



COWL FLAPS

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The News Magazine of the Gulf Coast Wing

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Photo by Curt Rowe

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| Nov 11: | Conroe, TX -- Veterans Rides Day |
| Nov 18: | Monthly Wing Meeting |
| Dec 16 | Monthly Wing Meeting |
| Jan 13 | Monthly Wing Meeting |
| January 19 | Awards Banquet (Friday) |
| January 20 | Ground School (Saturday) |

The monthly Wing Meeting has been changed to Saturday, November 18, The Staff meetings will start at 9:00 AM. The General Membership meeting afterward will start approximately 11:30 AM. Maintenance Colonels wishing to work on Texas Raiders should show up around 9:00 AM. All members are encouraged to come out and contribute time, expertise and camaraderie to the occasion. After the general meeting, we will have the standard potluck lunch. Please bring something with you: drinks, an entrée, fruit or vegetable tray, deserts, or any thing you want. While monetary contributions to the lunch are appreciated, we need more people to bring food, otherwise we will not have enough food for everyone.

TEAMWORK - RESPECT - AMBASSADORSHIP - COMMUNICATION (TRAC)

Fellow Colonels

October brought us success with *TR* returning to her home in the skies. We started with Wings Over Dallas, October 5th – 8th and it was a successful air show. The following weekend brought us a successful fly day with three flights in Conroe following our monthly Wing Meeting.

WING LEADER'S

REPORT

Col Wayne Kennedy



October 20th brought us more success with the Living History Flying experiences for our guests at Hobby Airport next to the 1940's Air Terminal Museum. Wings Over Houston that same weekend was successful in spite of the weather we experienced on Sunday. Total ticket sales for this year's Wings Over Houston exceeded \$1,000,000! That's right Team, the 2017 Wings Over Houston broke the old record that was set in 2016. Even though we had rain for a few hours Sunday morning, there were long lines waiting to come in when the gates were opened.

As I write this article, *Texas Raiders* is at Lackland-Kelly AFB in San Antonio with another successful show.

Next weekend brings us another Conroe Tours and Rides Day with four flights scheduled. I LOVE IT WHEN A PLAN FINALLY COMES BACK TOGETHER !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In November we have a special holiday where we all give thanks. I'm sure we all have plenty to give thanks for – our health, our happiness, the liberties that we all share in this great land and naturally for all our service men and women and their families that preserve that right we all share and sometimes take for granted.

We also give thanks for our Houston Astros – the 2017 World Series Champions !!!!!!!!!!!

Also coming up on November 18th is our monthly Wing Meeting.

I look forward to seeing y'all on Rides Day and at the Wing Meeting.

As a reminder, our annual Wing Election will be at the December Wing Meeting. The Wing Elected Officer positions that are seeking election this year are:

- Wing Leader
- Operations Officer
- Maintenance Officer
- Development Officer
- Education Officer

The Nominations Committee will be posting in this issue the candidates and their resumes.

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I wish each and every one of you and your families a happy, healthy and prosperous Thanksgiving. As for me, I'm looking forward to plenty of turkey, dressing, gravy, cranberry sauce and all the goodies that go along with it. YUMMMMM !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Take care and have a great November!

Semper Fi !!! !! !!!

Wayne F. Kennedy

Can you believe the year is nearly over? As I write, the crew is preparing for our last two missions: a trip to Joint Base San Antonio Airshow and a local Rides Day at Conroe Airport with our friends from the Houston Wing. We are scheduled to do a parachute jump with the

<p><u>Executive Officer's</u></p> <p><u>Report</u></p> <p>Col Nancy Kwiecien</p>	
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USAF Academy jump team Wings of Blue at San Antonio, so check your Facebook feed for photos!

Last week was the Wings Over Houston Airshow, which was an awesome success on Saturday and suffered some bumpy weather on Sunday. We did two revenue flights on Friday at the 1940 Air Terminal Museum, and escaped some threatening weather that afternoon. Saturday's crowds were great as was the weather, and TR performed flawlessly both on Friday for our revenue flights and Saturday in performance. Sunday was a different story, as we were warned about a storm front, and asked by the airshow not to set up on Sunday morning. That turned out to be good advice, as the front rumbled through about 9:00 AM taking a number of vendor tents and one bouncy-house with it. While the aircrew decamped to the hospitality hangar for coffee and donuts, the PX crew, over a half mile away to the south, had to take shelter in the back of the PX UHaul van for about an hour while the wind and rain rocked around us.

I was so proud of all our crew that weekend. We worked well together, stayed flexible when the weather threatened, and really pulled together on Sunday. At least three or four crew members waited in their cars in the rain outside the gates for a couple of hours during the storm, until the grounds re-opened. Special kudos to the PX teams who had to react fast by consolidating first one, and then two locations into one single PX operation, and then worked furiously to take care of customers during the limited time we were open on Sunday. Job well done all the way around!

Speaking of the 1940 Air Terminal Museum, special thanks go out to Amy Rogers and her crew who hosted us on Friday, the day prior to Wings Over Houston. Even though the museum was badly damaged in the hurricane, and even though they haven't even re-opened yet, the ATM crew hosted us in their hangar, stuck with us as the weather deteriorated so we could get two rides in that day and then finally helped us get successfully off to Ellington Field. Thank you, friends!

Nancy

Fellow GCW Members,

Another month has passed and we're rounding the corner to finish flying for 2017 this month and begin the maintenance period until sometime around April, I'm told.

Safety Officer's Report

Col Per Barsten



We flew the rides at Hobby and performed at the Wings Over Houston (WOH) airshow with TORA, all safely and without incident. A little marginal weather getting from Hobby to Ellington (cloud cover right at minimums) but thanks to PIC Aric and the rest of the crew members, they got TR on the ground and parked safely before it got dark. I observed the marshalling folks and having done this for many years, they handled all the warbird parking very well, which isn't an easy task with as many warbirds coming and going all through the show.

The Saturday show was good with weather better than expected. Not so much on Sunday. The Sunday show started with some bad weather in the morning, delaying the start until 12:30. With the rapidly moving weather front, winds were predicted as high as 40-45 mph, but some reports afterwards had gusts in the 50 – 60 MPH range and Murphy's Law was in effect, as you would expect.

Most of the tents had sandbags on all support posts but I don't think we took into consideration some of the vendor carts, checking to see if they were safely tied down or secured properly. A hot dog cart, propane tank included, was blown into the nearby parked KC130 (see attached photos), hitting the #1 engine propeller and caused enough damage, the propeller had to be replaced before it was airworthy again (a \$1 to \$2 million dollar cost I was told). Also, a UH60 Blackhawk Medivac helicopter sustained superficial damage to the horizontal stabilizer, from vendor flying debris (see attached). The B52 also sustained some minor debris damage.



Hopefully the WOH leadership and event vendor folks will look at how we can prevent or at least minimize ramp damage to parked aircraft during storms and high winds.

We knew and expected the weather was going to be severe on Sunday. The front cleared and rain stopped in the afternoon and we had a great show with the Thunderbirds able to perform.

Since we've had some issues in the past with parking TR, I thought I'd attach a picture of how closely the military monitors the activity around their aircraft.

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I followed the CH53 Sea Stallion being towed down the taxiway as four crew members, one person each side and one in front and back, walked for about a mile, into place for static display on the ramp. We can learn from this.

As a footnote, I've added a few photos of our PX TEAM members, working in three locations initially, later reduced to two and finally one due to the bad weather we had on Sunday. I'll be in NC with my daughter for Thanksgiving and will not make the rescheduled monthly meeting on November 18th. Contact the other members of your safety team, Tim Daggett and/or Bill Howard if you have any safety concerns or questions.



Stay Safe and Aim High,

Per

Hello Gulf Coast Wing Members -

The 2017 TEXAS RAIDERS Tour Season is quickly coming to a successful end!

Texas Raiders is in San Antonio this weekend for the 2017 Joint Base - San Antonio - Kelly Annex AIRSHOW. Highlights of this show include flying TORA TORA TORA, as well as dropping the USAF Academy Jump Team out of the bomb bay for Opening Ceremonies! Weather did not cooperate for the jump on Friday or Saturday, but we are hopeful that the Sunday jump will come to fruition!

The GCW Maintenance Team did a GREAT JOB this past week working tirelessly to complete a 25 hour inspection in order to get TR ready for this weekend's appearance at JBSA Kelly !! THANK YOU to all who came out and assisted!

Our next event is our Rides Day at home at General Aviation Services next Saturday, November 11. We are expecting a good turnout and we have 5 rides scheduled on TR! Also attending will be aircraft and crew from the other local CAF Wings! This will be the last mission of the 2017 Tour Season.

Operations Officer's

Report

Col Aric Aldrich



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In December, the GCW will be attending the annual International Council of Air Shows convention to start working on the 2018 Tour Season for Texas Raiders! Do not forget that elections are also coming up in December at the Wing Meeting - if you are not able to attend the December meeting, please make sure that you request an absentee ballot.

The Twin Beech is still undergoing maintenance in preparation for joining the Tour Circuit with the B-17 in the 2018 Tour Season. We hope to have it online sometime in the next few months for crewmember training and familiarization.

THANK YOU to all GCW members who have helped make this 2017 Tour Season a success!! Looking forward to seeing all of you at GCW Ground School in January!

Fly Safe,

Aric

Mark your calendars:

The year is drawing to a close and that means it's time to think about year-end activities. Here are some important items to put on your calendar:

Saturday, November 11: The last local rides day in Conroe. We have a busy day of flying scheduled for that day! *Texas Raiders* as well as the Houston Wing T-6 Texan Ace in the Hole and the N3N open-cockpit biplane Yellow Peril will all be flying. Everybody come out and help with tours in the morning and flying in the afternoon.

Saturday, November 18: New Date! Wing Meeting Day. An important agenda item will be the presentation of the slate of candidates for 2018 offices.

Saturday, December 16: Election Day! Be sure to turn out to cast your ballot for Wing Leader, Flight Operations Officer, Maintenance Officer, and the new positions of Development Officer and Education Officer.

Saturday January 13: The first Wing meeting of the New Year will include the announcement of the 2018 Elected Staff.

Marketing
Report
Col Nancy Kwiecien



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Friday January 19, and Saturday January 20 will be a newly combined weekend for the Awards banquet and Ground School. We've had a number of requests to combine these events to take up fewer weekends and also to allow our out-of-town members to attend both. The search is on for a location for the Awards Banquet, so save the date for Friday night January 19 for some rest and relaxation with our Wing colleagues. Cost is expected to be the same as last year at \$40 per person. Watch your email for a reservation announcement.

The next day, Saturday January 20, will be our one-day Ground School for all members. If you plan to tour with *TR*, or work on the aircraft this day is a must. Pilots, Co-Pilots, Flight Engineers and Load Masters who plan to crew the aircraft are required to attend. Others who work as ground crew, PX or in administrative roles should also attend to be eligible to work at Gulf Coast Wing events. Ground school will be held in Conroe, at the Conroe Community Center in the Parks and Recreation complex on I-45 near FM 336 in Conroe. Watch your email for registration materials.

On the subject of the Awards Banquet, the Staff needs a few volunteers willing to work on the Awards Committee. This team of four or five will solicit nominations for awards from the membership, evaluate them, and submit selections. Contact Nancy Kwiecien at nkwiecien@suddenlink.net if you can spare the time for a couple of phone meetings to do this important work.

See you at the hangar!

Nancy

Hello All!

A huge thank you to everyone for another successful event. Your professionalism was recognized and complimented by many vendors, sponsors and other participants.

We had many challenges in front of us this year with the likes of Harvey and his aftermath - and then, of course, the rain the weekend of the show. Thank you for making it happen through "hell or high water." We would also like to thank you for helping us work through the many new procedures for the Family Chalet, Business Class Chalet and the professional parking-traffic folks we brought in. Even with flooded parking lots and anxious customers outside the gates, you still made it a success and we look forward to improving the procedures even more next year now that we have a year under our belt.

Some things that we think went extremely well are the two new chalets (Business Class and Family). Both seemed to go off very well with the guests and we hope to see them grow even bigger next year. Our online ticket sales were extremely successful again this year, mostly thanks to the direct marketing we have been using to reach our fan base. We hope to set the bar even higher next year. And as always, we think the strength of this event lies in our board, staff and countless volunteers. Thank you for all of the hard work!

Please be sure to write down critiques, comments and suggestions while they are still fresh in your mind. We refer to these throughout the year to make changes as needed.

Once again, thank you all very much. Looking forward to 2018!

Bill Roach & Tasha Avey

2018 save the date of 20-21, October with the Blue Angels

PX Quarterly Report

The PX staff has started off the 4th quarter of 2017 with great enthusiasm. Way to Go Team.

Wings Over Dallas	\$ 6,614
Conroe Rides Day	\$ 874
Wings Over Houston	\$16,133
New Orleans Airshow	<u>\$ 4,701</u>
GRAND TOTAL	\$28,322

PX Officer Report

Col Kathy Doucette



I would like to say THANK YOU to all of the hard working CAF members who have generously volunteered their time and energy to work at the GCW PX during our many missions in 2017. Your continued dedication is what helps make our wing the success that it is today. Great job everyone.

I especially want to compliment everyone who worked at Wings Over Houston, for a job well done by all (in spite of severe rain, wind, and collapsed tents). (Even the sand bags didn't help this time). Better luck next year.

We had fun, we made a lot of new friends, and we made a lot of money in the process. Here are the final totals for each PX team:

North PX (open only on Saturday)	\$1,820	Great job Sandy Lee and her team
Main PX (open only on Saturday)	\$2,916	Great job Sterling Paulsen and your team
South PX (open Saturday & Sunday)	<u>\$11,397</u>	Awesome job Nancy Kwiecien & extended team
GRAND TOTAL OF ALL PX'S	\$16,133	

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Ground School has been scheduled for January 20, 2018.

If you are a new CAF member and have never attended Ground School we hope to see you there. If you want a refresher course you are also welcome to attend.

Location, cost, early registration instructions and class times will be announced in upcoming Cowl Flaps.



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VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP DO THE YEAR END INVENTORY

If you are free to donate a few hours or a few days between November 6 and December 15, please contact Kathy Doucette at twokatz08@yahoo.com.

I will be working every day taking inventory until the last tee-shirt and hat has been counted.

If you would like to help me out, just let me know what day and time is good for your schedule and I will be glad to give you instructions on how to get to our new storage warehouse (Located on Louetta, in Spring).

The job is never finished till the paperwork is done.....

Kathy

It's that time of year again when you need to renew your membership in the Gulf Coast Wing. If you haven't already done so, get together with Rex McLain. His address is 17638 Seven Pines Dr., Spring, TX, 77379. The cost is \$50.00. (See page 19 - 20 For Membership Renewal Forms)

**Recruiting Officer
Report
Col Larry Doucette**



Upcoming anniversaries for November are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 25 years Jeff Foltz | 7 years Dale Morningstar (Soft Hands) |
| 24 years Carl Schwobel | 7 years David Madden (Colonel-Colonel) |
| 23 years Rebecca Swinford | 5 years Dennis Kwiecien (Kiwi) |
| 16 years Bud Bearce | 5 years Kevin Michels (K-5) |
| 16 Years Ole Nygren | 2 years Bjorn Sundet (Ben) |
| 10 years John Alkire | 2 years Miriam Young |
| 8 years Rick Baker (Hillbilly) | 2 years Brian Hiatt |
| 8 years Jeff Brown | 1 year William McCaskill |
| 8 years Angela Root | 1 year Matt St. James |

Congratulations to all of you, and thanks for the continuing support of the GCW.

Larry Doucette
Recruiting Officer
larrydoucette0@gmail.com
Cell) 281-782-9633

The First Cadet Marshaller Success Story!



Back in May 2013, shortly after I started marshalling, Texas Raiders went to the Hondo Fly-In. On Sunday morning, there were only a few planes still there from the previous day's event. There were a few members from GCW who went back to the airfield to see



TR take off for home. Cadets Catherine Young and Hana Kuski were there too, and wanted to learn how to marshall. Marty Huvar and I put them in orange vests and taught them some basics, and how to pass off a plane from one marshaller to the next.



These remarkable young ladies got to practice on *Bluebonnet Belle*, *Texas Raiders*, and Doc Hecker's L-Bird. Instead of saluting the pilots, they blew kisses, a tradition that Catherine continues with the pilots she knows well.

This was the start of the Cadet Marshaller Pilot Program. With the help of Marty Huvar and the support of Kathy Mizell, I wrote up a proposal that would allow us to include CAF Cadets on the flightline, wearing blue vests instead of the orange vests. Kathy tweaked our proposal and sent it up the line to CAF Headquarters and Bob Stenevik, who approved our program. Since then, we have had several Cadets who have worked with us.



Catherine was the first to make the transition from Cadet Marshaller in a blue vest, to a Colonel Marshaller in an orange vest. And now, Catherine is a Qualified Marshaller, entitled to wear the orange shirt and patch. She was "patched" at Wing Over Houston this year.



I would also like to thank all the qualified Marshallers, especially Wayne Kennedy, who worked with Catherine and the other cadets. Wayne has been one of our biggest supporters of the cadets in the Gulf Coast Wing and of the Cadet Marshaller program. Also, I want to give a special shout-out to the GCW pilots, as well as the other CAF pilots, who were glad to work with our cadets, who weren't too hard on them, and who gave constructive criticism.

Many people supported the Cadet Marshaller program and contributed to Catherine's success. I thank you all.

Kathleen Brown



Next Cadet in line to become qualified? Aubrey Herzog, waiting for the rain to stop, at Wings Over Houston.

Marshaller's Report

Col Kathleen Brown



Gulf Coast Wing Elections - December 2017

The Gulf Coast Wing Staff Elections will be conducted during the Wing Meeting, December 16, 2017. Please plan to attend if at all possible.

A member is eligible to vote in the GCW elections if he/she has been a member (Colonel) of the CAF for at least thirty (30) days and his/her dues are current both with Headquarters and the GCW.

The Nominating Committee/Nominees: The Unit Staff, including the Unit Leader, will appoint a nominating committee by a majority vote. The committee will be made up of three (3) or more Unit members in good standing, which will offer a slate of officers. This Committee shall place into nomination the names of those members who are selected. The Nominating Committee is tasked to review all nominees, and using their judgment, personal knowledge of the nominees, knowledge of the CAF and the duties required by each position, pick the best possible nominee (s) for each position open for election. There is no specific number of nominees that must be named for each open position up for election. There may be times when two or more equally qualified nominees step forward. The Nominating Committee may choose the “best” candidate, in their judgment, or choose to nominate both/all candidates.

Nominations from the floor shall be recognized if the nominees meet requirements and prior agreement to serve is obtained from the Nominee.

This year's Nominating Committee:

Jeff Foltz (Chair) Jeff Brown Jake Doggett
Gary Herzog J P Smith Vicky Thomas

Election Committee: The Unit Staff shall appoint an Election Committee of three (3) Unit members in good standing to conduct the annual Unit Staff elections each year. The Election Committee member's duties are to conduct the election, mail the absentee ballots (if used), tabulate and report the results of the balloting and hold the absentee ballots as outlined in Section 2 of the CAF Unit Manual. The Election Committee members must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Unit Staff. The Election Committee members must not be involved in the elections in any form, except as eligible voters. They cannot be members of the Unit Staff, Unit Nominating Committee, or a candidate for election to the Unit Staff.

This year's Election Committee:

Kathleen Brown (Chair) Marty Huvar Kathy Mizell

Absentee Voting: You may request an Absentee Ballot by:

1. Writing to: Kathleen Brown, 4820 Country Club View, Baytown, TX 77521
2. Email to: Kathleen Brown, Kathleentx@aol.com

Requests for Absentee Ballots must be postmarked (or received, if electronic mail is used), prior to the date of the Unit election, December 16, 2017.

MEET THE CANDIDATES**Running For Wing Leader – Wayne Kennedy**

Fellow Colonels,

I joined the Commemorative Air Force and the Gulf Coast Wing in February of 1995. Prior to that time, I served 24 years in the United States Marine Corps, retiring as an E-8 Master Sergeant with eight years time in grade. During those 24 years, I served in many capacities: at the squadron level as Ordnance Chief and in my last two squadrons as Maintenance Chief and acting Squadron Sergeant Major.

Since joining the Gulf Coast Wing, I have been involved with various activities within the Wing, including serving as your Adjutant (1999 – 2001), Executive Officer (2002 – 2014), being your interim Wing Leader (9/2013 – 12/2013), again as your interim Wing Leader 3/21/2015 – 12/31/2015 and currently serving as your Wing Leader since 1/1/2016.

Over the past 22 years in the CAF and the Gulf Coast Wing, we have gone through some rough times and prevailed to prosper again. We are a strong Wing with true convictions and VERY dedicated volunteers. I am extremely proud of being your Wing Leader and having the privilege of working with the fantastic crews that support our “Queen of the Skies.”

As you know, my main concerns are: (1) morale of our members, encouraging Teamwork – Respect – Ambassadorship – Communication (TRAC) as our philosophy within the Wing, (2) insuring that we are operating in a safe and proficient manner, and (3) insisting that we all work together to share facts and squelch ALL rumors.

We have more great opportunities ahead of us – all because of the growth we have achieved with a second aircraft in our Wing, and our new location which we call home and the fantastic volunteers that make up the Gulf Coast Wing. With that said, I am respectfully asking for your continued support as I run for the position of Wing Leader in the upcoming Gulf Coast Wing election.

Thank you.

Semper Fi,

Wayne F. Kennedy

CAF-GCW Wing Leader.

Running For Wing Leader – Pat Elliott**CAF EXPERIENCE**

Joined CAF June 6, 1979, and became a member of GCW that same year.

Participated in two very intense overhauls of "Texas Raiders," '84-'86, & 90s.

Supply Officer late 80s, Wing Leader two terms '90-'94, Operations Officer '15-'16.

Life member since early '80s & double sponsor on Texas Raiders, beginning early 80s.

I have had dealings with Executive Directors & Presidents of the CAF, as well as General Staff members over the years and have dealt with them successfully. Flown in many airshows and fly-ins and have participated in just about all wing functions and a number of headquarters functions.

FLYING EXPERIENCE

First flew "Texas Raiders" in 1980, and have flown CAF B-17 "Sentimental Journey" and Lone Star Flight Museum B-17 "Thunderbird." I also flew Tora in the mid-80s when 'TR' was down for an intense overhaul. I have a type rating in B-17, DC-3, and Boeing 777, as I am a retired Continental Airlines pilot. I have also helped other wings move their aircraft and have flown co-pilot on the B-29 "FIFI," and B-25. In early training, I was checked out in the AT-6. As a DC-3 command pilot, I flew a CAF C-47 in several airshows and help ferry them several times.

I have been a CAF check pilot on B-17s for many years and was a flight instructor, beginning in college, and multi-engine instructor, instrument instructor, & ground instructor. For 14 years, I was an FAA DPE (Designated Pilot Examiner for B-17s), giving pilot checks and type-ratings.

EDUCATION

BBA Degree in Marketing & Finance University of Houston, some work toward MBA UH Clear Lake. I taught a number of business courses, part-time, at San Jacinto Jr. College, Beamer St.

MY VISION OF THE GCW

I want to see a selfless and amiable situation in the GCW with everyone having fun in doing the laborious duties required in operating and maintaining our wing A/C. I want us to have fun, but I don't want us to lose sight of our primary mission and that is to operate 'Texas Raiders,' and other GCW A/C, and the Gulf Coast Wing itself, in an efficient and profitable manner, and all this done in a friendly, cooperative effort!!!

I want to explore organizing a yearly hangar dance that will be both profitable and fun. Also, we tried to organize a fly-in last year that didn't work and I desire to pursue that again beginning with a fly-in that will lead to a future spring airshow while we continue to fully support and participate in Wings Over Houston Airshow.

We have almost two-hundred wing members and many don't participate in wing activities, and I would like to create incentives for many to be active in wing functions.

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I want to organize a committee that will seek out funding for a hangar that will accommodate our wing A/C that I expect to reach several more, a museum, PX and sales outlet, meeting room, and also big enough to house a large, non-flying A/C to be there when TR is gone on tour to give patrons something to look at in a large combat A/C.

In my opinion, this committee must contact Montgomery County influential people who can guide us to where we can raise a substantial amount of money, and I estimate \$3 ½ - \$5M, with thoughts on even more to get the operation going and well within the months to perpetuate it. The Conroe City Council and Commissioner's Court will be a good place to begin as we made inroads with them prior to our move here, and they like us!!!

I am dead serious about this and will seek dedicated people to get it done.

Pat Elliott, Sr.

CAF #4858 Life Member #659

Running For Operations Officer – John Cotter

I am interested in running for the Operations Officer for the Gulf Coast Wing.

I have been in the CAF for 11 years and currently sponsor: Texas Raiders B17, AT6, PT19, A26, and the C60. I am also paying a sponsorship on Devil Dog B25 and the SB2C.

My experience in the CAF includes being the current Wing Leader at the Houston Wing (term ending Dec 31, 2017) and the Operations Officer with the West Texas Wing and on the Board of Directors for the Wings Over Houston Airshow. I also spent four years as the Operations Officer at the Houston Wing. I am also an instructor/check pilot for the CAF in the BT13, AT6, PT19 and C60.

I think my experience with the CAF would allow me to be an effective and productive Ops Officer for the Gulf Coast Wing. Please let me know if you have any questions concerning this nomination. Thanks,

John Cotter

440-915-5917

calpilot777@me.com

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Ruining For Maintenance Officer – Gary Barber

I am a Marine veteran, who has been a Maintenance Officer for Texas Raiders and the Gulf Coast Wing (2012-2013). I also served as Deputy Maintenance Officer under Chuck Conway both before and after he was MO. My experience with Texas Raiders spans over seven years.

My responsibilities as an Airframe and Power plant mechanic for TR included performing sheet metal repairs and modifications, completing airworthiness directives, engine and propeller removal and installation, flight control and landing gear rigging, electrical and avionics repairs, and performing progressive 30 hour inspection of the commemorative Air Force vintage World War II aircraft.

I exhibited leadership skills by working extensively to train and mentor maintenance personnel during my tenure and established a culture of inclusion - always bringing in new volunteers and encouraging new people to join the maintenance team.

I have strong organizational skills exhibited both by my proficiency in organizing the maintenance team and their activities, but also by having a comprehensive command of Texas Raiders spare parts, their condition, and location around the hanger. I was instrumental in building relationships with the various suppliers that the Gulf Coast Wing dealt with to rebuild and repair parts and equipment – often resulting in cost saving discounts for the wing.

I am currently co-owner of G&G Aviation Services, LLP, located at the Conroe Airport, which is a full service aviation maintenance shop. G&G does Annual inspections, 100 hr. inspections, major and minor airframe repair, and engine maintenance and replacement on all general aviation aircraft.

Prior to G&G, I worked for many years as an A&P for various companies.

I am a licensed A&P as well as an IA. My close proximity to Texas Raiders at Conroe is a real plus and provides the Gulf Coast Wing with quick and easy access to a licensed aircraft maintenance professional.

Running For Development Officer – John Elliott

Hello, My name is John Elliott and I am running for Development Officer. A little about myself, I am a Medical Engineer and have been in this field for the past 28 years where I have been an in-house engineer, field trainer/specialist (US/WW), technical writer and have worked in quality and management. My wife of 33 years and I also volunteer for Special Olympics with one of our daughters- We have 2, Darla and Ashley. I have always loved aviation; my Dad was career Navy so I have always been around planes and spent countless hours watching them, reading books about them and building models of them.

I have been in the Wing for 6 years now in a variety of roles; RC, PX, MTD, MC/music and tour planning. I have also been for many years a tent PX lead for WOH. One of my big accomplishments was helping write/format our operations manual into a digital format for our website.

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One of my favorite things is giving back to our Veterans and listening to their stories and watching them go through TR.

If elected, I look forward to working with the Staff/unit to make our Wing more visible in Texas, develop more fundraising opportunities, recognize those that donate to our Wing and work with CAF Headquarters as needed.

In conclusion, I love our Wing; I have been through tough times and great times with it and the great always outweigh the bad. We have a great core of Colonels that spend an enormous amount of time working for the Wing; We need more. We need donations. We need to take care of our Colonels.

That is what I want to help with. That is why I'm running to be your Development Officer of the Gulf Coast Wing. Thanks for your consideration and I look forward to working with you!
John Elliott

Running For Education Officer – Jane Copeland

My name is Jane Copeland. I have been a member of the CAF and Gulf Coast Wing since April of 2013. My father was a B-17 pilot during WWII, a member of the 381st Bombardment Group, 532nd Bombardment Squadron flying 35 missions over Germany and France, and the source of my passion to work with the B-17G Texas Raiders and to learn all I can about the history of WWII. In addition to my membership in the GCW, I am a member of the B29/B24 Squadron, the Devil Dog Squadron, the Houston Wing and the WASP Squadron. I have recently retired from 43 years of court reporting and would like to give more of my time to the GCW. I live in the Conroe area.

I have been the Rides Coordinator since September of 2013 and, as such, have made many missions with *TR*. I answer the calls that come into our unit and many of the e-mails, and engage with our customers on a daily basis. I also participate in the Tour Planning / Marketing team. I have had the unique opportunity to talk with so many interesting people who have recounted theirs or their parents' or their grandparents' WWII stories. It would be a wonderful opportunity to carry those stories to the public as the Education Officer in conjunction with the CAF Rise Above National Education/Inspirational Programs.

Here are some of the opportunities the Wing can take advantage of, and which I'm prepared to support as the Education Officer:

- Increase public awareness of who and what we are not only as entertainment, but to educate about why we do what we do, about the history of WWII aviation and the Greatest Generation.
- Coordinate missions with the Tuskegee Airmen and the WASP Squadron. (Our coordinated mission with Red Tail Squadron in 2015 was very successful.)

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- Utilize the new GeoDome Theatre (available through headquarters) at specific events, to share educational videos especially with school children
- Reach out to local ROTC groups at various high schools and interact with them and all students by inviting them to visit us and us visiting them.
- Support the educational outreach programs implemented by the CAF HQ in Dallas and coordinate our efforts with theirs.

Having been involved with the GCW for the last four-plus years and having traveled with TR so often, having talked to so very many people who are interested in us and who have interesting stories to tell, I feel I am qualified to carry out the duties of the Education Officer. I look forward to the opportunity further expand the mission and the success of the Gulf Coast Wing.

Thank you.

Jane Copeland

Running For Education Officer – Colonel Bjorn (Ben) Sundet

To The Election Committee,

It has been a while since I have been able to participate in the Wing's activities because of illness as you probably know. I'm still not able to do any work on aircraft, climb ladders, etc. but I'm fully capable and willing to participate in other, less strenuous activities. I would therefore like to put my name in the hat for the Education Officer position. I have a long and active background in this field as follows:

Aerospace Education officer at the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) squadron level.

Aerospace Education officer at the CAP Group level.

Director of Aerospace Education Texas Wing CAP

Deputy Chief of Staff for Aerospace Education CAP Southwest Region (six states)

VP Aerospace Education for Air Force Association (AFA) Houston Chapter

AFA Texas Aerospace Education Foundation Trustee.

CAP's Aerospace Education Program is one the finest in the nation and serves not only the CAP, but also have extensive external outreach programs to the general public as well as school systems all over the country.

My general aviation background has been with CAP as aircrew and at the flying club level both power and glider.

In addition to my service in the USAF as an In-flight System Engineer on RC-135 aircraft, I have worked as a ground and flight test engineer with an aerospace contractor on various aircraft such as RC-135 Reconnaissance aircraft, C-20 (Gulfstream III), Special Air Mission aircraft, and C-130H Combat Talon, Special Operations Aircraft.

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I have been hooked on aviation since I was a child in Norway watching German BF-109s and other aircraft flying from an airfield the Luftwaffe built outside my home town.

I believe my background would serve well in this position and allow me to become active in the Wing again.

Regards,

Colonel Bjorn (Ben) Sundet

Running For Education officer – Ken English

In 1990, I joined the Commemorative Air Force as a member of the Big Thicket Wing in Conroe, Texas. Since that time I served in a variety of volunteer positions with that unit as well as serving as Adjutant. My involvement in the CAF continued over the years with both the West Houston Squadron (now the Houston Wing) and the Gulf Coast Wing serving as Adjutant for the WHS and as Wing Leader of the Gulf Coast Wing from January, 2002 through December, 2005. I am a Flying Sponsor on Texas Raiders and a CAF Life Member.

I first started volunteering at the Wings Over Houston Airshow in the unit PX's. While serving on the West Houston Wing staff I was appointed to the Airshow's Executive Committee where I continued to serve for over 10 years. I currently serve on the WOH staff as Performing Liaison coordinating the civilian performers.

The stated mission of the CAF is education, "such that generations of Americans will value and support the contributions of military aviation in assuring our nations freedom". The newly created role of Education Officer will serve to expand our education mission to the public that will include ALL facets and groups that contributed to the American Air War effort during World War II. The Gulf Coast Wing has the unique ability to deliver and enhance these programs through our operations of one of the most visible CAF aircraft, "Texas Raiders".

As the Education Officer for GCW, I will focus on fulfilling the role of this position while working to integrate the goals and programs of the CAF education programs into our Unit's existing public presentations with the goal of enhancing the impact our programs have on the community and our membership.

Regards,

Colonel Ken English



Commemorative Air Force
GULF COAST WING
2017 Adjutant Officer



Membership Renewal for 2018

(Please Print Clearly)

It's time to renew your Gulf Coast Wing - Commemorative Air Force membership for the 2018 calendar year. The data you provide to us allows for the Wing to update our various databases, so please carefully check the accuracy of your information. Please make any necessary changes on this form when you return your renewal remittance. Please note that GCW members must be in good standing regarding 2018 dues in order to be eligible for required unit training. The GCW Staff is delighted to have you renew as one of our members for 2018. The GCW supports two (2) aircraft: B17-G and C-45.

2018 Wing Membership Renewals are due by January, 31st 2018

COLONEL NUMBER: LIFE MEMBER NUMBER:
NAME: PILOT? Y N
ADDRESS:
CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE:
OCCUPATION:
(if "retired", what did you previously do?)

SPOUSE: HOME PHONE:
CELL PHONE: CELL PHONE:
FAX NUMBER: MEMBER E-MAIL

Are you an aircraft sponsor? YES NO (Types are Full, Restoration, or Supporting)

(If YES, Please advise type and aircraft you sponsor _____)

WING DUES ARE \$50.00 EACH YEAR. CADET DUES ARE \$35.00. YOU MUST BE A PAID UP MEMBER OF THE CAF TO RENEW YOUR GCW AFFILIATION. PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO GULF COAST WING - CAF, and REMIT PAYMENT TO:

Col Rex McLain, Adjutant
17638 Seven Pines Drive
Spring, TX 77379

Col McLain's E-mail: breitlingsteeler@hotmail.com
Cell Phone: 281-639-6480
Home: 281-251-0138

Additional Funds can be credited towards sponsorships. My renewal dues of \$50 and an additional \$ _____ are enclosed. I want the extra money to be credited towards:

\$ _____ General B-17 Maintenance Account
\$ _____ Unrestricted.....Whatever is best for the GCW.

FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

We are now able to accept credit cards for your Membership Renewals. If you want to charge your credit card for your membership renewal, or for additional contributions, please complete the following:

Circle One: Master Card Visa American Express

Amount Authorized: \$

Credit Card Number - - -

Expiration Date:

3 or 4 Digit Security Code:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Additional Funds can be credited towards sponsorships. My renewal dues of \$50 and an additional \$_____ are enclosed. I want the extra money to be credited towards:

\$_____ General B-17 Maintenance Account

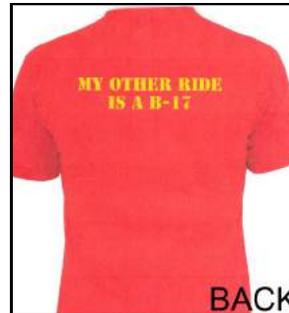
\$_____ Unrestricted.....Whatever is best for the GCW.



\$20.00



Front



BACK

\$25 for small to XL, and \$30 for 2XL and 3 XL



\$20.00

Please consider volunteering to work the PX on missions! Remember, you must have attended Ground School to be eligible for "away" missions. Hope to see you on a trip soon!

Col Kathy Doucette - PX Officer, Gulf Coast Wing

For Aviation merchandise and B-17 collectibles, please visit our Online Store at

[#http://b17texasraiders.org/index.php/gift-shop](http://b17texasraiders.org/index.php/gift-shop)



Front



Back

If anyone would like business cards made for Texas Raiders please email Gulf Coast Wing member Kevin Hong at kevin@sectorkmedia.com

The price is \$65 for 500 business cards. The cards can be customized if you are a crew member, FE, Loadmaster, pilot, etc. Please contact him for more details.

Kevin Hong

Principal of Sector K Media, LLC

PO Box 672966

Houston, TX 77267-2966

T 281.682.3947

www.sectorkmedia.com

www.facebook.com/sectorkmedia

We welcome any comments, suggestions, and contributions to the newsletter. If you have something to show or tell, don't be shy...send it in! No article is too short or too long. When sending in photos, please be sure to identify the people in them. Also, let us know who the photographer is. We would like to give them proper credit.

Let us honor your veteran. If you have a story about a family member who is or was a veteran, we encourage you to submit it for a future issue of Cowl Flaps. Send pictures with it. We can "ghost write" it for you.

Send your contributions to: trcowflaps@aol.com

THE COWL FLAPS STAFF:

Colonels Jeff Brown, Kathleen Brown,
Catherine Young And Beverley Brown



GULF COAST WING STAFF 2017:

Elections are held each winter (usually in November at the general meeting). Staff members are elected for a two-year term and elections are held in compliance with CAF Unit Manual Sections 3-8 through 3-23. The current Elected Staff members for 2017 are:

Wing Leader	Col Wayne Kennedy	281-389-4538	wfkennedy@swbell.net
Executive Officer	Col Nancy Kwiecien	832-444-5043	nkwiecien@suddenlink.net
Adjutant Officer	Col Rex McLain	281-251-0138	breitlingsteeler@hotmail.com
Operations Officer	Col Aric Aldrich	979-830-0077	opsngulfcoastwing@gmail.com
Finance Officer	Col Dayna Salter	281-229-1365	dayna.salter@ymail.com
Maintenance Officer	Col Jed Doggett	281-773-4054	Doggett.jack@gmail.com
Safety Officer	Col Per Barsten	281-682-0806	perbarsten@gmail.com

Appointed Staff Members serve at the appointment and discretion of the elected staff:

PX Officer	Col Kathy Doucette	936-524-0249	twokatz08@yahoo.com
Wings Over Houston Rep.	Col Wayne Kennedy	281-855-2520	wfkennedy@swbell.net
Supply Officer	Col Lee Brown	832-541-8349	lebro29@yahoo.com
Rides Coordinator	Col Jane Copeland	936-499-8147	janecope@msn.com
Marketing Team Lead	Col Nancy Kwiecien	936-273-4182	nkwiecien@suddenlink.net
Recruiting Officer	Col Larry Doucette	281-782-9633	larrydoucette0@gmail.com
Retention Officer	Col Rick Neu	832-767-8041	rickneu1@icloud.com
Wing Curator and Historian	Col Ben Doggett	832-773-4054	vbdoggett@gmail.com
Tour Planning Leader	Col Aric Aldrich	713-305-7363	B17TourPlanning@gmail.com
Co-Lead Flight Engineer	Col Lee Brown	832-541-8349	lebro29@yahoo.com
Co-Lead flight Engineer	Col Jim Hower	713-885-1868	fiverocks5@verizon.net
Ground Equipment Officer	Col Tim Searls	936-327-6505	T.SearlsTrucking@yahoo.com
Lead Load Master	Col Michael Hart	713-409-2494	mike.flyer.hart@gmail.com
Deputy Safety officer	Col Tim Daggett	504-813-4440	tmdaggett016@yahoo.com
Web Master	Kent Morrison	970-756-0040	kent@steamboat3d.com

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Wing dues for CAF Adult members are \$50/person and are due no later than the last day of February each year. Wing dues for CAF Cadet members (ages 12-23) are \$35/person and are due on the last day of February each year. Adult wing members are eligible to vote on committees. Cadets are not eligible to vote or serve on committees.