

## World War II maritime patrol bomber open for inspection at the American Airpower Museum at Republic Airport



A World War II maritime patrol bomber that once hunted Nazi U-boats outside New York Harbor is opening its hatch for Memorial Day weekend to allow visitors to the American Airpower Museum at Republic Airport, 1230 New Highway, Farmingdale, an opportunity to get a first hand view of what will become an operational flying tribute to all US Navy personnel.

Dubbed, the "PB4Y Catalina" some 70 years ago, the "Cat" is in the throes of a massive restoration effort and the wings are currently being rebuilt in a workshop that specializes in this kind of exacting repair.

Airpower Museum President Jeff Clyman stated, "This aircraft, the PB4Y, was enormously active along the Long Island coast line, searching for Nazi U-boats trying to

torpedo our freighters and tankers. It served as the “eyes” of the fleet when radar was in its infancy, and it was instrumental in securing victory over Japanese aircraft carriers in the Pacific and German battleships in the North Atlantic.

“By opening up the interior of the PBX while it is undergoing restoration we can provide visitors with a glimpse of what it must have been like to be cruising for hours above the cold forbidding waters of the Atlantic only to spot a U-Boat on the surface and then determine the life or death of either crew in seconds,” continued Clyman. “That is part of the American Airpower experience.”

The American Airpower Museum will host many of the aircraft in the Bethpage Federal Credit Union Air Show between Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> through Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. A gate donation will be requested of \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and veterans and \$5 for children.

Flight experiences will be available on a legendary Flying Fortress B-17 World War II bomber throughout the weekend as well as a classic Waco biplane, T-6 Texan and C-47 Airborne paratrooper plane. Flight experience fees are posted at the museum.