

November 2023

NEWSLETTER

816-234-1011

TWAMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM

10 Richards Road

Kansas City, MO 64116

twamuseum.com



OPEN WED-SAT 10-4

Museum

at 10 Richards Road

From the President, Pam Blaschum

On September 30th, our museum had the honor of hosting B-25 Day at the TWA Museum. This National Reunion Event was hosted by the 57th Bomb Wing Association, with the local B-25 History Project assisting with planning and booking the B-25 aircraft.

The group consisted of almost 90 people, to include the B-25 crew and 340th Bomb Groups staff, four WWII veterans (2 of those accompanied with their wives), three original "Rosie the Riveters" from Kansas City, along with friends and families of other WWII veterans from this unit who have passed away.

While the veterans and Rosies were the featured and honored guests, another popular attraction was the North American Aviation B-25 Mitchell, named "Miss Mitchell" (N27493/327493/USAAF 44-29869). Miss Mitchell was built right here in Kansas City, at the North American plant at Fairfax Airport. NAA manufactured the greatest number of aircraft in World War II, the first time a company had ever produced trainers, bombers, and fighters simultaneously. NAA produced B-25s at both its Inglewood, California main plant and an additional 6,680 aircraft at its Kansas City, Kansas, plant at Fairfax Airport.

The B-25 bomber gained fame in the daring April 1942 Doolittle Raid. Lt. Col. James Doolittle humiliated the Japanese military by penetrating some of the world's most formidable air defenses and dropping bombs a stone's throw away from the Emperor's Palace. The Doolittle Raid's B-25s were the only aircraft to bomb Tokyo until 1944, when B-29 Superfortresses began operating from the Mariana Islands. The B-25 bomber soldiered in every theater of war, excelling in multiple roles, chiefly as a ground-attack aircraft later in the war.

B-25 DAY AT THE TWA MUSEUM



(continued on page 3)

Board of Directors

Pam Blaschum-President
Caleb Flake-Vice President
Nancy Sitzmann-Secretary
Chris Funk-Treasurer
Don Lueke
John Miller
Judy Gerling
Alice Wasko

TWA Operations Manager

John Mays

Archivists

Carol Emert
Zana Allen
Joe Ballweg
Mark Murtha

BSA Merit Badge Program

Art Lujin

Volunteer Coordinator

Friends of the Museum Liaison

Belinda Hobbs

Social Media

Matt Larsen
Larry Dingman

Media Relations

Judy Gerling

Newsletter

Nancy Sitzmann



Museum's Youngest Visitor

We have many seniors who come to museum to visit. We know of a few 100 year old visitors and we had a 90 year old volunteer. Recently we had our youngest visitor to the museum. In June, 11 day old Miles brought his parents, Drs. Chris and Jillian in to



have his picture taken with Ellie. His parents are long-time Friends of the Museum and Aviation Enthusiasts. Miles slept the whole time, looking all cute in his fedora. His birth announcement was created to look like a boarding pass. We hope to see more of Miles and his parents on future visits.



Museum Visitors

You may assume that most of our visitors to the museum are from Missouri and Kansas. While many of our visitors are, since January 2023 we have had visitors from all states and Washington DC, but five. We need those residents of Maine, Nevada, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island to put the TWA Museum on your bucket list and come visit us.

We also have had several visitors from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Canada, Japan, Kuwait, Australia, Switzerland, England, France, China, Germany and London. With the south bound bridge closure and the construction at the downtown airport, we truly appreciate those who have made the effort to visit the museum this year. Since January 2023 we have had 3,700 visitors. Thanks for your support in making the TWA Museum a success. We could not do it without all of you!

The 5th Annual TWA Golf Classic 2023

The day was beautiful and the weather was perfect for this year's TWA Golf Classic held Tuesday, September 12th with 80 golfers playing to raise money for the TWA Museum.

Following the tournament a BBQ supper was provided by the Paradise Point Golf Course with prizes for longest drive for men and for women, longest putt and closest to the pins. Prizes were also given for the teams with best scores.

We are very grateful for our many sponsors for their role in our successful 5th Annual Golf Classic. We are also grateful for the assistance of Don Lueke, TWA Museum Volunteer, Steve (Woody) Wood and Bruce Slimmer of Dixson Golf and Charity Golf.

Most importantly we thank the many TWA Museum Volunteers who helped make it so successful. We are now looking forward to number 6 in September 2024.



Bryan and Nancy Sitzmann



Thanks to our Sponsors!



(Continued from p. 1 B-25 Day at the Museum)

The WWII veterans at the event were honored and presented with certificates by the Commander and two other staff members of the **USAF 340th Flying Training Group** from Texas. The three original Rosies were honored as well, and both the veterans and Rosies received standing ovations for their service to our great country.

Here is a brief history of the 57th Bomb Wing and the Association, and the B-25 History Project:

The 57th Bomb Wing was a command composed of B-25 Mitchell medium bombers. Their combat history began as early as the first landings in North Africa in November 1942. They flew missions in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and Corsica until the end of the war in 1945. 57th Bomb Wing consisted of the 12th, 310th, 319th, 321st and 340th Bomb Groups, as well as 57th Wing and 308th Signal Wing personnel, who fought in the European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign.

The **57th Bomb Wing Association** is a nonprofit, 501(c) (19), veterans organization whose members are veterans and family members dedicated to the preservation of the memories of the individuals and deeds of the 57th Bomb Wing in WWII. The Association has been holding National Reunions in cities across the country since 1969. See: www.57thbombwing.com

The B-25 History Project is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization dedicated "To preserve and honor the history of the B-25 "Mitchell" bomber and the men and women who built, flew, and maintain them; past, present and future". Along with honoring and preserving the history of the B-25, the organization also helps to ensure its survival. Their plan is to highlight the entire history of the B-25 from its origins through today with a focus on the Fairfax, Kansas plant.



Again, our museum was honored to host these groups. As we approach Veteran's Day, please express your heartfelt gratitude to every veteran you meet and know. Their value and service to our country can never be ignored, nor should it ever be taken for granted. Thank you.

(In addition to the B-25 Day, the TWA Museum also hosted 30 Boy Scouts from Troop 671 in St. Louis, Missouri! The museum had over 174 guests that day, a record number indeed!)



The Rosies



Guests lined up to see the B-25

(Special thanks to Operations Manager John Mays, Vice President Caleb Flake, and Director Pam Blaschum for their contributions to this article!)



The Day Bob Hope Helped us with our Bags!

My name is **Larry Chalberg**. I started with TWA in 1967 working in the instrument shop at KCI. I have to admit, I found the job boring but I was surprised when in 1971, I was without a job! I had been laid off along with many of my peers. Fortunately, I was able to transfer to Los Angeles as an electrician. Using my GI Bill, I studied and received my A & P License.

In 1972, I was recalled to the KCI Overhaul base as an instrument mechanic until I was able to bid MBM (Major Base Maintenance). Again I used my A & P license and became a full-fledged airline mechanic!

My personal life was growing too. My wife and I were blessed with seven beautiful children who were anxious to travel! In 1978 we traveled on TWA to Los Angeles and eventually to San Diego to visit my parents during Christmas. If you all recall the long tunnel in the airport, you will understand the stress of herding children in an attempt to catch your flight. We had finally reached the escalator leading to the gates.

At some point we noticed that my youngest son, Larry Jr., was struggling to retrieve his bag at the bottom of the escalator. A man, who I recognized as **Bob Hope** was helping him onto the escalator. He spoke to me and said, "It looks like you could use a little help!" He continued to the gates with us. We were thrilled to sit and talk with him until our flight was called.

As I recall, he was a lovely man. My wife wrote a letter to his agent and he returned a personally signed photo that said, "Thanks for the memories!".



FORMER TWA HOSTESS CELEBRATES HER 97TH BIRTHDAY AT THE TWA MUSEUM!

Betty Sue Tillman, now **Sue Ramsey**, celebrated her 97th birthday on Sept 27th by visiting our TWA Museum alongside her daughter, **Darby Carr**. Sue was a hostess with Northwest airlines in the late forties before moving on to TWA, her favorite airline. She flew on the Martin 404 and then on the Connies. Betty Sue received dozens and dozens of letters from passengers who commended Betty for her excellent service. Betty's supervisor, **Jeanette Phillips**, had very high praise for her. Because of her superior service, as well as remembering most of the passenger's names on each of her flights, Betty was chosen to pose for promotional pictures for TWA. The pictures below were from those promotional pictures in 1953. When asked what she liked about being a TWA Hostess, Sue replied, "The people! I loved meeting

passengers from all over the world, helping them out, putting them at ease, and of course the traveling was amazing too!" She was even rewarded with a

special all expenses paid trip to Alaska. Betty flew for many years with TWA, but retired when she married her husband, Cecil Ramsey in 1957. Of course hostesses weren't allowed to be married at that time. Sue stated that had she been able, she would have continued working for TWA. It was truly a special day at the **TWA Museum** for Sue and her daughter, filled with wonderful memories and kind people.



**Santa Claus is coming back to the
TWA Museum!!!!
Saturday, November 25th
11 am to 1 pm**

Bring your little ones to tell Santa their wishes
and take their picture with Santa and our 1937
Lockheed Electra!



Welcome to our new TWA Museum Volunteers!

The **TWA Museum** welcomes **Jawn Collins** and **Elsbeth Pierce** back as volunteers! Both are retired TWA Flight Attendants!

Ethan Day is employed and comes in to volunteer two mornings a week or the weekend. Ethan's reason for volunteering is to preserve TWA's history and to share information from a unique perspective. His grandfather worked at TWA for 26 years. His grandfather's career provided him with many opportunities and a way to provide for his family.

Pam Tucker is volunteering on Friday afternoon at the Entry Desk. She did not work for the Airlines, but Aviation is in her family. Pam's father, Ray Rowe was a pilot for TWA for 25 years. Her sister was a Flight Engineer on the C-130. Pam's brother, Doug, is a Navy Combat and Aviation artist. Several of his paintings are on display in the museum as well as for sale in our Gift Shop.



Veteran's Day

On November 11, we honor our US Veterans. The **TWA Museum** would like to recognize our volunteers who served our country!

Larry Chalberg, Dennis Claus, John Coleman, Ethan Day, Robert Eckerle, Joe Hobbs, David Morningstar, Ray Rowe, Frank Ruege and Jay Stewart

We thank you for your service to our country and to the **TWA Museum**!



Matthew Walsh Scholarship Awarded

Jesus Valazco, a day student at the Aviation Institute for Maintenance (AIM), was the most recent recipient of the Matthew Walsh Memorial Scholarship which is administered through the TWA Museum. The student assembly took place at AIM on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. Mario Reyes, a night student (not present at the student assembly), was the only runner up this time.

Special thanks to the TWA Museum volunteers supporting this scholarship program through their time, reading the various applications and helping select a winner and the runners up. Specifically for this most recent scholarship. a "thank you" to:

- Pam Blaschum
- Belinda Hobbs
- Dianna Bennett
- Kevin Clossick

The Matthew Walsh Memorial Scholarship was created five years ago. As of today, 15 scholarships have been awarded. Matthew Walsh graduated with honors from the Aviation Institute of Maintenance in January 2008. Soon after, he earned his FAA certification and began his career as an aircraft mechanic.

Unfortunately, he died six months later. In 2018, the Walsh family, in collaboration with AIM and the TWA Museum, created the scholarship program.



Left to right: Elaine (Matthew's sister), Tom Walsh (Matthew's dad), Jesus (winner), and Valerie (Matthew's mom)

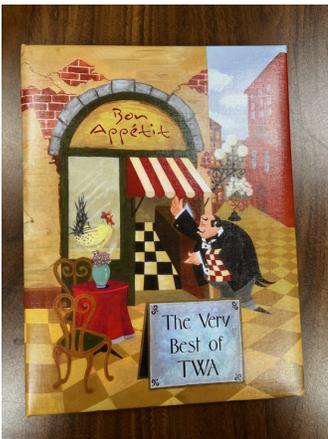
Shop for Christmas in the TWA Museum Gift Shop



Rocks glasses are \$12 each or 2 for \$22. TWA twin globe logo etched on both sides.



Neck pillow covered with removable David Klein material for easy laundering. Price is \$30.00.



With Christmas right around the corner, the Best of TWA Cookbook (\$25) and the Connie Christmas ornament (\$15) make great gifts!

If you would like to order any of these items, email your order to twajohnmays@gmail.com. Once we receive the information we will issue you a PayPal invoice which will allow you to pay via credit card.



Thinking of Donating Items to the Museum?

Before sending or dropping off items to the museum, please send an email to:

twajohnmays@gmail.com

describing your donation, list of items and pictures if possible.

We will respond as soon as we can!

We truly appreciate the donations we receive but are running out of storage room.



Have you visited our new webpage?

Based upon feedback from our volunteers and supporters of our museum, we have updated our website. Our new website, www.twamuseum.org, now offers more streamlined content and is easier to navigate. We have also added specific pages to our website related to our history, research and upcoming events. Additional photos of our museum also promote our exhibits to website visitors. Our goal is to later introduce an on-line store in which you may make purchases directly from our gift shop. However, due to the supply chain issues that everyone is experiencing right now, we have postponed a complete rollout of our on-line store.

Royal Ambassador Service



Breast of Chicken Cranberry

Ingredients of Chicken:

- 4 ea boneless chicken breasts, split in half
- salt & pepper to taste
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 1 cup sliced cranberries
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 ea. small stalk of celery coarsely chopped
- 1 ea. small apple, peeled, cored, and diced
- 2 cups plain croutons
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 3/4 stick of butter
- 1/4 cup chicken stock or canned chicken bouillon
- 1 tsp poultry seasoning

Ingredients fo Supreme sauce:

- 1 cup chicken stock or canned chicken bouillon
- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
- 1 1/2 tbsp butter
- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- 1 tbsp flour
- salt & pepper to taste
- 1 tsp chopped parsley



Season chicken breasts with salt and pepper; baste with melted butter, place on buttered sheet pan and bake in 350F preheated oven until done, approximately 50 minutes.

Sprinkle sugar over cranberries; mix well and let stand for a few minutes. Melt butter in a sauce pan; add onion and celery; cook on low heat for a few minutes. (celery should remain crisp). Combine celery, onion, cranberries, apple, plain croutons, chicken stock, and poultry seasoning.

Sauce: Heat chicken stock and 1 cup cream in sauce pan. Dissolve flour and cornstarch in remaining 1/2 cup of the cream. When chicken stock is boiling, add flour and cornstarch mixture slowly, stirring constantly until smooth. Reduce heat and simmer for 10 minutes. Add butter & parsley, mix well.

Volunteer Carol Emert guest starred on KMBZ Radio Talk Show with Hostess Dana Wright to talk about the TWA Museum!

Dana Wright KMBZ
12h · 🌐

Tune in NOW for the most fabulous look back at aviation history in KC with my dear friend Carol McGinnis Emert, former TWA "hostess" from 1967-1971 - back when women couldn't be married, certainly not pregnant, and had to "weigh in" every 3 weeks. The TWA museum is a TREASURE of history !!! Go check it out !!!!



Recent donation to the museum with a story. . .

Our museum recently received a donation from **Karen Trachtman, Brooklyn, New York**. Karen writes that, “my father, **Roy L. Brister, was a TWA Captain**, who joined TWA after World War II. During the war, he flew for Overseas Transport, flying out of Washington, D.C. to North Africa via the horn of Brazil, and to the British Isles, mostly to Scotland, via Newfoundland. He took over the “Shamrock Flight” when the pilot touched a wing on landing. The purpose of the flight was to find new destinations for TWA. I was very young, so I don’t remember much, except that they flew over Mao and his forces on the Long March. I have enclosed a group photo of my father (depicted on the far right) and his crew, and a local in khakis. Of course, this was taken in Hawaii.”



Upcoming Book Signing at the TWA Museum “Come Fly With Me” Friday, November 10, 2023, 1-4 PM



**MISSOURI
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Media Contact:
Adrienne Sharp
Director of Marketing & Communications
press@mohistory.org
314-454-3103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New Book Chronicles the Rise and Fall of Trans World Airlines

Upcoming author appearances

Friday, November 10, 2023 | 1:00–4:00pm | TWA Museum | 10 Richards Rd., Kansas City, MO

St. Louis, MO. [October 6, 2023] — The Missouri Historical Society Press is set to release a new book, *Come Fly with Me: The Rise and Fall of Trans World Airlines*, on October 10, 2023. Written by Daniel L. Rust and Alan B. Hoffman, the book tells the story of how three larger-than-life personalities, Charles Lindbergh, Howard Hughes, and Carl Icahn, created and ultimately destroyed an American icon that had deep roots in Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri.

Come Fly with Me is the only comprehensive history of TWA and its predecessors, tracing the airline’s origins in the 1920s to the 21st century. The authors had unprecedented access to the entire TWA corporate archives and interviewed key business leaders to craft a compelling tale of a corporation, an industry, and an era.

The book will be available for purchase at the Missouri History Museum Shop, mohistory.org, through the distributor, the University of Chicago Press, and at area bookstores. It will be priced at \$22.95 and will have 324 pages and 53 halftone images. The ISBN is 979-8-9855716-3-9.

Daniel L. Rust is associate professor of transportation and logistics management at the University of Wisconsin–Superior and the author of *The Aerial Crossroads of America* and *Flying Across America*. **Alan B. Hoffman** is a historian and the author of *Up There with the Biggest: The Story of Ozark Airlines*.

For more information or to request a review copy or interview with the authors, please contact Adrienne Sharp at (314) 454-3103 or email asharp@mohistory.org.



The TWA Museum Mourns the loss of TWA Volunteer Sandy Funk

Dr. Sandra Funk passed away September 19, 2023, in Independence, MO. She was born to parents Joe and Juanita Funk on February 25, 1946, in Coffeyville, Kansas. Sandy was one of five children: including brothers Paul, David, Lloyd, and Larry.

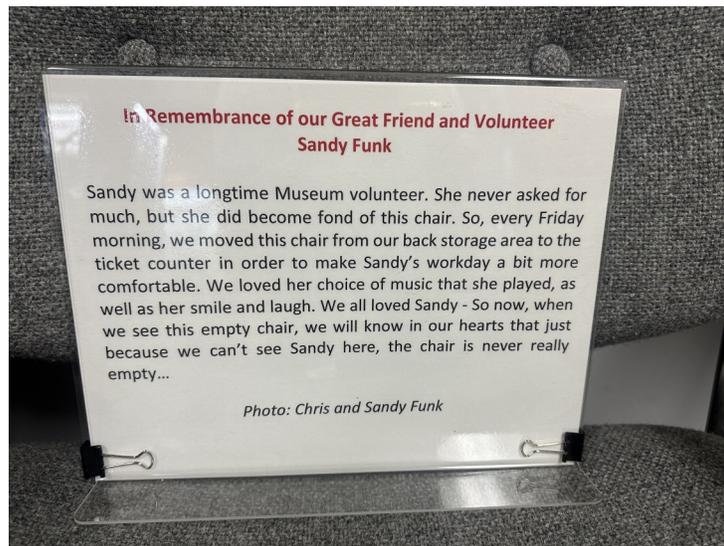


After a brief stint as a beautician, and art teacher, she returned to college to become a doctor. She graduated from Kansas City College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1982 and became an emergency room physician. Sandy worked most of the following years at Western Missouri Medical Center in Warrensburg, MO, until her retirement in 2019. Chris and Sandy were married in 1983 in Coffeyville, KS.

She was always on a quest to “know and do everything” she was a doctor, a seamstress, artist, crafter, gardener, decorator, an animal lover. Her one regret would have been that she never learned to clog dance, but it was on her list.

Sandy is preceded in death by her parents and her brothers Paul and David. She is survived by her husband Chris and brother Lloyd and Larry. Sandy truly was a friend to everyone and will be missed by all.

**Sandy was married to
TWA Museum Board Treasurer, Chris Funk.**



Local Channel KSHB 41 visits the TWA Museum

Daisha Jones with KSHB 41 interviewed TWA Museum Volunteer Judy Gerling for a segment of “One Tank Trips” that aired in October.



THANK YOU!

The TWA Museum would like to thank the following businesses for their support in so many ways!



IWERX for allowing us use of their space for events and their continuing support!



MCR for our partnership with the new TWA Hotel at the former TWA Terminal at JFK and their generous donation!



Community America for their history and partnership in the future with the TWA Museum!



Silver Wings International for their generous and consistent donations they make to the TWA Museum!

Chris Funk owner of Picture and Frame Industries is our Treasurer and a member of our Board Directors. Most of the posters you see in the museum, as well as numerous prints, were framed by his company.

Fred Scheiszer, Professor, was the Program Director of Aviation at UCM. He has worked on the 1011 CPT as well as the Cabin Trainer, and donated the original TWA 707 CPT.



Clipped Wings International for their generous donation of \$49,000 to the TWA Museum and their wonderful in-person support at special events!

Also thank you to our wonderful TWA former employees, Friends of the Museum, and all those who have donated items and money to make sure we preserve the history of TWA here in Kansas City, as well as the world.





Museum Legacy Society

The TWA Museum Legacy Society has been established to provide you the opportunity to commit a gift during your lifetime that will help preserve the TWA Museum for years to come!

Dying is not something we want to think about. However, if we want to have a say in what happens after our passing, we need to make sure our wishes are known ahead of time. If in lieu of flowers you would like Memorial Donations made to the TWA Museum in your memory or the memory of a loved one, make sure that your loved ones are told of your wishes or if you would like to leave part of your estate to the museum, make sure it is put in your will or trust to that effect.

All of the memorial Donations are tax deductible as the Museum is a 501C3 nonprofit.

Museum Library Hours

10 AM-4 PM by Appointment

For more detailed museum information, please visit our website at TWAMUSEUM.COM. Upon payment of the museum entry fee, simply advise your welcome volunteer of your intent to visit the library and a volunteer will escort you to the Library. If you have any questions, please contact John Mays at 913-515-0080 or via email at twajohnmays@gmail.com

MAKE YOUR PROM OR ENGAGEMENT A SPECIAL MEMORY AT THE TWA MUSEUM



We have had several requests for **Prom and Engagement Pictures** to be taken with Ellie, in our **vintage phone booths** or in the **Ambassador Club**. Now we can include our **Cabin Trainer!** We

love to get our pictures out there and welcome the opportunity for those special moments in time. A \$25.00 donation is suggested for personal phone photos and a \$50.00 donation for professional photographers. Reservations are recommended so we can secure the volunteers we need to help with this one of a kind opportunity. Call the Museum at **816-234-1011** to make your reservation!



TWA Museum Hours

Wednesday - Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM

Zana Allen
 Joe Ballweg
 Dianna Bennett
 Pam Blaschum
 Margo Cabillonar
 Larry Chalberg, Sr
 Dennis Claus
 Kevin Clossick
 John Coleman
 Jawn Collins
 Ethan Day
 Larry Dingman
 Robert Eckerle
 Chris Elkins
 Carol Emert
 Keith Epperson
 Caleb Flake
 Margie Foley
 Chris Funk
 Judy Gerling
 Joe & Belinda Hobbs
 Matt Larsen
 Janet Lhuiller
 Larry Lillge
 Don Lueke
 Art Lujin
 Gary Mayden
 John Mays
 Conner McCollim
 Lori Moore
 David Morningstar
 Eric Morse
 Mark Murtha
 Nina Newberry
 Elspeth Pierce
 Shelley Tork Raker
 Ray Rowe
 Frank Ruege, Jr
 Louise Simpson
 Nancy Sitzmann
 Jay Stewart
 Mark Townsend
 Pam Tucker
 Alice Wasko
 Chelsey Willetts

TWA Museum Volunteers

TWA Museum Volunteers

TWA Museum Volunteers

TWA Museum
10 NW Richards Rd
Kansas City, MO 64116-4253



Donation Form



Friend of the Museum

Additionally, if you would like to become a Friend of the Museum, please choose from the options below:

Individual - \$45.00

Benefits: Member card, unlimited free museum admission 1 year, a 10% discount in the gift shop and online sales, and advance notice to special events and exhibits.

Senior \$35.00

Benefits: Member card, unlimited free museum admission for family members 1 year, a 10% discount in the gift shop and online sales, and advance notice to special events and exhibits.

Senior \$65.00

Benefits: Member card, free family entry life of donor, 20% discount on all merchandise, newsletter, advance notice of special events and exhibits, PERMANENT RECOGNITION on beautiful plaque displayed in the TWA Museum.

Founders Club-\$2,500.00

If you would like to make a donation through this newsletter, please fill out the following form and mail it to the volunteers at:

TWA Museum
10 Richards Road, Suite 110
Kansas City, Missouri 64116

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ \$750 _____ \$1000 _____ Other _____