

*Press Office*  
City of Chicago, Department of Aviation  
Nuria I. Fernandez, Commissioner



# News Release

**November 16, 2007**

**Contact: Karen Pride**  
**(773) 686-3700**  
**kpride@ohare.com**

## **MIDWAY CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF SBD DAUNTLESS MEMORIAL EXHIBIT**

*Battle of Midway Exhibit Offers Unique Educational Experience to Air Travelers*

CHICAGO – Aviation Commissioner Nuria I. Fernandez joined veterans, their families and generous sponsors this week in celebrating the completion of the SBD Dauntless Memorial Exhibit, which is on permanent display in Concourse A of Midway International Airport.

The addition of photographs, narratives and three interactive video kiosks marks the completion of the Battle of Midway exhibit that features an SBD Dauntless Dive-Bomber suspended from the ceiling. The complete exhibit provides an educational experience that raises awareness of the contributions that the pilots, engineers and City of Chicago made to the World War II effort.

“We unveil this exhibit in the spirit of remembrance and to present history in an engaging and innovative way,” said Commissioner Fernandez. “As travelers interact with these remarkable kiosks and pass by the aircraft on display, I hope they will gain a new appreciation for the courageous men and women who defend our nation’s values.”

Each of the video kiosks is devoted to one of three areas of significance: the Battle of Midway itself, the technology used during World War II, and the connection to Chicago. The kiosks not only offer important history lessons, but also demonstrate how technology and the City of Chicago played a significant role in shaping the outcome of the war.

“This exhibit would not be possible if not for the tireless effort and commitment from numerous individuals and sponsors,” said Commissioner Fernandez.

A. Epstein and Sons International, Inc. provided architectural and exhibit design, engineering and project management services under the leadership of Epstein’s Executive Vice President and Aviation Group Director Allen L. Pomerance.

In addition, the SBD Dauntless Memorial Exhibit was made possible through sponsorship from the following: A&T Recovery, Boeing Company, Chicago Marine Heritage Society, Facility Services Professionals, Iona Group, Leopardo Construction, McCormick Tribune Foundation, McDonalds Corporation, Naval Museum of Naval Aviation, Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, Navy League, Southwest Airlines and SVI Themed Construction Solutions, Inc. The names of other individuals who contributed to the project are listed on a donor board that is part of the exhibit.

- more -

Chicago's airports have a long tradition for honoring veterans of the war. In 1949, Chicago Municipal Airport was designated as Chicago Midway Airport to commemorate the heroes of the Battle of Midway. Also in 1949, Orchard Field Airport was renamed O'Hare Airport after Lieutenant Commander Edward "Butch" O'Hare, a World War II flying ace who was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, along with the U.S. Navy, dedicated the Battle of Midway Memorial that stands on the ticketing level of the terminal in 2001.

In 2004, the Department of Aviation dedicated the SBD Dauntless Dive-Bomber, which is also displayed in Concourse A at Midway Airport. The airplane is the same type that was flown by U.S. Naval aviators in the Battle of Midway, which took place June 4-7, 1942, and is generally considered the turning point of World War II in the Pacific. The bomber was recovered from Lake Michigan in 1991.

~ ~ ~ ~

The Chicago Airport System is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O'Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago's airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit [www.flychicago.com](http://www.flychicago.com) to learn more about the Chicago Airport System.

###

Attached: Photo from event



Photo Caption

Chicago Aviation Commissioner Nuria I. Fernandez speaks to assembled guests at an open house to celebrate the completion of the Battle of Midway Educational Exhibit at Midway International Airport on Wednesday, November 14, 2007.

Photo by Bill Parrish