

Museum



*This is a bimonthly column about the 1940 Air Terminal Museum, a 2008 addition to the list of AIAA Historic Aerospace Sites. The museum is restored and operated by the non-profit Houston Aeronautical Heritage Society.*

[1940 Air Terminal Museum](#)  
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# 1940 Air Terminal Museum at Hobby Airport An AIAA Historic Aerospace Site

DOUGLAS YAZELL, EDITOR

We have sad news to report. Captain A.J. High, one of the leaders of the museum volunteers, died recently. The Houston Chronicle [mentioned](#) his passing with great respect. Captain High died April 3, 2013, just short of his 90th birthday.

I first got to know A.J. when he spoke to our AIAA visitors on a Saturday lunch visit to the museum, a Wings & Wheels event. I later learned from his memoir, *Meant to Fly*, that the initials A.J. stood for nothing, just "A.J.!" As I recall from the book, when he joined the military, someone got angry at him during the sign-up phase, thinking A.J. was joking about his name. That name almost kept him out of the military.

The museum web site presents an amazing Houston aviation [timeline](#) from 1900 to 2000. I am guessing Captain High wrote all or most of it. I used that timeline for most of the nomination report when the museum was successfully nominated as an AIAA Historic Aerospace Site. (Chester Vaughan helped greatly with the review phase for that nomination report. Drew Coats suggested to me that we nominate the museum for that honor.)

One of the museum displays is devoted to Captain High. He

generously donated family photographs, his Captain's wings and other items.

Horizons reviewed High's memoir starting on page 30 of our April 2009 [issue](#).

## Wings & Wheels

The third Saturday of most months is reserved for this great lunchtime-centered activity. For about \$7 for adults, it is a bargain visit with aircraft out back and cars or motorcycles our front. The museum itself is quite a visit, too! Lunch is usually available from the gourmet truck Flaming Patties.

**Saturday, March 16, 2013**

## Red Tails Exhibit!

"We had beautiful weather for this month's Wings &

Wheels, as well as all week for the Red Tails exhibit. This month, the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Red Tail Squadron hosted visitors at its RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit. Also joining the exhibit on Saturday CAF Gulf Coast Wing's B-17 "Texas Raiders", along with a P-51, B-25, and P-40 from the **Texas Flying Legends Museum**

"We also had two planes from the **Vietnam War Flight Museum**, a Skyraider, as well as a T-34.

"The B-17 sold rides and had two flights in the afternoon."

*Image credits: Museum web site. Art credit: Jonathan Frank: book cover art for memoir, "Meant to Fly."*



## Warbirds on the Ramp!

**Plane Spotters!**  
[HoustonSpotters.net](#) and Blair McFarlain organized a group that could cross the runway with cameras in March 2013. Thanks to Kevin of Hobby Operations!