



NEWS RELEASE

COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE (CAF)
MIDLAND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P. O. Box 6200 Midland, TX 79711-2000
Midland TX 79711-2000
(432) 563-1000 ext 2231
www.commemorativeairforce.org

GULF COAST WING - CAF
Col Sandy Thompson
Public Information Officer
9310 Max Conrad Drive
Hooks Airport – Spring, TX 77379
(817) 304 0393
www.gulfcoastwing.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VINTAGE B-17 BOMBER TO FLY AT BLUEBONNET AIR SHOW

SPRING, TEXAS – With just nine remaining B-17 World War Two Bombers left flying in the United States today, *Texas Raiders* is one of the most authentically restored. This vintage B-17 Bomber will perform at the Bluebonnet Air Show, held at Burnet Airport April 12th and 13th, 2013. After nearly eight years of extensive restoration this B-17 Bomber became airworthy in 2009 and has flown in air shows throughout 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. Currently there are just nine (9) remaining flyable B-17s left in the United States.

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 Bomber back into perfected 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 \$3,000 per flying hour.

-MORE-

WORLD WAR II BOMBER

Page 2

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 the Bluebonnet Air Show. Arrival into Burnet Airport is expected mid-day on Friday the 12th of April. The public is invited to take a walk-through tour or reserve rides on the B-17 on Friday and Saturday afternoon. 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. Her last public flying mission prior to the restoration was November, 2001, when the National D-day Museum in New Orleans, LA celebrated its Grand Opening. She has appeared in two movies, *Ike The War Years* and *Brady's Escape*, one PBS Documentary *Honor Squadrons* and two television commercials. In 2012, *Texas Raiders* was featured in three major Aviation publications: *WARBIRDS INTERNATIONAL*, *AOPA Magazine* and *FLYPAST* Magazines.

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 on tours and rides on *Texas Raiders*, contact Sandy Thompson, Public Information Officer at 817 304 0393 or B17Rides@gulfcoastwing.org or info@B17TexasRaiders.org

