



Media Advisory
For Immediate Release

From: Ashley Chisholm
E.W. Bullock Associates
(850) 438-4015
ashley@ewbullock.com

Ready for take-off: Naval Aviation Museum Foundation
Announces 22nd Annual Symposium
May 7-9, 2008

Pensacola, Fla.—March 28, 2008— Astronauts, POWs and military officers are all part of the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation’s 22nd Annual Symposium May 7–9 at the National Naval Aviation Museum aboard Pensacola Naval Air Station. Beginning in 1987, the Symposium series aims to preserve the rich history and proud heritage of Naval Aviation by highlighting historical events in which U.S. Naval Aviation has played a major role.

Each May, the symposium averages nearly 3,000 guests, ranging from active and retired flag officers to aerospace industry executives. Young Naval officers, sailors, and Marines undergoing training in Pensacola are also invited, along with the Museum Foundation’s numerous members and guests and the general public.

This year’s Annual Symposiums features three panel discussions:

- Session I – “Space Shuttle: Naval Aviation Leadership.” Featuring former and current Shuttle astronauts who flew into space in the early years to the present day.
- Session II – “Naval Aviator POWs: Return with Honor.” Heroic tales from five flyers who were shot down over North Vietnam and spent many long months in the POW camps.
- Session III – “Naval Aviation: Issues & Answers.” Active Navy & Marine Corps flag and general officers discussing the state of Naval Aviation. Issues covered include combat experience, personnel, training, deployment schedules and more.

All panels conclude with a question & answer session.

Previous symposia subjects have included: the Battles of Midway and of Coral Sea; American Aces; Medal of Honor recipients; the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and Space Shuttle programs; Flying Tigers and Black Sheep Squadrons; the Korean and Vietnam Wars; Operation *Desert Storm* and *Iraqi Freedom*; and Blue Angels.

The Foundation’s distinguished guest speakers have included former President Bush, Governor Jeb Bush, Senators John Warner, Jake Garn, Connie Mack and John McCain, Secretaries of the Navy Lehman, Webb, Garrett, Danzig and Winter, Under Secretaries of the Navy Hultin and Pirie, Chiefs of Naval Operations Boorda and Johnson, the Vice Chiefs of Naval Operations, Admirals Fallon and Mullen, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Jones and the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Nyland.

The Symposium’s agenda also includes additional events with various admission fees; a golf tournament at A.C. Read on Wednesday, May 7; a Navy Band concert, luncheon and opening reception on Thursday, May 8; and a Navy band concert, reception and banquet including a performance by the Pensacola Children’s Chorus on Friday, May 9.

The Symposium sessions are FREE and open to active duty and retired military as well as the general public. For more information or to reserve your seat, call the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation at (800) 327-5002 or (850) 453-2389, or go online to download a registration form at NavalAviationMuseum.org.

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Media Note: For more information about the National Naval Aviation Museum, contact Shelley Ragsdale, Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, Inc. at (850) 453-2389 or sragsdale@navalaviationmuseum.org.

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About the National Museum of Naval Aviation

The National Naval Aviation Museum features nearly 300,000 square feet of displays and is one of the world's largest aviation museums. Located aboard Pensacola Naval Air Station, the facility boasts more than 150 beautifully restored aircraft representing Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard aviation and is Florida's most-visited museum. Among the countless things to touch, see and experience is a thrilling Top Gun flight simulator, a variety of special exhibits as well as the drama and power of amazing IMAX® films. The Cubi Bar Café offers a unique dining experience, and the Flight Deck Store is the perfect place to find a memento of the spirit of Naval aviation. Museum admission is free. The National Naval Aviation Museum is open everyday from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. For more information, visit NavalAviationMuseum.org.

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