

UPDATE # 70 - "CITY OF SAVANNAH"

B-17 Restoration
September 16, 2010

This week was a busy one for the "*City of Savannah*" volunteers as final detail work was assigned to all three crews in preparation for next week's painting of the aircraft interior. Two special highlights that need to be reported this week are a very special gift presented to the project by Flight Safety Corporation and the All Hands pizza and beer dinner that was held on Wednesday night.

Flight Safety provides a good portion of the project volunteers who work on the "*City of Savannah*", including two of our three crew chiefs, Bill Liening and Rocky Rodriguez. Apparently the stories of the restoration of the "*City*" have made a good impression on senior management at the company. A contingent of twelve Flight Safety employees, including Bill and Rocky, visited the Museum on Thursday and presented Museum CEO Henry Skipper with a gift of a 28 volt, 50 amp, power supply unit that will be needed to supply electricity for the radios, lights, bomb bay doors and several turrets on our B-17. This totally unexpected gift is yet another example of how our volunteers have brought local corporations into the restoration process. Well done Rocky and Bill.



Flight Safety International donating the power supply unit to the Museum

The All Hands event had a great turnout of over 30 volunteers. While eating their pizza the group watched a rolling slide show of "Garcia Week" prepared by Richard Moscatiello, featuring pictures taken by several of the volunteers depicting events, beginning with Tommy's arrival and ending at the lunch in his honor the day he left – most of the photographs were taken in the shop area where the carpentry work took place. When the pizza was consumed the group heard from Henry Skipper, who thanked everyone for the

extraordinarily hard work that has gone into the project during the last few months. Deputy Project Manager, Jim Grismer, who supervised the carpentry work, also thanked the group for a superb effort and mentioned several other issues related to the project, to include the fact that all “*City of Savannah*” volunteers are also on the books as Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum volunteers and should avail themselves of some of the benefits that come with that title – to include a very popular luncheon which will take place on October 27. Jim also spoke about his second project, overseeing the recent completion of the 1941 Hunter Field crash truck restoration by the Ft. Stewart vehicle maintenance shop. This project was championed by one of our own, “General Jeff” Phillips of the Saturday crew. Jeff made sure that a project that could have taken years was accomplished in only weeks. The fire truck will soon be returned to the Mighty Eighth and will be included in the upcoming dedication of the Savannah World War II memorial and this year’s Savannah Veterans Day parade. The final speaker of the night, Project Manager Jerry McLaughlin, told several stories of “Garcia Week” that will be part of “*City of Savannah*” history and then outlined what he depicted as an “80 percent accurate” estimate of what can be expected to happen with the project over the next 6-8 months.

When Jerry was finished speaking, he and Henry took questions from the group. One of the main points that came out of this discussion was how proud the management of the Museum and the project itself are of the volunteers on the “*City of Savannah*” team. Henry and Jerry both mentioned not only the hard work on the part of individuals that is so evident every week, but the technical expertise, and what they consider most important, the spirit of cooperation and mission within the group.

The only error in the evening’s program was that it wasn’t until many of the volunteers had departed for home that it was realized no picture had been taken of the group. The picture below depicts those who were left in the building when a camera was finally found.



More to come . . .