

 URL: <http://tbo.com/news/politics/tampa-history-honored-at-tax-office-20150817/>

Tampa history honored at tax office

By Tribune staff



JAY CONNER/STAFF

A replica P51 Mustang created by local artist Dominique Martinez hangs in the lobby of the Hillsborough County Tax Collector's new office, which commemorates Drew Field.

A replica of a P51 Mustang fighter hangs in the lobby of the new Drew Park office of Hillsborough County Tax Collector Doug Belden.

The plane, created by local artist Dominique Martinez of Rustic Steel Creations, honors the aviation history of what used to be Drew Field.

Early in the 1920s, John H. Drew, a developer, and Hugh C. MacFarlane, known as the cigar king of West Tampa, bought land west of Tampa and built a private landing strip.

The city later bought the property, and Drew Field Municipal Airport opened in 1928. As the prospect of World War II loomed, the city leased the field to MacDill Army Airfield as a sub-post, and a wide array of aircraft flew in and out of Drew.

The tax collector's new branch office, which opened Monday, will include 32 customer service stations and will handle property taxes, motor vehicle documents, driver's licenses, hunting and fishing licenses and business tax transactions.

The lobby seats more than 200 customers and is equipped with Wi-Fi stations.