

Flight Line



VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

APRIL 2015

It's Party Time

Saturday, June 6, 2015
Mark your calendars!
Enter it into your smart phone.
Put a note on the frig.
Stick a note on your dashboard.
Write it on your forehead.
Do it now, so you won't forget.

Why? Because it's D-Day and because it's the date of the **9th Annual** Aviation Heritage Park *Hangar Party*. The theme this year is *"Heroes Among Us, from the Greatest to the Latest"*, honoring WWII veterans, plus all the men and women who have served and are serving in the armed forces, police officers, firefighters, paramedics and EMTs; heroes one and all.

Picture it. The year is 1945. WWII just ended. It's time to celebrate. Break out the vintage clothing. Ladies, still have your uniform, or maybe it's that classic 1940's dress, with hat and stockings with the seam up the back. Don't forget gloves. Gents, dig out that old uniform, or that suit with extra wide lapels and short, wide tie. You'll want a hat too.

In addition to great food and dance, this year the party has an audience participation theme celebrating the end of the war. There will be judges circulating throughout the crowd. As the music transforms from



swing/jazz to whatever it's called today a best 1940's dressed couple and individuals will be named and prizes awarded. It's going to be a real hoot. Dress up in your finest period garb and join in the fun.

In keeping with the WWII era theme the night kicks off with the big band swing sound and song from a WKU ensemble. Later the mood changes when Skip Bond and the Fugitives take the stage and rock until closing time. It's your chance to dance down memory lane, or if you're too

young to remember you can learn a step or two from the old pros.

The party gates open at 5p.m. with a delicious barbeque dinner and free drinks. It rages on until the music stops at 10 pm.

As always the party will be held in the big hanger at the Bowling Green/Warren County Regional Airport, just off Scottsville Road, Bowling Green, KY.

Individual tickets may be purchased in advance at Ford's Furniture, Miracle Mattress, Nat's Outdoor Sports, Morris Jewelry, Candle Makers on the Square, Barbara Stewart Interiors and Chuck's Liquor Outlets, or online at www.aviationheritagepark.com.

Tickets are \$30 each for adults, \$15 children six-12. Tickets for veterans and first responders available for \$25 (advanced sales only). Tickets are also available at the door. If you or your organization are interested in sponsoring a table, contact Sandra at Aviation Heritage Park on Three Springs Road or call 270-202-7248.

Again, that's June 6. Mark it down. You don't want to miss this one.

AHP Searching For Huey

Aviation Heritage Park could use a little help finding the next big thing for the park.

AHP is searching for a UH-1 "Huey" helicopter as the next artifact to restore and display at the park. "We are looking for a UH-1H, non-flyable unit, with blades and transmission. A complete cockpit with full instruments and seats is desirable," AHP President Bob Pitchford said. "However, we will take a good, hard look at assembling a bird from random parts."

This iconic airframe would honor the military men and women from southcentral Kentucky who served during the Vietnam War era. Just about every service member from that period of military history rode, flew, was a crew chief or "wrenched" on a "Huey". (See Huey Page 2)

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TAG visits AHP

Aviation Heritage Park was recently honored last month with a visit from the highest ranking soldier in the Kentucky National Guard.

The Adjutant General of the Kentucky National Guard Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini, his wife, Carol and his Executive Officer, Capt. Aaron Van Sickle visited the park on February 13. AHP President, Bob Pitchford, and other board members were on hand to give the VIPs a tour of the park and brief them about the history and future of the park.

As The Adjutant General of



Maj. Gen. Edward W. Tonini the Kentucky National Guard, General Tonini serves as Commanding General of both the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard and as Exec. Dir. of the Dept. of Military Affairs. He was appointed the 51st Adjutant General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky by (See TAG page 3)

From the Cockpit: AHP Changes Leadership...Tag, I'm It

Hello and welcome to the second edition Flight Line!

I'm Bob Pitchford, and I have just taken the "stick and rudder" of Aviation Heritage Park. My enthusiasm for and involvement in this park dates from the very beginning, when a dedicated group of volunteers welcomed the first artifact, Phantom 550, from her perch in Ohio. Since then, AHP has continuously grown, becoming one of the finest facilities of its

kind in Kentucky, and, I believe, in the nation. This group of volunteers has doubled, and continues to be the backbone of the park, not only in restoration of each new aircraft, but to the daily upkeep of the park itself.

This most recent issue of Flight Line is packed with great news and informa-



Bob Pitchford, President

tion about our park. There is an article about Aviation Heritage Park's next artifact. A team of AHP board members have begun a search for the first rotary wing addition to the park, a UH-1 Iroquois, known affectionately as the Huey. During his visit to the park (also featured this issue), Kentucky's Adjutant

General, MG Ed Tonini, promised his assistance in our search.

Plan to attend our Hangar Party on June 6 at the Warren County Regional Airport. It is the annual fundraiser for Aviation Heritage Park and an all around great time. This year we are honoring "Heroes Among Us." Along with lots of airplanes, food and beverages, we will feature (See From the Cockpit page 3)



Photo by John Fleck
Brig Gen Dan Cherry

Cherry to be Inducted into Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame

A charter member of Aviation Heritage Park will be inducted into the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame for his service and dedication to aviation.

Retired Brig. Gen. Edward Daniel "Dan" Cherry of Bowling Green will be inducted into the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame April 18 at the Museum of Aviation at Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins Ga.

"I am very flattered by this and totally surprised," Cherry said.

Cherry has strong ties to Georgia. He graduated from South Cobb High School in Austell, Ga., in 1957, and met his wife of 54 years, the former Sylvia Cooper, of Smyrna, Ga., on a blind date.

Cherry is the author of "My Enemy...My Friend," a story of

Vietnam War reconciliation, that began with a 1972 aerial dogfight between Cherry's F-4 Phantom and North Vietnamese MIG-21 pilot, Nguyen Hong My and ended with the two men meeting years later and becoming friends.

Cherry entered the U.S. Air Force in 1959, was the commander and leader of the Air Force Thunderbirds and commander of Moody AFB in Georgia. He was inducted into the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame in 2000. He is a member of the 2013 class of the WKU Distinguished Hall of Fame. He is the grandson of WKU founder Henry Hardin Cherry.

He and Sylvia have two daughters, Jill Tweed and Kim McGowan, and four granddaughters.

(Story courtesy of BG Daily News)

Aviation Heritage Park, History in the Making

Celebrating ten years.

Aviation Heritage Park began 10 years ago when a walking group from Bowling Green happened upon the F-4D Phantom II #550. Brigadier General Dan Cherry was at the controls of the Phantom in 1972, when he shot down a North Vietnamese MiG - 21 in a dogfight during the Vietnam War. It was decided that this plane would make a fitting cornerstone for a park dedicated to educating

area school children and adults about the importance of aviation, with an emphasis on the contributions made by residents of southcentral Kentucky and graduates of Western Kentucky University.

After working to repair and restore the Phantom 550 to its combat colors, Aviation Heritage Park unveiled the aircraft to the community on June 30, 2006. In April of 2007, a ground breaking cere-

mony marked the beginning of the park construction and on September 23, 2007, the Phantom 550 was moved to the park site at 1825 Three Springs Road.

Since that day, AHP has added four other planes to the Park. The story of the Phantom 550 is just one of the stories being told at the park. You can also learn about the pilots of the Grumman F9F Panther, T-33 Shooting Star, F-111 Warhorse, and the NASA T-38 Talon.

The park is not finished. There are still many stories to tell and there are many ways you can help us tell the stories of these pioneering aviators. Consider lending your time, in-kind contributions or financial support to Aviation Heritage Park.

The board of AHP wants to inspire our youth and keep this unique history alive. If we don't tell the story of these great southcentral Kentuckians, then who will.

Huey (continued from page 1)

Southcentral Kentucky is proud to have UH-1 pilots and crew members such as Col. Mac Reynolds (also former pilot of Marine One, official helicopter of the President of the United States), Col. Danny Young, Chief Warrant Officer Joe Durbin, Chief Warrant officer Bill Basham and AHP's own Maj. Jim Wright, to name just a few of many distinguished service members honored by this new display.

If you, a friend, an old platoon or squadron buddy, know of where AHP can find a discarded UH-1 body, or parts, please contact AHP offices at 270-202-7248.

AHP also wants to compile a comprehensive list of service members from southcentral Kentucky associated with the UH-1 helicopter. If you or someone you know from this area was involved with the aircraft please contact the park.

Aviation Heritage Park was founded on a vision to find, restore and display aviation artifacts with a historical connection to aviators from southcentral Kentucky. The park now has five planes on display.

The park, located at 1825 Three Springs Road, Bowling Green, KY. Visit AHP website at www.aviationheritagepark.com or like AHP on Facebook and subscribe to our newsletter Flight Line by emailing AviationHeritageParkBG@gmail.com.

Board Member Spotlight:

Carroll "Ace" Hildreth, Founding Member



First Lt. Hildreth (1956)

Carroll Hildreth, a founding member and first president of Aviation Heritage Park, knew from a young age that he wanted to be an Air Force pilot.

Hildreth is a native of Glasgow Kentucky. His family relocated to Bowling Green in 1938 where he started first grade at Eleventh Street School. After graduating from Bowling Green High School in 1950 he went on to study Business Administration at the University of Kentucky, but his dream of being a pilot was still in the back of his mind. This led him to join the USAF ROTC. At graduation he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant.

In May of 1955, Hildreth reported for active duty at Headquarters Squadron, 31st Air Division, Air Defense Command (ADC) at Fort Snelling in St. Paul, Minnesota. He served as Adjutant and Personnel Officer. Hildreth's duties involved extensive travel to aircraft control and warning sites (radar stations) along the northern border of the US in North Dakota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Cold War radar stations played an integral part in protecting the U.S. Border from unidentified aircraft. In 1956 Hildreth was promoted to First Lieutenant.

When his tour ended in May of 1957, Hildreth returned home to Bowling Green to join his family business at Hildreth Oil Company. He served as president and owner of Hildreth Oil Company until he retired in November of 2000. Afterwards he served as vice chairman on the board of Valor Oil.

Hildreth has been involved in many civic clubs and activities in Bowling Green. He was named Outstanding Small Business Person in Bowling Green/Warren County in 1987, and was inducted into Bowling Green High School Hall of Honor in 2004.

Hildreth has three grown children. He and his wife Patricia reside in Bowling Green.



Carroll Hildreth

May Named National Military Appreciation Month

Service members of all branches are our Heroes; the pride and strength of our nation.

Congress designated May as National Military Appreciation Month making certain our nation would remember, recognize and celebrate the men and women who are serving, or have served our country.

During the month of May take the opportunity to thank our military and their families for their service in support of our country. How can you show appreciation? Say "Thank You" to military personnel, get a group to make care packages, send cards, if you are a business owner offer a discount or percentage off to military personnel, or give a helping hand to a family whose loved one is away on tour.

From the Cockpit (Continued from page 2)

music from both The Greatest Generation as well as The Latest Generation. Come out to the Airport, look at planes, eat, drink and dance the night away.

We will be hosting several new events at the park this year, starting with Kite Day on April 18. Keep watching our website or Facebook page for updates and, as they say, "Stay Tuned!"

I am honored and humbled to be a part of Aviation Heritage

Park, and for this opportunity to lead this fantastic group. I ask all of you to come and visit, and stay in touch as we continue to honor South Central Kentucky's rich aviation history.

Bob Pitchford, President
Aviationheritagepark.com
Aviation Heritage Park on FB

2015 Board of Directors

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- Julia Roberts
- Gerald Roark
- Mike Steen
- Joe Tinius

Director Emeritus

- Ray Buckberry
- Dan Cherry
- Arnie Franklin
- Jim Wright

TAG (Continued from page 1)

Governor Steve Beshear in December 2007. His offices are located at the Boone National Guard Center, Frankfort, KY.

General Tonini was in Bowling Green to host the annual Kentucky National Guard Association Conference at the Sloan Convention Center.

THIS SPACE AVAILABLE


Interested in advertising in this space?
Call 270-202-7248

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2015 Calendar of Event:
 April 18Kite Day In The Park
 May.....National Military Appreciation Month
 June 4.....Warren County Public Library Summer Reading Kickoff Event
 June 6**AHP Hangar Party**
 June 11,18, 25Summer Reading Club meets

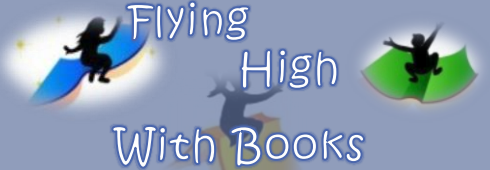
Sponsorship Opportunities



Sponsorship Levels for Hangar Party 2015

- Commander Level - \$2,000*
- Pilot Level - \$1,000*
- Co-Pilot Level - \$500*
- Navigator Level - \$250*

For more information about sponsorship opportunities please contact Sandra at 270.202.7248



Flying High With Books

Aviation Heritage Park (AHP) is offering a Pre-School Summer Reading Club, **FLYING HIGH WITH BOOKS**, June 11th – August 6th.

Registration will begin on June 4th at the Warren County Public Library Summer Reading Kickoff. For registration information please visit the Aviation Heritage Park information table.

The reading club will meet every Thursday beginning on June 11th at 11:00 a.m. All programs are free and for ages three – five. Pre-Registration is required and space is limited to 20 children per session. To register or for more information please contact Sandra Pence at 270.202.7248 Monday-Friday between 10:00 am – 2:00 pm daily.

Come sing silly songs, make neat crafts, and discover good books. Bring a picnic lunch and eat at the park.