

# “READY ROOM”

## Special Edition

October 15, 2023



*Our Mission is to increase the awareness of aviation through the flight of historic aircraft, while supporting the Anna Shaw Children's Institute.*



Members and Friends,

This special edition is dedicated to our friend and co-volunteer, Peter O'Hare.

For those that never met Peter “Wheeler” O'Hare, he was one of the museum's founders, a volunteer pilot, and the volunteer event coordinator, oftentimes the “face” of the museum, while other times pushing in the background and sooooo much more.

While many of us have had the opportunity to say our goodbyes and share our condolences, we understand that others were not able to participate in the gathering in Hixson, Tennessee, attend the interment at Arlington National Cemetery, or share their memories of this man who had such an impact on the personal lives of individuals and also a — larger than life — force behind the Museum of Flight.

Pete joins a growing list of men and women that have ‘gone west.’ They are forever in our thoughts as we move forward at the museum.

Fair winds and following seas until we meet again.

*Rebecca McAllister*

Becky McAllister  
Communications, MOF

“Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling  
mirth  
of sun-split clouds,—and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of—wheeled and soared  
and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air...  
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy  
grace  
Where never lark nor ever eagle flew—  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.”  
- John Gillespie Magee, Jr.



**In Memory of  
Peter O'Hare**

Pete O'Hare Memorial donations will help support his vision for the future of the MOF and beyond. "In Memory of Pete," donations can be made at: <http://bit.ly/MOFdonation>



<https://mofts.org>



[Facebook](#)



[YouTube](#)

The inside aviation, military memorabilia and outdoor displays are open 10-4 (Tues-Sat) at the Paulding County Airport.

**Paulding Co. Airport**  
730 Airport Parkway  
Dallas, GA 30157

Tours of our flying aircraft in Rome (Richard B. Russell Airport) by appointment only. [\(423\) 228-2FLY](tel:4232282FLY).

**Rome Hangar**  
304 Russell Field Rd NE,  
Rome, GA 30165

**New Office Address**  
7022 Shallowford Rd.  
Suite 1 #146  
Chattanooga, TN 37421



Mascot: *Quimby*



## My Friend, Pete

By MOF Board President, Doug Woodruff

I'll never forget the first dinner together almost 20 years ago. We sat across from each other in a booth at Carrabba's Restaurant with our wives chatting away about hospital business (Pete's wife, Susan, was the Vice President of Children's Hospital at Erlanger and my wife, Terri, the Director of the Neonatal ICU at Children's Hospital at Erlanger). Our connection was through our wives and though we had spoken casually on a few prior occasions this was our first conversation of any depth. I had heard from Terri that he was a Marine and so asked about his military service. Among other things, he described a humanitarian aid deployment to Indonesia which had been struck hard by a tsunami in 2004 with more than 200,000 fatalities. As part of the overall US response a Marine Expeditionary Force had been deployed with Pete highly placed in the command structure. My background had not prepared me to appreciate how large a Marine Expeditionary Force was nor did I then, even slightly, understand how rare and highly placed a CW05 such as Pete was. "How big was this Marine Expeditionary Force," I asked innocently, thinking to myself "maybe a few hundred?" "Oh, about 13,000," was his deadpan reply. Little did I know as I picked my jaw up off the floor and reassessed the man before me that this was merely the first of countless times Pete would amaze me with his capabilities and the breadth of his knowledge and influence as our friendship deepened over the years.

I learned of his love of flying, his love of anything that flew, and his selfless dedication to nurturing the growth of aviation in every form. His excitement at the smallest of things, like being able to take a group of paratroopers up in the C-45 or facilitating a small child's fascination with airplanes was infectious. He was generous and caring and never too busy to stoop his tall frame down to the level of a child so he could chat eye to eye with the little tyke.

I learned of his love of life – not just living life as any other "normal" human being might but living life to the absolute fullest while pushing every envelope possible and, even then, continually challenging himself to do more. There was never an event that wasn't covered, never a potential Museum member that wasn't recruited, and NEVER a friend who wasn't supported.

I learned of his love of excellence. It was never enough to simply complete a task. Excellence was to be diligently sought at every opportunity. This was true of skills such as flying (of course!) or marksmanship, but equally so for health and wellness. Even up to the accident which ultimately claimed his life he was active, worked out regularly, and was strong, trim, and physically fit.

I learned that Pete was a born leader. Some leaders use their power to coerce obedience, but Pete inspired and led by example, sometimes literally shaming you into undertaking a needed task by starting it himself....you do tend to feel a little sheepish if your leader has grease on his hands and you don't!

I learned that Pete possessed a unique ability to make things happen. There was a reason his call sign was "Wheeler." (*continued the next page*)

## My Friend, Pete (continued)

I learned of Pete’s vision of an organization which could restore and fly vintage military aircraft. This vision, which began in a small hanger at a little airport in Hixson, TN, grew into what we know today as our Flight Museum.

This amazing organization flies multiple aircraft, has countless unique and historically significant static displays, educates thousands of children and their families, about aviation and military history, supports the Anna Shaw Children’s Institute with fund-raising, and preserves priceless stories and artifacts for future generations. Our beloved Flight Museum has, I submit, surpassed even Pete’s wildest dreams! While it is true that it would never have happened without him, we should not be tempted to take our foot off the gas now that Pete is no longer with us for he would want us to venture on and achieve EVEN MORE than we have, thus continuing to honor his memory of excellence.



I learned that Pete loved family, friends, and comrades, and had absolute loyalty to those in his circle.

As we laid him to rest beside countless comrades at Arlington and the bugled notes of “Taps” faded across the hillside the void in my heart deepened and the list of those very few to whom I would trust my life grew smaller.

RIP, my old friend. Fair winds and following seas, Marine!



Photo by Andy Butler

**Peter Eric O'Hare**

November 1, 1959 – June 13, 2023

[Click to view his obituary and feel free  
leave a message for the family.](#)

# Arlington

By Peyton Dehart

I know it’s coming.

I have seen the rifle detail standing at the position of Parade Rest, some number of yards away; as steady as the headstones that stretch in straight lines that arc over hills until disappearing from view in the distance.

The Marines wait for the right part of the interment service to come to Attention, then Port Arms, then Half-Right face (forty-five degrees off forward), shoulder their rifles to elevated firing position and on the command “Fire,” in unison pull the triggers.

They stand too far away for us to hear the voice commands that synchronize their movements. They stand too far away for us to see muzzle flash and hear the crack of the gunpowder burning in the “blank” shell casing at the same time. The report reaches us when the speed of sound allows.



Photo by Andy Butler

I know it’s coming, yet when the sound hits, it causes me to flinch anyway.

Standing on mown grass at Arlington National Cemetery on Wednesday, 20 September 2023, with a number of folks who traveled great distances to honor Pete O’Hare on the occasion of his joining heroes resting in the rolling hills, we had witnessed the orchestration and pageantry of the Marine Drill Team and Band of 8th & I march a Company into position, bear the casket from hearse to a spot of earth in front of



chairs, heard words from the Navy Chaplain, listened to the band play the Marine’s Hymn (From The Halls Of Montezuma) and the Navy Hymn (Eternal Father Strong to Save), flinched at the snap of the three volleys of rifle salute, heard the lone bugle sound out “Taps.”

Then it was over. The casket on the grass, to be interred later in the day, shone under the clear skies and the airliners taking off from nearby Reagan National Airport provided, and will continue to provide in future, a constant stream of flyovers that befit Pete’s aviation background.

# Arlington National Cemetary Video

20th September 2023 CW05 Pete "Wheeler" O'Hare's interment service at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington D.C. He received full military honors. Semper Fi

If it doesn't open properly, you can [view on Youtube](#).



## A Few Photos by Andy Butler

Additional images at <https://butler.shootproof.com>



*(Continued on next page)*



A Few Photos by Andy Butler (Continued)





## LIFETIME MEMBERS

Fred Amicangioli  
 David Ball  
 Shawn Barber  
 Paul Barnett  
 George Barron  
 Jeanne & Tony Bass  
 Wain Bates  
 James Beaver  
 Jason Beaver  
 Brayden Becker  
 Ray Bell  
 Ernie & Nancy Betancourt  
 David Biloz & Family  
 Jason Bostic  
 Mark & Sam Brereton  
 James Brown  
 Andy Butler  
 Ed Callahan  
 Thomas Calvanelli  
 Danny Camp  
 Anthony Carson  
 Phil Cataldo  
 Dr. Donald H. Chamberlin  
 Keith Clingan  
 Nancy Coddington  
 Brendon Connor  
 Easy Cragg  
 Richard Dean  
 Erich DeHart  
 Logan DeHart  
 Peyton Dehart  
 Ron Dobbs  
 Scott Ducker  
 Thomas & Barbara Ducker  
 Mike Ellis

Vance Engle  
 Gil Espy  
 Jesse Evans  
 Rick Ferrin  
 Matt Fox  
 Frank Fry  
 Benjamin Gillam  
 Richard Gonzalez  
 James Greene  
 Richard Hafner  
 William Hall  
 Carson Hawkins  
 Evan Henley  
 Robert & Cindy Henninger  
 Tim Herren  
 Mark Homen  
 James Howard  
 Jarid Ison  
 Dave Johnston  
 Christopher Keefe  
 Carrol "Chip" Lamb  
 David Lawson  
 Greg and Jennifer Leach  
 Anne Lewinson  
 Christine M. Lewis  
 John Luttrell  
 Arthur Matthews  
 Kent Matthews  
 Pamela McAllister  
 Rebecca & Sean McAllister  
 Joel Megginson  
 Russell & Leigh Ann Miller  
 Spencer Morgan  
 Scott Murray  
 Tony Neal

Jeffrey Newcomb  
 Susan, Hanna & Savannah O'Hare  
 John Osterhage  
 Julie Anne Owens  
 Clarence Greer Parramore  
 Edward Perman  
 Susan Reed  
 Ben Rees  
 Hollis Reese  
 Tim Rhyne  
 Gerad Riester  
 Rob Riester  
 Brant Robinson  
 Karl Schwelm  
 Peter Serodino  
 Dr. Daniel Serrato  
 Don Shepard  
 Harold Slep  
 Woodrow Smith  
 Sol Snyder  
 Cooper Stewart  
 Tim Stoker  
 John Sullivan  
 Kenny Thomas  
 Kerry Tidmore  
 Stratton Tingle  
 Jorge Verdias  
 Wayne Vick  
 Alan Ware  
 Kim Watkins  
 Gary Watson  
 John Webb  
 David Wells  
 Brent Westfall  
 Doug & Terri Woodruff

## Gone West

Voron Baughan  
 Darrell Baxter  
 Joan Beaver  
 Lloyd Blackwell  
 Dr. Gary Caldwell  
 Ronnie Cox  
 Dr. James Creel

Frank Davey  
 Jimmy Eskew  
 Deming Gray  
 Mark McAllister  
 Grady McDowell  
 Patricia O'Hare  
 Peter O'Hare  
 Lois and Richard Robinson

Conrad Schalk  
 Martha Shook  
 John Shook  
 Jasmine Sommer  
 Bill Wallace  
 Sylvia Wygoda  
 James Youngblood