



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE  
*The* **COMPASS**  
 MISSOURI WING



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**WE NEED YOU !!!  
 NOW !!!**



**SEPTEMBER  
 2018**



**SEE YOU  
 SOON!**



**COME OUT AND LEND A HAND...**

- ★ Consider donating items for our silent auction or door prizes.
- ★ Buy your tickets early and invite some friends & relatives. They'll love you for it!
- ★ Look at the pre-dance schedule and help us out on Thursday, Friday or Dance Day.
- ★ Plan on having fun, making some new friends and acquiring an acute feeling of satisfaction for doing something great for our Wing and Community.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Sept. 8 General Meeting 11:00 a.m.
- Sept. 15 **Hangar Dance**
- Sept. 21-22 Camdenton, MO B-25, L3
- Sept. 28-30 Olathe, KS B-25, TBM
- Oct. 5-6 Louisville, KY B-25, TBM, L3
- Oct. 6 Cystic Fibrosis Bike Ride
- Oct. 11 QB Event Olathe, KS B-25, TBM
- Oct. 12 Spirit of St. Louis Airshow B-25, TBM, L3
- Oct. 13 General Meeting 11:00 a.m.
- Oct. 13-14 St. Louis Spirit B-25, TBM, L3
- Oct. 27 Pumpkin Drop and Smartt Field Open House
- Oct. 29 Ramp Demolition to begin
- Nov. 10 General Meeting 11:00 a.m.
- Annual Chili Cookoff
- Dec. 8 General Meeting 11:00 a.m.



**Hangar Dance Tickets  
 on Sale NOW !!!**

**Help support the biggest  
 fundraiser of the year.**

**Buy your tickets !**

**2018 WEDDING  
 RECEPTIONS**

- Sept. 22 Williams
- Oct. 13 Hoing
- Oct. 20 Steinhoff
- Nov. 3 Claremont
- Nov. 10 Wedding

## BECOMING INVOLVED



During the last General Meeting we spent some time talking about how to be more involved in the Wing. We discussed a number of topics from what we have been doing to create opportunities to how we communicate. After that meeting Col. Bruce Arndt and Charlie Finnegan and I sat down to review a document that Charlie prepared the previous week on just that subject matter.

What we know is that we need to organize projects by getting direction from various leaders in the Wing. For example we do not want to just go into the B-25 hangar and start organizing or shifting items without Col. Fenwick giving direction. Nothing good would come from that. Once we have the projects then we need to communicate them.

At the writing of this I have again started to send out the weekly e-blast "This Week at the Missouri Wing". The top section is designated for things that we need to get done and when and where to meet. Our aim is to build on this to better communicate to the membership what and where they can assist. With that said only around 43% of the email addresses or 63 members I am sending that to are actually opening this communication.

The Mailchimp program we use is a standard and easy to work with system that is a free service. You should see this on each Wednesday. If you have not please check your Junk, Spam and Clutter folders and click allow email in whichever email program you use. If you do not see it please email me at [BOB@UNITEDFSI.COM](mailto:BOB@UNITEDFSI.COM) so that we can troubleshoot to ensure you are getting this information. Likewise, if you are curious what email I have for you, let me know that as well.

On top of those new opportunities, this is September and that means all hands on deck for the Hangar Dance. We need all members to assist on this big fundraiser. The sign up sheets are on the door to the office, the sign up jobs are on the Weekly E-Blast all you have to do is select a place to work and let us know so we can get you listed. Please email, call or talk to Col. Gerry Spavale or myself.

Here's to a successful Hangar Dance!  
CAF Col. Bob Lawrence, Wing Leader

## SEE YOU AT THE HANGAR DANCE!!! SEPTEMBER 15, 2018



Matt and I with WW2 Vet who was a B-25 pilot and published a book about the war.

## AUGUST 4-5, 2018 BARNSTORMING KENTUCKY OWENSBORO, HOPKINSVILLE AND BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

On Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup> the B-25 and a crew of 4 left Smartt Field and headed to Owensboro to give a couple rides to local veterans. Thanks to Hubert and others for helping us on Saturday and then Sunday when we returned. The crew consisted of Matt Conrad, John Fester, Bob Carmack and Buddy Welsch.

Jeff Thoke and Kelly Oakley greeted us upon our arrival and were our hosts for the weekend. They are in charge of the Bluegrass Honor Flight program and they wanted to do more for western Ky veterans and came up with the idea of "Barnstorming" the area and giving WW2 veterans (and Korea and Vietnam vets) a ride in a warbird. So they picked 3 cities to be involved and we flew to all 3 and gave rides to a lot of happy vets.

Owensboro was the first stop and 2 rides were given there with mostly WW2 vets but also included some Korean and Viet Nam vets. What an honor it was for us to fly these guys around as they all enjoyed their ride. Jeff took care of lunch for us by providing some great local bar-b-q. Local TV and radio were there to visit with the veterans and hear their stories about their service and the ride in the bomber.

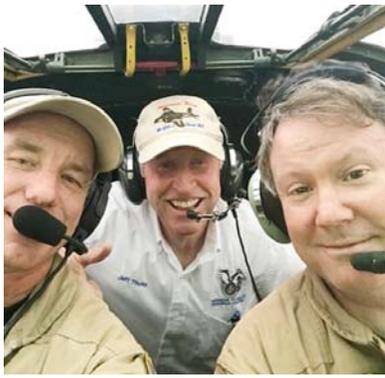
Hopkinsville was the next destination and we arrived to a large, enthusiastic crowd of veterans and family and friends. We did one ride there on Saturday night and off to a local steak house for a great meal. Sunday morning we arrived at the airport to another large group of people anxious to see and fly in the bomber. We did 2 more rides at Hopkinsville and then off to Bowling Green. The airport staff at Hopkinsville were the friendliest and most helpful you could ask for. Hats off to them for the hospitality!

Bowling Green had a nice crowd awaiting for us and also some storms in the area. The media was there also talking to the vets and our hosts. We landed and quickly got our first group up in the air for a fun ride around the area. The second ride went off without a hitch and then it was time to think about heading home.

All of the WW2 vets that we gave rides to were in their 90's and some were still pretty nimble and others were not. Took a while to load some of them in the airplane, but again, what an honor to help these veterans!

An uneventful trip home from an unforgettable weekend!  
CAF Col. John Fester





John Fester,  
Jeff Thoke, from the Honor  
Flight Blue Grass Chapter,  
and  
Matt Conrad.



## AVIATION MYTH OF WW II

Over 75 years later, The Second World War remains the defining event of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and continues to be studied, reviewed, and relived by many in TV shows, movies, books, and lives. It also continues to shape the geopolitical map today. However, as much as the war has been examined, decades of legends and differing interpretations still swirl around. The following is one of these contested events.

### **Myth #2 – The Battle of Midway Determined the War's Outcome**

In June 1942, the outnumbered U.S. Navy was committed to the defense of Midway Atoll, 1,100 miles northwest of Hawaii. Reinforced by land-based aircraft and, unknown to the Japanese, the US Pacific fleet's three aircraft carriers faced four Japanese carriers, all veterans of the Pearl Harbor attack.

At day's end on June 4, all four Japanese carriers were destroyed while the US lost the USS *Yorktown*. This incredible victory halted Japan's nearly six month string of victories in the Pacific and Far East. This incredible victory set the stage for the US's first offensive, the invasion and long battle of Guadalcanal.

However Midway was important, it was not the all or nothing gamble so often depicted. Had America lost—possibly with Midway in enemy hands—the outcome of the war would not have changed. The following summer, the new generation of American ships and aircraft began arriving in Hawaii, with the same goal as before: the total defeat of Japan.

Drastic as Midway was for Japan, other battles bled it nearly dry. Just four months later, in October, Japan lost more aircraft and crews at the battle of Santa Cruz than at Midway. The subsequent island-hopping battles throughout the Pacific and the conquest of Saipan in June 1944, putting Japan in range of heavy bombing, further sealed its fate.

The real significance of Midway is that it ended Japan's strategic initiative and helped to hasten the end of the war. The overwhelming industrial power of the US, safe from Axis bombings, permitted no other outcome.

(This is an opinion of a noted historian and author, Barrett Tillman, from an article in Flight Journal)

Submitted by CAF Col. Steve Gossett



Buddy Welsh giving the pre-flight safety briefing.



## FLY OTTUMWA AIR SHOW

The Missouri Wing of the CAF was well represented at the "Fly Ottumwa Air Show" the weekend of 24-26 August as we had our entire fleet in attendance. Hubert Looney and Matt Geery left on Thursday to have the L-3 in place for the show on Friday and had hotel rooms, dinner choices and all of the usual airshow coordination all ready for the TBM and B-25 when we arrived on Friday evening - a great help for us. JP Mellor and Mark Schuler flew the TBM and the B-25 crew: Anita Mack, Charlie Finnegan, Joe Vera Martinez, Bob Carmack, Buddy Welsh, Elliot Abel and Craig O'Mara all flew the B-25 on Friday evening after some weather issues threatened to delay the two aircraft. The folks on Ottumwa had a good show with aerobatic acts (Matt Younkin, Kyle Franklin, Skip Stewart), a Jet car, Heritage flights with a P-51 "Moonbeam McSwine" and the USAF A-10 Demonstration team and a great Jet RC contingent with about 50 or more beautiful RC's. The dinner on Saturday night had a couple of good local bands and an awards ceremony for the RC builders, not to mention some good steaks that we didn't have to make ourselves! We flew 4 riders and a few VIP rides as well as a couple of flights by JP on Saturday and Sunday and one flight by the B-25 on Sunday in the airshow. We had a great time and if you haven't flown to one of our scheduled shows, I would highly advise that you sign up soon - it's great fun and its why we joined the CAF in the first place!

CAF Col. Craig O'Mara

## *There's going to be a wedding!*



*Cols. Keith Daniel and  
Sandra Miller  
are to be wed on  
September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018.*

*Ceremony is to be held  
in front of the  
TBM Avenger  
at 3pm.*

*Please feel free to join  
for a small ceremony.*

*Afterwards help them  
celebrate at the Hangar  
Dance later that night!*



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**SEPTEMBER  
2018**

**ATTENTION:  
GET YOUR TICKETS  
FOR THE 2018  
HANGAR DANCE!**

## Smartt Field Activities



***Compass Deadline: Articles should be submitted by the 24th of the month.***