



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WORLD WAR II BOMBER TO REUNITE 381st BOMB GROUP VETERANS WITH THEIR PAST IN DAYTON AREA

SPRING, TEXAS – *Texas Raiders* is one of only eleven remaining flyable B-17 Bombers worldwide from World War II and will make an appearance at the 381st Bomb Group's Reunion at the Wright Brothers Airport south of Dayton, August 2nd through August 4th. With the dwindling number of veterans from this historic period, the 381st Bomb Group's Memorial Association is expecting this meeting with *Texas Raiders* to be one of the most memorable, as the aircraft is painted in the markings of their Bomb Group. In 2011, *Texas Raiders*, reunited 21 of the Bomb Group's remaining veterans with the B-17 in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Following a nearly complete dismantling of the aircraft in early 2002, and nearly eight years of corrosion repair and restoration, *Texas Raiders* became airworthy in October, 2009. To date, over \$600,000 of donations and sponsorship monies have been spent along with nearly 250,000 volunteer and contract hours of maintenance to bring the Flying Fortress back into flying condition. Although the non-profit 501-(c)-3 organization, the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) is the owner of this vintage Bomber, the maintenance, restoration and operation is assigned to the Gulf Coast Wing, an all volunteer CAF membership group. It is estimated that the cost to operate this vintage Bomber is over \$3,000 per flying hour.

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To reunite the veterans, members of the 381st Bomb Group and the public with this vintage aircraft and to support the flying operation of *Texas Raiders*, the volunteer members of the Gulf Coast Wing will be offering rides and walk-through tours at Dayton Wright Brothers Airport, Commander-Aero Aviation, Miamisburg, Ohio Thursday August 02, 2012 (3:00pm – 5:00pm) through Saturday August 04, 2012 (9:00am – 5:00pm). Commander-Aero Aviation is located at 10570 Springboro Pike, Miamisburg Ohio 45342. All donations for tours and rides are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Texas Raiders was delivered to the U.S. Army Air Force July 12, 1945 and became a member of the Commemorative Air Force's *Ghost Squadron* in September of 1967 and thereby assigned to the Gulf Coast Wing in 1971. . She has appeared in two movies, *Ike The War Years* and *Brady's Escape*, one PBS Documentary *Honor Squadrons* and two television commercials. Currently, *Texas Raiders* is featured in three major aviation magazines: *WARBIRDS INTERNATIONAL*, *FLYPAST MAGAZINE* and *AOPA MAGAZINE*.

Collecting, restoring and flying warbirds for more than half a century, the Commemorative Air Force 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 with a flying museum of classic military aircraft. A non-profit educational association, the CAF has approximately 9,000 members and a fleet of almost 160 airplanes representing more than 60 different types – including planes from several foreign countries and military conflicts since WWII. For more CAF information, visit www.commemorativeairforce.org or call (432) 563-1000. For more information regarding this 75th Anniversary Tour of *Texas Raiders* and the 381st Bomb Group Reunion, call Col Sandy Thompson, Public Information Officer at (817) 304 0393 or visit www.gulfcoastwing.org .