

N.A.P.P.



Volume 58

February 2022

No. 4

President's column:

Honoring the Hemann brothers and charter members

By Fr. Joe McCaffrey
NAPP President

Blessings on you and yours in 2022! We will all miss the leadership, wisdom and humor of Fathers Mel Hemann, John Hemann, Phillip Schmitt and Merlin Kieffer – four of our members who died in the last half of 2021. How we have all benefited so much from these amazing friends and priests!



I would like to propose something for us to consider at our convention in September.

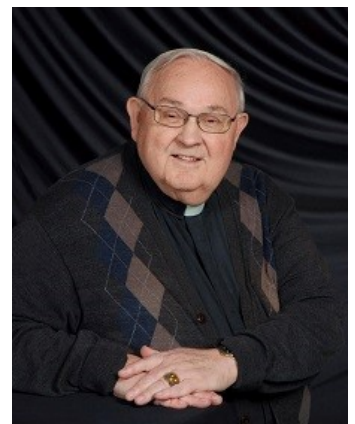
Please think about naming one of our scholarships or charity gifts the “Hemann Scholarship” to honor all three Hemann brothers (including Fr. Ev, who died in 2012) for their tremendous contribution to NAPP.

The second scholarship or charity gift I propose be named after all our charter members. It could be called the Charter or Founders Scholarship or Charity Gift. Please pray about this suggestion so we can decide at our convention in Branson, Missouri.

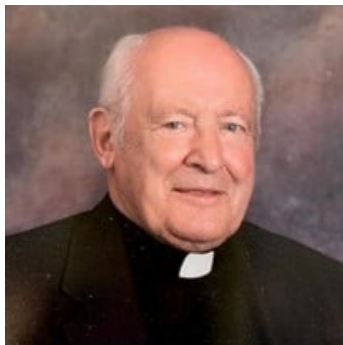
On another note of gratitude, Tom Enwright continues to serve NAPP in an amazing way. This newsletter is excellent under his editorship. He keeps us so well informed through emails on a regular basis, especially during these challenging times. Thank you so much, Tom and your wife Mary, for all you continue to do for me as president and our entire NAPP family!



Fr. Mel Hemann



Msgr. John Hemann



Fr. Phillip Schmitt



Fr. Merlin Kieffer

I’m looking forward to seeing all of you at our convention. Please sign up ASAP so our wonderful host, Fr. John Schmitt, can move forward with his planning. It’s always a major undertaking. Pray God blesses us with beautiful flying weather! That’s the whole point of moving it to September! So our beloved members in heaven better come through for us or we may have to come up with a different name for our scholarships!

Branson is site of NAPP's 2022 convention in September

By Fr. John Schmitz

Join us for three relaxing, fun-filled days in Branson, Missouri, in the beautiful Ozark Mountain foothills.

Accommodations will be at the Thousand Hills Golf Resort. We have reserved several lodges to accommodate the group. For \$150 per night, you get a private bedroom with bath ensuite, a large kitchen, living area, recreation room, outdoor deck and patio overlooking the golf course. The lodges are centrally located just a few blocks south of the Branson entertainment strip at 2600 Green Mountain Drive. For more information, check out [this link](#).



We have several group activities planned:

- The play “Jesus” at the Sight and Sound Theater
- A tour/lunch at the [College of the Ozarks](#)
- Mass at [Our Lady of the Lake Church](#)

Our banquet speaker will be Craig Huck, who has 20 years of experience as an air traffic controller in Kansas City.

For your free-time entertainment (on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) there is a variety of live music shows (averaging \$40 a show), mini-golf a block away, museums and other attractions. Transportation will be provided. Our tour guide can get great ticket prices if we know what you want to do in advance. Check out:

[Explore Branson](#)

[Silver Dollar City](#)



[Gaston Airport \(3MO\)](#) grass strip with restaurant for an afternoon fly-in, 36 miles away

Branson is in southwest Missouri. The closest commercial airport is Springfield (SGF), 52 miles away. Complimentary ground transportation will be provided.

For those flying their own plane, the [M. Graham Clark Downtown Airport](#) (PLK) is only six miles from the Lodges. Overnight parking at the airport is \$10 per night. Complimentary transportation will be provided to the lodges.

The convention cost for the group activities, meals,

NAPP 2022 CONVENTION RSVP FORM

BRANSON, MISSOURI

Arrive: Monday, September 19

Depart: Thursday, September 22

NAME _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ CELLPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Arriving by private plane at M. Graham Clark Downtown Airport (KPLK) : N _____ ETA: _____

Arriving by airline at [Springfield-Branson Airport \(SGF\)](#)
Airline/flight number: _____

Arriving by car: _____

Reservations to: Fr. John Schmitz

129 Fabick Drive, Gravois Mills, MO 65037

Email: nappbranson2022@gmail.com

Cell: 573-619-6889

The resort needs a firm head count by the end of March. To hold a room, please RVSP by March 2 (Ash Wednesday) to nappbranson2022@gmail.com.

____ \$450 lodge payment included (due by Aug. 15; check payable to NAPP)

____ I require a first-floor room (unable to do stairs)

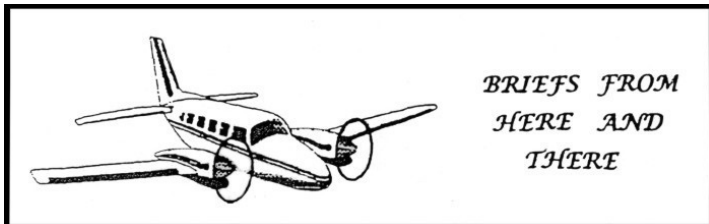
____ Shirt size

- The commercial airport we will provide transportation from and back to is Springfield MO (SGF)
- Local airport for general aviation is KPLK

snacks and drinks will run about \$200. We are looking into commemorative shirts. If you are interested in getting one, please provide your size. We have a limited number of first-floor bedrooms in the lodges. If you truly need one, please let us know.

The lodging fee is \$450 for three nights, checking in on Monday, checking out Thursday morning. If you arrive on Sunday, it is an additional \$50 with complimentary transportation, but you are on your own for food and entertainment. The lodging fee is due by August 15. Make your check payable to NAPP. Please send to Fr. John Schmitz, 129 Fabick Drive, Gravois Mills, MO 65037.

The resort needs a firm head count by the end of March. To hold a room, please RSVP by March 2 (Ash Wednesday) to nappbranson2022@gmail.com. Include your shirt size, date of arrival and first-floor room request, if truly needed. For more information, contact Fr. John Schmitz at 573-619-6889. We look forward to you joining us in Branson!



BRIEFS FROM
HERE AND
THERE

From the treasurer: NAPP issued three checks in January, as authorized by members at the July 2021 annual meeting:

- \$500 aviation scholarship to Fr. Alex Nevitt in New Jersey
- \$1,500 grant to the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska, for air transportation to the remote parishes
- \$1,500 grant to Flying Medical Service in Tanzania, East Africa

Acknowledgements are at the end of this newsletter.

Reminder: If you haven't paid your 2022 dues, please take care of this as soon as possible. See the payment directions on Page 9. Also, please consider a donation to the Missionary Gift Fund. — *Tom Enwright*

NAPP scholarship: Fr. Alex Nevitt in New Jersey is the recipient of the NAPP \$500 scholarship for 2022, as approved at the 2021 annual meeting. He is working on his instrument rating and sent this recent update: "I am just finishing my studying to take the written and have all the hours I need to schedule the practical. ... So I am hoping to sit for my written in February and take the practical in March. I hope to have more interesting updates for the next newsletter."

Frasca sold to FlightSafety: Frasca International, a manufacturer of aviation simulators, has been acquired by FlightSafety International. Associate member George Gratton notes the connection to NAPP. The late Rudy Frasca (a former associate member) founded Frasca in 1958. In 2004, he co-hosted the NAPP 41st annual meeting at his airstrip in Urbana, Illinois. Frasca says it will continue to operate out of its facility in Urbana and the company name will remain the same.

Parish outreach: Fr. Joe McCaffrey's parish won first place for its creative float in the Hometown Holiday Parade in New Castle, Pennsylvania. Holy Spirit Parish's 42-foot float depicted the inside of a church and featured pews, an altar, nativity scene and Christmas trees. Fr. Mac and his dog rode on the float along



NAPP MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING

Monday, May 9, 2022 – South Sioux City, Nebraska
Please call, email or mail reservation by May 2

NAME _____

CELLPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Arriving by plane: N _____

ETA: _____

Arriving by car: _____ ETA: _____

Reservations to: Fr. Gene Murray

Email: elmurray@midlands.net

Cell: 712-261-1246

SCHEDULE

Arrive: 10:00-10:45 a.m.

10:45: Depart for [Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center](#)

12:15: Lunch

1:15: [Queen of Peace Shrine at Trinity Heights](#)

Departure: 3:00

The destination airport for the NAPP Midwest Spring Meeting is Martin Field (7K8) in South Sioux City, Nebraska. It is a public-use airport, owned and operated by Gene and Ginger Martin. 100LL is available. Runway is hard surface, 3,323 feet. Note that it's Right Traffic for Runway 14. Gene is excited to have us come. The Martins are members of Sacred Heart Parish in Sioux City and have given flight instruction to some of our NAPPers.

Queen of Peace Shrine is a 10-acre beautiful setting on a hill overlooking the Floyd River valley. Its centerpiece is a 30-foot stainless-steel statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and a 30-foot statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, plus a life-sized carving of the Last Supper by a local artist.

I hope and pray that we have good weather.

Fr. Gene Murray

with numerous parishioners. The parade was held November 20. "It was a fabulous experience," Fr. Mac told The Pittsburgh Catholic. "What a powerful example of what John Paul II called the New Evangelization." In December, the parish participated in New Castle's Hometown Holiday Market, giving away more than 300 rosaries, nearly 200 ornaments with Bible quotes, and Christmas Mass schedules.

Fr. Mel Hemann, charter member and longtime newsletter editor, dies at 93

Fr. Melvin D. Hemann, 93, of Palm Coast, Florida, died December 14, 2021, at the Stuart F. Meyer Hospice House in Palm Coast.



Mel was a charter member of the National Association of Priest Pilots and served as the third president, from 1969 to 1973. For decades, he served as the faithful editor of the NAPP newsletter and in other support roles for the organization.

The three Hemann brother priests were distinguished leaders of NAPP, helping to arrange conventions and regional meetings, and encouraging more priests and associate members to pursue aviation activities. They also were instrumental in supporting the missionary work of NAPP.

Msgr. John Hemann was the fifth president, from 1977 to 1981, and later served as treasurer and Midwest regional director. He died October 9, 2021. Fr. Everett (Ev) Hemann was president from 2001 to 2005. He died April 24, 2012.

In addition to his priestly ministry, Mel was a certified flight instructor for decades. In 1981, he received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award from the Federal Aviation Administration in recognition of at least 50 years of safe flight operations. John received the same award in April 2015.

Mel was born October 15, 1928, in Stacyville, Iowa, the son of Bernard J. and Olive S. Halbach Hemann. He graduated from Visitation High School in Stacyville in 1946, Loras College in 1955 and Mt. St. Bernard Seminary in 1959. He was ordained a priest on January 31, 1959, in Dubuque.

He served as associate pastor at parishes in Protivin, Holy Cross, Schley, Cedar Rapids, New Haven, Decora, Ames, Mason City, Charles City and Roseville; pastor in Chelsea, Preston, Sabula, Green Island, Rickardsville, Sherrill, and Balltown. He also served as dean of the Bellevue Deanery, executive secretary of the Balltown-Sherrill Consolidated School and director of the Archdiocesan Family Life Office, retiring July 20, 1998. He was a leader and presenter on marriage and family life programs locally, nationally and

internationally for over 50 years.

Archbishop Michael Jackels celebrated a memorial Mass on January 13, 2022, at St. Patrick Church in Cedar Falls. The homilist was Fr. Ken Glaser. A memorial Mass was celebrated on December 29 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Palm Coast.

[Full obituary](#)

[Link to video of the Mass in Cedar Falls](#)

[Wright Brothers Award article](#)

[Mel writes about the famous picture of the three brothers](#)



This is a copy of the picture that once was on display at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. The three Hemann brothers, all priest pilots: Mel, Ev and John.

The end of an era for NAPP

By Fr. Gene Murray

The passing of Fr. Mel Hemann marks the end of an era for NAPP. He was a loyal and faithful priest of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa, where he served in many capacities. I do not wish to diminish his good work as a priest; however, I knew him mostly as a member of NAPP.



I recall Mel Hemann as being the heart and the soul of the association. He was one of the founders back in the 1960s and he served as its third president, from 1969 to 1973. He was one of the original drafters of the NAPP mission statement. As I recall, he was the originator and longtime publisher of the NAPP newsletter. He gave flying instructions and BFRs (biennial flight reviews) to many of us including bishops.

Continued on Page 5

Tribute from the UK: Mel made a lasting impression across the continents

By Fr. Peter Geldard

It was in 1980 that I obtained my United Kingdom private pilot's license. I attached to it a FAA 61.75 license (piggy-back), which allowed me to hire and fly during lecture trips to the USA. It was whilst idling my time at an FBO "reading" the AOPA Directory that I came across NAPP. I wrote then to a "Mel Hemann," inquiring whether it was possible for a UK priest to become a member, which I was assured it was; and I became (and think I still am) the only British member!

After having made contact with Mel, I inquired of him whether it might be possible to come across to the States to do an instrument rating (IR) "and who would he suggest as an instructor?" He immediately replied that if I was prepared to come to Waterloo, Iowa, and help in the parish locally on weekends, he would generously instruct me for only basic costs and he could also offer me accommodation. This started a lifelong friendship.

Not only did I obtain my IR through his good services, but I got to know the Hemann brothers and the local clergy and Church scene, including meeting up again with a Franciscan Sister whom I had taught at the Uni-

versity in Canterbury, UK.

His parting words were: "Why don't you get a standalone FAA license? Think about coming back to do the Commercial."

This I did two years later, spending another three weeks with Mel, renewing friendships, attending another NAPP convention (this time in Florida), which we flew to in Mel's RV from Waterloo.

Following this, I invited him to visit the UK and stay at my apartment in Canterbury, Kent UK, where I could return some flying favours by flying to France and the famous Duxford Aviation Museum in the UK.

Not only did I appreciate his generosity and hospitality, but I observed the respect he received from the local Church and the influence that he radiated there.

NAPP has lost a fine "Founder" member, a wonderful instructor, a warm personality, a bulwark of the organisation, and a great priest. He is a great loss to us all and for me, I am permanently grateful for his friendship and aeronautical knowledge that he taught me. Every time I fly, I remember him and say a prayer of gratitude for his life and witness. May he rest in peace and rise again in glory.

Continued from Page 4

Except for 2021, he never missed an annual convention at which he loved to tell and hear stories at the hangar flying sessions. While he could have one-upped all of them, he was a good listener and storyteller. Having accumulated about 20,000 hours of flying and instructing, I am sure he had many stories to tell.

He loved to fly and instruct and never lost his zest for it, instructing into his 90s. You might say he was an iconic flight instructor. He gave flight instructions and BFRs to many and on occasion to people from foreign countries, captains of industry and future Air Force pilots, to name a few.

He had many ratings and endorsements: CFI, CFII, ATP, commercial, multiengine, tail wheel. Qualified to instruct in all above, during his retirement, he instructed for the FBO

in Waterloo, Iowa.

He built and maintained an RV-6, which he subsequently flew to many conventions. As I recall, the RV landed in all the lower 48 states.

For Mel, flying was a passion, not an ego trip. People learn to fly for a variety of reasons, some not always the right ones. Mel never lost his zest for things aeronautical and was uniquely passionate about flying. He loved to share the joy of it. At NAPP conventions, he would give BFRs at little or no charge because he enjoyed seeing people safely enjoy what he loved.

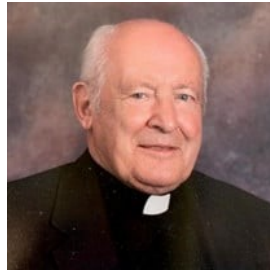


Mel Hemann in his RV-6 from June 2012

"Wouldn't it be great if priests could get together and share their love of flying?" This was the sentiment of Fr. Henry Haacke, one of the founders of NAPP. Mel did everything he could to promote and carry out that wish and I, for one, am very thankful that he did.

Fr. Phil Schmitt, charter member, dies at 91

Fr. Phillip E. Schmitt, 91, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, died December 31, 2021, in Cedar Rapids. Archbishop Michael Jackels celebrated a memorial Mass on January 17, 2022, at Immaculate Conception Church in Cedar Rapids. The homilist was Fr. Phil Thompson.



Phil Schmitt was born November 20, 1930, in Marble Rock, to George and Estella (Grace) Schmitt. He graduated from Loras College and completed his theological studies at the former Mount St. Bernard Seminary, both in Dubuque. He was ordained to the priesthood on February 4, 1956, in Dubuque. Over the years, he served in various parishes and schools.

Fr. Schmitt retired from active ministry in 2000. In 2001, he moved to the priest's quarters at St. John Catholic Church in Mount Vernon, where he lived for 17 years. He moved to Meth-Wick Community in 2018 and remained there until his death.

Fr. Schmitt was a founding member of the National Association of Priest Pilots. As a longtime board member of National Marriage Encounter, he was dedicated to Engage Encounter and marriage preparation. He served as a chaplain at Kirkwood Community College for several years in retirement. He loved gardening, especially flowers, and became a certified Master Gardener.

[Link to full obituary](#)

[Link to video of memorial Mass \(abbreviated\)](#)

An adventurous spirit: Remembering Fr. Phil Schmitt

By Fr. Gene Murray

"We have a motion on the floor by Phil Schmitt to adjourn. All in favor ..."

Phil always was noted in the convention minutes as the one who voted for adjournment. Never one to care much for meetings, Phil liked to see them end.

However, I remember Phil as one who had an adventurous spirit. The video of him walking out to the jump plane at age 83 in a jump harness and cane was classic Phil. He always wanted to see what was over the next hill or behind the next cloud.

I have traveled with Phil a couple of times, the most notable being to the 1981 NAPP convention in Anchorage, Alaska. Phil, Ed Murray, Dick Remmes and I rented a Cherokee Archer and flew to Anchorage. It was a memorable trip for many reasons, not the least being Tom Jones' crash of a Piper Comanche between Fort St. John and Fort Nelson in British Columbia, Canada.

On that same trip, weather forced us to overnight in

Glenallen, Alaska, because the pass was closed between there and Anchorage. We stayed in a new motel owned and run by the Inuit tribe. The next morning, the pass was closed, so we were told that there was a bus scheduled to leave for Anchorage at 11 a.m. When we checked back in at the desk, we were told the bus left early. I thought the normally mild-mannered Phil would come unglued.

We missed the bus because they decided to leave early. We were later informed by the cab driver, with a chuckle on the way to the airport, that Indians don't offer much information. As luck would have it, the pass opened later that day and we were able to fly into Merrill Field.

Phil loved to attend the NAPP conventions and seldom missed. He loved the adventure. So I suspect that his transition to eternal life will be for him a welcome adventure. May he rest in peace.



[YouTube video shows Fr. Phil, then age 83, skydiving with some other NAPP members in 2014.](#)

More memories of Fr. Mel Hemann and Fr. Phil Schmitt

Shortly after the AOPA Flight Training magazine published an article which began, “A priest and a lawyer walk into a hangar” (I’m the priest), I got an email from Mel Hemann introducing himself and inviting me to join an organization I’d never heard of – the NAPP. I did join, but summer schedules have kept me from attending any of the national gatherings (someday).

Only a few months later, I flew to Flagler Beach, Florida, and visited with Mel while I was staying with another retired priest. Mel, it was clear, was an experienced master of hangar talk. We shared aviation stories (many of them were even true) and shared promises of future flying together.

Although I was able to visit in person or chat by phone with Mel a few times after that first visit, we never did get to share a flight. It is a gift to remember spending time with a fellow priest in love with priesthood, with flying, and with life in general. One can only imagine the hangar talk in heaven, but it’s certain that Mel is in the center of it.

Msgr. Bill King
*Priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg
Vice Rector, Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary
Emmitsburg, Maryland*



Priests at the Midwest Regional, May 2011, after the storm: John Swing, Keith Kitzhaber, John Wolesky, John Hemann, Mel Hemann, Al Werth, Phil Schmitt; back row: Bill Menzel, Phil Gibbs

This memory of Mel co-stars the late Fr. Phil Schmitt. Fr. John Swing was the host for the Midwest Spring Regional in La Crosse, Wisconsin, in May 2011. A thunderstorm rolled in, and it was raining “cats and dogs.” As I recall, Mel and Phil were in one of the last planes to arrive, although at the time I wasn’t aware of Mel’s passenger. Mel joined us in the FBO lobby as we stared out the window, watching the storm, joking

about who knows what. Suddenly, the lively chatter was silenced when Mel exclaimed: “Well, is someone going to get Phil Schmitt out of the plane?” That got our attention, and several of us dashed out on the ramp, hoping that lightning would not strike us. My role was to hold the umbrella; I tried my best to keep Phil dry on the way to the FBO building. He seemed to take it all in stride. I trust that Phil has found only blue skies in heaven. — **Tom Enwright**

Mel was a wonderful priest from a family dedicated to Christ’s mission on Earth. May Mel, John and Ev rest in peace. — **Ron Teufel**

The reach and influence Mel had on aviation was truly vast and far reaching. He taught me to fly from nothing up to my instrument. Spent a lot of time in the cockpit with Mel. Learned a lot about flying as well as life. He will be missed. — **Joel Harris**



Mel was interviewed on the CatholicTV network for his 90th birthday in October 2018.



Mel with one of his flight students, Fr. Alex Carandang, in 2018.

Say hello to NAPP's three new members

Fr. David Carter | *Chattanooga, Tennessee*

I was raised in Shreveport, Louisiana, across the Red River from Barksdale Air Force Base. I grew up watching the lumbering B52s and fierce A10s zooming overhead and always dreamt of one day flying.

I was ordained a priest in 2005 for the Diocese of Knoxville, Tennessee, where my family had moved. A few years in, I was doing marriage prep with a couple, and the husband-to-be was a flight instructor at the local airfield. He took me up for a discovery flight and I was hooked. I made plans and saved money for the next few years and when the time was right in 2011, I began my flight training in earnest. It took me two years of “days off” and I went through four instructors before I finally earned my ticket on October 15, 2013.

Since then, I have enjoyed flying in beautiful east Tennessee, currently hovering at around 200 flight hours in my logbook. I fly mostly for fun, but every once in a while, I get an opportunity to fly a “mission,” getting myself to a meeting or an out-of-town wedding by exercising the privileges of my PPL. I belong to a local flying club/flight school in order to rent planes to fly. I enjoy the community I find there and by joining the NAPP, I look forward to connecting with other priest pilots who share this same passion for aviation that I do!



Recent flight with my Tribunal Moderator and Notary to fly over his house and wave at his kids. (I am the Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Knoxville.)

Deacon Dan Cozzi | *Mascoutah, Illinois*

I am a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force. I first learned how to fly in the glider program for Air Force Academy cadets. I was hooked, I became a cadet soaring instructor and left the “Zoo” with 50 hours of glider time.



After USAF pilot training, I was assigned to and flew KC135s for the entirety of my USAF 20-year career, totaling 2,850 hours. My last three years were spent in a non-flying assignment. In 2013, I followed the call and entered formation for the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Belleville in Illinois.

I retired from the Air Force in 2014 and started my second career teaching USAF pilots their recurrent proficiency simulators at Scott Air Force Base, which I am still doing today.

I was ordained in 2018 and in 2020 started flying again with a brother deacon in his Twin Comanche. We both hope to provide ministerial help to Wings of Mercy. I am hoping to make the move into airline piloting this year, but that, of course, is up to God and my ability to retain a first-class medical certificate.

I have four children, ages 14, 18, 20 and 22. My wife Jody keeps me in line and tolerates my flying hobby.

Lord, guard and guide all who fly through the great spaces of the sky.

Editor's note: Thanks to Fr. Allen Corrigan for planting the seed for Dan to join NAPP.

Al Taylor | *Nekoosa, Wisconsin*

The journey to this moment started a long time ago. My mom would drive us to the Wisconsin Rapids airport to watch the airplanes taking off and landing. By the age of 7, I built my first airplane with some rough-cut lumber and a box fan. Obviously, it didn't fly but my imagination would take me everywhere.

Thirteen years later, I joined a local flying club and began taking lessons, eventually obtaining my pilot's license in 1988. The best part of becoming a pilot was being able to share the experience of flight. Soon after becoming a pilot, I became an auxiliary police officer and donated my time supporting our local police department. During my seven years with the department, an idea was proposed to me to fly a couple of my fel-

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low volunteers over our township and videotape our town with a VHS recorder. We were ahead of our time, before YouTube and before GoPro cameras. I would really appreciate the opportunity to compare the before and after footage to view how the township has grown over the past 30-some years.



My wife and I were married in 1990. A few years later, our family started growing. With working full time, volunteering with the police department, and spending time with the family, I wasn't able to fly as much as I would have liked. Like many pilots before me, I made the decision to quit flying.

Fast forward to September 2017: A friend offered his

Grumman Traveler for me to get back into flying. I hired a CFI and started flying again! It was such a generous offer, but I desired to own my own airplane. While spending countless hours of research, I narrowed the search to Mooney. As the search continued, I kept Fr. John Swing and Fr. Bill Menzel (both NAPP members) up to date with my progress. Then it happened! Fr. Bill mentioned that a friend of his, Fr. Gene Murray (also an NAPP member), had found a very nice Mooney in Arizona that was for sale. This was in April of 2018 and the purchase was made in October of 2018. I have been giving rides ever since.

Editor's note: Thanks to Fr. Bill Menzel and Fr. John Swing for planting the seed for Al to join NAPP.

Editor's note: Thanks to Fr. Bill Menzel and Fr. John Swing for planting the seed for Al to join NAPP.

2022 NAPP Dues – U.S. \$25.00

2022 fiscal year began July 1, 2021

Use this form to send your dues or use PayPal (go to priestpilots.org and click on **Pay Now**).

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

Member: Charter Regular Associate

Mail to: Tom Enwright, NAPP Treasurer, 419 Chestnut St., Sauk City, WI 53583

In addition to the \$25 annual dues, we encourage members to make a separate donation to the **NAPP Missionary Gift Fund**, which will be used to support the organization's charitable grants. Donations can be sent to the same address or you can use PayPal. Go to priestpilots.org and click on the **Donate** button.



“It is with paternal satisfaction that the Holy Father views the efforts of the members of the National Association of Priest Pilots to encourage the use of air transportation to obtain ever more abundant spiritual fruits from their sacerdotal ministry and missionary apostolate.”

The Vatican, September 29, 1964

Purpose:

1. To promote the use of private aircraft as a practical, safe, and efficient tool of the apostolic work of a priest.
2. To cooperate with other aviation and ecclesiastical groups wherever possible in order to promote aviation in the cause of the Church.
3. To insist on the safe and proficient use of the airplane by its members.
4. To encourage the use of private aircraft as worthy of the talents and dignity of priests.

Dubuque airport to celebrate Captain Martin's birthday



The public is invited to the Dubuque Regional Airport terminal building for the “Captain Robert L. Martin Birthday Celebration” on Wednesday, February 9. The event runs from 3:30 to 7 p.m. Face coverings are required. Gabrielle and Dominique Martin, two of his children, will speak during a brief program at 5:30.

Martin was born in Dubuque, Iowa, on February 9, 1919. He was an original member of the Tuskegee Airmen, a Black segregated aviator group in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He graduated from flight training at the Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama and joined the 100th Fighter Squadron, which was part of the all-Black 332nd Fighter Group. In 1945, while flying his 64th mission, Martin's plane was hit by enemy fire. He bailed out and landed behind enemy lines in Yugoslavia. After a month at an Allied mission manned by British soldiers, Martin was airlifted to Italy and eventually returned home. In 2007, he was among the recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal at a ceremony honoring the Tuskegee Airmen.

Martin died July 26, 2018, at the age of 99.

The Robert L. Martin Commemoration Committee is raising funds to name the Dubuque terminal building to honor Martin. The project includes indoor and outdoor signage and an educational exhibit.

Remembering Charles McGee, 102, one of the last Tuskegee Airmen

Charles McGee, one of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen, died on January 16 in Bethesda, Maryland, at the age of 102. McGee flew more than 400 missions spanning from World War II to Vietnam.

Associate member George Gratton recalls that McGee was a regular guest for many years at



the Jesuit Retreat House in Oshkosh during EAA AirVenture. Several NAPP members also have a tradition of staying there. “Always a gentleman, he will be missed,” George says. “Let us continue to keep Charles and the Greatest Generation in our prayers.”

NAPP members learned about the history of the Tuskegee Airmen at the July 2021 convention in Dubuque, Iowa. The [keynote speaker](#) was Gabrielle Martin, a daughter of the late Robert Martin, who also was one of the heroic Tuskegee Airmen.

“Brigadier General McGee graduated in class 43F,” Gabrielle said following news of McGee's death. “My father graduated in class 44A. While they both flew for the 332nd (Fighter Group) and they knew one another, I have no information about missions they may have flown together. I met Brigadier General McGee at various Tuskegee Airmen national conventions.”

She last spoke with McGee in November 2021 during an online meeting. “Comcast conducted the meeting to educate its employees about the Tuskegee Airmen,” Gabrielle said. “He and I presented first-person stories – his about his flying experiences and mine about growing up as the child of a Tuskegee Airman.”

Gabrielle was introduced to NAPP by Fr. Mel Hemann, who helped arrange the banquet program for the Dubuque convention. Unfortunately, he didn't make it to Dubuque because the plane he was in, with two others, needed to make an emergency landing in Georgia. Mel's brother, Msgr. John Hemann, was at the banquet and posed for photos with some of our guest speakers.

Gabrielle was sad to learn of the deaths of the two brother priests, John in October and Mel in December. “My prayers go out to you, the organization and their families.”

Please send newsletter articles, notes and photos to: Tom Enwright, napp.editor@gmail.com; 419 Chestnut St., Sauk City, WI 53583

Deadline for the April edition: March 31.

NAPP Leadership Team

President: Fr. Joe McCaffrey
1st VP: Fr. Nick Radloff 2nd VP: Fr. Bill Menzel
Secretary: Fr. Allen Corrigan
Treasurer & Newsletter Editor: Tom Enwright
Regional Directors
East: Fr. Al Ruschman Midwest: Vacant

2021 year in review



February 2021

President's column: Dubuque is looking good for July convention (Fr. Joe McCaffrey)

2021 NAPP Convention is set for Dubuque, Iowa (Fr. Phil Gibbs)

A note from the treasurer
Compression check (Patrick J. McDonald)

CFI Corner: Whatever floats your floats (Fr. Ed Moran)

Christmas message from the Solomon Islands

NAPP member in UK plans summer tour to France and Andorra

Tanzania escapes the worst of COVID-19 crisis (Fr. Pat Patten)

Briefs:

- Welcome to new member Tim Dugan
- Fr. Jim Falsey moves to Anchorage
- Obituary: Great-uncle of Fr. Allen Corrigan
- News from Catholic Aviation Association
- Nostalgic view from the tower

April 2021

President's column: This Easter, we rejoice and look beyond COVID-19 (Fr. Joe McCaffrey)

New details about the July convention in Dubuque (Fr. Phil Gibbs)

From the NAPP treasurer

Welcome to new member Fr. Alex Nevitt

CFI Corner: Free online AOPA seasonal safety seminars (Fr. Ed Moran)

NAPP convention sites — 1964 to 2021

Briefs:

- NAPP Virtual Social on April 26
- A note of thanks from Fr. Bill Menzel
- COVID-19 vaccine report from Fr. Allen Corrigan in the Diocese of Cleveland
- Vaccine relief inside a monastery

June 2021

President's column: Looking forward to gathering in Dubuque, Iowa (Fr. Joe McCaffrey)

Last call to sign up for 2021 NAPP convention in July

Join us for the 2021 convention in Dubuque! (Fr. Phil Gibbs)

Nostalgic tie-ins (Fr. Mel Hemann)

Sidebar: Remembering Michael Collins

Sidebar: You can often see these brother priests passing through heavens (David Fryxell)

NAPP welcomes 2 new members (Fr. Craig Morley and Fr. Mike Gould)

CFI Corner: What I learned from SUN 'n FUN 2021 (Fr. Ed Moran)

Cross-country flight in a Cub: Old-school navigation makes for a fun day in Minnesota (Fr. Gene Murray)

Briefs:

- Tribute to heroic chaplain from Dubuque
- Diamond anniversary for Diocese of Gizo
- Aspiring to be a missionary pilot

- Zoom social

August 2021

President's column: Dubuque extends warm welcome to NAPP (Fr. Joe McCaffrey)

A friendly reminder about the Missionary Gift Fund

On the road to Dubuque
RSVP for Midwest Regional Convention highlights and photos

A tribute to Dubuque native Robert Martin, one of the heroic Tuskegee Airmen

Emergency over Georgia (George Gratton)

Briefs:

- Obituary: Fr. James J. Flavin Jr., OMI
- 60 years of priesthood for Fr. Francis (Jerry) Scanlan and Fr. Peter Sweeney
- New member: Fr. Alex Kreidler
- A note from Fr. Mike Kerin

October 2021

President's column: 2022 NAPP convention proposed for September (Fr. Joe McCaffrey)

A friendly reminder about dues

Midwest Fall Regional in Boone, Iowa

Navigating with Pope Francis: Trip to the scenic West leads to sad reckoning about our fragile environment (Patrick J. McDonald)

Obituary: Fr. John Vakulskas, the 'carnival priest'

Obituary: Fr. Raymond J. Crowe, O.M.I.

NAPP members share favorite

stories with Air & Space (John Casey and Patrick J. McDonald)

Briefs:

- Remembering 9/11 (Fr. Joe McCaffrey)
- Air Facts Journal publishes Fr. Mel Hemann's story
- New member: Mike Garrison
- Funeral for Fr. Kapaun, Servant of God

December 2021

President's column: Let's work to keep NAPP on course for years to come (Fr. Joe McCaffrey)

A note from the new treasurer Msgr. John Hemann, NAPP charter member and officer, dies at 86

Pilots fly in for funeral of Msgr. John Hemann in Iowa (Fr. Gene Murray)

Fr. Merlin Kieffer, NAPP member, dies at 87

Fr. Alex Carandang shares news about the death of his father in the Philippines and gives an update on his flight training

Hemann influence comes alive in this essay on contemplative marriage (Patrick J. McDonald)

CFI Corner: Deep in the heart of Texas (Fr. Ed Moran)

Briefs:

- Save the dates for the 2022 convention
- Memorial donations
- Recent moves (Fr. Al Ruschman, Fr. Peter Etzel, Nick Patterson)
- Greetings from Fr. Leo Walsh in Alaska
- Memorial Mass for Fr. Allen Corrigan's great-uncle
- Greetings from Barry and Nancy (Johnson) Brown

The Alaskan Shepherd

Thank You for your
PRAYERS & GIFT!

Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska/CBNA Tax ID# 92-0019215 Chancery Office: 907-374-9500 www.dioceseoffairbanks.org
Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska, a charitable organization, qualified as exempt under IRS section 501(c)3, acknowledges receipt of the listed donations from the below contributor.
CBNA provided no goods or services in consideration, in whole or in part, for such contributions.

National Association of Priest Pilots

1/11/2022

Gratefully received and recorded as requested:
\$1,500.00 Rural Travel

Thank you so much for this gift to Rural Travel. Since the sale of the Diocesan plane last year, Bishop Chad asks me to make sure it is okay to direct your generous gift to Rural Travel which is how we will pay for the cost of getting the priests back and forth to the villages now. Please let me know if this is where you want your gift designated. Many thanks! Patty

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 Temp -10°

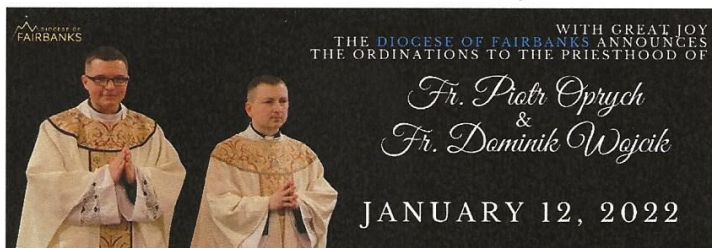
Dear Mr. Enwright and Association Members,

It's been a joyful start to the New Year with the Ordinations of now Fathers Piotr Oprych and Dominik Wojcik! During his homily Bishop Chad shared, "I was ordained a priest 25 years ago, and I remember a few days after my ordination a community of cloistered Carmelite Sisters had asked me to celebrate a Mass for them as a newly ordained priest. I had visited the monastery before as a seminarian, but now I had the privilege of going to the inner sanctum of the cloister where the priests vested. I walked into the sacristy and the sister had all the vestments perfectly folded and laid out on a counter. Above the counter was a framed sign in large letters: 'Priest of God, offer this Mass as if it is your first Mass, only Mass, and Last Mass!' Wow! These sisters are very serious about the Mass. I will never forget that. My brothers, soon to be priests of God, "Offer this Mass and every Mass as if it is your first Mass, only Mass, and last Mass."

The ordinations of our two new priests seems a perfect opportunity for me to **THANK YOU** for this generous gift that will help us send our priests out to the people of northern Alaska—and also to update you on our Seminarian Endowment Fund. We pray that one day this fund will reach an amount that will fully fund the cost (\$45K each) of at least three seminarians every year. Our current balance has reached just over \$2 million and provides enough income to pay for the priestly education of one seminarian per year. Please continue to pray for all our missionaries, our two new diocesan priests, and our seminarian Josh Miller who is on track to be ordained in 2024.

Kindly accept these expressions of sincere gratitude as coming also from Bishop Chad Zielinski and all benefited in this Northern Mission by your prayers and financial support.

With all personal best wishes,
Patty Walter, Alaskan Shepherd Editor





Flying Medical Service

P. O. Box 508
Arusha, Tanzania
East Africa

Email: fms@fms.or.tz
Facebook: Flying Medical Service
Website: www.flyingmedicalservice.org



January 11, 2022

Dear National Association of Priest Pilots

Thank you for your generosity and support. Your donation helps us meet medical needs in parts of Tanzania that are distant from ordinary health care facilities.

Flying Medical Service is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization. Our tax ID Number is 25-1501364.

We have been in continuous operation since 1983. We provide medical assistance to anyone in need, regardless of religious affiliation, ethnic origin or ability to pay. Sponsored by the Spiritan Missionaries and the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Arusha, Tanzania, we strive to help people living in remote areas where sufficient health care and normal communication links simply do not exist.

Flying Medical Service now serves the health care needs in a large part of northcentral Tanzania. We provide regular medical care to dozens of remote areas by means of two single-engine aircraft (*see photos above*). Flying Medical Service also supplies rural hospitals with medicines and staff and makes emergency air ambulance service available throughout Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.

We see an average of more than 80 patients each day through our regularly scheduled visits to remote communities, mostly among the Maasai people. Patients can come to one of 26 grass-strip locations every two weeks. These vital services continue to operate thanks to donations such as yours which we acknowledge today with our sincere gratitude and appreciation.

Gratefully,

Fr. Pat Patten, C.S.Sp.

We acknowledge your donation of \$ 1,500 - made on Jan. 3, 2022

We have not returned to you, as a donor, any goods or services in exchange for this donation.

<p>Donations: Due to foreign banking issues and occasional difficulties in the delivery of overseas mail, please send U.S. correspondence and donations to: Fr. Pat Patten, C.S.Sp. 1758 Manchester Blvd. Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236-1920</p>	<p>Oher U.S. contacts: Michael Patten (Fr. Pat's brother) 1758 Manchester Blvd. Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236-1920 313-881-8787 thisismichael@att.net</p>	<p>Nancy and Don Danko (Fr. Pat's cousins) 2689 Wareing Dr. Lake Orion, MI 48360 248-391-1330 ddanko@comcast.net</p>
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