Trent’s interest in aviation is shared with his father, Carl Hendricks. They both love to watch the father-son flights at HFM Fly Days, with Bill Anders in the T-34, Greg Anders in the P-51, and Alan Anders in the T-6. Trent’s first airplane ride in a 177 Cardinal RG was arranged for him by his grandmother. It’s easy to see how his family supports and encourages his love of flight.

Trent started flying lessons three days after his sixteenth birthday and received a single-engine VFR private pilot’s license in July, 2019. He is currently flying a Cessna 172 Skyhawk out of Bellingham. His plans for the future include enrolling in

Everett Community College’s Aviation Maintenance Technology program.

When asked what made him decide to pursue a career in aviation, Trent will tell you it was the sound of the Merlin engine when P-51 Mustang “Val-Halla” takes to the skies. If he’s not flying a plane or volunteering at HFM, Trent can be found working with his dad on a ground-up restoration of two vintage Willys trucks.

**Heritage Flight Museum depends on volunteers in many areas of operation.**

**If you have a skill and some time to share and would like to experience the rewards of being part of the HFM team, contact volunteer coordinator**

**Grant Reefer:  
volunteer@heritageflight.org**



## Who’s Who at HFM

- Bill and Valerie Anders** - Founders
- Greg Anders** - Executive Director
- Alan Anders** - Maintenance/Operations Director
- Julie Shelby** - Chief of Staff
- Karen Hicks** - Events Manager
- Grant Reefer** - Volunteer Coordinator
- Cassidy Moore** - Chief Mechanic
- Tiffany Hamilton** - Collections & Exhibits
- Marne Cohen-Vance** - Visual Media
- Neal Padbury** - Building Maintenance

# HFM Last Museum Standing...and Flying

There is a rare corner in the aircraft museum world where the artifacts can be seen in their proper environment: up in the air flying as they were designed to do. This is one of the most challenging museum business models to make successful, but also one of the most incredible museum experiences a lover of history can have.

Just four months ago, the Puget Sound area was rich in this type of venue with four flying museums: One in Olympia (Olympic Flight Museum), two in Everett at Paine Field (Historic Flight Foundation across the runway from the Flying Heritage and Combat Armor Collection), and one at Skagit Regional Airport (Heritage Flight Museum). Reach back just two years earlier and we can add North Cascade Vintage Aircraft Museum in Concrete

to the list.

Olympic Flight Museum is still alive and doing well, but with the movement of Historic Flight Foundation to Spokane, there is only one flying museum still operational north of Seattle: The Heritage Flight Museum. It is our hope that we can communicate just what a rare treasure and unique community asset the Heritage Flight Museum is.

Without strong community support and appreciation, the Heritage Flight Museum will end up on the list of vanishing venues. Like cutting and polishing a diamond in the rough, we have chosen a hard path. We hope our choices were wise and we hope we find the community support necessary to make our diamond sparkle for a long time.



## 2020 Fly Day Schedule

**April 18** - ~~“Knock Off the Moss”~~ **COVIDIZED**

**May 16** - ~~“Training for the Future”~~ **COVINATED**

**June 20** - ~~“Honoring the Veterans”~~ **CORONAFIED**

**July 18** - ~~“Combat and Rescue”~~ **PANDEMOLISHED**

**August 15** - “Victory in the Pacific”

**September 19** - “Warbird Weekend”

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced us to cancel our Fly Days so far this year. We're still hoping to get one off the ground in 2020, but until the situation takes a positive turn, our wings are tied. We look forward to the day we can begin welcoming visitors back to HFM.

# Welcome to the Attic

By Tiffany Hamilton

## *The Small But Mighty P-38*



HFM's collections contain artifacts that range from large to small; this is one of the smaller items in the archive. The P-38 is a two-part tool only an inch-

and-a-half long, 5/8 of an inch wide, and just under 5 grams in weight. It was invented in 1942 by Thomas Dennehy, and the soldiers of World War II were the first to use it.

The P-38s were made for opening C-ration cans and originally designed to be disposable after use, so one P-38 was placed in each individual ration pack. However, soldiers quickly discovered the tiny device's versatility and began saving the P-38s in their pockets or on their dog tag chains.

The P-38's tiny size made it perfect for soldiers to carry around in their pockets. These tiny tools found uses far beyond can opening. They cleaned everything from boots to rifles, opened bottles, stripped wire, struck flint, you name it. P-38s could even be used as measuring tools. Since they were all made the same size, measurements could be made using the P-38 as the

"ruler". This tool was perfect and seemed to have a blade that never dulled (no really, ours in collections still opens cans, we tried it!).

P-38s were used from World War II through the 1980's when C-Rations were replaced by MREs (Meals, Ready-to-Eat). They are still argued by some to be the army's greatest invention, and veterans were known to keep their P-38s handy even after their service had ended.



## 75th Anniversary of V-J Day

The date of Heritage Flight Museum's "Victory in the Pacific" Fly Day marks the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII. V-J Day is observed in the U.K. on 15 August, the day after Japan's surrender was announced, and in the U.S. on 2 September, the date Japan formally signed the Instrument of Surrender aboard the USS Missouri.

The victory celebration was a joyous and bittersweet occasion for Americans, who sustained more than 400,000 casualties in the war. The Allied victory followed six years of fighting around the globe; America's involvement had begun one day after the Pearl Harbor attack on 7 December, 1941.

Though the war in Europe ended with Germany's surrender on 8 May, 1945, celebrations were subdued as

Japan fought on. After two atomic bombs were dropped on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Japanese government accepted unqualified Allied surrender terms. President Harry Truman announced on the evening of 14 August that the Japanese acceptance met the terms laid down at the Potsdam Conference for unconditional surrender.

Thus ended a conflict that claimed the lives of an estimated 65 million people worldwide. American cities and towns erupted in fireworks, confetti and parades. There was a collective feeling of intense relief as years of fighting overseas and rationing on the Home Front were finally at an end.

Our "Victory in the Pacific" Fly Day program features an aircraft that we

believe witnessed the first hours of U.S. involvement in WWII. Interstate Cadet "The Pearl," piloted by Cornelia Fort, was one of the civilian aircraft over Honolulu on 7 December, 1941. Both pilot and aircraft survived the day that Franklin D. Roosevelt predicted "will live in infamy."



# HFM is Skagit's World-Class Event Space

Did you know there is a diamond in the Skagit County community? Yes, it's the Heritage Flight Museum's event center. Not only do we boast about being the only flying museum north of Seattle, but we boast about how unique our event center is.

Step back in time as you walk through the doors, getting up close and personal with our collection of vintage aircraft such as the P-51 Mustang "Val-Halla", A-1 Skyraider or the AT-11 Bombardier, just to name a few. You can even smell a little engine oil to add to your experience. The pride of the museum is the Interstate Cadet; to learn about her history, visit [www.lostaviatorsofpearlharbor.org](http://www.lostaviatorsofpearlharbor.org).

The artifacts and memorabilia make for great conversation as you stroll through the museum before your private event. We even have docents

to complement your experience if so desired. Our docents add their own piece of history of their time in the service to enhance the history of the museum. Those stories will remain with you, and you will find yourself re-telling your experience at the Heritage Flight Museum.

The museum can host events like seminars, weddings, galas and more. To learn more about availability and pricing, contact Karen Hicks, Event Manager.

360-424-5151 ext. 107  
[events@heritageflight.org](mailto:events@heritageflight.org)



## Become an HFM annual member or donor



**HERITAGE FLIGHT  
MUSEUM**

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