



Great Grants and Initiatives

Grantor: Daniels Fund

Grantee or Initiative: Sea-Air Operations Gallery, National Air and Space Museum

Amount: \$3 million **Period of Grant Award:** Multi-year

The Sea-Air Operations gallery at the National Air and Space Museum's flagship building on the National Mall in Washington was dedicated to the memory of naval aviator, entrepreneur and philanthropist Bill Daniels. The honor is in recognition of a \$3 million legacy grant by the Daniels Fund.

Daniels enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1941. He was a fighter pilot aboard the aircraft carriers U.S.S. Intrepid and U.S.S. Sangamon during World War II and served as an intelligence officer during the Korean War. Daniels was awarded the Bronze Star and the Air Medal, and he retired from the Navy in 1958 with the rank of commander. Throughout a remarkable life, Bill Daniels represented the best of America. The museum is expected to inspire young people with a gallery that focuses on a demanding subject, naval aviation.

The Sea-Air Operations gallery features the simulated aircraft carrier U.S.S. Smithsonian, CVM-76. Visitors cross a quarterdeck to find a scaled-down recreation of a bay on a hangar deck. There is also a recreated ready room for crew briefings, a navigation bridge and flight control center. The four vintage airplanes on display in the gallery (a Boeing F4B-4; a Grumman F4F Wildcat; a Douglas SBD-6 Dauntless; and a Douglas A-4C Skyhawk) represent a half century of carrier aviation.

Hundreds of thousands of students and adults visit the Sea Air Operations Gallery every year, experiencing innovative education opportunities that offer lessons about the history of naval aviation, as well as opportunities to land a simulated plane on the deck of an aircraft carrier.