It has been an extraordinary year for the Collings Foundation. Our programs and projects have been moving forward with great momentum. As an educational non-profit foundation, our strategy of engaging people in living history have proven to be impactful and significant. The Collings Foundation continues to grow and expand in ways we could not have imagined when we began in 1979.

With you, we celebrate completing the 2017 Wings of Freedom Tour. To date, we have made 3,253 tour stops since we began 28 years ago! This amazing interactive history lesson and flying memorial for our WWII veterans features the B-17 Flying Fortress, B-24 Liberator and B-25 Mitchell bombers and P-51 Mustang fighter. The Wings of Freedom Tour travels around the country for ten months of the year. At each location, people have the chance to explore and fly in these incredible aircraft. Amazingly, the 2017 Wings of Freedom Tour has been our most successful in all the years we have been in operation. The accomplishments of the Tour is a direct result of the hard work and the dedication of volunteers, supporters and sponsors all around the country. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to these fantastic people. We encourage you to be a part of the Tour when we come to your area. Become a member, renew your membership or go for a flight! Your participation helps keep this program going strong.

The Foundation’s historic artifact restoration and acquisition activities have been moving forward with great “vig-ah” (as President JFK would say). The former Evergreen B-17 Flying Fortress and P-38 Lightning have been returned to flying condition and flown out of Oregon. The Hellcat fighter is nearing an expected summer completion. The Fw190, PT-19 and Curtiss Model F flying boat restorations are proceeding beautifully. The historic restoration of the SCUD B missile is done, and work on the Panzer 1 and IS-2 tanks is well underway. Important acquisitions and donations include a PBY aircraft, a piece of the Berlin Wall, the loan of a M1A1 Abrams tank, a 10 foot twisted beam from the World Trade Center, a Talon robot, a Kommandogerät 40 targeting computer and a Higgins landing craft. The Higgins boat is one of a dozen left and the believed to be the only D-Day survivor of 22,000 built. All of the American Heritage artifacts will be carefully woven into authentic stories, relevant history and exciting dioramas that bring them to life! The American Heritage Museum (AHM) will be the only living history museum to present the American story of fighting for freedom and democracy from the beginning - The Declaration of Independence and the Revolutionary War through all the major conflicts until today.

You may ask yourself why is this necessary? Unfortunately, 83% of traditional History Museums have had a decline in attendance since the mid 80’s. Only 24% of Americans older than 18 visited a historic site in 2012, which was 13% lower than in 1982. Public education in civics and history is appalling! A 2016 U.S. News and World report showed that fewer than half of Americans know what the Bill of Rights is. A 2014 survey found about a third of Americans cannot name even one of the branches of Government. Only 18% of four-year liberal arts colleges require students to take a course in U.S. government or history! The more our younger generations connect with our past the better prepared they will be to make wise decisions in the future. Already our Wings of Freedom Tour brings living history to millions of Americans across the country. Our historic re-enactments in Stow, Massachusetts draw people from New England to California, Illinois to Florida, plus many from Europe. The good news is we already have the artifacts and raised funding to build the facility and infrastructure. With your support, there will be no bad news. Through your help we’ll raise the additional funding we need to complete the special exhibit presentations. If you share our passion for engaging people in our history, and the need for recognizing the ultimate sacrifice that 1.3 million Americans made to preserve our freedom, then we ask for your support. Whether it be $10, a $20 per month credit card deduction, a donation of appreciated assets such as stock, a contribution from your charitable fund, a donation from a family foundation, a corporate / partnership gift, a sponsorship of one of the exhibits or artifacts, a naming opportunity, donation of real estate or putting us in your estate plans, now is the time! We have been designing and developing the presentations, special lighting and effects for two years plus. They are world class, Smithsonian level, innovative, high quality and exciting. Please make a donation today!

Contact Ryan Keough, Rob or Bob Collings at 978-562-9182. Make your fully tax-deductible donation before year end.

From all of us at the Collings Foundation - Thank You!
The Collings Foundation’s national Wings of Freedom Tour has just completed its 28th circuit of the United States. Since 1989, we have made 3,253 tour stops, requiring a monumental feat of logistics, scheduling, and most importantly volunteers. The Tour’s operation is made possible by the dedication, hard work and financial support of people all around the country.

The Wings of Freedom Tour is a flying interactive memorial to our WWII Veterans. WWII was the most horrific conflict in human history. As the “Greatest Generation” passes on, each of us should remember the great sacrifices made to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today. Our lives would be very different if the Axis forces had taken over the world.

Climbing through and flying in these fully restored aircraft brings a real appreciation for what it must have been like as an Army Air Corps crew member during The War. It is our educational mission and our passion to motivate everyone, especially the young, to learn more about WWII.

The Wings of Freedom Tour features four extraordinary WWII bomber and fighter aircraft. Representing the Allied heavy and mid range bombers, we operate the B-17G Flying Fortress, B-24J Liberator and B-25J Mitchell. Flying escort to these bombers is the legendary TF-51D Mustang fighter. At each location people have the opportunity to explore the inside of the fully restored B-17 and B-24 bombers. For the ultimate living history experience there are 30-minute flight experiences in the B-17, B-24 and B-25. For those interested in flying one of the most important fighters in WWII, we also offer flight instruction in the full dual control TF-51D Mustang. Participants have the opportunity to join a CFI (certified flight instructor) in a flying lesson they will never forget.

We look forward to another year of celebrating our history and heritage as the 29th Wings of Freedom Tour begins in Florida in January. After Florida, we will continue on a giant clockwise loop around the United States, bringing this extraordinary flying history lesson to over 100 cities.

First of the 2018 Tour dates:

- Fort Lauderdale, FL - January 19-21
- Boca Raton, FL - January 22-25
- Stuart, FL - January 25-28
- Pompano Beach, FL - Jan. 29-Feb. 1
- Naples, FL - February 1-4
- Fort Myers, FL - February 5-8
- Tampa, FL - February 9-11
- Dallas, TX - March 28-April 1
- Orange County, CA - May 9-13
- Mountain View, CA - May 18-26
- Livermore, CA - May 27-29
- Cape May, NJ - August 31-Sept. 4

~ There will be many more 2018 locations listed in the months to come. To find a stop near you sign up for our eNews letter or see our most current tour schedule on our web site: www.cfdn.org
Fare-Thee-Well Steve!

Wings of Freedom Tour Crew Chief Steve Weigandt has decided to take a break from the tour. His dedication and hard work was seen at every stop! Steve leaves some big shoes to fill and will be dearly missed.

We are seeking a Crew Chief for the 2018 Tour. This important position requires a particular type of person who is dependable, organized, hard working, unattached to daily domestic duties and can drive the Tour van and trailer across the country for months on end. This is an incredible opportunity and adventure for a special person! Interested applicants send resume to: hchaney@collingsfoundation.org

See our facebook page for the latest pictures, schedules and happenings. www.facebook.com/collings.foundation/

Photo: Steve and Elaine Weigandt on tour.

Photo: John Luke was a crew member (ball turret gunner) on the original B-17 “Nine 0 Nine” during WWII. He had a chance to sit in the radio operator’s seat during a flight. Our B-17 is restored in honor of the legendary “Nine 0 Nine” that completed 140 missions without an abort or loss of a crewman. It is a true rarity to meet a surviving veteran who flew on the original B-17 “Nine 0 Nine” or B-24 “Witchcraft.”

Photo: We were honored with a special visit from Dick Cole while the tour was in Texas. Mr. Cole is last surviving Doolittle Raider. He took some time to meet with the general public and talk with Chief Pilot Rob Pinksten (right photo) about his experiences flying copilot for Jim Doolittle on this daring April 18th, 1942 mission.

Photo: Hundreds of students tour though the aircraft at our stop in Boca Raton, Florida. We offer special rates and programs for schools at every stop as part of our educational outreach. Please contact The Foundation if you would like to sponsor a school trip or an honorary flight for a veteran at any of the Wings of Freedom Tour stops across the United States.
AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM

Moving Forward

Construction is now underway for this extraordinary museum. Stow, Massachusetts.

The Stow Planning Board has agreed that the Collings Foundation may proceed with building the new American Heritage Museum! This unique museum will showcase the Collings Foundation’s expanding collection of rare relics and aircraft, including the recently donated, world-class Jacques Littlefield collection of military vehicles, tanks and artifacts.

On entering the new American Heritage Museum (AHM), the Declaration of Independence will serve as inspiration for people as they begin their tour through the Museum. Our forefathers’ wise words reminds us of the foundations our country was based on.

“When in the course of human events it becomes necessary to...assert our freedom from tyrannical governance...and be free to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

During the 240 years since these words were penned, 1.3 million Americans have made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure our freedom and democracy. The AHM will explore each major military conflict from three perspectives; the context of history, human consequences and impacts, and the role of technology.

In order to develop the interpretive plan, identify concepts, and devise exhibits and presentations, the Collings Foundation team visited more than a dozen leading museums, attended many museum conferences and retained Boston Productions, Inc. (BPI), a museum design firm with an excellent reputation and a long list of satisfied, prestigious institutions to assist us. Educational media design is a fascinating field, filled with rapidly changing technologies. Our research included the latest in theatrical lighting, interactive displays and individualized experiences as well as how to incorporate cutting-edge, multi-sensory presentations such as tactile impact, scent and immersive scenes. Today’s busy visitors remember more educational content when they are actively engaged. To achieve our mission, we will respond to today’s audience by exciting visitors and connecting with their interests in real time.

The American Heritage experience will unfold chronologically. It will include: The Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, The Great War (WWI), Arsenal of Democracy, WWII, with the major concentrations: North Africa, Italy, Eastern Front, D-Day, Battle of the Bulge, Crossing the Rhine, Defense of the Reich, Liberation of POW’s, Battle in the Pacific and The Atomic Bomb. Then on to Korea, Vietnam, Cold War, Gulf War, 9/11, Iraq, Afghanistan, War on Terrorism and up to current times.

Major historical artifacts will be presented in amazing immersive scenes. In the case of the WWI trench experience you step down into a authentically accurate trench, feeling the vibration of acoustically true German machine gun fire from across “no man’s land.” Artillery bombardments shake the ground. Authentic WWI video footage brings to life the horrors of this “war to end all wars” and you move on quickly because of the impending mustard gas barrage. The Clash of Steel exhibit presents a German Panther tank ambushing the Russian T-34, blowing it up and leaving it in flames. The Iraq exhibit has a back drop of fires from burning oil fields and the opportunity for the visitor to act as a CNN reporter at the scene.

Included in the exhibits are many important historical artifacts: a Panzer 1 tank, a German 222 (like the one used by Rommel in North Africa, and the only one restored in the world), a Higgins boat (believed to be the sole survivor of the D-Day landings), an operational German Panther tank, a Russian IS-2 tank (the only one in the United States), a Sherman tank (featured in the movie Tank), a rare LVT(A)-4 (used in the Pacific), a Kommandogerät 40 (German AA fire control computer - 1 of 3 in the world), a German 12-ton tractor (the one featured in the Dirty Dozen movie), a piece of the Berlin Wall, a twisted beam from the World Trade Center, a M1A1 Abrams combat veteran tank and a Talon I.E.D. destructor robot (Talons like this one have destroyed over 50,000 I.E.D.s). Dynamically re-created environments thrust visitors into the dire struggles our veterans endured. In the living history tradition of the Collings Foundation, this Museum will bring historical artifacts to life!

Please help support the American Heritage Museum. Your participation will make a lasting impact on generations to come. See page 12 for more information.
1. The infamous Battle of the Bulge was the last major German offensive campaign during WWII. In December 1944, Hitler attempted to split the Allied armies in northwest Europe by means of a surprise blitzkrieg thrust through the Ardennes to Antwerp. Through true grit, determination and terrible loss of life the Germans were pushed back. The Battle of the Bulge exhibit will feature the rare M4A3E2 Jumbo Sherman tank, M8 Howitzer motor carriage, M2A1 tank, M5 tank and Jagpanzer 38 "Hetzer" tank. This exhibit is designed to capture the dire struggles of the Allied forces as they push back the Germans in a most inhospitable environment.

2. The Clash of Steel exhibit will re-create the major tank battles between Russian and German forces during the summer of 1944 on the Eastern Front. This exhibit will feature the T-34/85 Russian tank and the German Panther tank.

3. This artist’s depiction illustrates a portion of the floor plan showcasing the North Africa, Anzio Landing, Arsenal of Democracy, Clash of Steel and D-Day Plus and V-1 exhibits.

4. Sadam Hussein defied U.N. Security Council demands to withdraw from Kuwait by mid January 1991. In response, the Persian Gulf War began with a massive U.S.-led air offensive known as Operation Desert Storm. After 42 days of relentless attacks by the allied coalition in the air and on the ground, U.S. President George H.W. Bush declared a cease-fire on February 28. This exhibit will highlight the circumstances that led to the conflict, the weapons and equipment used and the tumultuous aftermath.
AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM - ARTIFACTS

Revolutionary War
1795 Cannon, manufactured in New York, period artifacts and documents.

World War One
1917 6-ton tank, Model T Ambulance.

World War Two - European Theater

Storm Clouds - The Origins of War
Mercedes G4 parade car, SA and party artifacts, Panzer 1A tank, Vickers tank, Leichtes Infanteriegeschütz 18 gun.

“Operation Torch” North Africa
Matilda Mk2 tank, M3 Lee tank, SDKFZ 222 armored scout car, Pak 40 gun, SDKFZ 10 3-ton carrier.

“Operation Shingle” Anzio landing
VW Kabel Type 82 car, M3A1 Stuart tank, M3A1 armored scout car, Flak 38 anti-aircraft gun, Schwimmwagen Type 166 amphibious carrier.

Arsenal of Democracy - American Industrial Might
M4A1 Sherman Grizzly, Sherman turret trainer.

“Operation Barbarossa” Eastern Front
PK 97/37 anti-tank gun, SDKFZ 2 Kleines Kettenkrad mover, 15cm Nebelwerfer 42 mortar rocket, Borgward IV demolition vehicle, Stug III tank, SDKFZ 251 carrier, Pak 35 cannon.

Clash of Steel
T-34 tank, Panther A tank.

“Operation Overlord” D-Day
M-10 Achilles Firefly tank, LEPV Higgins boat, Churchill Crocodile tank, Cromwell tank, Ford Jeep, 6 PDR anti-tank gun.

“Battle of the Bulge” Ardennes region
M4A3E2 Jumbo Sherman tank, Jagpanzer 38 Hetzer tank, M5 anti-tank gun, M-16 half track, M8 Scott HMC tank.

“Operation Plunder” Crossing the Rhine
M18 Hellcat tank, M22 Locust tank, BMW motorcycle with sidecar, A34 Comet tank.

Battle for Berlin
IS-2 tank, SU-100 tank.

Defense of the Reich
SDKFZ 8 12-ton carrier / mover, (2) Flak36 cannons, searchlight, generator, Kommandogerät 40 range finder.

Liberation
M8 scout car, concentration camp artifacts.

World War Two - Pacific Theater

M4 anti-tank gun, M29C Weasel tracked carrier, UT(IA)4 amphibious carrier, Daimler armored car, M3A1 75mm half track, model 97 towed gun, M4A3 Sherman tank, Japanese artifacts and weapons.

Korea
M26A1 Pershing tank, M39 armored vehicle, M24 Chaffee tank, M7 Priest tracked cannon, M2A1 half track, M4A3E8 Sherman tank.

Vietnam War
M48 Patton tank, M41 Walker Bulldog tank, ZSU-4 Quad anti-aircraft gun, PT-76B tank, T119 90mm display gun.

Cold War
Berlin wall segment, T-72G tank.

Gulf War

“Operation Desert Storm”
M60A1 Patton tank, M51 Sheridan tank, SCUD B MAZ 543 missile, 251 Gvozdika tank, T-55 tank, ZPU-23-4 Shilka AA tank.

9/11
World Trade Center steel beam artifact.

Afghanistan / Iraq
Talon IED robot, M1A1 Abrams tank.

Your Support Is Needed!

Though the construction of the American Heritage Museum is moving forward at a rapid pace, there is still a lot more to be done – and we need your help.

Creating the world-class vision of the American Heritage Museum requires major capital investment. We are seeking funding to support the extensive research, design and construction of exhibits that will transform our collection into the rich, interpretive story of the American Heritage Museum.

Such an ambitious project comes at a cost – and your help is critical to opening the American Heritage Museum in late 2018!

How Can I Help?
The American Heritage Museum Capital Campaign is underway. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational foundation, every dollar donated to the Collings Foundation toward the AHM Capital Campaign is tax-deductible. For full details of the program, please visit www.CollingsFoundation.org/AHMCC

AHM Founders Society

Individuals may become members of our Founders Society to take their donation even further.

Bronze Star – $2500 to $4999
Silver Star – $5000 to $9999
Gold Star – $10,000 to $24,999
Platinum Star – $25,000 to $99,999
Diamond – $100,000 to $999,999
Medal of Honor - 1 Million and up

AHM Capital Fund

One time donations directly toward the AHM Capital Fund can be made in any denomination and donors above the $7000 level will be acknowledged in a permanent display within the museum.

Naming Opportunities

Corporations, foundations, or family trusts may wish to consider a naming opportunity for funding a gallery, exhibit, or theater – creating a lasting legacy to be seen by millions. A number of these exclusive opportunities are available, please contact Ryan Keough for details.

For more information on any of these opportunities, please visit www.CollingsFoundation.org/AHMCC or contact Ryan Keough, Director of Donor Relations and Development at 978-562-9182 or rkeough@collingsfoundation.org

1. A location south of the existing Collings hangar in Stow, Massachusetts was selected to build the 73,000 square foot American Heritage Museum. Ground breaking began both on the new museum and the new entry / exit road (on the far south side), 2. The initial foot prints for the foundation can be seen as excavation began, 3. The retaining walls began to take shape. 4. This photo was taken on November 14th, 2017. Picture shows the steel scaffolding and beginnings of the Museum’s frontage. To the right of the entrance tower will be the WWII trench experience.

AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM - ARTIFACTS

World War Two - Pacific Theater
1795 Cannon, manufactured in New York, period artifacts and documents.

World War One
1917 6-ton tank, Model T Ambulance.

World War Two - European Theater

Storm Clouds - The Origins of War
Mercedes G4 parade car, SA and party artifacts, Panzer 1A tank, Vickers tank, Leichtes Infanteriegeschütz 18 gun.

“Operation Torch” North Africa
Matilda Mk2 tank, M3 Lee tank, SDKFZ 222 armored scout car, Pak 40 gun, SDKFZ 10 3-ton carrier.

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M4A1 Sherman Grizzly, Sherman turret trainer.

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T-34 tank, Panther A tank.

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Defense of the Reich
SDKFZ 8 12-ton carrier / mover, (2) Flak36 cannons, searchlight, generator, Kommandogerät 40 range finder.

Liberation
M8 scout car, concentration camp artifacts.
Over 300 re-enactors converge on the Collings Foundation’s grounds in Stow, Massachusetts for one of the world’s most high-powered and engaging WWII living history events. Camps are set up with historic accuracy supporting the ground forces, ready to move into battle. Re-enactors serve as docents engaging people in the lives of soldiers. WWII Veterans from around the country come to share their experiences. Join us for a living history event you will always remember!

BATTLE FOR THE AIRFIELD
2018 WWII RE-ENACTMENT & VETERANS ROUNDTABLE
October 6th & 7th, 2018

Over 300 re-enactors converge on the Collings Foundation’s grounds in Stow, Massachusetts for one of the world’s most high-powered and engaging WWII living history events. Camps are set up with historic accuracy supporting the ground forces, ready to move into battle. Re-enactors serve as docents engaging people in the lives of soldiers. WWII Veterans from around the country come to share their experiences. Join us for a living history event you will always remember!
Supermarine Spitfire Mk.IX BR601

Surviving World War II aircraft are unique artifacts from a conflict that truly changed the world. How many are left? There are perhaps one hundred bombers remaining of the over one hundred thousand made by all nations. Of the quarter million fighter and aircraft produced during WWII, about five hundred survive. Fewer than 5% of these are actual combat veterans. Most planes that remain are either training aircraft or saw no combat.

A true Allied combat veteran aircraft is a rare treasure. Spitfire Mk.IX BR601 has an intricately documented history of 121 combat missions and was flown by multiple aces and aviation legends. BR601 flew escort on seven of the first ten USAF missions over France (including the first 8th Air Force mission) and escorted raids that contained the legendary B-17 Memphis Belle several times including its historic 25th mission. This Spitfire is arguably the most significant remaining Allied fighter aircraft in the world.

BR601’s survival is a reminder that early in the war the RAF was fighting a losing battle in the air. Those first Mk.IX Spitfires saved not only the lives of their pilots, but those of bomber crews and others who once again could operate with some protection over a hostile continent.

After decades of meticulous restoration, Spitfire Mk.IX BR601 has a new life flying in honor of our Allied forces who fought against dire odds.

Highlights

- 6th Mk.IX Spitfire built
- 1st Mk.IX to fly a combat mission (28th July 1942)
- As the most successful escort fighter extant BR601 flew escort on:
  - 1st 8th Air Force mission (B-17’s) commanded by Paul Tibbits (August 17th 1942)
  - 1st 8th AF B-24 Mission
  - 1st 8th AF B-26 Mission (Medium)
  - 1st 8th AF P-38 Mission
  - Escorted “Memphis Belle” on 6 missions including mission number 25 (May 17th: 1943 BR601’s 54th combat mission)
  - Flew escort on “Big Week”
  - 7 of the first 10 8th AF missions
  - 40 8th AF escort missions total
- Flew cover for Operation Torch (withdrawal of ships from the channel)
- Completed 121 Combat missions
- Flown by legends such as Gaze, Grey, Zurakowski, Donnet

This incredibly rare and historically important aircraft was donated to the Collings Foundation. Seeing these amazing aircraft flying makes a lasting impression on all. Donors see the importance of preserving this history as a means to tell the stories of our veterans in the most compelling method possible.
These two fighters took to the skies over Central Massachusetts in September. The P-40 is the last flying fighter from the attack on Pearl Harbor and the A-36 is one of three that remain. The P-40 is one of eighteen aircraft that have been donated to the Collings Foundation’s flying collection.

Photo: Scott Slocum
Preserving aviation history in honor of our Vietnam and Cold War veterans

Approximately eight million Americans served in the military during the Vietnam War. Over 58,000 were killed and 153,000 were wounded in this conflict. The Collings Foundation’s F-4 Phantom, TA-4 Skyhawk, F-100 Super Sabre, A-1E Skyraider and UH-1E Huey Helicopter fly in tribute to those who served and fought during the Vietnam War. These aircraft are fully restored flying icons. Through powerful personal experiences people appreciate what these aircraft represent and the sacrifices made by those who served in the United States Military.

Flight Experience & Flight Training Programs

F-4 Phantom and TA-4 Skyhawk flight experience and training programs:
Each participant will take part in academic sessions on the aircraft, which will include presentation, safety procedures, ejection seat training, and cockpit orientation, before donning a Nomex flight-suit and strapping into one of the most powerful civilian operated fighters in the world.
TA-4 Skyhawk: $8,000
F-4 Phantom: $15,000 (limited availability)

Also at the Houston Facility:
Messerschmitt Me 262 Unusual Attitude / Upset Training Flight: Requirements: Pilot license with multi engine rating and current 3rd class medical.
Cost: $5,000

Messerschmitt Me 262 Type Rating: Requirements: Must posses at least a United States Private Pilot certificate with Multi Engine Land Rating, current 3rd class medical, minimum 1,000 hrs. pilot flight time including 500 hrs. as PIC in multi engine aircraft category.
Cost: $3,500 per flight hour plus fuel.

Keeping these aircraft flying is a tremendous undertaking. The Foundation’s planes are cared for with an unsurpassed level of pride and attention. All our funding comes by private individuals, family foundations and sponsors. Not one cent comes from the U.S. tax payers.

Please make a contribution to the Foundation – or go flying! Help us keep these iconic jets in the sky, honoring all who served, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Make your Air Show one to remember! Collings Houston aircraft are available for the 2018 season. Call for details.
Race of the Century

2018 Collings Event - Stow, MA
August 4th & 5th

A unique living history event that highlights the advancements of transportation technologies over the last 100 years in a series of competing races.

Photo: Chris “Big Guns” Cassidy keeping the V-8 powered sprint racer in control during the “sprints to the finish” race.
Photo: David Watts, Jr.

Photo: A Bicycling Suffragist, “Farmer Joe” with “his own two feet,” 1904 Franklin and 1867 Concord Stage Coach blast off the start line in the first race of the event.
The Collings Foundation purchased the LCVP and shipped it to the North Carolina Maritime Museum where it underwent a seven month restoration. Though its serial number was lost while being used as a barge, staff from both museums used maritime historians and period drawings to determine that it was built in 1943. With the original markings unknown, the First Division Museum designated the boat PA45-18 to represent a LCVP from the USS Henrico, which landed soldiers from ‘G’ Company, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division in the first wave of the assault on Omaha Beach. Nearly 1,100 LCVPs were used during the Normandy invasion. Of the more than 22,000 LCVPs manufactured during WWII, fewer than a dozen exist today. This Higgins boat will play a prominent role in the D-Day exhibit featured in the new American Heritage Museum.

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The Collings Foundation acquired the last known remaining PT-19A used to train Tuskegee pilots (Serial number 9504AE, 43-31512) and will restore it to flying condition with the help of Century Aviation. The restoration project is from nose to tail, including meticulous work on the fuselage, panels, trim tabs, brakes, accessories, oil tanks, beams and engine.

From the records we recovered, this aircraft was manufactured by Aeronca, Middletown OH and delivered to the USAAF on February 6th, 1944. It was assigned to the Primary Pilot Training School, Tuskegee AAF, AL on February 12th, 1944. The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of African-American pilots who served in the 447th bomber group and the 332nd Fighter Group of the United States Army Air Force during WWII. These young men trained at Tuskegee Airfield near Alabama and became one of the most highly respected fighter groups of World War II.

This LCVP (Landing Craft for Vehicle and Personnel) “Higgins” boat was present in Europe during the Normandy invasion. It was found in northern France working in the fishing industry. The craft was being converted to a barge when it was sold to a museum near Omaha beach. Later, a private collector purchased the boat, determined to bring it back to the United States for public display.

The Curtiss Model F aircraft were a family of early flying boats developed in the United States during years leading up to World War I. Over 300 were built. They were sold to private owners, as well as the Navies of the United States, Great Britain, Brazil, Italy and Russia. After the United States entered World War I on 6 April, 1917, the Model F was adapted as the U.S. Navy’s standard primary training flying-boat.

Airframe parts of our Curtiss were discovered in the rafters of an outbuilding in New Haven, CT, when the new owner acquired the property. He brought all the parts home originally thinking that they were from a windmill. Later, realizing that they were aircraft parts, he took them to the NASM Smithsonian Institute and the Glenn Curtiss Museum where they confirmed the pieces were from a Model F. The find consisted of all the tail surfaces (vertical, horizontal, elevators and rudder), one aileron, the wing struts, all of the flight controls systems, the assembly for the engine start hand crank, some smaller parts and most important, the original, verified, Curtiss Aeroplane Company F boat data plate!

These many parts were acquired in 2016 by the Collings Foundation and William Nutt of Key Largo, FL. Following the purchase, the items were crated and shipped to Century Aviation in East Wenatchee, Washington for restoration.

A Curtiss OX-5 V-8 engine that is correct to the F-Boat was acquired and is being overhauled at Century. The support system that holds the engine bed has been produced and test installed. The new wings and center section have been fabricated. The tail and control surfaces are being carefully taken apart, inspected, and rebuilt retaining as much of the original structure as possible.

Completion of the Model F Flying Boat is set for summer 2018, when it will take to the skies again!
An important piece of history from the aftermath of WWII into the Cold War, The Berlin Wall was a barrier that divided Berlin from 1961 to 1989. It was often referred to as the "Anti-fascist Protective Wall" by the German Democratic Republic (GDR) authorities. The implication was that all NATO countries were Fascist and not wanted in East Germany. Of course, the wall was built to keep people (particularly young, skilled, working age citizens) from escaping the oppressive government of East Germany for a better life outside of The Iron Curtain.

This segment of wall will be featured in the American Heritage Museum's Cold War exhibit with the T-72 tank, M47 Patton tank and the 90mm T119 gun.

1. Picture of the wall segment in front of the Collings hangar. 2. Picture of the barrier in the Postdamer Platz area where we believe this segment originated. 3. Berlin wall segments like ours, but with the barbed wire affixed to the top.

Donated by QinetiQ North America, the Talon robots are widely deployed for improvised explosive device (IED) and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), reconnaissance, communications, CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive), HAZMAT, security, heavy lift, defense and rescue missions.

To date, the Talon robots have participated in the destruction of over 50,000 IEDs! This particular Talon robot was used in Operation Iraqi Freedom and was damaged in a bomb blast before returning the United States.

The Kommandogerät (command control computer) 40, known as a Director, was an optical range finder used principally for large anti-aircraft guns, such as the 8.8cm Flak 36 or the 10.5cm Flak 40. By calculating the length of the tube and the angle at which the lenses were positioned, the crew could pinpoint aircraft target locations. Introduced by the German military in 1941, this Director was utilized by all three services and could be modified for use with almost any anti-aircraft gun. In the field, the Director required a 5 man crew; two men to input azimuth and elevation data, a third man to set the slant range by means of a 4 meter stereo range finder mounted on top of the Director, a fourth man to set the horizontal angle of approach, and a fifth man as general operator.

Using the Director, the time from acquiring a target to firing the first round could be achieved in less than 30 seconds. A slant range of up to 18,000 meters (11.1 miles) or an aircraft altitude of 39,000 feet could be targeted. For transport, the Director is mounted on a special trailer, equipped with lifting devices and towed by a light truck. This Kommandogerät 40 is believed to be one of three that remain in existence. It will be prominently displayed in the American Heritage Museum's “Defense of the Reich” exhibit.
Wings & Wheels - American Elegance
2018 Collings Event - Stow, MA
June 16th & 17th

Photo: The 1927 Springfield, MA Rolls Royce Phantom I is exhibited in all its splendor during the “American Elegance” presentation. Additional Collings Foundation classic automobiles such as the 1931 Chrysler CG Imperial Phaeton LaBaron, Duesenberg’s 1932 Duesenberg SJ Dual-Cowl Phaeton, and Al Capone’s 1940 V-16 Cadillac are also featured in this unique “Ov’ah the Top” classic auto exhibition. We hope you will come see the Foundation’s entire collection of classic autos, historic aircraft, and military equipment during our next Wings & Wheels event in Stow, Massachusetts, June 16th and 17th.

Photo from David Watts, Jr.
Mustering with your fellow recruits in the cool morning air at Stockton Airport you will be met by base personnel and transported back in time to 1944 as a cadet at the Stockton Field Air Corps Advanced Flying School. Here you will experience sights, sounds and smells that few others have known.

The morning session starts with simulated indoctrination followed by in-depth classes in which you will learn about aerial gunnery and the duties of the bombardier. After a GI lunch, you will fly a real mission over the California Central Valley, with the Sierra Mountains as backdrop, in your choice of the two most celebrated bombers of WWII: the Boeing B-17G Flying Fortress or the Consolidated B-24J Liberator.

While waiting for your mission, you will participate in additional ground training, including fire fighting, radio operation, first aid, and ball turret operation. After learning about each crew position, you can try them out yourself in flight. Take one of the operating ball turrets for a spin with an unforgettable view, shoot simulated-firing machine guns throughout the aircraft, and even try your hand at dropping practice bombs with the famous Norden Bombsight. Can you hit the target? Come to Bomber Camp and find out!
The Hellcat was one of the most successful and important Navy fighters in the Pacific theater. Hellcats had a kill to loss ratio of 19 to 1, making them the highest scoring Navy aircraft of all time. Pilot and Medal of Honor recipient David McCampbell flew a Hellcat. He was the Navy’s all-time highest scoring ace. We at the Collings Foundation hope that the legacy of Naval Aviation will be enriched by the exacting restoration of our true combat veteran Hellcat. Contributions toward the restoration of this prized plane are highly encouraged, welcomed and, of course, necessary. Without your support, projects like this could not take place.

SCUD refers to a series of tactical ballistic missiles developed by the Soviet Union during the Cold War. The term comes from the NATO reporting name “SCUD” (surface to surface missile system) which was attached to the missile by western intelligence agencies.

In the most devastating Iraqi missile attack of the Persian Gulf war, an Iraqi SCUD demolished barracks housing more than 100 American troops, killing 27 and wounding 98 in Riyadh.

The Collings Foundation has restored and repainted a SCUD missile and mobile launch platform in the Iraq military markings from the first Gulf War. This monstrous weapon will be on display in the American Heritage Museum’s Gulf War exhibit along with the M60A1 Patton tank, M551 Sheridan tank, ZPU-23-4 Shilka anti-aircraft tank, 2S1 Gvozdika mobile artillery and T-72 tank.

For the first time, stories of our WWII Veterans and the legacy of this rare aircraft will be brought to the giant screen in an IMAX type film. As people hear the moving stories of our veterans and the B-24 Liberator, they will be enveloped by a sight and sound experience that only the giant screen format can deliver. We will see the power and grace of the B-24 as it flies with you right there. We will witness the accounts of our veterans as they tell their stories.

We will see photos and footage of WWII. This film will be a captivating adventure for viewers – taking them on a educational, historical journey that they will never forget.

A project of this magnitude is expensive. The Last Liberator budget is approximately $2.5 million. This includes all pre-production, production, post-production and distribution of the film. It is the most ambitious media project the Collings Foundation has undertaken. We have captured several Veteran interviews and stunning footage of the Collings Foundation’s B-24 flying over America’s most spectacular landscapes. All content has been shot and editing has begun. We hope to have The Last Liberator in a theater near you within the next year - if funding is secured.

The Last Liberator is a multi-platform educational program anchored by an adrenaline pumping 40-minute film brought to life through the most powerful visual medium in the world - the giant format theater screen.

The one key element we are missing is additional revenue to finish this epic film. The project will not happen without your financial support. The Last Liberator film will have a lasting impact for generations to come and we hope you will be a part of it.

Please make a contribution to this significant film project. For a complete breakdown of production phases, goals, objectives and more background information on the B-24 Liberator see: www.thelastliberator.com
**COLLINGS FOUNDATION**

**HONORED CONTRIBUTORS**

(2017 donations)

**MEDAL OF HONOR ($100,000 and up)**

Anonymous

**SILVER ($10,000-$24,999)**

Scott & Pam Sheeler
Beth Butler
James L. Joslin

**GOLD ($25,000-$49,999)**

Roy Reardon

**2017 B-17, B-24 & B-25 PLANE SPONSORS**

B-24 Liberator Plane Sponsorships

- Beth F. Butler
- Tommy Coberly by Karen Coberly
- Dale H. Davenport
- Capt. Lloyd G. Freerwell by Mark Wiesner
- Douglas H. Grainer by Gary Grainger
- Steven Hagan
- Derek Leep by Joe Osetoski
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B-17 Flying Fortress Plane Sponsorships

- Bev Berry
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**2017 DISTINGUISHED FLYING COMMAND**

B-24 Liberator DFC

- Paul & Elyssa Lakich
- SgT Alfred V Smith by Richard C. Smith

B-17 Flying Fortress DFC

- David L. Craven
- SGM Paul Engler by Cesare Segalini
- Crew B-17E #42-29538 by Robert Vernon
- Ben Stapesheld

**DFC Member: $2500 one time contribution**

Distinguished Flying Command (DFC) Members receive honored name placement on either the B-17 Flying Fortress or B-24 Liberator. DFC Members also get two flights on either the B-17 Flying Fortress or B-24 Liberator, glossy photo of the bombers (your choice) and one year subscription to the Collings Foundation’s newsletter.

**Participating Member: $100 annually**

Participating Members receive a $50 discount coupon good toward one bomber flight. Participating Members also get one free admission to the Wings of Freedom Tour, glossy photos of the bombers and one year subscription to the Collings Foundation’s newsletter.

**Plane Sponsor: $7000 cumulative contribution**

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**Platinum Plane Sponsor $50,000 - $99,999**

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**Silver Plane Sponsor $10,000 - $24,999**

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**Platinum Plane Sponsor $50,000 - $99,999**

**Medal of Honor $100,000 and up.**

(Bottom contributions accumulate to Silver, Gold, Platinum and Medal of Honor levels)

Up to $3500 of previous flight donations can be applied to Plane Sponsor level.

Your contributions and sponsorships are what keeps these programs running. We receive no state or federal funding. Help keep the legacy alive for generations to come. The expense of operating and restoring historic aircraft for all to see is immense. Your donation is essential. During 2017 our fuel costs alone were over $900,000. Every bit helps!

Call for details on your DFC or Plane Sponsorship to a Plane Sponsorship.

In order to comply with IRS regulations, the Collings Foundation does not allow sponsors or contributors to receive a tax deduction for aviation-related expenses you pay for any individual or organization. A legal entity such as a corporation or partnership may make a charitable contribution if otherwise allowed by applicable law.

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**City/State/Zip:**

**Home Phone:**

**Other Phone:**

**Email:**

**MEMBERSHIP & CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Colllings Foundation Membership**

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**PLATINUM PLANE SPONSOR: $7000 cumulative contribution**

**MEDAL OF HONOR ($100,000 and up)**

Anonymous

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Scott & Pam Sheeler
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The Collings Foundation PX Store

The Collings Foundation’s PX Store features a great selection of gifts for the aviation buff in your family.

**Books, DVDs & Toys**
- B-24 Liberator in Action
- The Wings of Freedom Tour Certificate for Flight Experience with Lucky Flyer

**“Vintage” Tin Signs & Photos**
A large variety of stunning Collings aircraft photos and WWII illustrated custom tin signs.
$5.00 to $175.00

**Flight Certificates**
- B-17 Flying Fortress or B-24 Liberator bomber Flight Certificates: $450.
- B-25 Mitchell Certificate: $400
- P-51 Mustang Flight Training:
  - 1/2 hour $2000, Full Hour: $3200.

**New Selection of Shirts!**

**Custom Models**
Hand crafted hard-wood models.
Collings Foundation’s B-25 Mitchell “Tondelayo” with custom base featured above. More aircraft to select from. Limited stock. $150 to $180 each.

We have many more items to choose from. See all gifts in our store at www.collingsfoundation.org

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