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Sikorsky Archives News

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Igor I. Sikorsky
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Sikorsky Archives News

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Bridgeport Honors Corsair Veterans



Igor I. Sikorsky
Historical Archives Inc.

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July 2005

To mark the sixtieth anniversary of the end of WWII a “Corsairs over Connecticut” special event was held at Bridgeport Airport CT. on June 3, 4 and 5, to honor veterans, and recognise the Vought-Sikorsky Company years 1939 to 1942.

Organizers

Dick Evans, Bob Beckwith, Jerry O’Neill, Marilyn Goldstone (Chairman), Sen. Doc Gunther (Hon. Chair), George Areson, Charlie Kuintzle, Greg Stevens, Ed Buckley, Tom Kelly, Dottie Guman.

Corsairs

F4U-5N, N45NL, BuNo. 124692
Collings Foundation, Stow, MA. Pilot: Rob Collings.

FG-1D, #19, N46RL, BuNo. 92508
The Fighter Factory, Norfolk, VA. Pilot: Dave Morss.

FG-1D, “Marines Dream” NX773RD BuNo. 92433
Tom Duffy, Red Lion, NJ. Pilot: Tom Duffy.

F4U-4, #310, N72378. BuNo. 97388
Gerald Beck, Whapeton, ND, Pilot Gerald Beck.

FG-1D, “Skyboss” N83JC, BuNo. 67089
American Airpower Museum, Farmingdale, NY. Pilots: Jim Vocell, John Peck.

Event Sponsors

Connecticut Air & Space Center, Bayer, Sikorsky Aircraft, United States Postal Service, WellCare, HealthNet, Three Wing Aviation Services, Atlantic Aviation, Private Air, First Image, Byram Healthcare, Advanced Health Professionals, People’s Bank, Barratt Outdoor Communication, AV Davey Audio Visual, AMR, SBC.



Jerry O’Neill



Photos by P. Cris, Mark Caswell, and John Daniell





Panchito is a B-25J. This is the same type of aircraft used by Jimmy Doolittle to raid Tokyo, taking off from "Shangri-La", AKA the carrier "Hornet" on April 18 1942. Built in Kansas in 1944, it had a varied existence until acquired by Larry Kelley (pictured below) and restored by Tom Reilly Vintage Aircraft ("Bombertown") who restored it to original condition finished as "Panchito", a B-25J that served with the 396 Bomb Squadron, 41st Bomb Group, 7th Air Force in the Central Pacific.



P. Cris



Immaculate examples of a North American T-6 (L), and a Beech 18 (R).



Ed Arva and Chris Turco



Kathleen Arva



Bob Brady, Harry Hleva, Joe Keogan & Danny Libertino



Nikolai Sikorsky

Photos by P. Cris except otherwise credited. Nikolai Sikorsky photo by Mark Caswell.

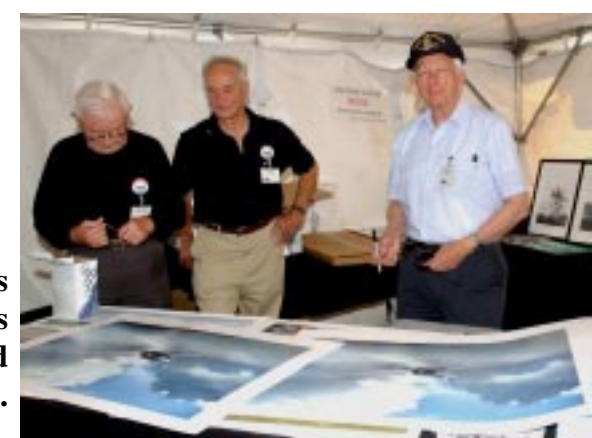


From left: Graham Jones, Graham Jones Jr., Gay Vought Jones, Peter Vought, Igor Sikorsky Jr., Chance Vought, Victoria Vought.



Victoria Vought and Harry Hleva examine a Vought Scrapbook. (J. Daniell photo)

Andy Whyte autographs his Corsair paintings while Harry Hleva and Joe Keogan look on.





*Corsairs over the Bridgeport Sikorsky Plant
June 4 2005
FG-1D, "Skyboss" N83JC. Pilot: Jim Vocell
. F4U-4, #310, N72378. Pilot: Gerald Beck*

Gilles Auliard photo

