

Squadron Name Change Complete – Local Aviation Legend Honored

By Maj Lonnie McLaughlin, Public Affairs Officer

HUNTINGTON, NY – 1 May 2011. In the same church where as a small boy Leroy R. Grumman and his family worshiped, this legendary Long Island aviation icon was honored while his descendants and admirers looked on. Leroy Randle Grumman was a naval aviator in the First World War, a test pilot, innovative engineer and co-founder of the Grumman Aerospace Corporation and now his name lives on in the cadets and senior members of the Civil Air Patrol squadron which bears his name.

The ceremony took place at the Old First Presbyterian Church in Huntington. Present were the NY Wing Commander Col Jack Ozer, Long Island Group Commander Maj Alan Gibbs, wing and group officers as well as five members of the Grumman family including the event's guest speaker, his son, David. While cadets from the Flushing Cadet Squadron's Drum Corps played the appropriate music the official party led by the squadron's Commander Maj James A. Ridley, Sr., marched onto the stage and took their seats. The national anthem was sung by Capt Susan Hartmann and the squadron's Chaplain Capt Andy Hart gave the invocation before the official name change took place.

Speeches were made by the Squadron, Group and Wing Commanders and before Mr. Grumman spoke, he and the Squadron were presented a Town of Huntington Proclamation by Councilwoman Susan A. Berland, Councilwoman Glenda A. Jackson and Councilman Mark Mayoka. Councilwoman Berland said that "It was an honor and a pleasure to congratulate the Leroy R. Grumman Squadron this afternoon" and she commended the "Civil Air Patrol, Long Island Group, for memorializing Grumman's legacy". In all the squadron received 5 proclamations from the Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, U.S. Congress, New York State Senate and the State Assembly.

David Grumman entertained those in attendance with story's regarding his father that no one outside of the family had ever heard of. The audience included the Vice President of Engineering of the Northrop Grumman Corporation, members of the Grumman Retiree Club, the Cradle of Aviation Museum and the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War which awarded two of the squadron's cadets with certificates and medals.

The posting of the colors and the presentation of the new squadron flag were conducted by the Grumman Squadron's Color Guard. "This was a great day and a new beginning for our squadron" said Maj Ridley. "We now have an identity that we can be proud of and Leroy Grumman's memory and history will now live on through our members." Ridley commented.

Once the official ceremony was concluded, the Grumman family and those in attendance enjoyed a little socialization and some good food including a cake which bore the squadron's new patch. "I have a great staff" Ridley said, "and much of the ceremony's success can be attributed to them and to the hard work they put into making today a reality. I am very proud of them and this squadron."



Grumman Color Guard Commander c/CMSgt Maxwell Feuerstein posts the new Squadron Flag while the members of the Color Guard, c/SrA Kyle Stratford, c/CMSgt Christopher Lee and c/SrA John DiSalvo look on.



David Grumman listens as Town of Huntington Councilwoman Susan Berland reads the Proclamation proclaiming May 1st the Grumman Squadron Day in the Town.



*David Grumman received an Appreciation Plaque
from the Grumman Squadron Commander Maj James A. Ridley, Sr.*

Pictures taken by SM Michele Renneberg of the Grumman Squadron.