



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

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CAF Airpower Museum
educational affiliate to the Commemorative Air Force
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Memorial Day 2009 Commemoration: Grand Opening of New CAF Facility, Texas Medal of Honor Memorial & The Return of Open Cockpit

MIDLAND, TEXAS (May 18, 2009) – This Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2009, join the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) for a celebration honoring those who fought for our freedom. This FREE event will be held at the CAF Headquarters and CAF Airpower Museum at 9600 Wright Drive in Midland.

The Memorial Day event begins at 11:15 a.m. with the grand opening and dedication of the George H.W. and Barbara Bush Commemorative Center and induction of eight of the Texas Medal of Honor recipients.

The new George H.W. and Barbara Bush Commemorative Center is home to the state's largest Medal of Honor memorial. The Texas Medal of Honor Memorial recognizes the valor of Texans who earned the highest military decoration awarded by the United States for service and bravery above and beyond the call of duty. Each year, the Commemorative Air Force will induct eight Medal of Honor recipients until all 84 of the Texas recipients have been recognized.

This Memorial Day, the CAF will honor George H. O'Brien, Jr., Roy Benavidez, Clarence Sasser, James L. Stone, David H. McNerney, George D. Keathley, Marvin Young and David E. Hayden by inducting them into the CAF's Texas Medal of Honor Memorial. Benavidez will be represented by his family at the event and Sasser has plans to attend the event himself. (Biographies are attached)

Following these events, the annual Memorial Day Commemoration will include a flag ceremony, patriotic music by the Sun Country Gentlemen, the Permian Basin's own barbershop harmony chorus, and a fly over by CAF aircraft. Lunch will be provided by Jack Jordan's Bar-B-Que and can be purchased in the Commemorative Center hangar from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. for \$10 per plate. Each lunch plate purchased automatically enters you to win a free ride in a warbird courtesy of the CAF High Sky Wing.

CAF Grand Opening
ADD ONE
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At 1 p.m., join us for a discussion of the Texas Medal of Honor with the 2009 inductees' representatives in O'Brien Hall in the Commemorative Center. Also enjoy a special tour of the CAF's Texas Medal of Honor Memorial. Tours of the Commemorative Center and the new Texas Medal Of Honor Memorial will be available until 3:30 p.m.

Open Cockpit Day returns to the CAF's main hangar from 1:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. Families will get the chance to climb inside a B-29, B-24A, B-25, SB2C, SNJ, and PT-17. Other fun, family entertainment includes Greenie the Clown, Midland's Police K-9 Unit, Harlan the Balloon Man, and World War II re-enactors. Warbird rides will be available for purchase in the main hangar. Rides will be available for purchase in the CAF's B-24A Liberator O/ 927, SNJ/AT-6 and PT-19. Rides can be purchased prior to the event. To purchase a ride in the B-24A call Terri Brown at (850) 368-3918 or to purchase a ride in the SNJ/AT-6 or the PT-19, call Lance Sommers at (432) 425-3539 or email rides@highskywing.org. B-24A Liberator rides are \$450, SNJ/AT-6 rides are \$300 and PT-19 rides are \$200. Rides are limited and subject to weather.

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 or call (432) 563-1000.

The 2009 Memorial Day Commemoration and Open Cockpit Day are produced by the CAF Airpower Museum, made possible by the generous support of the CAF Desert Squadron, Yarborough Management LLC and CAF High Sky Wing. The "Above & Beyond" educational series is sponsored in part by the Odessa Council for the Arts & Humanities.

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Attached - Biographical Information on Texas Medal of Honor Inductees

George H. O'Brien, Jr.
Roy Benavidez
Clarence Sasser
James L. Stone
David H. McNerney
George D. Keathley
Marvin Young
David E. Hayden