



## **Pensacola Chapter**

**--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--**

### **The first Pensacola Chapter of the American Aviation Historical Society to hold its inaugural meeting at NAS Pensacola**

**July 11, 2023**

The first Pensacola Chapter of the American Aviation Historical Society will hold its inaugural meeting on August 10, 2023, at the Oaks Restaurant (Top Side)-NAS Golf Course. The meeting will begin at 12:00 pm and will include a buffet lunch and a presentation by the Director of the National Naval Aviation Museum, Captain Sterling Gilliam. Captain Gilliam US Navy (ret) will be speaking on the Past, Present and Future of the Museum. The American Aviation Historical Society is a national organization of aviation enthusiasts and has been recognized by the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum as a premier aviation historical activity

Also, the Modelers' Division of the Museum will display their recent entry in their national competition, a 1/48<sup>th</sup> scale model collection of Korean War aircraft.

#### **Meeting:**

**Date:** Thursday August 10, 2023

**Place:** Oaks Restaurant (Top Side)-NAS Golf Course – NAS Pensacola  
1440 Murray Road, Bldg. 3495  
Pensacola, FL 32508

**Time:** 12:00 noon to 2:00 PM

**Cost:** \$20.00 (including lunch and presentation)

**Access:** Individuals without a DOD pass will need to be approved in advance for entry to the base. This process takes several days so an early reply is necessary. Friday August 4, 2023, will be the last day for NON-DOD reservations. Remit your name, telephone number and email address when responding to our email address.

**All aviation enthusiasts are invited. Your RSVP on or before August 4<sup>th</sup> is MANDATORY.**  
**Our Speaker**

**CAPT Gilliam is a native of Henderson, NC and a graduate of East Carolina University. He was commissioned in 1983 after completing Aviation Officer Candidate School at NAS Pensacola, FL. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 1985 and received orders to NAS Whidbey Island, WA to fly the EA-6B Prowler.**

**His fleet assignments include VAQ-138 deploying aboard USS Nimitz (CVN-68), the CVW-9 Staff as the Air Wing Landing Signal Officer (LSO) and VAQ-139 as a Squadron Department Head deploying aboard USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70). CAPT Gilliam has commanded VAQ-141, VAQ-129, Carrier Air Wing Nine and The George Washington NROTC Unit in Washington, DC.**

**CAPT Gilliam's other flying assignments include VAQ-129 where he served as an Instructor Pilot and Landing Signal Officer, as well as Commander, Naval Air Forces where he served as the Force LSO. His shore assignments include the Joint Staff where he served in the Special Operations Division and later as Executive Assistant to Deputy Director for Current Operations (J-33). He also served as Chief of Naval Operations EA-6B and EA-18G Requirements Officer where he was the resource sponsor for all EA-6B readiness, sustainment, and follow-on platform programs.**

**CAPT Gilliam is a graduate of the National War College and has also served as the Executive Assistant to the Director for Warfare Integration (N8F) on the Navy Staff. Retiring in 2013, CAPT Gilliam spent three years in the private sector before becoming the fourth Director of the National Naval Aviation Museum in 2015.**

**CAPT Gilliam has over 4600 flight hours in a variety of naval aircraft and more than 1300 arrested landings on 12 different aircraft carriers. He is a Life Member of the Tailhook Association where he also served as a member of the Board of Directors and as President. Most recently, he served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Visit Pensacola.**

### **The National Naval Aviation Museum**

**The largest of ten official museums operated by the Naval History and Heritage Command, the National Naval Aviation Museum was opened to the public in 1963 and is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

**It has some 150 aircraft on display, including the only surviving aircraft from the Battle of Midway and the last F-14 Tomcat to fly a combat mission, and boasts a collection of more than 31,000 historical artifacts.**

**Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, it is the largest tourist attraction on the Florida Panhandle, welcoming more than 800,000 visitors annually. In 2015, TripAdvisor® ranked the museum #13 in its ranking of the top 25 museums to visit in the United States.**

### **National AAHS**

**The American Aviation Historical Society was founded in 1956 as a non-profit (501.c.3) educational organization. The primary objective of the organization is the preservation and dissemination of the rich heritage of the American Aviation.**

**The Society maintains an extensive collection of books, documents and photographs that are available to researchers and aviation enthusiasts on a wide variety of American Aviation History.**

**To RSVP\* (mandatory)**

**Terry Durham  
Co-Founder**

**615-920-3281 Terry's cell**  
[SmokeOnBlues@Gmail.com](mailto:SmokeOnBlues@Gmail.com)

**Greg Neely  
Co-Founder**

**Website**  
[www.SmokeOnBlues.org](http://www.SmokeOnBlues.org)

**All aviation enthusiasts are invited. Your RSVP on or before August 4<sup>th</sup> is MANDATORY**