

# EAA Founders' Wing: Embracing Our Heritage for Aviation's Future Generations

Innovation, a family culture, dreams, and high standards are among the core values that have made EAA a unique organization beloved the world over by people who share the passion for flight. Those values are intangibles that can be lost if we do not carefully maintain our focus and dedication to the ideals established by our founders.

The binding ties throughout EAA's 55-year existence are founders Paul and Audrey Poberezny, who not only created the organization but over these many years also preserved its history and culture. They saved countless personal mementos—letters and correspondence, photographs, a wide assortment of artifacts—the very heritage of the Experimental Aircraft Association—so that future generations might understand its story.

EAA is proud to announce the Founders' Wing, an exciting plan to create an appropriate display of this treasured collection in the EAA AirVenture Museum in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

## A True Account of EAA History

For many organizations, it would be difficult to accurately describe their history. Fortunately for EAA, Paul and Audrey have lovingly preserved it; research is not required, because they've already done the hard part. And, of course, they're still with us.

"My parents' collection represents more than memorabilia," said EAA President Tom Poberezny. "It preserves the culture and the history of an organization that has truly made a difference in aviation. Organizations can spend millions of dollars to rebuild their history after it's too late. I'm pleased to say that under their leadership, EAA has not made that mistake.

"The EAA AirVenture Museum stands as a testament to the spirit of EAA members. My parents' collection represents the core culture that fosters that spirit and innovation."

## A Two-Tiered Approach

While still in the early planning stages, the Founders' Wing will have two distinct display areas located in the



EAA Founders Audrey and Paul Poberezny.

repurposed (not new construction) space within the museum's restoration center: a public area and a members' area. Elissa Lines, EAA vice president of donor and business relations, explains.

"People less familiar with EAA may not be aware of what the organization is beyond the large air show that takes place every summer," she said. "Our objective for the public area is to educate visitors how people, drawn together by a common passion for grass-roots aviation, forged a unique spirit and camaraderie that literally changed aviation through the promotion and advancement of personal flight."

The public area will feature artful displays of photographs, documents, and other visual elements from Paul and Audrey's collection. The members' area, The Paul and Audrey Poberezny Library, will provide a more privileged view exclusively for EAAers, who'll be able to delve more deeply into the early days of the organization with a more detailed review of EAA's history and culture.

Also planned is a large open space on the main floor usable for special events, eliminating the often cumbersome rearrangement of museum space currently required for such functions.

## Volunteer Committee to Lead

EAA board member Fred Telling, who was moved to pledge his support after Paul and Audrey committed their personal support and that of the Sport Aviation Association, is chairman of the Founders' Wing Fundraising Committee.

"The opportunity to help enable one man's dreams and a lifetime of memorabilia to be permanently displayed and accessible to all our members is an opportunity I did not want to miss," Telling said. "Paul's vision and legacy will live on and, I expect, touch a million more lives long into the future with the establishment of the Founders' Wing. Working together we can be a part of his dreams and vision."

### Membership Means More

If you're planning to be in Lakeland, Florida, for the annual Sun 'n Fun Fly-In, you're invited to join your fellow members and chapter leaders for a special presentation on Wednesday night, April 9, in the Sun 'n Fun Pavilion. This gathering, hosted by EAA President, Tom Poberezny, will feature announcements of new member value offerings, updates on important issues, a special preview of EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2008, plus information on the EAA Founders' Wing in the EAA AirVenture Museum. We look forward to seeing you there.