

## THE DAUNTLESS DIVE-BOMBER STORY:

This type of aircraft played a critical role in the South Pacific in winning the Battle of Midway. On June 4, 1942, 50 U.S. Navy SBD Dauntless Dive-bombers peeled off from their squadron formation and attacked the amassed Japanese armada that was poised to take the island of Midway. In a matter of five minutes, the Dauntless force destroyed three of four Japanese aircraft carriers, making this the most important naval victory in U.S. History. The fourth aircraft carrier was attacked and sank later.

In the early 1940's, Chicago was a central training ground for allied pilots, aircraft carrier officers and crew. Two former excursion vessels, the Wolverine and the Sable, were fitted with flat tops and commissioned by the U.S. Navy for pilot carrier qualification on the waters of Lake Michigan near Chicago.



*Douglas SBD-3  
Dauntless from Enterprise above, Akagi, Battle of Midway.*

## THE OBJECTIVES

Memorialize the heroism at the Battle of Midway.

Bring back to Chicago an SBD aircraft of the type that was critical to the victory of Midway.

Educate future generations about the heroism and sacrifices of those who fought the war in the Pacific.

Funds for the Memorial, including the plane and educational exhibit are being raised by Chicago corporations, not-for-profit organizations, area businesses and individual patriotic Americans.

Your help is needed.

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## PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

City of Chicago, Chicago Department of Aviation

Mayor's Office of Special Events

U.S. Navy League

Chicago Marine Heritage Society

National Museum of Naval Aviation

National Aviation Museum Foundation

International Midway Memorial Foundation

USS Yorktown CV-10 Association and Foundation

USS Enterprise Association

Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago

Association of Naval Aviation, Inc.

Chicago Maritime Society

SBD DAUNTLESS DIVE-BOMBER

**MIDWAY**  
MEMORIAL



Midway Battle painting used by permission of Timken.

SBD DAUNTLESS DIVE-BOMBER

**MIDWAY**  
MEMORIAL



## DEDICATED

to the heroism displayed at the Battle of Midway. Bring back to Chicago an SBD Dive-bomber of the type that was critical to the victory at Midway.

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.**

**THE NAMING OF CHICAGO MIDWAY AIRPORT AND THE SBD CONNECTION:**

During World War II, the city of Chicago played an important role in qualifying naval aviators — some 15,000 pilots trained off the shores of Lake Michigan.

On June 23, 1949, Chicago’s City Council changed the name of its Municipal Airport to Midway Airport, “in honor of these heroes of the Battle of Midway...the men who turned the tide of the battle in the Pacific.”



**DAUNTLESS DIVE-BOMBER FOR MIDWAY:**

An SBD earmarked for the City of Chicago was recovered from Lake Michigan and restored by the National Museum of Naval Aviation at Pensacola. Midway International Airport travelers will see overhead a dynamic view of an original SBD. The big air warrior has a wingspread of 42 feet.



**THE TERMINAL EXHIBIT**

The SBD will be suspended from the ceiling in a large entryway to Concourse A. Integrated with the suspended plane will be an educational, graphically exciting floor exhibit designed to be interesting to all ages. The exhibit will cover in detail the Battle of Midway, the SBD’s combat role and the history of Chicago’s Midway International Airport. Included will be dramatic photos, film, paintings, maps and text, featuring quotes from the people who participated in these historic events.

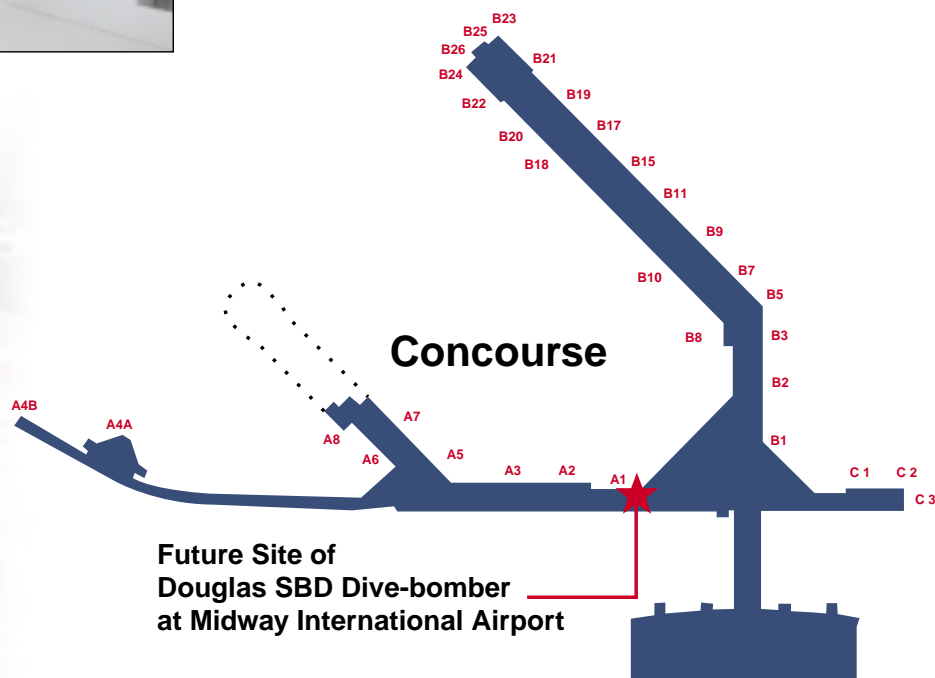
The Douglas SBD Dauntless Dive-bomber exhibit will be visible to all the airport’s 18-20 million annual passengers and employees as they clear the central security checkpoint.

**THE MISSION**

Many people have no idea how Midway International Airport was named. Nor are they aware that during WWII aircraft carrier pilot training, over 100 war planes crashed and came to rest at the bottom of Lake Michigan. This exhibit will help educate generations to come about the courage and sacrifices of those who fought and gave their lives in the Battle of Midway, and inform people of the important role the Battle of Midway played in preserving America’s freedom. This victory turned the tide of the war in the Pacific.

**FUNDRAISING GOAL:**

In order to obtain this aircraft for a long-term loan, the Naval Museum asks that another SBD be restored. Costs associated with bringing an SBD to Chicago on a long-term loan basis as well as restoring another SBD recovered from Lake Michigan are approximately \$250,000. The educational exhibit is estimated to cost an additional \$250,000. The Dauntless Dive-bomber for Midway Committee, working with several naval and marine organizations, local political leaders and other interested parties, needs your help to raise \$500,000 in order to bring an SBD to Chicago Midway International Airport and to construct a suitable memorial and educational exhibit. We hope to celebrate the unveiling of the aircraft in early June 2004, to coincide with the 61st anniversary of the Battle of Midway.



STAR LEVELS	
\$50,000	★★★★
\$25,000	★★★
\$5,000	★★
\$1,000	★

All levels of donations are welcome. Contributions of \$1,000 or more will be recognized at the exhibit.

Thank you in advance for your generous support.

**SBD DAUNTLESS DIVE-BOMBER**



**SUPPORT CONTRIBUTION**

Your donor support is important. It makes you, your organization or company, a permanent part of WWII history honoring the heroism and sacrifices which occurred at the Battle of Midway. It is also a gift supporting future education on how the men, the planes and the ships at Midway protected American freedom. Thank you.

For additional information:  
312-288-0500

Enclosed is our donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
for the Dauntless Dive-bomber for Midway.

**Make Checks Payable to:**  
Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, Inc.  
Please indicate “Dauntless Dive-bomber for Midway” in check memo section.

**Mail Check to:**  
William C. Glynn,  
Treasurer of the Dauntless Dive-bomber for Midway  
c/o Robbins and Associates (Suite 830)  
333 W. Wacker Dr.  
Chicago, IL 60606

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
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All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by IRC Sec. 501 (c) (3) and will be acknowledged.

