

The BFTS Link



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WINTER 2025

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Visit us at:
119 Silent Wings Blvd
Terrell, TX 75160
972.551.1122
www.bftsmuseum.org

Email:
info@bftsmuseum.org

Museum Hours
Wednesday – Saturday
10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Open other times by
appointment.

Holiday Closings:
Monitor our website for
updated closing
information.
www.bftsmuseum.org

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Patrick Hotard

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CASINO NIGHT A MAJOR SUCCESS

An enthusiastic crowd enjoyed casino games, a scrumptious buffet and a variety of refreshments at the BFTS Museum's second annual Monte Carlo Nite fundraiser Sept. 21. Platinum Ford's spacious showroom was the site of the festivities which were enjoyed by the large group of Museum supporters. The evening's prizes included a one hour GBI GameBird aerobatic flight, a 5-day Royal Caribbean cruise, a Brass Lever Action 30-30 Henry Repeating Rifle, an outdoor pizza oven with stand, and a day on a Lake Ray Roberts houseboat for 20 guests as well as golfing and target shooting outings.

Our Platinum and location sponsor was Platinum Ford. Joining the action were Silver Sponsor- Madix, Bronze Sponsors - J. S. Helwig & Son, LLC and CareFlite, and Community Sponsor - Nucor.

The 2025 Monte Carlo Night event is scheduled for September 20, 2025. Please mark your calendar for this important event. See additional images on page three.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

The museum continues to make great strides in areas ranging from collections development to special events. From educational programs to presentations to civic groups located around DFW the board members and staff maintain an upbeat promotional program focused on increasing the public's awareness of the No. 1 BFTS and its role in World War Two. In the museum new items such as the Bass Drug Store soda fountain have been placed on display. We will be incorporating the Boeing Stearman biplane into our 2025 programs. The Stearman, an important wartime artifact, will be regularly used at future events. Make sure to visit our Facebook page to follow the museum's programs and initiatives.

FLYING STEARMAN DELIVERED TO MUSEUM

The BFTS Museum now houses the *Ole 42* flying Stearman aircraft.

Donated by retired Navy aviator Phil Webb in 2023, the plane completed its 2023-34 tour and will now make Terrell its permanent home. Our thanks to Phil Webb for his generosity and support.

Make sure to visit our website and Facebook page for updates on Stearman-centered activities.



WINTER PROGRAMS AT BFTS MUSEUM

On February 20th at 6 PM the museum will present its second public service program. Extension Agent Tommy Phillips (below, left) will make a presentation about spring gardening and will take questions from the program patrons.

On March 27th (6 PM) local bakery owner Kristy Dooley will make a presentation about the British wartime rationing menu item Woolton Pie. Sample tastings are planned. See you there.



The museum is sad to learn of the recent death of former **Cadet Len Miller**, Course 27.



Leonard George Miller, who lived in Hailsham, East Sussex, was one of those cadets who arrived in Terrell when he was only 19. He began Course 27 but VJ-Day came before the course was completed. He remembers

going by bus to Dallas to celebrate the war's end.

The cadets continued to train and he made his solo flight in the Stearman aircraft. Before the school formally closed later in September 1945, he taught himself the cockpit instruments of the Harvard aircraft. Returning to England on the Queen Elizabeth I, he was sent to Basra, Iraq a few months later.

Len was demobilized with the rank of Sergeant in 1948 and began a 37- year career in banking. He retired as a senior executive of the Trust Company within Barclays Bank in 1985. Mr. Miller attended four reunions in Terrell during post-war years, always visiting the cemetery to pay his respects to fallen comrades. He was one of the three cadets visited by BFTS Board Chairman Bill Huthmacher and his wife, Gerrie, late last year. The museum is grateful to have videos of their visit, reminiscing of his days in Terrell. Funeral services were held Dec. 23 at the church in Pevensy, his former hometown. He is survived by his two sons by a previous marriage, Ian and Grant Miller, his current wife Diane and her son Ian Foulkes and his wife Linda.

NOTICE

The BFTS Link Newsletter is now sent via email only. Please make sure the museum has your email address:

***Send your current address to
info@BFTSMuseum.org.***

IMAGES FROM MONTE CARLO (Casino) NIGHT 2024.**JAZZ CONCERT FUNDRAISER AT THE BFTS MUSEUM**

Left: On November 23rd the BFTS Museum hosted a Jazz Concert/fundraiser for the museum. Our thanks to Board Member Gary Weaver for his assistance and sponsorship. The event drew a great crowd, including many patrons who had not visited the museum before that day. The entertainment was provided by the Peter Rioux Trio.

After relocating to the DFW area, Peter Rioux became adjunct professor of music at the University of Texas at Arlington and Tarrant County College, both well-respected jazz programs. He maintains a busy schedule performing around the Metroplex both as a leader and sideman. His trio includes saxophonist Ben Bohorquez, bassist Young Heo and drummer/soloist Brian Harmon.

GIVING NEWS

2025 EVENT SPONSORS as of January 8th:

Platinum Ford
U-Rent-It

2024 EVENT SPONSORS (Thank you for your support!):

Platinum Ford
U-Rent-It
Madix
J. S. Helwig & Son
CareFlite
Nucor
Texas Bank & Trust

**Museum Donors (\$1000):**

William & Charise Bennett
Jay Miller
Tom Killebrew
Paul Finnegan

Museum Donors (\$250 plus):

Oncor Electric Delivery, Texas Lakes Trail Region (grant), Carol Crowe, Brian & Suzanne Dunn, Elaine Sherman, Robert & Marge Dawson, Nancy Barber, Fred & Patricia Pendleton, Cliff's Heating & Air, John & Linda Patton, Marianne Briggs, Danny & Barbara Booth, Col. Charlie Wood

North Texas Giving Day Donors (\$250 plus): U-Rent-It, Brian and Suzanne Dunn, Ruth Howie,

Denis and Diane Rottler, Bill and Gerrie Huthmacher, Barry and Regina Walston

Duncanville Ladies Club—Donation

In-Kind Donations by: Bill & Gerrie Huthmacher, Nancy Pope, George Cozens, Ann Embrey, Beverly Mardis, Gary & Carolyn Stauss, Liz Oliphant.

NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY RESULTS

Thank you to those 39 individuals who donated more than \$6,000 to the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum via the North Texas Giving Day online platform during the month of September. While we didn't reach our very ambitious goal of \$10,000 there were a number of new donors who joined our board of directors, staff and volunteers in sharing our mission.

Thank you for your generosity that allows us to continue honoring the British and American pilots who trained in Terrell, educating all ages and nationalities about the long cooperation between the British Commonwealth and America in both war and peace and honoring the strong bonds of friendship formed between the cadets and the residents of Terrell and the North Texas area. Please join us for our educational programs and events in support of that mission. Again, THANK YOU!

If you need more information, please reach out to the museum by calling 972-551-1122 or via email at info@bftsmuseum.org.

OCTOBER PROGRAM AND SOME INTERESTING GUESTS



Left: Pilot and BFTS Museum board member Denis Rottler presented an educational program to the public in October. The program discussed Experimental Airplane construction/operation. Mr. Rottler built a *Vans RV-9A* during Covid from a kit. The experimental aircraft he owns can hold two (2) people including the pilot.

An excellent crowd asked a number of insightful questions and had the opportunity to view the airplane (parked just outside the museum door.) Mr. Rottler was also kind enough to exhibit the airplane to the Poetry Christian School students who toured the museum in December.

Below: CareFlite flight nurse Alex Baker toured the museum this fall. CareFlite is now located at the Terrell Airport and we are honored to have this respected institution as our neighbor. We especially appreciated their sponsorship of Casino Night last fall.



Above: Members of the Edgington family visited the BFTS this October. Sally Edgington, daughter of cadet David Coppard toured the museum with her daughter (far left) Jodie Coombes and her grand-daughter Olivia Coombes (pictured right). Always great to see cadet families tour the museum.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

The BFTS Museum has a great parent-child project, a wonderful Saturday afternoon activity while at home with kids or grandchildren.

For sale in the gift shop is the *In Air E-Z Build* scale model kit. These plastic models (1:72 scale) are snapped together with the assistance of a few screws/pins (glue is optional). Featured models available this winter are the American P-40 Warhawk and Japanese Zero. Costs: \$15.00 per kit. *If you buy the "Dogfight Special" you get one (1) P-40 and one (1) Zero for \$25.00!*





Above: While in Washington DC to attend the Royal Air Force Museum American Foundation meeting, BFTS Board Chairman Bill Huthmacher, center, met at the British Embassy with Wing Commander Paul Butler, left, and Air Commodore Nikki Thomas, right. Also participating in the meeting was Carla Rutherford, Digital and Communications Officer.

PRESTIGIOUS AWARD TO BOARD CHAIRMAN

Board Chairman Bill Huthmacher has been awarded the British Empire Medal by King Charles III. The British Empire Medal is awarded by His Majesty The King to individuals for achievement or contribution of a very "hands-on" service to the community in a local geographical area. This might take the form of sustained commitment in support of very local charitable and/or voluntary work that has delivered real impact but that is relatively short (three to four years) in duration. Bill was presented (below) with a legislative resolution congratulating him on this wonderful honor. Senator Bob Hall (right) and Noah Yeldell of Rep. Keith Bell's office presented Bill with the resolution last fall.



Upcoming Events

Monitor the website at www.bftsmuseum.org and follow our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/No1BFTS for event [schedule updates and changes](#).

1-16-2025

***Conversations With...* Special Event**

Tickets: \$30.00/person - Luncheon @ 12 noon

Speaker: John "Lucky" Luckadoo

B-17 Pilot and WW II Veteran

SOLD OUT

2-8-2025

Free Continental Breakfast for Veterans

9 —10:30 AM

2-20-2025

Public Service Program 6 PM

Speaker: Tommy Phillips, Extension Agent

Topic: Spring Planting in NE Texas

Thanks to Kaufman Co. Master Gardeners & Terrell Garden Club.

Door prizes provided by Tractor Supply.

3-8-2025

Free Continental Breakfast for Veterans

9 —10:30 AM

3-27-2025

Educational Program 6 PM

Speaker: Kristy Dooley, Whisked Away Bakery

Topic: Food Rationing in WW II—Woolton Pie

Sample Tasting while supply lasts

Additional comments by Director Pat Hotard

3-29-2025

Robotics Club, Terrell High School

Demonstration

Time: TBD

4-10-2025

Educational Program

Speaker: Jason Schwebach, CEO, CareFlite & veteran

Topic: Experiences in Mogadishu, 1993 (BLACK HAWK DOWN)

Time: 7 PM

4-12-2025

Free Continental Breakfast for Veterans

9 —10:30 AM

All events, unless otherwise stated, will be held at the BFTS Museum at 119 Silent Wings Blvd in Terrell, Texas.

POETRY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STUDENTS VISIT BFTS



Left: Executive Director Patrick Hotard (far left) is pictured with a student group from Poetry Christian Academy. The group, accompanied by parents and school founder Dr. Anne Huron, toured the museum in December.

In November, Ian Foulkes (museum supporter and child of cadet Len Miller) took the time to make a presentation about code breaking and cryptography during World War Two at the school. He spoke to a large gathering of the student body and fielded a substantial number in questions.

GROUP TOURS AT THE MUSEUM

Right: Amberlin Book Club toured the museum on October 12th. Lorraine Heath's *Girls of Flight City* is an inspiration to many Texas book clubs that book tours at the BFTS Museum.



Left: Volunteer docent Hugh Fraser leads members of the St. Andrews Methodist Church (Dallas) Book Club on a tour of the museum in October. We always enjoy having the regional book clubs tour the museum.



PRESENTATIONS BY DIRECTOR IN DUNCANVILLE AND TERRELL



Left: Picture of a large gathering of the Duncanville Women's Club on November 6th. Executive Director Patrick Hotard made a presentation to the group and the club made a generous donation to the museum.

Right: Director Hotard also made a recent presentation to the American Legion Post in Terrell. It was an honor to speak to our local veterans about the museum.



The BFTS Link

Winter 2025

Yes, I want to support the No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum!

Donor Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Individual (\$45) _____ Individual-Senior (\$25) _____ Family (\$80) _____

Cadet Member (\$250) _____ Flying Officer Member (\$500) _____

Squadron Leader Member (\$1,000) _____ Air Marshall Member (\$2,500) _____

Static Aircraft Display Member (\$5,000) Other (\$ _____) _____

☐ Visa	☐ Mastercard	☐ Discover	☐ American Express
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Card Number _____

Expiration _____ Security Code _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Address, City, State, Zip (if different from above) _____

_____ My gift qualifies for a matching gift by my employer.

_____ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.



NO. 1 BRITISH FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL MUSEUM

GREETING FROM TERRELL, TX!

This newsletter is also available on our website

Visit us at www.bftsmuseum.org/news

No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum Inc.
PO Box 219
Terrell, TX 75160