



## American Military Heritage Foundation

**Dedicated to preserving, in flying condition, a Vintage PV-2 Harpoon in memory of all who fought on behalf of the United States of America**

September 2020

It is that time to set myself down and come up with a newsletter that will inspire or at least take our minds off the pandemic for a period. I have just about given up on the TV. Most of the shows are all reruns; they are even running last years football games and if I watch the news it just raises my blood pressure and I don't need that. It even makes planning on how to accomplish the D-check and advance AMHF more interesting. The Harpoon has one advantage we know of: It will always keep us on the job longer than we had planned for.

**“There is no such thing as failure, there is just giving up to soon”**

*Jonas Salk, virologist, medical researcher*

The board of directors met and decided to hold an open house at KMQJ for two weekends in August, (15 & 16) (22 & 23) The time would be from nine to four on Saturday and noon to four on Sunday both weekends. With everything being canceled the BOD felt it was necessary to try something and the turn out will help us make other decisions later.

The dinner that we talked about last month has also been postponed until sometime next year. On top of that the open house at Bowman field in Louisville has been canceled. Currently there are no other shows that we are aware of. Therefore, we will need to proceed with the D-check so the plane will be ready for next year while also exploring alternative ways to keep all our expenses paid.

The plane was brought back home from KMIE a few weeks ago and will be tied down in her usual parking spot after the open house. All the ADSB mandates were complied with and now the crew is learning a whole new avionics package. Work is now taking place to prepare for the upcoming D-check. More information on the D-check will be coming as we get closer to October. We hope to institute some changes that will make the check run smoother and hopefully get it finished up with the least amount of frustration. All of us should take pride in the fact that each time we work on this piece of history we leave it a little bit better than before we started. Yes, I know if we had a hangar that would make things better. However, that just does not seem to be in our future at the current time.

I can report that we have done better the second open house weekend and will be able to pay expenses for the next two months, but we still have a lot of work to do. The BOD has decided to hold more open houses on September 12 & 13 and 19 & 20 with the same time structure. So please put that on your calendar, and if you can help on one or both days please let Rich or Lisa know. It really takes a minimum of eight people to do a good job. It takes two at the PX table, one in the plane, and one controlling traffic at the door. OK! That leaves four. They need to circulate and meet people when they show up, have a smile on their face, answer any questions they might have and thank them for coming. The more interest we show in them the greater our chances that they will donate to our cause. By the way there is one other important reason for the extra people; sometimes mother nature takes over and a bathroom break is necessary.

**“When you succeed, don’t forget the responsibility of making someone else succeed with you.”**

*Antonia Novello physician 14<sup>th</sup> Surgeon General of the U.S.*

That just about wraps up all the adventures of the AMHF during August. There will be more information soon on preparing for and starting the D-check.

One of our members sent in an interesting story. Some of you may have already read it before and some may never have seen it. Either way it is a good read and will cause one to stop and think for a little bit.

Have a great month,

Gaylon

### **Who packed your parachute?**

Charles Plumb was a US Navy jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent 6 years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience!

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!"

"How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb.

"I packed your parachute," the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!" Plumb assured him, "It sure did. If your chute had not worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, I kept wondering what he had looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat; a bib in the back; and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said 'Good morning, how are you?' or anything because, you see, I

was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor." Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent at a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute?" Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. He also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory -- he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching safety.

Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason. As you go through this week, this month, this year, recognize people who pack your parachutes.

I am sending you this as my way of thanking you for your part in packing my parachute. And I hope you will send it on to those who have helped pack yours!

Sometimes, we wonder why friends keep forwarding jokes to us without writing a word. Maybe this could explain it: When you are very busy, but still want to keep in touch, guess what you do -- you forward jokes. And to let you know that you are still remembered, you are still important, you are still loved, you are still cared for, guess what you get? A forwarded joke.

So my friend, next time when you get a joke, don't think that you've been sent just another forwarded joke, but that you've been thought of today and your friend on the other end of your computer wanted to send you a smile, just helping you pack your parachute.....