

## **Bald Eagles**

### **North American Aviation**

### **Retirees Organization**

*“Where the Best Never Rest”*

***The organization produced a newsletter for 16 years. Copies were digitized and an archive DVD Disk was produced. These files will be made available here online in the near future.***

### **Introduction to the NAA Retirees Bulletin DVD**

This DVD is the culmination of 16 years – 2000 through 2016 – of publishing the quarterly North American Aviation Retirees Bulletin by five NAA retirees. Initially, it was published by retirees, funded and supported by NAA Management, and continued to be supported by Rockwell International once they took over. When Boeing later acquired Rockwell International, and after only a single issue, Boeing decided that this publication was beyond the scope of services provided its own retirees and withdrew any further financial support. As a parting gesture of goodwill, Boeing did provide temporary office space, a phone line, a mailbox and a printout of the 9,600 NAA retirees that had been receiving the NAA Retirees News for free.

Scraping together sufficient funds to mail out a “Hail Mary” issue to all those 9,600 retirees, the response brought in 3,600 checks with sufficient encouragement to go ahead with this project. Slimming down the staff to the five volunteers who were actually producing the bulletin and blessed with the very talented graphic artist, Bryan Hori, and very experienced copy editor, Vince Ramirez, the Bulletin started to become a reality!

With growing experience and confidence, we managed to expand the Bulletin from 12 to 16 and finally to 20 pages. As you will notice, the list of contributors includes professional writers, test pilots, combat pilots, astronauts, engineers, professional aviation artists, and just members of the North American Aviation technical family. All volunteered their talents and their time without hesitation. None ever asked to be paid!

Why are we doing all this? In these sixteen years we have managed to document almost every important aspect involving North American Aviation, Inc. We added a few articles that did not involve NAA but demonstrated huge individual courage – the recovery of the P-38 pilot, shot down by ground fire over Romania and rescued by another P-38 pilot (Summer 2005 Issue). Even more fantastic was the rescue by the Polish Home Army of seven of the ten crew members of a B-17 shot down by the Germans deep over Poland. The crew was returned back to England after seven weeks of fighting to meet the oncoming Russian army! (Winter 2004 Issue). The gaining of a huge advantage over the Japanese *Zero* through a “freak” forced landing in an Alaskan bog (Spring 2011 Issue).

So why the DVD? To preserve historically what has been accomplished in the sixty years that our Company existed. We know that many of our retiree subscribers and aviation history museums have saved various copies of the Bulletin but these yellow with age and deteriorate with time. Hence, this more modern means of preservation. That said, please enjoy and God Bless!

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