

# AVIATOR

PUBLISHED BY THE MUSEUM OF AVIATION FOUNDATION AT RAFB, GA.

**Semi-Monthly News & Updates**

December 2025

## A YEAR OF LEGACY, COMMUNITY, AND LOOKING AHEAD



As we close the chapter on 2025, we find ourselves reflecting on just how much this year held. Not just in events and milestones, but in moments. Moments of community gathering. Moments of curiosity sparked. Moments where legacy met the next generation.

This year reminded us why the Museum of Aviation exists in the first place. To Preserve, Inspire, and Educate, PIE, the mission that is brought to life through people, programs, and purpose.

From the energy and determination of runners at our Marathon, to the thoughtful conversations sparked during the National Security Forum, we saw our campus become a place where history and modern relevance met in meaningful ways. Family Aviation Day filled our grounds with laughter and wide-eyed wonder, while the Scott Golf Tournament brought supporters together in fellowship and generosity.

One particularly powerful moment this year centered on the HH-60G Pave Hawk "Pedro 23" and the brave Airmen who flew combat rescue missions across the globe. Through firsthand accounts from the 920th Rescue Wing, visitors were able to hear the gripping story behind a 2011 mission in Afghanistan. It was a reminder of the courage, sacrifice, and split-second decisions that define combat rescue. These stories brought modern military aviation history to life in a deeply personal way, honoring those who answer the call when lives are on the line. Through the leadership and direction of Museum Director Ken Emery, this story was thoughtfully brought to life as part of his ongoing stewardship of the Museum's aircraft, exhibits, and artifacts.

Our signature events, including the Auction, Raffle and Taste of Local Cuisine, the National STEM Academy Benefit, and the Festival of Trees, were more than fundraisers. They brought our community together in powerful ways, turning shared experiences into lasting impact and helping fuel the Museum's mission throughout the year.

At the heart of it all is education. Throughout 2025, the National STEM Academy expanded its reach through hands-on STEM Labs, engaging Summer Camps, and innovative learning experiences that served both students and teachers. Together, they explored, experimented, and imagined what could. These programs reached learners across the Middle Georgia region and beyond, strengthening the connection between classroom learning and real-world application.

This year also marked the early stages of our GEAR Lab (Georgia Engineering, AI, and Robotics), with renovations underway and plans taking shape for a space that will soon serve students, educators, and the broader community. The Lab represents our continued commitment to blending aviation heritage with emerging technology and preparing learners for what lies ahead.

"Everything we accomplished in 2025 was made possible by a community that believes deeply in this mission," said Dan Rhoades, President/CEO of the Museum of Aviation Foundation. He continued, "Our partners, supporters, volunteers, educators, and staff have helped us honor aviation's legacy while investing in what comes next. The growth of our education programs and the development of the GEAR Lab represent our commitment to preparing future generations with the tools, skills, and inspiration they need to lead. This is where legacy truly inspires innovation."

The Museum continued to thrive in close partnership with Robins Air Force Base, whose history, mission, and people are deeply intertwined with our own. This ongoing relationship strengthens our ability to preserve military aviation heritage, support education initiatives, and honor those who serve, past, present, and future.

We also continued to grow as a tourism destination in 2025, welcoming visitors not only from our own community, but from across the globe. Guests traveled from Argentina, Australia, Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, England, and more. Each visit reinforced the Museum's role as a place where global history, local pride, and shared stories of aviation come together.

We are grateful for our expanding partnerships with colleges and universities, which brought talented interns to our campus this year. Their creativity, dedication, and fresh perspectives made a meaningful impact, and we are especially excited that several will be returning to continue learning, growing, and contributing to the Museum's mission.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our Partners in PIE, whose investment helps preserve history, inspire curiosity, and educate future leaders. We are also deeply thankful for the continued partnership of the City of Warner Robins, and all those whose support ensures the Museum remains a cornerstone of culture, education, and tourism for our community.

We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to our Board of Directors, led by Chairman Howard "Chris" Davis, and to our Board of Governors for their leadership, guidance, and steadfast support throughout the year. Together, their dedication continues to help shape the Museum's vision and future.

As we step into a new year, we do so with gratitude. Gratitude for our volunteers, supporters, educators, partners, board members, interns, and every visitor who walked through our doors in 2025. Thank you for being part

of this story.

Here's to where we have been and to where we are headed next in 2026.



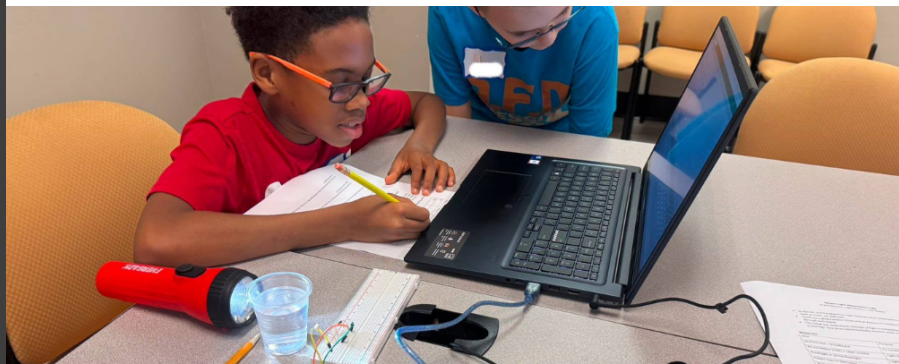


# Holiday Hours

NEW YEAR'S EVE: OPEN 9AM-1PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY: CLOSED

**MUSEUM OF AVIATION**  
  
**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE  
GEORGIA**



## **PARTNERS IN P.I.E.** Preserve · Inspire · Educate

Every day at the Museum of Aviation, history is preserved, curiosity is sparked, and future innovators take flight. P.I.E. stands for Preserve, Inspire, and Educate. When you become a **Partner in P.I.E.** member, you help make all of that possible.

Your membership supports our mission to preserve aviation heritage, inspire future generations, and educate through hands-on STEM and history programs. It also gives you meaningful ways to stay connected to the museum you love.

### **Why Join?**

As a Partner in P.I.E., you will enjoy invitations to special events and member-only experiences, recognition as a supporter of the Museum of Aviation Foundation, gift shop savings, exclusive member gifts, and the knowledge that your support fuels education and preservation throughout the year.

Membership levels begin at \$250, with opportunities to increase your impact through additional tiers and classroom sponsorships.

Whether you are passionate about aviation history, STEM education, or preserving stories that matter, there is a place for you here.

***Join today and help ensure the Museum of Aviation remains a place where legacy inspires innovation.***

**JOIN AS A PARTNER IN P.I.E.!**

**COMING UP IN JANUARY**





MUSEUM OF AVIATION FOUNDATION

# RUN FOR AVIATION

26.2

13.1

5K

Para Athletes

Virtual

01.31.26

**Register Today!**



Experience the thrill of the run on scenic, USA Track & Field certified courses across Robins Air Force Base, part of the 2026 Run & See Georgia Grand Prix Series. This Boston Marathon qualifier brings runners, families, and supporters together for a morning full of energy, excitement, and purpose. Every stride supports the Museum of Aviation Foundation, helping preserve history and inspire future generations through education. Be part of the movement that keeps our community soaring!



1942 Heritage Blvd.  
Warner Robins, GA 31098

This is a private organization. It is not part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and it has no governmental status.



**REGISTER HERE**



Museum of Aviation Foundation | [478-926-6870](tel:478-926-6870) | 1942 Heritage Blvd,  
Warner Robins, GA 31099 | [MuseumofAviation.org](https://www.MuseumofAviation.org)

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