



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VINTAGE B-17 BOMBER CELEBRATES THREE YEARS at HOOKS AIRPORT WITH an APRIL OPEN HOUSE

SPRING, TEXAS – *Texas Raiders*, an authentically restored World War Two B-17 Bomber has made David Wayne Hooks Airport its home for the past three years and to celebrate this tenure, the members of the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Gulf Coast Wing are planning an old-fashioned cook-out, vintage 1940s music, walk-through tours and B17 rides at Hooks Airport Tomball Jet Center in Spring Texas, Saturday the 6th of April. *Texas Raiders* is one of just nine B-17 bombers flying in the United States today, and the communities of Spring and Tomball Texas have the unique distinction of watching and hearing this very rare aircraft take to the skies throughout the summer, reliving history over Montgomery and Harris Counties.

After nearly eight years of extensive restoration this B-17 Bomber became airworthy in 2009 and has flown in air shows throughout Texas and the central Midwestern United States, conducted sports-event flyovers and reunited remaining World War Two veterans with their link to the aircraft flown in the European and Pacific theatres of this historic period. Although the non-profit 501-(c)-3 organization, the 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 \$3,000 per flying hour.

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To support the flying operation of *Texas Raiders*, the volunteer members of the Gulf Coast Wing will be offering an old-fashioned cook-out, rides and tours to the public at Hooks Airport, Tomball Jet Center (9310 Max Conrad Drive in Spring, Texas) , Saturday, April 6th, 2013 from 10:00am to 5:00pm. All donations for tours and rides are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Texas Raiders became a member of the CAF's *Ghost Squadron* in September of 1967 and was thereby assigned to the Gulf Coast Wing in 1971. This unique B-17 Bomber has been featured in *WARBIRDS INTERNATIONAL* and *FLYPAST* magazines as well as AOPA magazine. It has appeared in two movies, *Ike The War Years* and *Brady's Escape*, one PBS Documentary *Honor Squadrons* and two television commercials.

Collecting, restoring and flying warbirds for more than half a century, the 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 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 on tours and rides on *Texas Raiders*, contact Sandy Thompson, Public Information Officer at 817 304 0393 or info@gulfcoastwing.org