

## **UPDATE # 104 - "CITY OF SAVANNAH"**

### **B-17 Restoration**

**August 19, 2011**

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The last two weeks have been fairly quiet in the shop area of the Museum, but that does not mean that the Dog Days of August stopped all activity on the *City of Savannah* project.

The most visible event occurred on Tuesday, August 15, when we had the honor of a visit from one of our most ardent corporate supporters, LMI Corporation's President and CEO, Ron Saks. Ron was accompanied by members of LMI's senior Savannah staff, and manufacturing staff from both the Savannah and South Carolina facilities. The manufacturing professionals were on hand to view the materials they had created as they appear on the airplane. Ron and the entire contingent were given up close and personal tours of the airplane, inside and out.

Project Manager Jerry McLaughlin led the tour of the airplane – including inspections of the control surfaces and the cheek gun blister that had been manufactured by LMI. Following the tour, Museum CEO Henry Skipper thanked Ron for all that LMI has done, and continues to do, for our project. Henry mentioned the special efforts of Dave Pinegar, our super volunteer and an LMI engineer at the Savannah facility. Henry stated to the group that all of LMI's major contributions to the project can be credited to Dave's initiative, Ron's corporate policy of commitment to community efforts, and the hands-on skills of many LMI employees.

As a token of the Mighty Eighth's appreciation for the efforts of everyone from LMI, Henry presented Ron with a framed print of the Mighty Eighth's logo of a WWII 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force gunner, entitled "The Crewman". The original painting, which hangs in the Museum, was painted by famed WWII aviation artist Gil Cohen. Mr. Cohen had signed the print and included a note of appreciation for LMI's efforts on behalf of the Mighty Eighth.

After the tour and presentation of the print the entire group gathered in pub, where "Miss Sophie's" staff presented a wonderful dinner for everyone, made possible by Ron Saks as a "thank you" to all of his employees who have committed so much effort to assist both the Museum and the LMI corporate policy of community involvement.



**CEO Ron Saks (holding picture) with LMI employees**



**L to R: Dave Pinegar, Jerry McLaughlin, Ron Saks, Henry Skipper**

Work continues on the airplane by all three crews. Rocky Rodriguez and his Saturday gang are doing things with electricity that will eventually end of with “*City Lights*” all over the Combat Gallery. The Wednesday night Heavy Metal crowd are moving ahead of schedule on the tail turret, and the Wednesday Day group of proud retirees finished a crash effort in constructing two full sets of bail out bottle holders – enough for both our airplane and our good friends down at Barksdale AFB.

More to come . . .