



Photo by Joe Capolino

Members of the "Friends of the F-4 Phantom" Beverly Helm, left, Pete Norwood, and Dave Helms hold a poster size photo of the F-4 Phantom that was awarded to the City of Grove through their efforts. They are standing in front of the Helms' shop Grand Prosthetics. Contributions to help support the transportation and set up of the plane at the Grove Regional Airport can be made at the Bank of Grove payable to the Grove Community Foundation F4 Phantom. For further info, please contact Dave or Beverly Helms at (918) 786 4626.

A Phantom for Grove, a memorial for those who served



"It all started several years back," Pete

Norwood recalls, regarding the project to obtain an F-4 Phantom military jet for Grove and its citizens. "Initially, we struggled with the entire process of applying. We wanted this aircraft to honor our veterans and for the inspiration of area youth, but the steps needed to acquire it were extensive. It wasn't until I got with Dave and Beverly Helms that we finally were able to complete the application process."

Both Pete Norwood and Dave Helms have a personal interest in the aircraft; both served in the United States Air Force when the F-4 Phantom was the primary fighter in use by the U.S. military. Helms served as a Staff Sergeant from 1970 to 1974 as an aircraft structural mechanic. Norwood, on the other

hand, retired from the military as a lieutenant colonel after serving in the Air Force from 1975 to 1985 and the Kansas National Guard from 1986 to 1989. Both served in the Alaskan Air Command at Elmendorf Air Force Base, but they missed meeting each other due to their dates of service.

"We only met a few years ago in Grove," said Dave Helms, "and upon seeing a picture of an F-4 in Pete's office, we started this mutual F-4 quest. We began to travel together to the PhanCon, an annual convention/reunion for those who share the passion for F-4's. Several hundred people attend the event, coming from all over the world."

It was at the 2012 PhanCon in Davis Monthan that Helms and Norwood originally developed the idea to bring an aircraft to Grove; however, they soon learned they

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