The final results of the museum’s conceptual design project were recently unveiled at the PIA and USPA gathering in early February and the preliminary reviews were enthusiastically positive: “Wow.” “Impressive.” “Love it.” “Great stuff.” “Fantastic.”

The setting was Chattanooga, Tennessee. The events were the Parachute Industry Association’s biennial Symposium, the meeting of the Board of the United States Parachute Association and the USPA Drop Zone Operators’ Conference. With so many events taking place in one place at one time, it was the perfect setting to selectively share our plans with important members of the skydiving industry and community.

A massive conceptual graphic of the exterior rendering of the museum that will be built in North Orlando (Florida) was the center point of the museum’s booth at the PIA Symposium. Printed seven feet high and ten feet wide, it attracted a great deal of attention. Thirty-one of the exhibitors at the Symposium proudly displayed signs in their booths stating “We Proudly Support the International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame.”

The process of moving towards ultimately building the International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame has now begun in earnest with what can be referred to as the validation phase. During this phase, the plans for the Museum & Hall of Fame are being presented to prominent and influential members of the skydiving community and industry. “These are the people whose support will allow us to move forward,” says Development Committee Chair Dana Engelstad. “They are vitally important to us. We are thrilled by their enthusiastic responses.”

“Clearly, we are headed in the right direction and momentum is building,” commented museum president and CEO James (Curt) Curtis after the events in Chattanooga concluded.

“In many ways this was a four-day focus group,” stated Director of Development Jim McCormick. “We were seeking feedback from people who are very important to us and it was all positive.”

Stay tuned for further announcements on our progress toward the ultimate goal of funding and building YOUR museum on our website, in Parachutist Magazine, and in our newsletters and museum social media.

In other developments, the newly introduced ambassador program continues to be very popular. Introduced in August, it is now approaching fifty participating ambassadors. “We could not be happier with the response to the ambassador program,” commented Development Director McCormick. “The skydiving community is showing that it really wants to see the Museum & Hall of Fame built. All the support is both significant and gratifying.”

More information on the Ambassador Program is available at: www.SkydivingMuseum.org/Ambassador-Program
### Remembering Our Donors: Thank You!

**2016 Donations**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Donors Description</th>
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Vigil America |

**Ambassadors (cont’d)**

<table>
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<th>Amount</th>
<th>Donors Description</th>
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| $5,000—$9,999 | Jack Adkins  
Airtel GM&H Co.  
Judy's Law  
Free Offices of Robert L. Feldman  
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Robert Lewis  
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Bruce Wicks  
Graeme Windsor  
Pat Works  

**Silver ($1,000—$4,999)**

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| $500—$999  | Steve Pisano  
Sandy Reid  
Simon Repton  
Jose Rodriguez  
Timothy Saltonstall  
Adam Schmucker  
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SFC Larry Stafford USA Ret.  
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Larry Stein  
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Pat Works  
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Parachute Industry Association  
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Robert Lewis  
Jim McCormick  
Linda Miller  
Chris & Conny Needels  
Para Gear Equipment Co., Inc./  
Curt Bachman  
ParaLoft Inc./Dave DeWolf  
Steve Pisano  
Simms & Priscilla Repton  
Rigging Innovations/Sandy & Brenda Reid  
Jose Rodriguez  
Timothy Saltonstall  
Lee & Carol Schlichtemeier  
Adam Schmucker  
Nathan Schmucker  
Cheryl Stearns  
Larry Stein  
Jay Stokes  
Frat Strimenos  
Tee Taylor  
Laura Tyler  
Beverly Veley (In memory of Bob Veley Jr.)  
Bruce Wicks  
Graeme Windsor  
Pat Works  

**Gold ($5,000—$9,999)**

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Simon Repton  
Jose Rodriguez  
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Adam Schmucker  
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SFC Larry Stafford USA Ret.  
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Larry Stein  
Jay Stokes  
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Tee Taylor  
Pat Thomas  
Laura Tyler  
Beverly Veley (In memory of Bob Veley Jr.)  
Bruce Wicks  
Graeme Windsor  
Pat Works  
Ronald J. Zais  

**Silver ($1,000—$4,999)**

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Peggy Shetler  
Skydive Perris and  
Perris Indoor Skydiving  
Skydive Resurrection Award Group  
United Parachute Technologies  
Vigil America  

**STARWall Bricks**

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| $500—$999  | Jack Adkins  
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Vernie Hilliard  
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In Honor of Team Raeford  
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| $100—$499  | Ronny Anderson  
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**Thank you to members of our “Legacy Society” who have included the Int’l Skydiving Museum in their Will**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Donors Description</th>
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</table>
| Anonymous  | James F. (Curt) Curtis III  
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(On behalf of Brian Laithwaite)  
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**Ambassadors**

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**Presenting the Dream of Human Flight**

**Visit www.skydivingmuseum.org**
The International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame gratefully acknowledges the generosity of its donors in 2016.

**We regret any errors or omissions in this list. If you note an error or missing name, please contact us at nkemble@skydivingmuseum.org so that we may correct our records.**

In Memory of Sue Alley
Donald Sluter

In Memory of Lowell & Dori Bachman Ray & Jane Drexler
Dana P. & MK Engelstad
Sally Thomas
Paul & Mary Thompson
Marsha Urbahn

In Memory of Len Czarnecki
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Joyce Vagnozzi
Lois Wilek

In Memory of Keith Nielsen – Ervin Jon Gaspard
Scott Schumacher

In Memory of Gary Pond
Nate & Jill Pond

In Memory of my son, Gary Pond
Nona King

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Nate & Jill Pond

In Memory of Bob Roach
Garrett Shaw

In Memory of Jacky Sanborn
Nate & Jill Pond

In Memory of my father,
Stephen L. Snyder
Howard Snyder

In Memory of Gene Paul Thacker
Dana P. & MK Engelstad

In Memory of Pat Works
James F. (Curt) Curtis III

In Honor of Mary Bauer
Ronald J. Zais

In Honor of Dick Fortenberry
Nate & Jill Pond

In Honor of “The Enforcer —
Doggar”
Donald Sluter

In Honor of his wife, Delia
Coy McDonald

In Honor of Bill Morrissey
Nate & Jill Pond

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Breaking News!
Internationally known skydiver
Graeme K. Windsor of Australia joins
Skydiving Museum’s Board of Trustees . . .
look for a full story in our next newsletter!
The museum took a bold step forward in November toward preserving a large piece of skydiving history by announcing the creation of the Skydiving Photo, Film & Video Archive Preservation Project. The project initiative was kick-started by the acquisition of the historic skydiving photo collection of famed freefall photographer Jerry Irwin, who passed away this February. We intend to expand the entire collection to other renowned freefall photographers and videographers.

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of D-20,000’s Jump

February 10, 1997, President George Herbert Walker Bush stepped on to the podium at the Parachute Industry Association’s biennial Symposium and donned a Switlik parachute like the one he used to bail out of his crippled torpedo bomber off the coast of Japanese-occupied island Chi Chi Jima. The next morning, to everyone’s surprise, he called one of his former White House staff advisors, who also happened to be USPA’s executive director, and declared he wanted to make another parachute jump. After looking at the various first-jump student methods, he unhesitatingly selected Accelerated Freefall (AFF). He wanted to deploy his own parachute, as he had done during WWII.

To make it happen, the skydiving community pulled out all the stops. USPA provided a training faculty. The Army provided a Golden Knight trainer and use of Yuma Proving Grounds, Arizona. PIA rallied manufacturers to provide customized and personalized equipment. Larry Hill’s Skydive Arizona provided its Skyvan and a place to train, and Tom Sanders put together an expert photography/videography team. Then, for six weeks at both Skydive Arizona and Yuma Proving Grounds, rehearsals were conducted in earnest, with the AFF instructional team practicing every conceivable “What if?” scenario.

Finally on March 24, the former commander in chief arrived on the scene to begin two days of training. And on March 25 — twenty years ago — President Bush shocked the world with his first skydive. And he would go on to make several more. Happy twentieth anniversary, Mr. President. We are proud and honored to have you as the Honorary Chairman of the Board of the International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame. Your positive impact on the sport has been huge.

Visit www.skydivingmuseum.org