

**UPDATE # 84 - "CITY OF SAVANNAH"**  
**B-17 Restoration**  
**January 21, 2011**

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The "*City of Savannah*" project hit the trifecta this past weekend as we ended Garcia Week II with the arrival of Dr. Harry Friedman, who delivered a van full of toys for the airplane, and the second annual dinner presented by the Museum in honor of the B-17 project volunteers. All of this happened on January 15<sup>th</sup>, the second anniversary of the arrival of B-17G 44-83814 at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in 2009.

The dinner was attended by almost one hundred volunteers, spouses and significant others. There were six honored guests in attendance: Tommy Garcia, the good Dr. Friedman, our famous nose artist, and Mighty Eighth B-24 pilot, Skip Shelton, and the Gulfstream "artists" who painted the inside of the airplane this year, Tony Hall, his son Terry, and Frank Quirk.



**Left to right: Jerry McLaughlin, Karen Garcia, Tommy Garcia,  
Dr. Harry Friedman, Henry Skipper**

Each volunteer who had worked on the project for the majority of the year received a bound copy of all of the 2010 Updates and a letter of thanks from the Museum CEO, Henry Skipper.

The keynote speaker for the evening was another WWII B-24 pilot, Paul Grasse. (Paul and Skip graduated from flight school in 1944 - two classes apart. Both were 19 years old.) Paul gave a talk on the subject of Character Counts!® - a Mighty Eighth sponsored program that he normally presents to young people in the Savannah area. Paul described the lives of five of his high school friends from New Jersey who, like himself, had to begin life after high school by participating in World War II, and how that experience affected them and the lives they led after they came home from the war.

After an excellent dinner the “*City of Savannah*” Project Manager, Jerry McLaughlin, spoke to the group and outlined the highlights and accomplishments of the volunteers during the past twelve months. He thanked all of the honored guests for their special contributions and discussed plans for 2011. He also mentioned that 21 volunteers had contributed over 100 hours to the project this year, and that the total number of volunteer hours for 2010 was 5,785, with a total of 9,176 hours for the 24 months the project has been underway. When Jerry was done with his remarks he was surprised by Henry, who presented him with a special gift from the Museum for his hard work and leadership - a brand new A-2 Bomber Jacket with a project patch. After some closing remarks by Henry the week was finally ended, and a fine time was had by all.



Prior to the Saturday night dinner it had been a very hectic week, as is usually the case when Tommy Garcia visits the Museum. (This time Tommy actually took a day off! He was traveling with adult supervision on this trip, and he and his wife Karen toured Savannah on Friday to give the volunteers some time to catch their breath.) During this visit Tommy devoted most of his time to working with the three crews. He spent hours with each crew, advising them on the specific chores they are working on since the transition from preparing the aircraft for restoration to actually working on the restoration itself.



**Dr. Friedman and Tommy Garcia with Saturday's crew**

Harry's arrival at the Museum on Saturday was very special. He had filled his van with B-17 parts that he had accumulated over the years, and that he had noted were on our "wish list" that was distributed at the B-17 Co-Op meeting last summer. The gifts that he presented to the Museum as a donation would have cost the project thousands of dollars to purchase on the restoration market. Harry will be recognized as yet another wonderful benefactor that has surfaced and made a major contribution to our efforts. Hats off for Harry!!!

Yes, it was a great week at the Mighty Eighth, and there is ....*more to come!!!*