

A.M.H.F.

**Dedicated to preserving, in flying condition, a vintage PV-2
Harpoon in memory of all who fought in the air on behalf of
the United States of America**

News Letter November 2015



Greetings to members & friends of the AMHF,

“If you're going to go through hell ... I suggest you come back learning something.”

*Drew Barrymore,
actress*

November is now upon us and no doubt we can almost taste the turkey, dressing, baked sweet potatoes, pumpkin pie, and many other dishes loaded with more calories than we need. I would hope that most of us will also take time to be thankful on that day.

Ok, enough said. We are still working on installing tanks as weather permits. We have faced many ups and downs on this project and on some days it seems like more downs than ups. We ended up having to pull one tank back out and return it to the manufacturer for a rework. They installed the bolt ring for the hatch cover 180 degrees out so the hatch was not clocked right for installation.

Naturally this was not noticeable until we were ready to put the hatch on. However, all of the tanks are now at MQJ and awaiting installation. All that is needed is for the weather to work in our favor a few days and man power to finish the job. When we start on the outboard tanks we are going to need extra help. Those of you who have been involved in this before realize the number of screws to come out and reinstall. The top stress panels come off and the leading edge so we can easily use six to eight people working on this. Knowing we have to get it open, install as many tanks as possible and close it up before we can leave. So **please!** Let us know what days you could help with this project so we can plan our work days and get it finished. Note, all of last month's job listings are unfilled.

We had a meeting with the people from Hancock County (HCCF) on the grant we had applied for. They were pleased with the progress we had made from their last grant. We were able to show them drawings of the proposed hanger and museum along with information on how the AMHF was moving forward with all of the projects we have in the works. The down side of all of this is they have somewhere around seventy thousand to give out and have received request for around \$250,000. So, there will be many requests that go unfilled. We should know by the end of November if we were successful or not.

We also have an upcoming meeting with Indianapolis Airport Authority along with the consultants on the location of our potential hanger and if they are satisfied with the plans and the way we are proceeding.

We also celebrate Veterans Day this month. So I would ask if you meet a soldier or a veteran smile and thank them for their service. You might even pick up a restaurant ticket for one if you should see them out eating. After all it is our soldiers, all branches, who are on the front line keeping us safe.

Enjoy the season and think of all the things you have to be thankful for. I have attached a poem/story regarding our veterans. I have found it listed as author unknown and also credited to someone. So take your pick.

Have a great Thanksgiving,
Gaylon

A Veteran Died Today

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,
and he sat around the Legion telling stories of the past.
Of the war he had fought in and the deeds that he had done.
In his exploits with his buddies they were heroes, everyone.
And 'tho sometimes, to his neighbors, his tales became a joke,
all his buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer, for ol' Bob has passed away,
and the world's a little poorer for a *veteran* died today.

No, he won't be mourned by many, just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary, very quiet sort of life. He held a job and
raised a family, quietly going on his way; and the world
won't note his passing, 'tho a *veteran* died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,
while thousands note their passing and proclaim they were
great. Papers tell their life stories, from the time they
were young, but the passing of a *veteran* goes unnoticed and
unsung. Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land
some jerk who breaks his promise and cons his fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow, who in times of war and strife, goes
off to serve his country and offers up his life?

The politician's stipend and the style in which he lives
are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives.
While the ordinary *veteran*, who has offered up his all,
is paid off with a medal and perhaps a pension, small.
It's so easy to forget them, for it is so long ago, that our Bobs
and Jims and Johnnys went to battle, but we know. It
was not the politicians and their compromises and ploys,
who won for us the freedom that our country now enjoys.
Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,
would you really want some cop-out, with his ever-waffling stand?
Or, would you want a *veteran*, who has sworn to defend his home,
his kin and country, and would fight until the end?

He was just a common *veteran* and his ranks are growing thin,
but his presence should remind us we may need his likes again.
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the military's
part is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,
then at least let's give him homage, at the ending of his days.
Perhaps just a simple headline in the paper that might say
Our country is in mourning, for a veteran died today.