



Mr. Gary Byrd
South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation
455 St. Andrews Road Building C – 1
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

August 5, 2012

Dear Mr. Byrd,

On behalf of the five surviving Doolittle Tokyo Raiders, we are most happy to hear from our good friend Anna Amick informing us about the South Carolina Aviation Foundation which is in the process of creating and building a dedicated aviation museum in the historic City of Columbia, South Carolina.

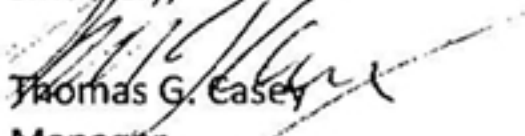
Columbia has a special place in the hearts of all Doolittle Raiders, as history will prove. In February 1942, the 17th Bomb Group (four squadrons) were all ordered to leave Pendleton Air Force Base and report to Columbia Army Air Force Base, with a stop-over in Minneapolis to have modifications performed on their planes.

After arriving at Columbia they soon received orders to fly Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, where they were addressed by Lt. Colonel James H. Doolittle. He had told them about a very dangerous mission that would take them out of the country for possibly three months and asked for volunteers. They all volunteered. The very next day they began their vigorous training for the historic mission. At war's end, two of the Raiders chose Columbia, South Carolina to be their home for the rest of their lives.

The Raiders also enjoyed being invited on three occasions to have their reunions celebrated in Columbia, where they were always welcomed and treated with generous hospitality from devoted citizens as well as city and state officials. These reunions to this day, are some of the most treasured memories they still have.

We fully support the efforts of the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation and their devotion to help create a permanent historic aviation museum dedicated to the City of Columbia, South Carolina and its citizens to treasure that time in history when a dedicated contribution was made by this great community to support the men and women who trained at Columbia Army Air Force Base and help to build the greatest Air Force in the world.

Sincerely,


Thomas G. Casey
Manager
Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Association