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## Memorable visit to the Netherlands

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**Kim Lafon, our Regional Controller in the USA, had a memorable visit to the Netherlands in the autumn of 2014. Together with her dad and aunt she visited a World War II bunker museum in Noordwijk and received a very special gift in memory of her granddad.**

We travelled to Hempstead to hear more about this remarkable story! Well Kim, can you tell a bit more about your visit to the Netherlands? What is the connection between your family and World War II?

Kim starts to tell: 'My granddad - Captain Lester G Taylor Jr. - was a pilot in the US Air Forces and was stationed in the United Kingdom in 1944 during World War II. From there he flew 28 missions to bomb strategic locations in Germany. He returned home in August 1944. His plane a P-51D Mustang however - named Jean's Warrior as an honor to his wife - stayed in the UK. On the first mission after he left on 11 September 1944, the plane was shot down by the Germans near Lakerveld in the Netherlands. Fortunately, the pilot could escape and return back to the UK, but the remains of the plane remained in the Netherlands.



Years later my dad started a search to find the plane. He built a website in honor of his dad, placed photos on it and kept searching for the plane. For years he was unsuccessful in finding any news on its location, but a couple of years ago he was contacted by Ed IJbrandij, one of the founders of the Dutch Airwar Research and Excavation Foundation (DARE). The foundation researches the history of air battles over Dutch territories and searches for relatives of pilots whose aircrafts crashed. Ed told my dad that the remains of his plane had been found and salvaged in 2006 and that the foundation actually was in the possession of parts of the plane and he invited my dad to the Netherlands to actually visit his museum in Noordwijk.

And so we did! I combined a business trip to the Netherlands with a visit to the museum and my dad and my aunt came along. It was a special moment for all of us to actually see and touch the remains of his plane and I am sure my granddad - if he would still be alive - would have been thrilled to hear about it. All three of us received a special memory by getting a remembrance plate with some parts of the plane that Ed specially made for us. A special honor to my granddad and a valuable memento to this special trip!

Kim Lafon is Regional Controller for Logan and is heading the Finance, IT and support departments in Hempstead. She has a degree in Accountancy and has been working in the field of Finance since 1996. Next to being a numbers lover, she is also fond of animals. That clearly shows from her work experience as next to having worked for some oil & gas related companies, she has worked for the Houston Zoo and also at home she has built herself a real animal farm.



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