



Paul's Waco Glider

Paul Poberezny's ancient history teacher, Homer F. Tangney, would often catch his mediocre student drawing sketches of airplanes in class. Tangney was a member of the Milwaukee Glider Club, so he, too, had an interest in aviation. Rather than discipline young Paul, Tangney began giving him aviation challenges.

The first was to join Wings, the school's model airplane club, which Tangney supervised. Then he convinced the school's industrial arts teacher to build a primary glider in his woodworking class. "Thanks to Mr. Tangney's suggestion, I also began to enjoy industrial arts classes!" Paul says.

But it was Tangney's "gift of flight" that prompted Paul to pursue aviation as a lifelong career: "One day after school, he called me in and asked if I would be interested in a battered, slightly damaged Waco Primary Glider," Paul recalls. A damaged Waco Primary Glider along with

a few dollars to fix it up. This simple offering from Paul's high school teacher sparked a career that would eventually touch millions of people throughout the world.

"This wonderful gift from Mr. Tangney would serve to change my life from this day on," says Paul. "Looking back, it is difficult for me to believe that I could have been so fortunate. As a result of his kindness, this recognition of my interest by a teacher, I have attempted to carry on the faith he had in me to others who also love aviation."

After repairing the damage, Paul taught himself how to fly in his glider. The rest is history. And all it took was a little push from a high school teacher.

Paul's Waco Primary Glider will hang in the new Founders' Wing of the EAA AirVenture Museum. For more information, please visit www.EAA.org/FoundersWing.

—Chuck Parnall