

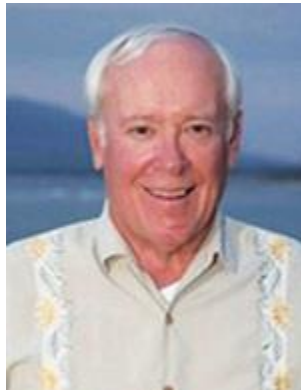
EAA Warbirds of America 2016 Hall of Fame Inductee

Warbirds of America: Doug Champlin, EAA 62048

Doug Champlin dedicated his life to the historic preservation of military fighter aircraft, including 27 examples from World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. All of these aircraft were maintained in flyable condition and represented combat pilots from the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, France, Japan, and Germany. The aircraft were based at the Champlin Fighter Museum in Mesa, Arizona, from 1980 through 2002. His museum didn't just house aircraft, but also featured a staggering collection of other artifacts, including an armored car, a Soviet T-34 tank, and a large number of other weapons, including a Gatling gun. In addition, Doug maintained what was considered to be one of the world's largest collections of autographs from famous fighter aces throughout history. The museum was also home to two notable veterans' groups: the American Fighter Aces Association and the Flying Tiger Association.

The Museum of Flight in Seattle, Washington, is now honored to be the permanent home of the Champlin Collection, proudly displaying Doug's treasured airplanes throughout their Personal Courage Wing gallery. Doug was a member of the Museum of Flight's board of trustees, and was gratified to see his collection remain intact when it was acquired by the museum and put on display in 2004.

Over the years, as he devoted his life to the acquisition, restoration, and display of so many rare and historic aircraft, for Doug, the most rewarding thing was the opportunity to meet fighter pilots from around the world and hear their stories firsthand. Those meetings led to many long-term friendships that he cherished until he passed away in May of 2013.



For more information or to get tickets, please go to <http://www.eaa.org/en/eaamuseum/eaamuseum-events/eaasportaviationhalloffamebanquet>.