



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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World War II Aircraft Models Display Case to be Unveiled

FRESNO, Calif. – A special display showcasing models of three World War II aircraft – the P-61B Black Widow, the P-70 Nighthawk and the A-20 Havoc – flown from Hammer Field and six aircraft flown by the California Air National Guard 144th Fighter Wing will be unveiled on Sept. 25 at 9 a.m. by the main entrance of the Fresno VA Medical Center, located on 2615 E. Clinton Ave.

The airfield was activated at the onset of World War II as an Army Air Forces Night Fighter School training base. As the war came to an end, Hammer Field was inactivated and became the Fresno Air Terminal, which includes both the Fresno Yosemite International Airport and the Fresno Air National Guard Base operated by the California Air National Guard 144th Fighter Wing.

“I wanted to keep the history of Hammer Field alive and known,” said Air Force Senior Master Sgt. David-Elmer Harper, the sponsor of the project. “With the help of the talented hands of Master Model Maker Don Promnitz, the aircraft models were built and are currently appreciated by Veterans, family members, visitors, employees and volunteers who cross the Fresno VA Medical Center main entrance waiting area every day.”

The event also provides an opportunity for the community to meet Air Force Tech. Sgt. Donald Kitterman – the first enlisted individual assigned to the 547th Night Fighter Squadron stationed at Hammer Field. Kitterman is now 94 years old and his pictures at the Biak Island, Indonesia, during World War II, were added to the display.

WHAT: World War II Aircraft Models Display Case Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

WHEN: Thursday, Sept. 25, 9 a.m.

WHERE: Fresno VA Medical Center, 2615 E. Clinton Ave., Fresno, CA 93703

Web Feature: http://www.fresno.va.gov/FRESNO/features/2014_09_25_HammerField_.asp

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