

UPDATE # 109

There was a lot of activity with the “City of Savannah” inside the museum this week, but the most exciting action took place several miles away with the visit to Savannah of the B-17’s “Yankee Lady” and “909”, as well as the B-24 “Witchcraft”. All three aircraft were in Savannah as part of the reunion activities for the 486th and 487th Bomb Groups at the Mighty Eighth.

As mentioned previously, Gil Patrick won the lottery for a free flight on the “Yankee Lady”. Gil’s luck got even better when he got in line for his flight. It turned out there was an empty seat on that flight, and our good friend Norm Ellickson, the Crew Chief for the “Yankee Lady”, realized that Gil’s son, Justin, who is also a “City of Savannah” volunteer, was waiting to take pictures of his dad. Norm sent Justin out to the airplane and the Patrick’s had a wonderful father/son experience flying together in the B-17.



Justin and Gil Patrick in the radio compartment of the “Yankee Lady”

The folks on the “Yankee Lady” were helpful with technical questions from our group, and gave the “City of Savannah” volunteers total access to their aircraft so that pictures and measurements could be obtained to help with our work.

Crew members from both the “Yankee Lady” and the Collings Foundation aircraft (“909” and “Witchcraft”) came over to visit the museum and check out the “City of Savannah” during the rainy morning on Saturday. They quickly returned to the airport as the weather improved – providing rides to the public for the remainder of Saturday and on Sunday.

Sunday afternoon one more of our volunteers, Bill Burkel, caught a break when he arrived at the airport to take pictures of the WWII bombers and another empty seat turned up on the “Yankee Lady”. Again, a “City of Savannah” volunteer got a free ride.



Bill Burkel's picture of the WWII bombers on the ramp at Savannah International.

More to come...