



HONORING *the* AMERICAN SPIRIT  
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## LOCAL BOMBER FOUNDATION DEDICATES AIRPORT SIGN

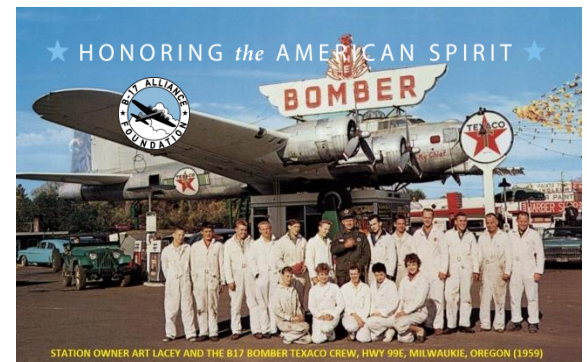
Supporters of the B-17 Alliance Foundation will gather at the Salem Airport on Saturday, October 24 at 1:00 p.m., to dedicate their newly-installed sign to long-time Salem resident and businessman, Oliver "Ole" Olson. Mr. Olson passed January 14 of this year after a prolonged battle with cancer. The general public is invited to attend this family oriented event. Social distancing practices will be observed.

Dedication proceedings will be held at the site of the new sign on the west side of the airport, near the cross roads of 25<sup>th</sup> and Aviation Loop, just south of Madrona Ave. SE. A reception will follow at the B-17 Restoration and Museum site at 3278 25<sup>th</sup> St. SE. Living History experiences and tours will be provided. Participants with family members who served in the military during WWII are encouraged to identify themselves at the Information Booth.



Mr. Olson was attracted to the Foundation, and its project to restore a WWII era B-17-G Bomber to flying condition, because of his love of airplanes and his support for their mission, "Honoring the American Spirit." He became involved in the B-17 project shortly after the bomber, once famous as a Milwaukie gas station, was disassembled and moved to a hangar and museum at Salem's McNary field; a WWII training station for Army-Air Corp. fighter pilots.

Named the "Lacey Lady", in honor of gas station owner Art Lacey who acquired her shortly after WWII, the restored Lady is to tour the country to highlight the Alliance's displays and projects. Between flights the aircraft will be housed in a new hangar-museum complex planned by the Association. This ambitious project, targeted for a 2035 completion date has attracted notable supporters such as Boeing, Ran Tech Engineering & Aerospace, Les Schwab Tires, Aircraft Extrusions Inc., Salem Air Center, RAM Steel, PARR Lumber, and RTR Services, in addition to many local "air buffs".



According to Terry Scott, Foundation Executive Director, Ole was a strong supporter who volunteered for any, "task he thought he could tackle", and was involved in many aspects of the Foundation's program. He and his wife Corinne helped with the major job of building thirteen 50 caliber machine gun replicas for the completed airplane; yet he did not hesitate to identify, and take on, the many small tasks that helped other members complete their work.



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As a docent, Ole welcomed the opportunity to explain the B-17 Bomber's role in the war, and the sacrifices made by the crew members. He also enjoyed telling the "Lady's" interesting back-story. A gifted story teller, he relished the occasional opportunity to slip in personal notes such as his father's involvement in building B-24 Bombers and P-51 fighter planes at North American Aviation, and how he and his father visited the local crash site of a downed McNary airbase fighter plane after watching it go down near his home during his impressionable teenage years.



Known for his eagerness to acquaint anyone he encountered with the B-17 project, Ole was equally willing to solicit help and material support for the enterprise. In the words of Terry Scott, "It is for this reason that the Foundation has dedicated to Ole, their commitment to developing a series of signs; signs that will continue to lead many to the Foundation's display that 'Honors the American Spirit'."

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO: Terry Scott, Foundation Executive Director at: [TerryS@B17Alliance.com](mailto:TerryS@B17Alliance.com), or 971-219-8293