



COMMEMORATIVE
AIR FORCE

**CAF
HIGHLAND LAKES
SQUADRON**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAF C-47 to Fly San Angelo Vietnam Veteran

San Angelo, Texas (June 2, 2009) — The Commemorative Air Force's (CAF) Douglas C-47 Skytrain *Bluebonnet Belle* will be arriving at Mathis Field in San Angelo, Texas, Saturday, June 6, 2009 for a full day of flying!

The trip to San Angelo is a product of a phone call from the wife of retired United States Air Force Major Sergeant Harry Siegrist. Mrs. Siegrist contacted the CAF Highland Lakes Squadron of Burnet, Texas, which operates the C-47 *Bluebonnet Belle*, to request a ride for MSgt. Siegrist, age 70, who is a Vietnam veteran. MSgt. Siegrist was a mechanic, crew chief and flight mechanic for AC-47s during Vietnam. An AC-47 is a variant on the C-47s of World War II. The CAF Highland Lakes Squadron members immediately agreed to fly to San Angelo to fulfill his dream of flying in one of these unique aircraft.

Bluebonnet Belle will arrive at Mathis Field in San Angelo at 9:30 a.m. and will begin the day selling rides to the public. A ride in the C-47 is \$125 per person and lasts approximately 20 minutes. Each flight can take up to seven people. Purchasing a ride not only gives you a flight of a life-time, but a passenger briefing with the crew and time to tour the aircraft. If you would like to purchase your ride in advance or for more information, please contact Richard Smith at (512) 636-5020.

At 11 a.m., *Bluebonnet Belle* will take to the skies with MSgt. Siegrist, his wife and dignitaries from the city of San Angelo, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Freedom through Vigilance Association and the EC-47 Association, for a fly-over of the EC-47 Memorial at Goodfellow Air Force Base.

Following this important flight, *Bluebonnet Belle* will be open to the public for cockpit tours until 4 p.m.. You can sit in the pilot or co-pilot seat and imagine what it would be like to have flown this historic aircraft during World War II. The tours allow you to enjoy a first hand look at the entire aircraft inside and out. Polished to a gleam and with distinctive nose art, *Bluebonnet Belle* is worth taking a closer look!

-MORE-

Bluebonnet Belle in San Angelo

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The Douglas C-47 Skytrain *Bluebonnet Belle* was built in 1944 in Oklahoma City, Okla. and was flown by the Royal Canadian Air Force 435 Squadron during World War II. It was withdrawn from service in 1975 and purchased by the CAF Highland Lakes Squadron in 2002.

Collecting, restoring and flying vintage historical aircraft for more than half a century, the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) ranks as one of the largest private air forces in the world. The CAF is dedicated to Honoring American Military Aviation through flight, exhibition and remembrance. A non-profit educational association, the CAF has approximately 9,000 members and a fleet of 156 airplanes distributed throughout the country to 74 units located in 27 states for care and operation.

For more information, visit www.commemorativeairforce.org and www.highlandlakessquadron.com or call (432) 563-1000.

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