



# Dirigo Flyer

Newsletter of the Maine Aviation Historical Society



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## REMEMBERING HANK MAROIS at the Maine Air Museum

*By Bob Littlefield*

As many of you may already know, member and Chairman of the MAHS Board of Directors, Henry L. “Hank” Marois, Jr., passed away on July 5, 2016. Perhaps in realization that he would soon lose his years-long battle with multiple myeloma, he wrote his own obituary, re-counting the numerous professions and activities in which he had been a participant and leader during his 85 years on earth. The Maine Aviation Historical Society and Maine Air Museum are fortunate that Hank and his wife Mary had ties to Maine that brought him to our museum during the summers, and that he shared his many talents with us. Hank’s self-penned obituary appears on page 3 of this issue.

Hank joined the MAHS in the spring of 2004, and from then on he devoted a large portion of the summer months to serving the Maine Air Museum. He was elected to the Board of Directors in 2006, serving in that capacity until 2009. He was re-elected to the Board in 2011 and was Chairman of the Board of Directors when he passed away.

This article seeks to highlight some of the many colorful, artistic, often humorous contributions to the MAM of this multi-talented and caring man. As Chairman of the Board of Directors, Hank’s vision of the Museum’s future affects us all. The Museum will greatly miss this remarkable man.

*(continued on page 2)*



*2015 photo of Hank assessing the progress of the restoration of the Lockheed Starliner at the Lewiston-Auborn airport. See the Jan-March 2016 issue of the Dirigo Flyer for his report.*

### *Dirigo Flyer*

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The Maine Air Museum is located at  
98 Maine Avenue adjacent to  
Bangor International Airport

*(Hank Marois, continued)*

As visitors walk through the front gate of the museum, they are greeted by these two examples of Hank's creative side, directed toward the youngsters and the young at heart....



*Hank's "Stealth" fighter*



*Two kid-sized airplanes created by Hank, located in front of the museum*

For the older visitors, Hank introduced background music (mostly from the Glen Miller era), which can be heard throughout the museum.

*(Continued on page 4)*

***Bio written by Hank***

Lieutenant Colonel Henry L. "Hank" Marois Jr. Hank is on his final mission. The wheels are in the well, flaps are up and throttles set. Weather is CAVU. He was born in Middleboro, Massachusetts, on October 9, 1930, the son of Henry L. Marois and Rose Claire (Seguin) Marois. He was raised in Malden and Middleboro, Massachusetts. He graduated from Memorial High School in Middleboro in 1948 where he was on the track and cross country running teams. He studied electrical engineering at Northeastern University in Boston where he was also a member of the track and cross country teams. He left college in 1952 during the Korean War and enlisted in the United States Air Force where he remained for 21 years retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel with over 5,000 flying hours, 500 of them in combat. Hank flew combat in Korea and Viet Nam. His final active duty assignment was Chief of Electronic Warfare, 8th Air Force, during the Viet Nam War. During his military career he earned his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Nebraska and later his MBA from Western New England College in Springfield, Massachusetts. He married Mary Cantwell of Bar Harbor, Maine in 1954 and they were happily married for 62 years. They met in Boston while Hank was at Northeastern University and Mary was attending New England Medical School, a branch of Tufts College Medical School. They lived in twenty-two different homes in six different states, Japan, Puerto Rico and Guam during his military career. After retiring from the Air Force they moved to Concord, New Hampshire, where he became the Executive Vice President of the New Hampshire Association of Realtors. They moved to Florida in 1976 where he led the training and development section of Li'l General Stores. He then led the Electrical Council of Florida and was a management consultant for the convenience store industry. He later was a co-founder of the General Cable Corp. Communications Systems Division. He was a life-long Roman Catholic and served as a Lecturer and Eucharistic Minister at his church. He was a Life Member and a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus. He chaired the annual K of C handicap fund raising drive for many years. Hank was the Neighborhood Commissioner of Boy Scouts of America in Greenland, New Hampshire, Chicopee, Massachusetts, and Anderson Air Force Base, Guam. He was active in the community serving as the President of the local Air Force Association and was a board member of the Tampa Bay Symphony. For several years he was a volunteer at the Saint Vincent de Paul Food Kitchen in downtown Saint Petersburg. He was on the Board of Directors of the award winning Northeast Community School, an evening adult education program at Northeast High School. He was President of the Florida Military Aviation Museum for 15 years. At their summer home in Trenton, Maine, Hank was a volunteer at the Maine Air Museum for many years as a Board Member and designed and constructed many of the museum's exhibits and developed the museum's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) demonstrations. He was active in Saint Joseph's parish in Ellsworth, Maine. He was a faculty member classroom instructor of the West Florida branch of the University of Phoenix for ten years where he taught in the Undergraduate Business and Management program. For many years he was a judge at the annual Pinellas County Science Fair and at the annual History Day competition. Hank is survived by his wife Mary Cantwell Marois and sons, William Marois, Paul Marois, Stephen Marois, Christopher Marois and his wife Michele Anderson Marois, all of Saint Petersburg, and predeceased by his mother, Rose Marois, father, Henry Marois Sr, and brother, George Marois, formerly of Carlsbad, California. He was very proud of his two grandchildren, Laurel and Mitchell Marois. He has safely landed, wheels are chocked and he has made his final entry in an AF Form 781. MMC.

(Hank Marois, continued)



Hank was a sign-maker extraordinaire! The museum is replete with fine examples of his craft. Look for the red, white and blue signs in the photos.

Hank's commitment to enhancing science education for young students is exemplified below by two of the museum's exhibits demonstrating the Bernoulli effect.



Photo of Hank from spring 2012



Hank transported most of the 3-Ring Circus exhibit (including the bowling balls) to Maine from Tampa, Florida where he had been president of the Florida Military Aviation Museum for 15 years. Some of the other museum exhibits in which Hank had a hand are shown here:



Hank Marois viewing platform, plaque gifted by Matt Watkins

## MAHS Joins the Aviation Community in Celebrating Tuskegee Airmen's Traveling Exhibit

*By Bob Umberger*

From August 17 through the 20<sup>th</sup>, after months of planning, the Maine Aeronautics Association in cooperation with the Wiscasset Airport hosted "Rise Above," the Commemorative Air Force's Tuskegee Airmen traveling exhibit along with a public Fly-In which offered plane rides, static displays, veteran's programs, live entertainment, plus newer and vintage airplanes. This venue was an opportunity for MAHS/MAM to once again showcase some of what the museum has to offer visitors, as well as sell our gift shop items, and support one of our objectives of outreach to the public at large. Saturday had a moderate turn out, but we still did well with \$134.00 in sales, plus one membership renewal. We also received feedback from the Aeronautics Association that they had several positive comments about the MAM display, which contained items focused on the WWII era, the theme of this event.



*Part of the MAM booth*



*Member Mike Cornett (left) and President Chuck Byrum at the MAM booth*



*MAM VP John Miller (right) flew in to assist*

The focal point of this gathering was the rare and fully restored P-51C Red Tail Mustang on display along with the 53-foot semi trailer "Rise Above," which contains a 160 degree panoramic screen and expands to create a theater setting. The "Rise Above" footage briefly chronicles the story and accomplishments of the Tuskegee Red Tail Squadrons and the historic importance of P-51 aircraft to the war effort. CAF travels the country using these unique educational tools to share the inspiring legacy of the pilots and support crews known as the Tuskegee Airmen. Besides traveling the airshow and events circuit, they bring their educational program to approximately 20,000 school children each year, which was the case with their visit to Wiscasset.

As many are aware, we have a Tuskegee Airman, Jim Shepard, formerly of the 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group, right here in Maine. A long time Maine resident and MAHS member, Jim now resides in the VA hospital in Scarborough, and could not be part of this event due to health considerations.

*(continued on page 6)*

*(Tuskegee Event, continued)*



*CAF Flying Legends*



*Fully restored P-51C Red Tail Mustang*

**The following facts are of interest: Pilots trained at Tuskegee, AL, 992; Support personnel, 14,000; Pilots with overseas tours, 450; Killed in action, 66; POW's, 32; Enemy aircraft destroyed, 409.**

### **Mystery Corner**

Bob Umberger sent the photo below to the *Flyer*, challenging our readers to identify the location (hint, somewhere in Maine) where it was taken.



The answer will appear in the October – December issue of the *Dirigo Flyer*.

## BOOKS AVAILABLE AT THE MUSEUM AND BY MAIL

Did you know that the museum gift shop has four great books written by MAHS members? We would love to have you come to the museum and browse through the books before buying – OR – you can purchase the books by sending your check to MAHS, PO Box 2641, Bangor, ME 04402. Prices quoted include state sales tax.

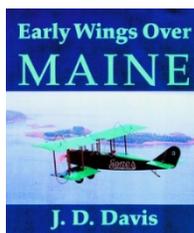
*Now also available on Amazon.com:*

### WITH AN ANGEL BY MY SIDE



In this revised edition, MAM member, Alfred Cormier, recounts a life of flying by a member of the Greatest Generation. It starts with a boyhood plane ride with Amelia Earhart, recalls 88 combat missions over China, and tells so much more. Available in Kindle or paperback versions at Amazon.com, the book has a new format and lower price.

Available through the museum for \$16.00. (plus \$4.00 postage and handling).



**Early wings over Maine by John Davis**

**Price \$24.95**

**Shipping \$4.00**

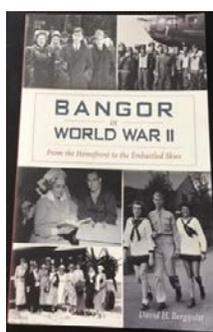
**In stock and ready for delivery**

### ***The United States Air Force in Maine, Progeny of the Cold War***

by John Garbinski.

Another exclusive book from the Maine Aviation Historical Society. Softbound, 134 pages, 151 illustrations.

\$5.00 (plus \$4.00 postage and handling).



David Bergquist has written an historic novel describing the strategic importance of the Bangor, Maine area as the nation braced entry into World War II.

\$18.00 (plus \$4.00 postage and handling).

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

The 43<sup>rd</sup> International Seaplane Fly-In, Greenville, September 8-11, 2016. Only 1 ½ hours from Bangor and 3 hours from the Portland area.

Belfast Municipal Airport's Annual Fly-In & Open house, September 17, 2016 (rain date 9/18) from 7:30 am to 3pm. Breakfast, Awards, Photos and More. For more details, contact Belfast EAA 1434.

#### URGENT REQUEST FOR MEMBER INPUT

The passing of Board member, Hank Marois, leaves the Maine Aviation Historic Society with only five members on the Board of Directors. This is a serious deficit; the society's Bylaws mandate an eleven (11) member Board of Directors. We have not been close to this number for some time; a problem of great concern to Hank, who shortly before his death emailed an impassioned plea to the MAM Officers and Board to expand the board of directors by bringing in members of other aviation-related community organizations such as the Maine National Guard, the Challenger Space Center, and aviation businesses to fill the board's empty director positions. If any of you are acquainted with, or friends with individuals who meet this description and might be willing to serve – or if you are interested yourself in serving on the MAHS Board of Directors, PLEASE contact President Chuck Byrum or one of the current directors to make your suggestion. This request is urgent! October 8, 2016 is the date for our Annual Meeting when elections of Board members and Officers are held. We hope to hear from you soon!

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#### UPDATE

In the September, 2016 issue of *Air and Space* magazine, Bernhard Conrad, the founder of the German company restoring the Star of Tigris at the Lewiston-Auburn Airport in Maine, stated “the Star of Tigris Starliner will be ready for test flights by the end of next year and for paying passengers in early 2018.”





**All dues expire on June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. If joining mid-year, pay \$2.00 for each remaining month**

Annual membership includes quarterly newsletters

Mail payment to:

Maine Aviation Historical Society  
 PO Box 2641  
 Bangor, ME 04402-2641

**Maine Aviation Historical Society  
 Maine Air Museum \* Membership Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership	Dues	Benefits
Regular	\$25 annual	Newsletter, Museum Admission
Family	\$35 annual	Newsletter, Museum Admission
Corporate	\$100 annual	Newsletter, Museum Admission
Supporting	\$100 annual	Newsletter, Museum Admission
Lifetime	\$500*	Newsletter, Lifetime Membership
	*2 annual \$250 payments	Museum Admission

We need volunteers-docents, mechanics, maintenance, librarians and exhibit specialists, etc.

- Please call me. I want to be active in the organization.
- I cannot join now, but would like to help. I enclose a check for \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Contributions over \$20 are tax deductible within the limits of the law)
- I wish to support and obtain membership by purchasing a memorial brick

**DIRIGO FLYER  
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