About the Artist

William J. "Bill" Reynolds, was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on June 4, 1918. He learned to fly in 1939 while a student at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. After graduation from college in June 1941, he entered the United States Army Air Corps as an aviation cadet. Following graduation from flight school in June 1942, he served as a fighter pilot, flying the P-40 in the 49th Fighter Group stationed in New Guinea, Southwest Pacific area.

After returning to the United States, he served in a number of areas as flight instructor, operations officer, and squadron commander. He has amassed more than 4,000 flying hours, and he received a commercial pilot's license. Mr. Reynolds left the Air Force after ten years of active duty to manage a civilian contract pilot training school, where he trained pilots for the United States Air Force. He returned to the Air Force as a civilian regional director of aerospace education and retired at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington, D.C., after 40 years of association with the Air Force. He lived in Sumter, South Carolina, for many years until his death.

Mr. Reynolds was a self-taught artist and painted throughout his life, drawing on natural talent developed since childhood. While in college, his talent began to attract considerable attention, and he was commissioned to do drawings for one volume of a seven-volume Catholic history of Texas; the original drawings are in the Papal Library in Rome.

Although Mr. Reynolds painted in many subject areas, he is best known for his aviation subjects. His aerospace paintings communicate a sincere respect for and love of flying, which developed over the many hours he spent in the cockpit of an airplane and his long association with aviation. His many and varied experiences in aviation are translated to the canvas, expressing deep involvement and integrity.

Mr. Reynolds' professional memberships have included the American Association of Aviation Artists and the American Society for Aerospace Education, where he was elected to the Society's Hall of Honor in 1981. He was a charter member of the Air Force Association, which awarded him a Citation of Honor for military aviation art in 1985. He also received a Certificate of Honor from the National Aeronautic Association in 1994, representing in the United States the Federation Aeronautique Internationale, for his contributions to aviation art. Mr. Reynolds was elected as an honorary member of the Order of Daedalians, America's premiere organization of military fighter pilots, in 1998.

The Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina formally approved the establishment of the William J. Reynolds Gallery at the University of South Carolina Sumter in 1995, and on October 14, 1997, the Gallery was formally dedicated. Limited edition signed prints of many of his paintings have been sold in a number of galleries across the United States. He produced over 400 original works of art in his lifetime.

The Reynolds Galley is located in room 211 on the second floor of the USC Sumter Administration Building, is open from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. weekdays, and contains a representative sample (both originals and prints) of the artist's more than 400 paintings. In addition to USC Sumter= Reynolds Gallery, the artist=s works hang in The Pentagon and the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, Washington, DC; the Naval Air Museum, Pensacola, Florida; the Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, and many private collections.

Mr. Reynolds was married for 54 years to the former Julia (Judy) Elizabeth Gundy, who died on February 27, 1998. Their children include twin daughters Ms. Sylvia A. Deprill of Sumter, SC and Ms. Susan E. Dubose of Charlotte, NC, and son Mr. John P. Reynolds of Charleston, SC. Mr. Reynolds' grandchildren include Harold (Tré) L. Deprill III, William M. Deprill, David J. Deprill, Steven D. Dubose, Suzanne E. Dubose and John P. Reynolds, Jr., plus one great-granddaughter, Hayden Deprill (Tre's daughter). Mr. Reynolds remained active in Saint Ann Parish, Sumter, SC, and represented the Parish in the establishment of Covenant Place, an ecumenical retirement facility where he resided from 1998 until his death on January 22, 2008.

Updated 02/08
Office of University Advancement
The William J. Reynolds Gallery
An Abbreviated Guide to the Reynolds Collection

1. "Last Aerial Combat of World War II," print
2. "Amelia Earhart's Solo Crossing of the Atlantic," print
3. "Devil Boat," print
4. "Guadalcanal Forward Airstrip, 1943," print
5. "An Old Friend I," print
6. "The F-100 Over the Grand Canyon," print
7. "Lindbergh, Day One, Off Newfoundland," print
10. "Lindbergh Flies the US Mail in Converted DH-4," print
11. "Old Friends," print
12. "Volabamus, Volamus--We Flew, We Fly," print
13. "Operation Varsity, Germany 1945," print
14. "Mr. Piper's Cub," print
15. "The First Across," print
17. "Lindbergh Circles Irish Fishing Boat," print
18. "Fighting Falcons in the Canyon," print
20. "On Guard," oil
22. ""Pappy" Boyington Scores His First Victory," print
25. "Fighting Falcons in the Canyon," print
27. "Lindbergh Crosses the Irish Coast," print
30. "Sole Survivor," print
31. "Lindbergh Flies the US Mail in Converted DH-4," print
32. "The Beginning," oil
33. "Thunderbirds Over the Grand Canyon," oil
34. "Thunderbirds Crossing," oil
35. "Honor in Battle," oil
36. "Today I Soloed," oil
37. "In Defense of Liberty," oil
38. "Apache Scout," oil
39. "First Flight," oil
40. "Operation Varsity, Germany 1945," print
41. "Pappy" Boyington Scores His First Victory," print
42. "Architects of Air Power," print
43. "An Old Friend II," oil
44. "Thunderbirds Over the Grand Canyon," oil
45. "Merchant Airman of War," oil
46. "First Flight," oil
47. "Freedom Through Knowledge," oil
48. "Gregory "Pappy" Boyington Downs His 21st Enemy Aircraft," print
49. "Amelia Earhart Down in the Pacific," print
50. "Gabreski," print
51. "Approaching the Initial Point," print
52. "Desert Mission," print
53. "Escort to Danger," print
54. "The Classic Maneuver," print
55. "Sole Survivor," print
56. "Lindbergh Flies the US Mail in Converted DH-4," print
57. "The Gladiators," print
58. "Around the World in 175 Days," print
59. "In Harm's Way," print
60. "First Solo Cross Country," print
61. "Twelve Seconds at Kitty Hawk," print
62. "Point of No Return," print
63. "Target Schweinfurt," print
64. "Unarmed and Unafraid," print
65. "Argentan Morning," print
66. "Baron Manfred Von Richthofen Shot Down," print
67. "Beach One," print
68. "On the Way to the Stars," print
70. "The Beginning," oil
71. "Citizen Soldier," print

Prints listed in italics are available for sale in the USC Sumter Office of University Advancement for $100 each; proceeds are used to fund an endowment to support the fine and performing arts at USC Sumter. Special pricing arrangements can be made for multiple purchases of the same or mixed prints.

Phone: (803) 938-3782 or 1-888-USCSUMTER, ext. 3782

The William J. Reynolds Gallery is located in Room 211 of the University of South Carolina Sumter Administration Building, 200 Miller Road, Sumter, South Carolina 29150-2498. Viewing hours are 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information on the William J. Reynolds Gallery, which is part of USC Sumter's permanent art collection that is displayed in locations throughout the campus, or on temporary art shows in the University Gallery in the Anderson Library or in the Administration Building's Upstairs Gallery, please contact Professor Cara-lin Getty, Director of Galleries and Curator of Exhibits, at (803) 938-3727, weekdays. You may also fax USC Sumter at (803) 775-2180, or visit our web site at www.uscsumter.edu.