



Corsair Has New Story to Tell

The EAA Aviation Museum opened a new exhibit in the Eagle Hangar on April 23, 2022, featuring a restored Corsair that honors one of the most harrowing stories of the Korean War.

The F4U Corsair in EAA's museum had the markings of WWII ace Ken Walsh for four decades until research into the aircraft logbooks by EAA museum staff uncovered the aircraft's involvement in the Korean War.

On December 4, 1950, during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, Thomas Hudner, a U.S. Navy pilot, crash landed behind enemy lines in his Corsair, trying to save his wingman, Jesse Brown, our country's first Black naval aviator, who had crash landed earlier. Hudner received the Medal of Honor for his efforts. EAA's Corsair was assigned to replace one of the lost aircraft.

When it was discovered that Hudner logged many hours and multiple carrier landings in the aircraft on display at EAA, it was an easy decision to restore the airplane to its Korean War markings.

The Corsair serves as the centerpiece of the new exhibit that tells a story of friendship, bravery, and selflessness.

The exhibit is also a terrific example and tribute to why research matters. Through research, EAA can share a story and preserve the legacy of the history of this forgotten battle with generations to come.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new exhibit, guests included Hudner's son, Thomas Hudner III, and grandson of Jesse Brown, Jamal Knight. They also loaned personal memorabilia that adds to the authenticity of the exhibit.