



# THE WRIGHT FLYER



Aviation Trail, Inc.

Fall 2010

## GENERAL HUDSON TO SPEAK AT ATI DEC. 17 FIRST FLIGHT EVENT



Lt. Gen. John L. "Jack" Hudson, USAF (Ret), deputy director of the National Museum of the United States Air Force, will be the featured speaker at Aviation Trail's Anniversary of Powered Flight celebration and dinner in Dayton Friday, Dec. 17.

Location for the event is the Engineers Club, 110 East Monument Ave., where, as part of the program, the National Aviation Hall of Fame will announce its inductees into its Class of 2011. The NAHF 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Enshrinement will be held Saturday, July 16, 2011, at the Dayton Convention Center.

As deputy director of the museum—a position established with General Hudson's appointment Dec. 21, 2009—the general assists with planning, organizing, and directing the museum's operation; he also helps provide guidance and support to the entire Air Force museum system. His duties include the preservation of the Air Force's material culture, managing the museum's collection, and presenting Air Force history to the public.

Before his retirement from active military service in October 2009, General Hudson was commander of the Aeronautical Systems Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base since 2005. In that position General Hudson worked with and knew many in the Dayton community as well as the work force of Wright-Patterson.

The Dec. 17 event is open to the public; the social begins at 6 p.m. with dinner served one hour later. The evening traditionally includes the turkey dinner enjoyed by the family of Wilbur and Orville Wright upon their return to their home in Dayton after their successful first flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C. Tickets are \$60 a person and reservations should be received by Wednesday, Dec. 15, at Aviation Trail, Inc., P.O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, OH 45409.

## A GOOD "JUMP" AND LANDING FOR ATI

It was a successful jump and landing!

On Saturday, Oct. 2, members of Aviation Trail, Inc., the Dave Gold family and ATI friends, cut a ceremonial ribbon and re-opened the Parachute Museum—a "jump" that took 15 years to completion.

The public event capped the hard work of inventorying the Dave Gold parachute collection, which was donated to ATI in 1986 by the Gold estate, and then developing a museum using the collection's artifacts as its core.

The celebration began in the George "J R" Wedekind Theater in the ATI Visitor Center at West Third and Williams streets. There the crowd was welcomed by Dean Alexander, superintendent of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park and ATI President Marvin Christian hosted the program.



Opening Day ribbon cutters (left to right) Dean Alexander, Mary Ann Johnson, Jesse Wallace, Rosiland Gold, Adam Wallace, Marvin Christian, Howard Gold, Eric Gold, Sara Gold Wallace, Rachel Gold, Andrew Kididis, and Steve Brown.

Especially welcomed were seven members of the Gold family, most of whom had traveled from California for the occasion: sons and daughters Howard, Sara Wallace, Eric and Rosiland Gold and grandchildren Adam Wallace, Rachel Gold and Jesse Wallace.

Program commentators following Alexander were Mary Mathews, former executive director of Carillon Historical Park, and Idotha Bootsie Neal, director, Wright-Dunbar, Inc., both of whom congratulated ATI on a big task well accomplished.



Jerry Spangler, vice president of Exhibit Concepts, and son Nicholas stand by the parachute packing exhibit.

ATI member Roger McClure spoke about the early years of caring for the Gold collection and Steve Brown, technical advisor to museum contractor Exhibit Concepts, described creating an inventory of each item in the 80 boxes of artifacts.

Eric Gold then spoke for the family and showed a remarkable biographical film of his father's life and career. (That film is now available on the YouTube web site: [//www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZikODku8U94](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZikODku8U94).) Granddaughter Rachel spoke lovingly of a grandfather she remembered only vaguely but had heard much about to conclude the program in the theater.

Next there was a ceremonial ribbon cutting at the doorway to the museum on the second floor of the ATI building. Yes, the ribbon was fabric from a parachute!

Afterward, everyone was free to roam through the newly finished museum and then enjoy light refreshments in the Conference Room.

Compared with its sparse number of early exhibits, the museum today looks filled and inviting. Entering it, one is hit visually with a flattened, bright orange parachute which forms the background for a Dave Gold biography panel and an exhibit on How to Pack a Parachute, with many artifacts from the collection.

At the end of that panel is a Feel the Force interactive exhibit where visitors can control the amount of air blowing up into a scaled-down parachute. Turn the corner and there's an exhibit on the Caterpillar Club, an exclusive group of people who have saved their lives by using parachutes.

On the back side of the flattened orange parachute are touch screen exhibits and notebooks on parachute research and development, Wright Field, and modern uses of parachutes. A flat-screen video at the large space mural near the exit shows various configurations of parachutes used by NASA.



Dave Gold family members line up for a photo in the ATI Parachute Museum.

Because the Gold parachute collection is so comprehensive--one of the largest private collections of its kind in the world--most of its artifacts, papers, photographs, and films cannot be displayed, but are carefully stored. Except for the artifacts, ATI has placed the Gold items in the Special Collections and Archives of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Library at Wright State University where they are open to the public. The artifacts are stored in the ATI building. Completion of the Parachute Museum was made possible via a 2009 federal grant for \$95,000, obtained through the National Aviation Heritage Alliance with the assistance of U.S. Congressman Mike Turner (R-Ohio). The money is administered through the Institute of Museum and Library Services in Washington, D.C. The Parachute Museum had its opening in 2003 with completion of the ATI Visitor Center and the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center of the DAHNHP. Since then many ATI members have expended their skills and time on the museum project, especially ATI Trustee Steve Brown and Andrew Kididis, a parachute research engineer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Video productions for the exhibits were the responsibility of Main-sail Production Services, Dayton, Ohio, through Exhibit Concepts.



Guests at the Parachute Museum re-opening look at exhibits.

### THANKS RECEIVED FROM THE GOLD FAMILY

**The following is the heart of an e-mail thank you received from Eric Gold, son of Dave Gold, after his visit to Dayton, for the re-opening of the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum. ATI President Marvin Christian wanted all ATI members to know of the family's thanks for the visit and for the hard work that went into the museum.**

I...want to take this opportunity to thank you, the Aviation Trail trustees, National Park Service, and everyone else involved in this project, for making the "Gold Family" feel so warmly welcomed and honored to be part of this event. As a family we are indebted to Aviation Trail for their leadership and all the hard work that went into making this museum a reality.

Today's dedication is just a start—we look forward to thousands of future visitors learning about parachutes and their important role in aviation history, which was our father's vision for his collection. I am sure my father would have been very proud of what has been accomplished thus far.

Thanks so much,  
Eric





Dave Gold 1917—1985

Dave Gold was born on Aug. 9, 1917, the son of Russian immigrants who had settled in the Bronx neighborhood of New York City, where Dave grew up.

Dave showed an early interest in aviation, especially in parachutes. He even started and participated in a parachute club at the Haaren Aviation School until a doctor urged him to move to a warmer climate because of health problems.

Dave's health problems started at the age of 15, while he was in junior high school, triggered by a bout of rheumatic fever and a football injury that left him with severe arthritis in his hips and other joints. After spending several years in and out of hospitals he moved to Tucson, Ariz., in 1937, hoping to improve his health. There he was able to complete high school in 1938 and move on to the University of Arizona where he majored in journalism. Later, in 1953, he earned a degree in engineering from Phoenix College in Phoenix, Ariz. Dave embarked on his professional career in the parachute industry after obtaining his riggers (packers) license prior to the United States entrance into World War II (1941 to 1945). During the war, he served as chief parachute rigger for Southwest Airways at Thunderbird Field, Phoenix, Ariz. Later, he opened his own business, selling and servicing parachutes and designing and fabricating special parachute equipment. Altogether, he spent 16 years in Arizona.

It was during this sixteen-year period that Dave made 19 parachute jumps (his lifetime total) to gain experience that he could apply to designing parachutes.

In 1953, after obtaining his engineering degree, Dave moved to California, where he lived for the rest of his life. In California, Dave worked first at El Centro, a world leader in parachute testing; then at parachute manufacturer Irvine Air Chute Company, Glendale; Space General Corporation in El Monte; Northrop-Venture Corporation in Newbury Park; Irvine Industries (renamed Irvine Air Chute Company); and the Naval Weapons Center in China Lake, where he was employed as chief designer in Aerodynamic Decelerator Systems until his death on Feb. 4, 1985, in Los Angeles, California, at the age of 67. Most of Dave Gold's positions in Calif., were related to various aerospace projects. During Dave Gold's career, he received several patents, gave presentations at scientific conferences, wrote magazine articles, received prestigious awards, and was considered a leading parachute historian.

## GOLD FAMILY ENJOYED PARACHUTE MUSEUM SNEAK PREVIEW

On Oct. 1 seven members of the Dave Gold family were treated to a private, sneak preview of Aviation Trail's Parachute Museum—and they were delighted with what they saw.

Gold's four children, Howard, Eric, Sarah Gold Wallace and Rosiland Gold and three grandchildren, Jesse Wallace, Adam Wallace and Rachel Gold, arrived in Dayton from California and Ohio and convened at the museum for a walk-through of the now-completed museum. They were wowed!

They saw a flattened, orange parachute as they entered the museum room and in front of it a panel on Dave Gold as a parachute rigger, researcher, jumper and collector. Nearby they viewed an exhibit on How You Pack a Parachute—with artifacts from the collection.

ATI President Marvin Christian summed up their enthusiasm: "They were so pleased with the results of our multi-year efforts. It was gratifying to see the pleasure they took in remembering their father or grandfather through items associated with him."

Gold's parachute collection was donated to ATI in 1986, but work on the museum was delayed until about 1995 while ATI completed other projects. The Gold family visitors had not seen the items for years—if ever—so they also toured the secured "cage" in the basement of the ATI building where boxes of artifacts are stored.

There were "ohs" and "ahs" from the family as items conjured remembrances of things recalled vaguely from childhood, or not at all. Christian led the tour and said the Golds put a "human touch" to things otherwise simply itemized on ATI's inventory lists.

On Saturday, Oct. 2, the Golds participated in the official re-opening of the museum and on Sunday, some of the Golds visited to the Special Collections and Archives at Wright State University. There Dawne Dewey showed them the Gold papers, photos and films—all indexed—for perusal by researchers. Again they were impressed and came away planning to make a return visit when there would be more time to look at everything.



# SEAPLANE BASE PLAQUE UNVEILING



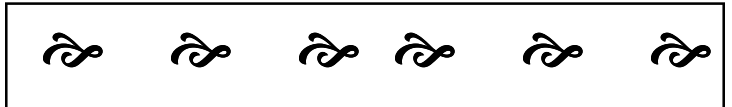
Amanda Wright Lane, great-grandniece of Wilbur and Orville Wright, and Harold Johnson proudly display the new marker identifying the Wright Seaplane Base in West Carrollton, Ohio, at its unveiling Aug. 20. Amanda and Jim Tichgelaar representing the Ohio Historical Society did the unveiling honors in the Miami & Erie Canal Park along the bikeway in West Carrollton. Harold Robinson, president of the Wright Seaplane Base Inc., introduced other guests including Peggy Lehner, Republican representative to the Ohio House of Representatives from the 87<sup>th</sup> district; West Carrollton Mayor Jeff Sanner; and Moraine Mayor Robert Rosencrans, now deceased. Don Ferguson, secretary for the Seaplane Base organization, gave a brief history of the Wrights' work at the site. Aviation Trail was a monetary contributor to the marker.



Capping the Seaplane Base ceremony was a flyover by these three restored WACO historical biplanes: a WACO CRG flown by Pete Heins, a WACO UPF7 flown by Mike Brown, and a WACO F2 with Andy Heins as pilot. They took off and landed at Moraine Airpark across the river from the Seaplane Base.



This aerial view of the Great Miami River shows the bend in the river that allowed the Wrights to take off and land in accord with favorable winds. Moraine Airpark is easily visible on the far side of the river. The brothers made some 100 flights from the Seaplane Base in the four versions of the float planes they developed, including their most successful Model G. The Seaplane Base organization plans to reconstruct a G model for display. (Photo courtesy of Michael Williams, a member of the Seaplane Base Inc.)



This oversized poster in the Engineers Club in Dayton welcomed attendees to the start of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reel Stuff Film Festival of Aviation in Dayton Nov. 5. The two-day festival, created by the National Aviation Hall of Fame, began with a reception followed by a screening of *Flyabout*, the first of five films for the two-day event. The remaining films were screened at the Dayton Convention Center. Standing by the poster are ATI member Betty Darst, left, and Monika Petrillo, director of *Flyabout*, an introspective film about herself as a young female pilot circumnavigating the Australian continent.



## ATI PICNIC ON THE HILL



Nancy Horlacher displays one of the delicious fresh peaches that were part of the meal that filled ATI picnickers' baskets.



Betty Darst and Darrell Larkin of Hillsboro, Ohio, display their baskets at the Aviation Trail picnic Aug. 22 at the plaza of the Wright Memorial. Some 60 picknickers chose their baskets and filled them with sandwiches, deviled eggs, peaches, potato chips, and cookies. Cups of ice cream topped off the feast. After the meal, Dawne Dewey, head of Special Collections and Archives at Wright State University, presented a talk in the Huffman Prairie Interpretive Center on the Wright brothers' School of Aviation on Huffman Prairie.



Launching the custom-made "rockets" at the ATI picnic only took some push-power on a bicycle pump. Here Spencer Christian applies his arm muscles to get his design airborne.

## CLARK BECK FEATURED SPEAKER AT HBCU/MI COLLABORATION SYMPOSIUM

Earlier this year, Clark Beck, a trustee for Aviation Trail, Inc., was the featured luncheon speaker at the HBCU/MI Collaboration Symposium held in Dayton. In attendance were more than 300 staff and students from universities as far away as the University of Puerto Rico. (HBCU is for historically black colleges and universities, and MI, for minority-serving institutions.) The symposium, sponsored by the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and NASA Glenn, promotes a long-term strategic partnership with minority-serving institutions and businesses. It also furthers technical innovation and develops possible student employment opportunities. After Beck was introduced by Joe Sciabaca, executive director of AFRL, he described metaphorically the sometimes muddy, rut-filled country "road"—sometimes smooth "highway"—he traveled during his career. He also praised AFRL for being a leader in making the travels of minority students, especially engineering students, less difficult. The first bump in Beck's career "road" occurred when he was denied ROTC scholarship enrollment; the transparent reason given: he was overweight. The real reason: African-Americans were not permitted to hold the rank of first lieutenant in the Marines in 1947. Another "road bump" came when, after earning a degree in mathematics, he tried to enroll in an engineering school.

Without looking at his transcript, his interviewer told him that "people like him could not be engineers." But he persisted, at another school in another state. There he earned two engineering degrees and was given an honorary doctorate.

The good section of the "road," Beck recalled, began when he was a co-op student in AFRL which hired him upon graduation. He worked 33 years in AFRL and, after retirement, went to Wright State University. There, he founded Wright STEPP, a STEM-like program to prepare students in Dayton Public Schools for engineering. (STEPP is for science, technology, engineering, pre-college program and STEM, which developed later, is for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.) In 1991 the program was recognized as President George H. W. Bush's 384<sup>th</sup> Daily Point of Light. Beck attributed the success of the STEPP program to AFRL's policy of permitting about 100 of its employees to volunteer each summer to teach classes and mentor the couple hundred student enrollees from grades seven through 10 on the Wright State campus. In his closing comments Beck re-stated the opportunity that AFRL affords engineering students--comments re-enforced by ATI's recognition of the laboratory with its 2010 Trailblazer award for, in part, its community outreach programs.

**METCALF RETIRES AS MUSEUM DIRECTOR/RECEIVES AWARD**

Aviation Trail trustees and members extend double congratulations to Charles Metcalf who is retiring as director of the National Museum of the United States Air Force after 14 years of service on Dec. 31 and who, on Nov. 8, was awarded the Wesley McDonald Elder Statesman of Aviation Award by the NAA.

During his tenure the museum saw record-setting attendance--1.3 million persons in 2009, with expectations for even higher numbers this year--and additions of the 200,000-square-foot Cold War Gallery and 60,000-square-foot Missile Gallery.

The National Aeronautic Association's Elder Statesman honor recognizes persons who, over the years, have made contributions of significant value to aeronautics and reflect credit upon America and themselves. Previous winners include James Doolittle, Olive Ann Beech, Scott Crossfield and Chuck Yeager.

Besides managing the world's oldest and largest military aviation museum, Metcalf also guided, with technical and professional advice, the U.S. Air Force Heritage Program, a collection of 12 Air Force field museums around the United States; and a far-flung loan program worldwide with more than 6,000 historic artifacts.

Even as he leaves the director's job, Metcalf looks forward to the museum's potential showcasing of one of the Space Shuttles to be retired by NASA. To house it, other space-related artifacts, and the museum's presidential and global reach aircraft, a fourth museum building is planned with fund-raising underway headed by the Museum Foundation.

A native of Anamosa, Iowa, Metcalf completed nearly 36 years on active duty with the U.S. Air Force in a variety of financial management and planning positions. He retired in 1991 with the grade of major general.



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

- Stephen Fry
- Robert Kyvik
- Dee White



This colorful, model fiberglass aircraft "flew" as part of Fighter Jets-- Dayton Takes Flight, an art project displayed in downtown Dayton and the Oregon district this summer and fall. Fifty scale-model craft (41 inches nose to tail) were decorated by local artists including students at the K12 Gallery on West Third Street where the idea for the project began with Jerri Stanard and former Dayton mayor Rhine McLin. The craft, mounted on RTA poles, made up an outdoor art gallery for the city. Fairborn had its own display downtown of 56 artistically painted, outdoor aircraft models for view by the U.S. Air Force Marathon runners in September.

**GAFFNEY TO EDIT OHIO AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE, AND RECEIVES AWARD**

Timothy R. Gaffney, retired aerospace editor at the *Dayton Daily News* and creator of the aviationdayton.com web page, has been named editor-in-chief of a new aerospace publication due to debut in March 2011.

*Ohio Aerospace and Defense* will be, initially, an annual magazine with focus on boosting Ohio's reputation as an aerospace state. The first 5,000 copies will go to key business leaders, policy makers and journalists worldwide.

Gaffney said the publication's first edition will include a guest column by Tom Crouch, aviation author of *The Bishop's Boys*. Michael Heil, president and CEO of the Ohio Aerospace Institute and a board member of the National Aviation Heritage Alliance, also is writing an article for the premier edition.

The new magazine will be the work of Ohio Aerospace and Defense LLC based in Huber Heights, Ohio. The company also publishes *Discover the Dayton Region* and *Discover the NorthEast Ohio Region*. Both are in magazine format.

Gaffney was honored last summer with the Zoe Dell Nutter Award for his creation of the aviationdayton.com website and his work at the *Dayton Daily News*.

Traditionally, the award is presented to someone in the Dayton community who selflessly and prominently promotes the region's aviation history.

This presentation was during the President's Reception sponsored by the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

To contact Gaffney at *Ohio Aerospace and Defense*: 937.219.8277 or timothy@ohioaerospaceanddefense.com



## CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ATI PARACHUTE MUSEUM

**We didn't do it alone! This list is an attempt to acknowledge all the individuals and organizations whose efforts and artifacts contributed to the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum. If we've missed anyone, please let us know so that our files are complete.**

Contractors: Exhibit Concepts, Inc.; COSI  
Video Productions: Mainsail Production Services  
Electrical: Miller Adams Electric  
Technical Advisors: Brown & Bills Architects; bb Building Group

### No Charge or Fee for Usage

Airborne Systems  
Steve and Eileen Brown  
Marvin Christian Collection  
Estate of Dave Gold  
Harold and Thelma Johnson  
Rich and Mary Ann Johnson  
Andrew Kididis  
Col. Joe Kittinger, Jr., USAF (Ret.)  
NASA Glenn  
Rheinhilda "Roni" Gross Loomis  
Misty Blues  
National Hot Rod Association  
National Museum of the United States Air Force  
Parachute Industry Association  
Parasail Safety Council  
Skydive Greene County  
Smithsonian Institution  
Wright State University, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Special Collections and Archives

### Paid Usage Fees or Purchased Items

George Bush Presidential Library and Museum  
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

### Major Grants and Monetary Donations

John and Ann Greene Fund, Dayton Foundation  
Iddings Foundation  
Rich and Mary Ann Johnson  
Paul and Doris Brown  
Roger and Carol McClure  
U.S. Federal Government, with funds administered through the Institute of Museum and Library Services

### Donations of Service in Kind

ATI Board of Trustees and membership  
Steve Brown  
Brown and Bills Architects  
Andrew Kididis  
National Park Service, Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, and Harper's Ferry Center  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base



**Lisa Hokky, Director of WACO Learning Center**

Aviation Trail welcomes to the aviation community Lisa Hokky as director of the WACO Learning Center at Historic WACO Field in Troy, Ohio.

Ms. Hokky brings a background in business, education and engineering to a position that provides educational opportunities for children and adults throughout the year, using the WACO Air Museum for historical background.

WACO's current Adult Lecture Series speaker on Dec. 8 will feature Frank Klatt, retired aerospace project manager and engineer for the Air Force, describing America's Rocket and Space programs. A resident of Troy where she volunteers for school activities and the Troy Literacy Council, Ms. Hokky has a bachelor of science degree in industrial engineering from Ohio State University. Her masters of education is from Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, La.

Her work experience includes project management, coordinating training, and teaching at the high school and college levels, and engineering at Wright-Patterson and Newark Air Force bases.

At Northwestern, Ms. Hokky served as adjunct faculty member and training project director within the School of Engineering. As an Air Force civilian, she was an industrial engineer, lending support for inertial guidance systems repair and other repair facilities.



**WRIGHT "B" FLYER REPLICA RE-ENACTS HISTORIC FLIGHT**  
In this striking photo, Timothy R. Gaffney pictorially froze the Wright "B" Flyer on a historic re-enactment flight Oct. 2. Here it approaches Columbus with cargo—the small orange box between the aircraft's wheels—simulating the original Flyer's first cargo delivery on Nov. 4, 1910, when Phil Parmelee piloted a B model with 200 pounds of silk from Dayton to Columbus. In the small box were models of tiny spy aircraft developed by Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base—symbolically a giant leap forward from silk. Aboard the Flyer were Rich Stepler and Mitchell Cary; piloting the photography "chase" Cessna 150 was Don Gum, another Wright "B" pilot. Photo courtesy of Timothy R. Gaffney.



AVIATION TRAIL, INC.  
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Dayton, OH 45409



Fall 2010

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937 443-0793

### REMINDERS

--Dec. 17 Anniversary of Powered Flight celebration and dinner at the Engineers Club, 110 E. Monument Ave., Dayton. Guest speaker is Lt. Gen. John L. "Jack" Hudson, USAF (Ret.), deputy director of the National Museum of the United States Air Force. Reservations (\$60 a person) must reach the following address by Wednesday, Dec. 15: P.O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, OH 45409.

#### AVIATION TRAIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I would like to become a member of Aviation Trail, Inc., at the following level:

<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen 60 and over \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life \$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$100	(May be paid in five annual
<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$1,000/year	installments of \$100 each)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: **AVIATION TRAIL, INC.** and mail it together with this form to:

Aviation Trail, Inc., P. O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, OH 45409

*Aviation Trail, Inc. qualifies for tax exemption under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.*