



# HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM

*Where Inspiration Takes Flight*

December 14, 2021

Nikolai & Stephanie Schlegel  
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## 2022 Annual Campaign

Thank you for helping sustain Hiller Aviation Museum, including the Grumman Albatross!

**Double Your Impact – 1:1 Matching Gift Available Now! An anonymous donor will match the first \$25,000 in donations.**

Dear Nikolai and Stephanie,

Please allow me to introduce myself. I'm known as the Flying Yacht, as well as the Boat in the Sky. Some people even refer to me as "the GOAT," and I can appreciate that, because yes, I am—the Greatest Of All Time. My name is Grumman HU-16C Albatross, and I am the *largest* aircraft on display at Hiller Aviation Museum.

It has come to my attention that last year, Rutland Water, the 747 in residence at Hiller Aviation Museum, wrote to you, and I must say I was a bit taken aback. Rutland Water is only a cockpit and first-class cabin of an aircraft, while I'm *the whole plane*, and I'm a boat, too! I'm as at home on a runway as I am on the sea and can even withstand 10-foot swells. And the 747's windows don't even open like mine! Finally, while the 747 recently celebrated 50 years in the sky, Grumman Albatrosses are going on 60+ years in flight. So, I think it is clear that if one of us is speaking on behalf of the museum, it should be me.



With that settled, let me tell you more about how this GOAT came to be an educator at Hiller Aviation Museum. I started off my career as a US Navy search and rescue aircraft, and ironically, it was me who was later rescued from the Arizona desert and restored by venture capitalist Reid Dennis. After years of restoration, followed by many adventures, I embarked on my most epic journey, when I become the first Albatross to circumnavigate the globe.

### My Adventure Around-the-World

- 6 months
- 6 continents
- 21 countries
- 38 stops
- 26,000 miles

In 1997, I flew all the way around the world as a support plane to pilot Linda Finch, who was recreating the final flight path of Amelia Earhart in a Lockheed Electra 10E on the 60th Anniversary of her attempt to circumnavigate the globe in 1937.

In 2012, I was donated to Hiller Aviation Museum, where I represent the best of what these historical aircraft—and their daring pilots—offer, which is the inspiration to do things that have never been done before and stretch the bounds of what is possible through innovation, trial and error, and sheer determination.

*In association with the Smithsonian Institution*

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In one of my proudest moments, I overheard Hiller Aviation Museum President & CEO Jeffery Bass say *I* was the most impressive aircraft at the museum! Together with the other aircraft and the museum staff and volunteers, we welcome more than 100,000 annual visitors, including families, school field trips, scouts, and Aviation Camp participants. My favorite activities are quarterly Open Cockpit Days when my door swings open and the public is welcomed aboard my impeccably restored cabin.



I'd like to ask you to consider making a year-end gift to Hiller Aviation Museum to support me and my fellow aircraft (*yes, including the 747*) and ensure that our visitors are inspired by all our aviation stories and delighted by the hands-on programs and science exhibits, including our Invention Lab Makerspace, Drone Plex, and Flight Sim Zone. Your gift would directly help inspiration take flight!

#### Your Support Will Fund:

- A motorized paper airplane launcher with flight zone to measure aircraft altitude and distance
- Robotics kits that enable hands-on science exploration
- Multimedia learning experiences with 100+ weather simulations for public visitors, including K-12 school groups

**Your generosity is the engine that keeps Hiller Aviation Museum going! A gift of \$50, \$250, \$500 or more would truly support aviation and science education. Would you please make a donation today?**

As a token of my appreciation for your past support, I've enclosed a Hiller Aviation Museum dazzle magnet. Place it proudly on your vehicle or fridge as a reminder that, together, we can ensure inspiration takes flight and be the spark for the next generation of aviators, engineers, and innovators!

Regardless of what kind of aircraft (or boat) you take on your next journey, I wish you safe travels, and I look forward to seeing you at the museum in 2023!

Blue skies,

*Grumman HU-16C Albatross*

P.S. On behalf of the entire team at Hiller Aviation Museum, **thank you** for your support this holiday season. Tax-deductible donations can be made at [www.hiller.org/donate](http://www.hiller.org/donate) or by using the enclosed envelope. Gifts of stock and gifts via Donor Advised Funds also appreciated!

