

President's Letter--1st Fighter Association Update

28 October 2018

Greetings from Yorktown, Virginia!! I have several exciting topics to share in this Fall edition.

1) Final installation of our **1st Fighter Wing Memorial addition** at the *National Air Force Museum* is **complete!** I passed through Dayton last Wednesday on business and got to watch the *Dodd's Memorials* team place the final pillar. And the addition looks **FANTASTIC!!** You can view the artist's rendition on our website at: www.1stfighterassociation.com. Hats off to **Pete Marty**, our President Emeritus, for his vision, initiative and drive on this important heritage project. Thanks also to our project "point man" in Dayton, **Bob Baltzer**. BB has spent countless hours engaging the contractor and the *National AF Museum's* staff to move our project through multiple challenges. I'm extremely grateful for Pete's innovative leadership plus BB's tenacity and perseverance. We now have a **first-class, up-to-date memorial** that will honor the 1st FW for many years to come. **It's an appropriate way to display our pride and culminates a memorable 1FW 100th anniversary!**

2) **So mark your calendars** and join us for the "**Unveiling Ceremony**" at the USAF Museum's Memorial Park on **15 November at 1100**. Our special guest of honor will be Pershing E. "Mac" MacAllister, Founding Father of the 1st Fighter Association, WWII veteran, and former member of the 71st Pursuit Squadron. Mac is a major donor and celebrated his 100th birthday on 30 August!

3) My sincere thanks to those Association members who generously contributed from Flight Lead to CFACC level during our fundraising campaign. But, as of today, we're still **~\$4K short** of our goal. This memorial addition continues an important heritage-preserving tradition originally established by our founding WWII members. **If you haven't already contributed, we'd greatly appreciate your help to reach our target! Please consider donating at one of the following levels:**

- Combined Forces Air Component Commander (CFACC) = \$1500 and over
- Wing Commander = \$1000
- Group Commander = \$500
- Squadron Commander = \$250
- Flight Lead = \$100
- Wingman = <\$100

There are two ways to submit your contribution:

- Online, secure electronic PayPal payment using the "**Donate**" link on our website listed above
- Send your personal check to Steve Gress, 1st Fighter Association Secretary/Treasurer:
 - Make check payable to "First Fighter Association"
 - Mail check to 11512 Henegan Place Spotsylvania, VA 22551
 - Annotate "**Heritage Fund**" in the check remarks section

4) **Congratulations to the 1st Fighter Wing for winning the AF Historical Foundation's "James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle" Award** which recognizes a unit that has displayed bravery, determination, discipline, esprit de corps, and superior management of joint operations while accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions in multiple conflicts, and thus has made a sustained, significant contribution to Air Force history. See the AFHF award letter on our website.

5) Initial **2019 Reunion** planning is underway. We're targeting late Oct/early Nov in Williamsburg, VA.

Thanks again for your continued support!
Rich "Moto" Shook