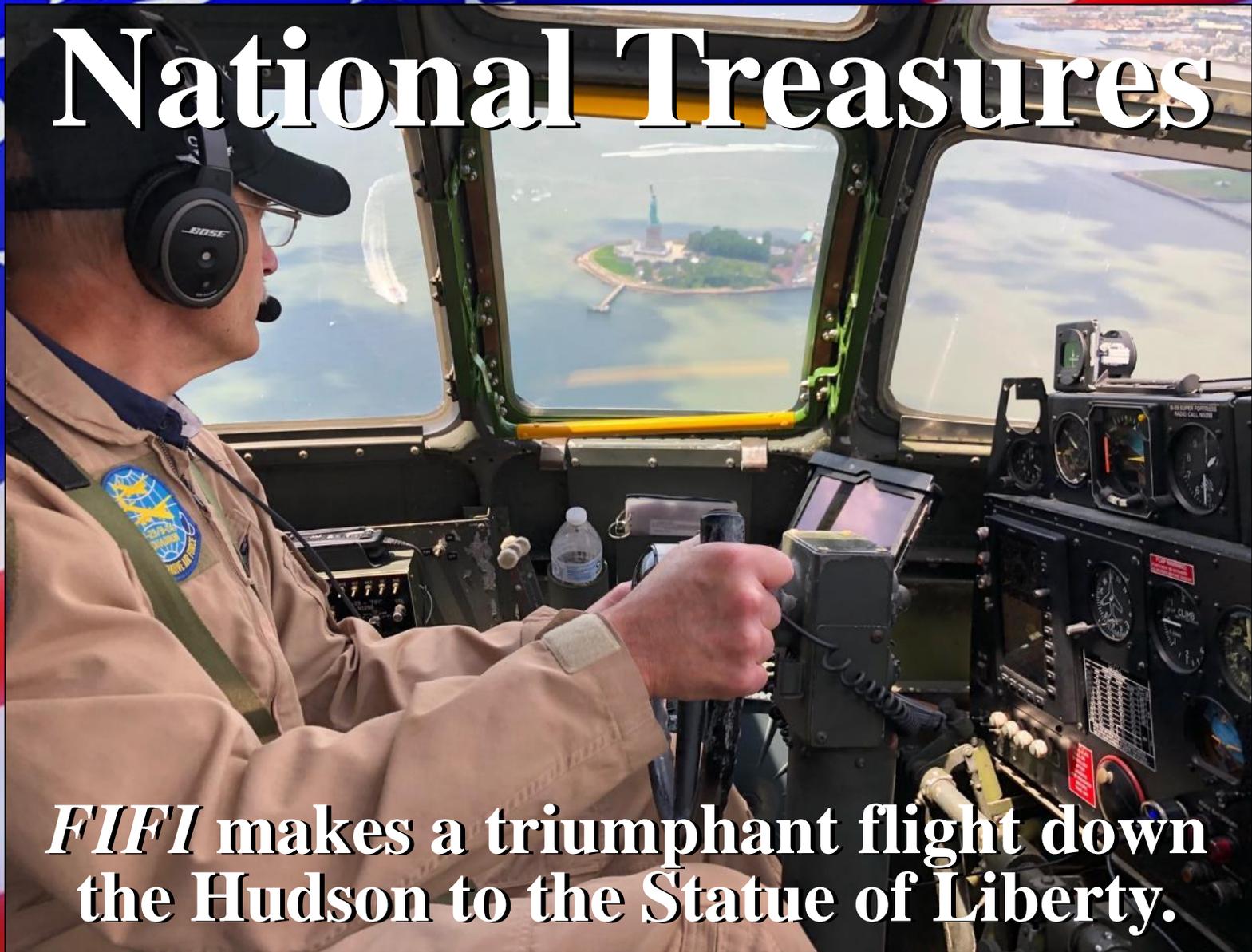




# THE FLYER

Commemorative Air Force  
B-29 / B-24 Squadron

## National Treasures



*FIFI* makes a triumphant flight down the Hudson to the Statue of Liberty.

Photo by David Oliver

## June/July 2018



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- Meet *FIFI*’s Summer interns, Brady Allen and Chance Bowman
- Remembering CAF member and photographer, Raymond Jeffcoat
- Feature Story: “Maj. Robert Phillips, B-24 Pilot”
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- Squadron Contact Information

*FIFI over the Holy Mother of Sorrows Polish National Catholic Church Parish Cemetery, Dupont, PA*

*Summer adventures with Lisa and Stu*



On the Cover: B-29 Pilot/AC Jeff Skiles circles the Statue of Liberty.



*Remembering Raymond Jeffcoat with his pictures*



*Feature Story: Major Robert Phillips, B-24 Pilot*



COMMEMORATIVE  
AIR FORCE

*B-29/B-24 Squadron  
Officer & Staff Listing*

B-29 / B-24 Squadron Directory			
Position	Name	Phone	Email
<b>If you would like to get scheduled on a Tour Stop as a Crew Member... Contact the following:</b>			
<b>B-29 Personnel Scheduling Officers</b>	Archie (Pilots) Rick (FEs) Steve (Scanners)	See below for phone#'s	<a href="#">See below for e-mail addresses</a>
<b>B-24 Personnel Scheduling Officers</b>	Archie (Pilots) Rick (FEs) Steve (Scanners)	See below for phone#'s	<a href="#">See below for e-mail addresses</a>
<b>Squadron Officers:</b>			
Squadron Commander	Neils Agather	817-946-9950	<a href="mailto:vnagather@agathertx.com">vnagather@agathertx.com</a>
Executive Officer	Tom Travis	214-763-0147	<a href="mailto:tomtravis@aol.com">tomtravis@aol.com</a>
Adjutant/Membership Coordinator	Toni Rabroker	972-740-4601	<a href="mailto:rabroker@hotmail.com">rabroker@hotmail.com</a>
Maintenance Officer	Phil Pedron	940-453-5324	<a href="mailto:pedacft@centurylink.net">pedacft@centurylink.net</a>
Safety Officer	Steve Rabroker	469-387-6439	<a href="mailto:rabroker@hotmail.com">rabroker@hotmail.com</a>
Operations Officer	Archie Taylor	817-944-3226	<a href="mailto:taylor2014@tx.rr.com">taylor2014@tx.rr.com</a>
Assistant Ops Officer	Al Benzing	214-707-2726	<a href="mailto:albenzing@gmail.com">albenzing@gmail.com</a>
Public Information Officer	Kim Pardon	913-636-6250	<a href="mailto:pardonb29@gmail.com">pardonb29@gmail.com</a>
Finance Officer	Gerald Oliver	312-953-0357	<a href="mailto:gerald.oliver@yahoo.com">gerald.oliver@yahoo.com</a>
Education Officer	Konley Kelley	214-995-5184	<a href="mailto:konartist@verizon.net">konartist@verizon.net</a>
<b>Squadron Staff:</b>			
Administrative and Marketing Assistant	Jenna Madison	972-387-2924	<a href="mailto:jenna@cafhq.org">jenna@cafhq.org</a>
Administrative Manager	Liz Vue	972-387-2924	<a href="mailto:evue@cafhq.org">evue@cafhq.org</a>
Sr. Crew Chief	Rick Garvis	972-380-8800	<a href="mailto:rgarvis@cafhq.org">rgarvis@cafhq.org</a>
Crew Chief	Ben Powers	214-277-3150	<a href="mailto:f14_ad@yahoo.com">f14_ad@yahoo.com</a>
<b>B-24 Team:</b>			
<b>Diamond Lil</b> Century Club Chairman	Toni Rabroker	972-740-4601	<a href="mailto:rabroker@hotmail.com">rabroker@hotmail.com</a>
B-24 Volunteer MX Coordinator	Steve Rabroker	469-387-6439	<a href="mailto:rabroker@hotmail.com">rabroker@hotmail.com</a>
B-24 Flight Ops Coordinator	Al Benzing	214-707-2726	<a href="mailto:albenzing@gmail.com">albenzing@gmail.com</a>
<b>B-29 Team:</b>			
B-29 Flight Ops Coordinator	Archie Taylor	817-944-3226	<a href="mailto:taylor2014@tx.rr.com">taylor2014@tx.rr.com</a>
B-29 MX Coordinator	Rick Garvis	972-380-8800	<a href="mailto:rgarvis@cafhq.org">rgarvis@cafhq.org</a>
B-29 Flight Engineer Coordinator	Rick Garvis	972-380-8800	<a href="mailto:rgarvis@cafhq.org">rgarvis@cafhq.org</a>
<b>Stearman Team:</b>			
Stearman Flight Ops Coordinator	Archie Taylor	817-944-3226	<a href="mailto:taylor2014@tx.rr.com">taylor2014@tx.rr.com</a>
Stearman MX Coordinator	Bill Goeken	817-308-1916	<a href="mailto:wk.goeken@verizon.net">wk.goeken@verizon.net</a>
<b>Squadron Volunteer Leaders:</b>			
The "Flyer" Newsletter Editor	Konley Kelley	214-995-5184	<a href="mailto:konartist@verizon.net">konartist@verizon.net</a>
Appearance Captain	Henry Borderlon	972-406-0644	<a href="mailto:pixiee@sbcglobal.net">pixiee@sbcglobal.net</a>
PX Co-Captain	Rocky Smith	214-565-8562	<a href="mailto:diverock@hotmail.com">diverock@hotmail.com</a>
PX Co-Captain	Alma Smith	214-284-9128	<a href="mailto:alma@b29b24px.org">alma@b29b24px.org</a>
Social Chairman	Toni Rabroker	972-740-4601	<a href="mailto:rabroker@hotmail.com">rabroker@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Tours/Ride Desk/Marketing:</b>			
Tour Manager & Scheduling	Jon Oliver	312-925-6184	<a href="mailto:aphtwarbirds@gmail.com">aphtwarbirds@gmail.com</a>
Tour Marketing Coordinator	Kim Pardon	913-636-6250	<a href="mailto:pardonb29@gmail.com">pardonb29@gmail.com</a>
<b>Its FUN to Volunteer</b>			
<a href="http://www.CAFB29B24.org">www.CAFB29B24.org</a>		<a href="http://www.AirPowerTour.org">www.AirPowerTour.org</a>	

# CAF AirPower History Tour

National Air Tour of Historic World War II Aircraft



## 2018 Tour Schedule

Montréal, Québec	July 18-22
Ottawa, Ontario (Gatineau, Quebec)	July 25-29
Peterborough, Ontario	August 1-5
North Bay, Ontario	August 8-12
Kitchener, Ontario	August 13-15
London, Ontario	August 17-19
Windsor, Ontario	August 22-26
Hamilton, Ontario	August 30 - September 2
Danville, IL	September 5-9
Tulsa, Oklahoma	September 12-16
Branson, Missouri	September 19-23
Joplin, Missouri	September 24-26
Great Bend, Kansas (B-29 only)	September 28-30
Olathe, Kansas (B-24)	September 29-30
New Orleans WWII Airpower Expo	October 12-14
Wings Over Dallas	October 26-28



Be sure to follow *FIFI's* Canadian tour on the Squadron Facebook page and Twitter.



Wings Over Dallas is October 26-28. The Squadron has been asked to run the Volunteer Hospitality area again this year as a fundraising event. We need lots of helpers – event co-captain, grillers, servers, shoppers, set-up teams and tent monitors. We'll have sign-ups at the next August 25 Squadron meeting.

\*Schedule subject to change  
Check [www.airpowertour.org](http://www.airpowertour.org)

# Squadron Report

We are half way through the summer and things are going well.

Progress on the B-24 is visible. Engines are hung. The process of connecting everything to the engines has begun. Phil Pedron reports that he expects engine runs in early August. This means that B-24 training will begin shortly after that followed by some kind of touring. It will be great to have *Lil* airworthy again and out of Meacham and back at her home at Dallas Executive Airport. Phil needs help with volunteer mechanics for the final push. Please come out.



The AirPower History tour is going remarkable well. Good stops all around with a couple of truly remarkable ones. I had the good fortune to be in Nashua and Millington. In Nashua, all *FIFI* flights sold, including a 5th sunset flight. The crowds were enormous, generous, patient and kind. Everyone in Nashua is a real fan of warbirds and especially *FIFI*. It's our second time to Nashua and the trip a couple years ago was also great. The *Bucket of a Bolts* set a new daily record with 14 rides. At her present status of 150 rides, she is on track to be the lead CAF ride aircraft for 2018. This puts a smile on Jon Oliver. He is doing a terrific job. Speaking of terrific jobs; Glenn and Mary Mount, WOW!. Two full months on the road with the tour and they finished happy and smiling as they headed home to California last week. We all owe them a debt of gratitude for their leadership and dedication. Several people commented to me how much fun they were having while working hard for *FIFI* and how much they appreciated the discipline of our process. While in Nashua, Glenn and Mary celebrated their 27th anniversary. I'm pretty sure I will not be spending any of my anniversaries on the road with *FIFI*; won't even risk trying. All thanks to Glenn and Mary.

*FIFI* is now in Canada. Did you know when speaking French they have a different word for everything? And a remarkable thing happened. As soon as we crossed the border and were talking to Montreal traffic control our very own Col. Bill Goeken started speaking French too. He has a multitude of talents yet to be discovered. Thanks to good planning by Bill and Operations Officer Archie Taylor, the ride into Canada and the clearing of customs was a non-event. Kim Pardon and the PR crew did a great job and we had strong media coverage. I am confident the Canada tour stops will go very well. More to come as it unfolds.

The Fall tour schedule has been posted. Please think about coming out to support *FIFI* and *Lil* and enjoy the fun. See you on the road.

Neils Agather  
Squadron Leader



Glenn and Mary Mount



The touring crew in Nashua, NH.

# Executive Officer Report

One of the best things about being on tour is the people you meet. At Reading this year a young lady came over to the ride desk and announced that she wanted to ride on *FIFI*. Gretchen is 13 with a personality that just makes you smile. She has been saving her allowance for months and working on a farm to accumulate enough money to buy a ride. Her parents are both pilots and she had been flying the family Cessna since she was old enough to see over the instrument panel. So this flying thing was nothing new but she is in love with *FIFI*. After the flight, Gretchen helped wipe oil and took the oily rag home with her. Not your typical teenager.



While we were waiting to fly, Gretchen told us that she wanted to be a member of the Blue Angels when she grows up. I hear lots of wild dreams but this is one that just might come true. Gretchen has the spirit, the drive and the attitude to make it happen.

Whenever you begin to think that the younger generation is hopeless (which is what our parents thought about us, by the way) just remember there are lots of kids out there like Gretchen.

Tom Travis  
Executive Officer



*Tom Travis and Debbie Travis King*

*Photo by Raymond Jeffcoat*

# Flight Operations Report

*FIFI* is in Canada, *Lil* is getting new engines, the Stearman, T-6, *Bucket of Bolts* and other aircraft have been all over the country on Summer Tour A and we are just getting started. Thanks for all the hard work to get 2018 kicked off to a great start.

The California couple got things rolling and we will continue to keep that momentum heading in the right direction. Oshkosh is going on this week and a bunch of us will be up there to see the show and take care of some airplanes. Maintenance has kept the aircraft in great shape and fixed any issues immediately. Tour Leaders, ride desk and scanners along with Rocky keep this barnstormer activity alive until the weekend flights roll around.



There is a lot of communication and coordinating going on with the press, VIP riders, additional training, tour stops, Kon articles, headquarters, and occasionally adjustments to the schedule. It's amazing to me how all of these teams do all that we do each week with successful outcomes and no drama. It's an outstanding group of people focused on educating the young and honoring past and current veterans. Thanks for all you do!

As we get closer to bringing the B-24 online, I will get some info out on training activities and potential tour stop information as it becomes available.

Archie Taylor  
B-29/B-24 Operations Officer

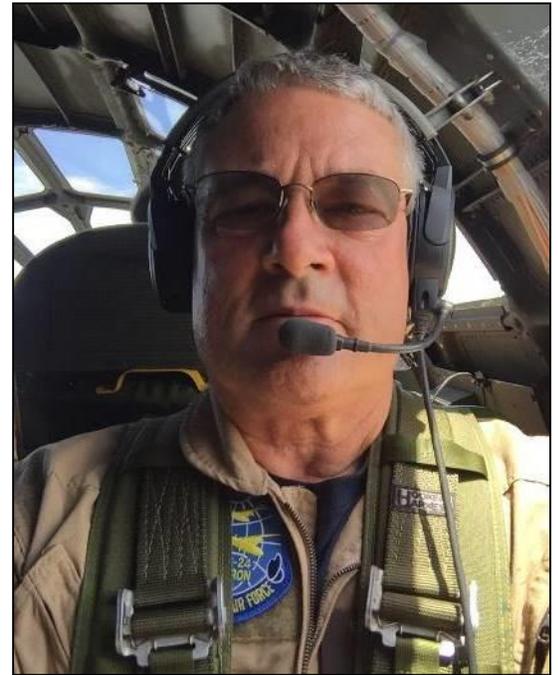


Photo by Ryan Tykosh

# Maintenance Report

**"FIFI"**

*FIFI* has now been on the road since May 17, successfully completing 10 tour stops. She is now in Montreal, on the first leg of her Canada tour. We must all be very proud of the fact *FIFI* has accomplished 100% mission readiness. As you would expect there have been a few technical hiccups, skillfully handled by our dedicated Flight Engineers and Maintenance personnel. The fact we can campaign a 73-year old aircraft so successfully and reliably is truly a reflection on the professionalism and dedication of our operations and maintenance teams and the excellence of the maintenance program they have developed.



As you know *FIFI* is scheduled for a well-deserved facelift at the end of this year's tour season. A paint committee has been formed to recommend the final paint scheme. Scheme Designs has been contracted to provide the final design and layout and Aerosmith Aviation in Longview Texas will be doing the work with assistance from our maintenance team when required for operations such as cowling and control surface removal and re-installation.



*Lil* is coming along well on her path back to airworthiness. Three new engines, oil filters on all four engines, pre-oiiler systems, new hoses fire wall forward, fresh propellers, overhauled accessories, freshly painted cowlings and fuselage interior, renovated electrical panel, annual inspections and the list goes on.

We are all disappointed at not being ready for Oshkosh, at the same time pleased we are doing the job right. *Lil* will soon be back in the air, safe, proud and reliable. Your help is still needed both monetarily and physically. There is still much to accomplish. Those of you with engine installation experience are especially needed at this time.

*From Crew Chief Rick:*

*I have the pleasure of giving all great news from Diamond Lil. My dedicated volunteer maintenance staff and I have installed the last fresh overhauled engine in the # 4 position! Needless to say this was truly a great day for the Squadron..! I have been maintaining Diamond Lil for 10 years now and I am proud to say she will be in the best shape she's been in a very long time. With these fresh overhauled engines Lil will get the opportunity like FIFI got to reestablish herself in the warbird community as a very reliable aircraft. We are making great headway on inspections and reassembly as well.*

*We had a slight setback with some fuel leaks in both tanks but I have gotten a different type of sealant that I am personally applying to the tanks to alleviate this issue. Over the 10 years of operating her we have always had leaks from time to time it's just something that we have to manage with an aircraft of this age having wet wings. As always we are doing our best to get her back online as soon as possible in a safe manner.*

Phil Pedron  
B-29/B-24 Squadron Maintenance Officer



## CREW CHIEF'S CORNER

Photo Collage by  
Crew Chief Rick





L-R: Mike Schmit, Crew Chief Rick, Al Herum, Tom Ferraro, Mike Caraway

# Training & Safety Report

With the conclusion of *FIFI's* Summer Tour A, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect back on what has turned out to be a very successful tour. We were rewarded with some very large crowds, especially at Huntsville, Alabama and the old reliable, Mid-Atlantic Air Show in Reading, Pennsylvania. As they traveled from there, they endured the summer heat wave in New York, but even the heat didn't keep the crowds away. Farther northeast, they found the city of Nashua, New Hampshire to be very fond of *FIFI* and the AirPower History Tour.



A big “THANKS” goes out to Mary and Glenn Mount, who once again, stepped up to be the tour leaders for the entire Summer Tour A. This is a huge responsibility and a commitment of their time, but it shows the type of quality people we are fortunate to have as part of our Squadron. As a side note, I recently had a conversation with a new CAF and Squadron Member who joined after the Nashua stop. He had taken a ride on *FIFI* and commented to me how impressed he was with the whole crew – their professionalism and friendly attitude towards their customers, prompting him to join the organization. It's comments like this that confirm to me that we have the best touring team! I want to thank ALL the crew members that have participated so far. Also, don't forget, the tour would not happen if it weren't for all the hard work and many hours put in by Jonathan Oliver, our Tour Manager and *The Bucket Pilot*. Be sure to say thank you next time you see him.

Summer Tour A has done an excellent job of keeping safety top of mind. With only a minor incident, which involved an elderly gentleman with heat exhaustion, we have had a very safe tour. Keep up the good work!

If you have any questions about touring, please email me at:  
[rabroker@hotmail.com](mailto:rabroker@hotmail.com)

Always remember:  
“IF THE JOB IS DONE RIGHT,  
IT IS SAFE”

Steve Rabroker  
Safety Officer



Photo by Raymond Jeffcoat

# Education Report

In 2006, my college was providing English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) classes at Presbyterian Village North (PVN), a retirement community in North Dallas. I learned a WWII veteran, retired Brigadier General Charles Bond, USAF, was a resident. I knew of General Bond and had missed an opportunity to meet him at an airshow in Addison, TX. His health had declined so I reasoned there would not be another chance to see him unless something could be arranged at PVN.

General Bond was a pilot in the American Volunteer Group (AVG) better known as the “Flying Tigers.” He was the only AVG pilot to earn the rank of General. I also learned he was the first to paint shark teeth on his aircraft (earlier done by the Brits in P-40s fighting in North Africa).

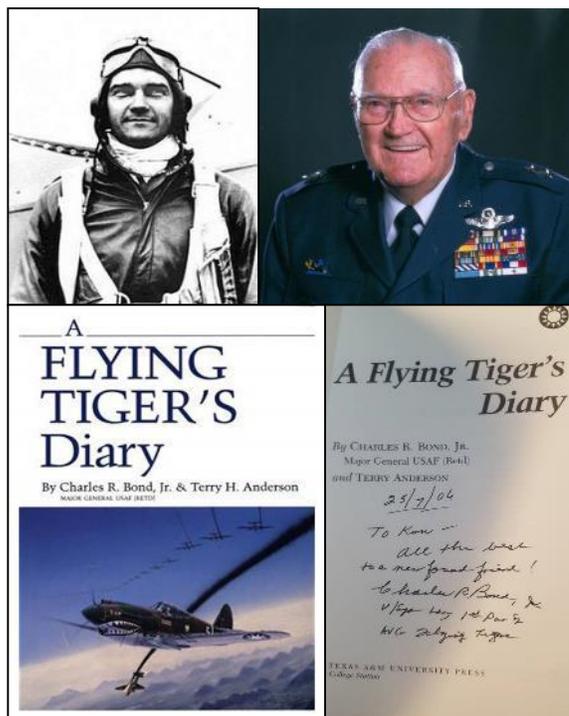


I read his book A Flying Tiger's Diary and prepared for the meeting.

The meeting was great and General Bond signed my book. I complimented him on his shark teeth artwork. General Bond also painted the fuselage unit markings on their P-40s. They were the “Adams and Eves” symbolized by a male and female stick figure running around a red apple. In short time the red apple was painted green to avoid any resemblance to the markings of enemy aircraft.

I know many of you collect autographs at airshows and events like our Squadron meetings. The reason I am sharing this now is where I found General Bond – a retirement community.

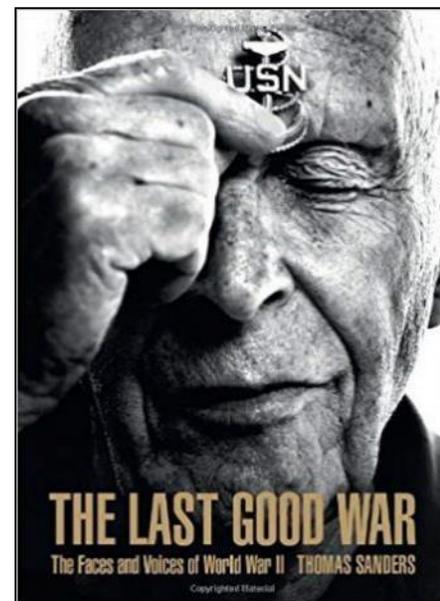
In fact, my college has a vibrant Emeritus program with several retirement communities in our service area. Lisa “Rosie the Riveter” Foster has made appearances and myself and other CAF members have made presentations for seniors in an enrichment series provided by the college.



Recently I made a sales call at Belmont Village, a retirement community just north of downtown Dallas. The Executive Director knew of my involvement with the CAF. Her son visited our Squadron when we were based in Addison. She walked me to a wing of the building with pictures of WWII veterans like that on the book to the right. Photographer Thomas Sanders had been traveling the country seeking WWII veterans for a book. He interviewed and photographed several veterans at Belmont Village. These pictures lined the hallway. I was given the book and it is tremendous. It also got me thinking...

Are retirement communities being touched by CAF members when we have an airshow or special event? Are we missing opportunities to engage the Greatest Generation where they are living their golden years. I am going to do what I can through my college to make sure the communities know about events and airshows like October's Wings Over Dallas. I'd love to see a bus from Belmont Village arrive at WOD with many interesting people for us to meet ☺

Konley Kelley  
Education Officer





# Member News June/July 2018



## The Squadron welcomes new members added in June/July 2018:

- Gary Creasy, Forney Texas
- Aaron Ford, Dallas, Texas
- Charles Higgins, Bedford, Texas
- Dave Sabestinas, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
- Chris Holmes, Argyle, Texas
- Jack Sullivan, Nashua, New Hampshire

## 2018 Squadron monthly meetings (mm) and local activities:



- August 25 mm Pancake Breakfast
- September 15 mm
- October 26-28 Wings Over Dallas
- November 17
- Squadron Annual Meeting and Chili Cook-off



## Membership Info

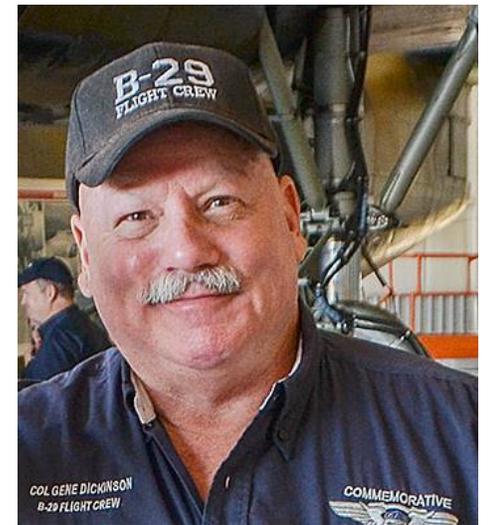
If you have any membership questions, please feel free to contact me at [rabroker@hotmail.com](mailto:rabroker@hotmail.com)  
 Dues and new member apps can be mailed to:  
 CAF B-29/B-24 Squadron  
 PO Box 763577  
 Dallas, TX 75376



Tour leader Glenn Mount congratulating Todd Erskine for qualifying as Scanner.



Also congrats to Scott Gupton for qualifying as Lead Scanner. Scott is pictured with Allen Ramey a B-29 gunner and veteran of 17 missions over Japan.



Keep fellow Squadron member Gene Dickinson in your thoughts. He has been struggling for months after foot surgery with an infection that won't subside.



## Get your CAF gear at Squadron Px

From our Px Captains, Alma and Rocky Smith

Whether we are on tour or home, we can fill your order. Short or long sleeve uniform shirts, performance polos, quarter zip fleece, as well as hats and tshirts (as found on [www.B29B24PX.org](http://www.B29B24PX.org)). We will even do name drops on the shirts. Email [alma@b29b24px.org](mailto:alma@b29b24px.org) with size, quantity, your phone and email information.

Find us on



# Special Feature Summer Adventures with Squadron members Lisa and Stu



## Stu Watkins with the Liberty Jump Team in Normandy on the 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day

Kon,  
*It was great to be there and honor veterans. Jumped two drop zones. One was where the 101st landed out of "That's All Brother". The 2nd jump was at La Friere bridge where the 82nd held off a major German counter attack aimed at the beaches. Its to be featured in a movie "No Better Place to Die" based on a book by Robert M. Murphy who I met in Normandy in 1976. - Stu*



LIBERTY JUMP TEAM



For a video of the jump, see Darren Miguel Cinati's video on Facebook.  
<https://www.facebook.com/darren.cinatl/videos/10156102206717203/?t=0>

## Lisa Foster attends 2018 ARRA Convention/Reunion June 1-3 in New Orleans



## ROSIE CONVENTION

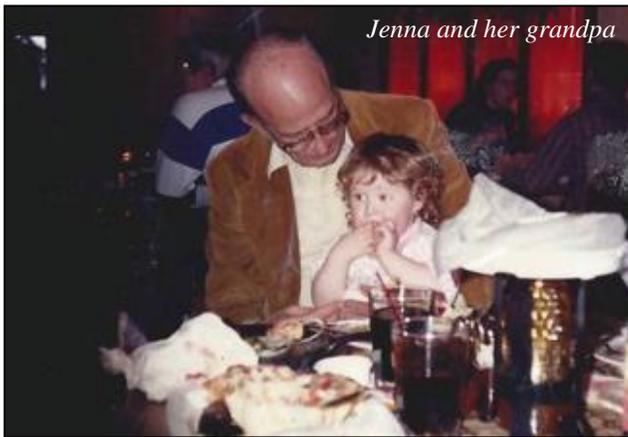
Kon,  
*What a wonderful weekend I had at the American Rosie the Riveter Association 20th Anniversary Convention in New Orleans. There were over 200 in attendance. I met 28 original Rosies and their families. The youngest was 91 and the oldest was 99. It was an honor to be the guest speaker of the convention. The Rosies were treated like rock stars at the WWII Museum. The evening included a wonderful dinner where the Rosies were honored and a special award was given to ARRA founder Fran Carter. Aside from the high I felt the whole weekend from hearing their Rosie adventures, the next best moment of the weekend was watching them "buck" and "rivet" for one another at my presentation booth. They demonstrated to the audience the jobs they performed on ships, planes, munitions and tanks for the war effort. I will always treasure the moments I had with those special ladies. - Lisa*





## Staff Spotlight “Jenna Madison” By Konley Kelley

I have the privilege of introducing you to the B-29/B-24 Squadron’s new Administrative/Marketing Assistant, Jenna Madison. Jenna joined us at the beginning of the Summer Tour and is working from the Squadron office at CAF HQ in Dallas.



*Jenna and her grandpa*

Jenna was born in Berea, OH near Cleveland in June of 1987. Her dad, Louis, was an auto mechanic and Mother, Susan is a paralegal. She has an older sister, Michelle.

Her dad’s family is from Hungary. During WWII, her grandparents were taken prisoners by the SS for being “Gypsies”. They were forced to perform hard labor in a work camp. Prior to the war, her grandparents both held jobs at an automobile factory. Grandpa was born in Transylvania and it was his work in the auto plant that most likely saved him from being sent to a death camp. Growing up and listening to their stories gave Jenna a deep appreciation for history and a belief to not be scared of history, but to learn from it.

Her grandparents were moved by American compassion so visible in its military and humanitarian aid for so many suffering after the war. They decided to immigrate to the United States after their release. Her grandfather was hired by General Motors in Cleveland and worked there his entire life. He taught his son to work on cars and to always work with your hands, leading to Louis also being an auto mechanic. Jenna’s dad has had an exciting life working on cars including time as an Indy car crew chief and later a automotive and motorcycle professor at a local college.

The family moved to Texas her freshman year of high school. She was nervous for this move and the stigma that Texas held. She thought the guys would look like the Marlboro Man and another Texas stereotypes would be true.



*Jenna and her high school BFF*

They weren’t and she adapted into a typical high school kid in Texas. When she wasn’t studying, Jenna was practicing with the drill team. They went on to become 5A champions. She also volunteered with animal charities taking after her mom who worked with shelters in Ohio. Jenna has four dogs, two are Corgis and the other two, a Boxer and Beagle and a Vizsla, are rescue dogs from shelters she worked with.

She was definitely a daddy’s girl, happily tagging along with dad and sister to watch drag racing and work with him in his shop fixing cars. Her first job was for her dad in his shop where she kept up with the books and recordkeeping.

Her parents taught her self-reliance. Jenna paid for herself to attend college and her dad’s work ethic stuck with her. She was a good student at A&M but something just wasn’t working for her. Her first instincts were to study to become a veterinarian. Too much science in these classes ended that dream. She also wanted to switch to a smaller school with more opportunities to interact with instructors and attend reasonably-sized classes. This led her to The University of St. Thomas in Houston where she switched her major and graduated with a BS in Criminal justice/Psychology. She started working on a law degree.

While in school, she worked a full-time job at a local family entertainment center. The job was good and she was promoted to department director, the youngest in company history. Her duties included opening new locations, managing clients, corporate training, and large events. She also worked with a local charity and taught life skills to special needs adults.

Wanting a change in her life, Jenna moved to DFW in 2014. Here she met Andrew whom she married in May, 2017. Andrew works as an engineer as well as with a charity his family manages called Kids on the Land. Kids on the Land teaches STEM education to children in nature settings. Andrew has been teaching with the charity since 2013 and Jenna has been offering her help and support as well.

Learning of the position at the CAF seemed a perfect fit for her fascination with history, event planning, marketing and teaching experience. She also credits the love her dad shared with her for all things mechanical – naturally a draw to an organization that maintains and flies a fleet of warbirds. Her “car love” has now expanded to include “airplane love.”

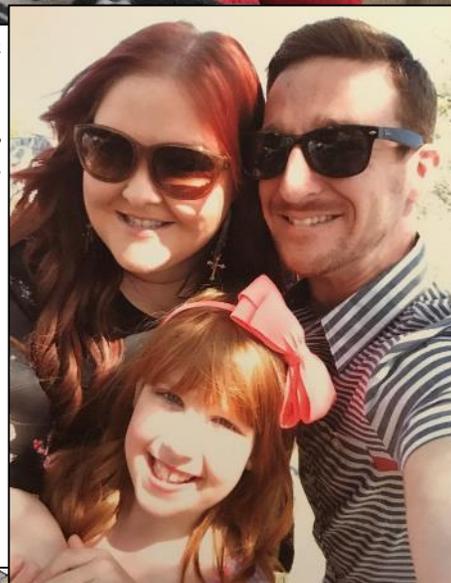
Her day to day in the office is primarily in support of tour needs and assisting Jonathan Oliver with location logistics, riders and customer service. She has also been tasked with working on our social media presence and updating the website. Andrew has also become a familiar face at CAF HQ. He has been teaching STEM summer camps for the CAF.

In the future, Jenna wants to finish her law degree and see the world. She and Andrew have a trip planned to Salem, MA. You might wonder, why Salem? Both of them have a keen interest in the supernatural. You might call them “ghost hunters.” Andrew actually proposed to Jenna on a ghost tour in New Orleans in front of the Lalaurie Mansion. He had the whole thing secretly planned out with the ghost tour staff and her best friend. They’ve also been to the Overlook Hotel in Colorado, famous for THE SHINING. I personally recommended one of my wife and my favorite ghostly places, the RMS Queen Mary in Long Beach, CA.

So isn’t it fitting Jenna is working for the CAF “Ghost Squadron?” She is behind the scenes making sure our Squadron’s affairs run smoothly. She is also dying to spend more time around the aircraft and participate in upcoming Squadron events and Wings Over Dallas. Next time you are at CAF HQ, say hello or “boo” to Jenna ☺ That might get you a smile.



*Andrew with the dogs.*



*Jenna, Andrew and stepdaughter, Chloe*



*Airplane love*

# VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Vintage Flying Museum, Meacham Airport, Fort Worth

"FIF"



B-29 Mx  
Rick Garvis  
972-380-8800  
rgarvis@cafhq.org



B-24 Mx  
Steve Rabroker  
469-387-6439  
rabroker@hotmail.com

**Mechanics  
General maintenance  
Help around the hangar**

[www.cafb29b24.org](http://www.cafb29b24.org)



**MAINTENANCE IN PROGRESS**



# SQUADRON EVENT

## Dragged through the Mouth of Hell!

### The Untold Story of the Ploesti Attack

August 1, 1943. Every WW II military history buff knows this date. Officially designated Operation TIDAL WAVE, historians have called this attack on the Romanian oil refineries ambitious, daring, heroic, disastrous, and foolhardy. But what is fact and what is myth?

Our keynote speaker will be David H. Klaus, the respected authority on the TIDAL WAVE operation. He'll separate fact from fiction as he details the background, planning, execution, and aftermath of the mission that resulted in five heroes earning the Medals of Honor in a 20 minute period. No "revisionist history," his 25+ years researching recently declassified evidence in the US, Romania, and Germany proves, among other stunning revelations, the mission was significantly more successful than usually reported.

We must never forget the breathtaking bravery of all the men who attacked that day 75 years ago this August.

Celebrate *Diamond Lil's* mission and history

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday**  
**August 25, 2018**  
**8:00 a.m. Pancakes**  
**9:30 a.m. Seminar**  
**plus Color Guard**  
**Patriotic Music**  
**Spirit of '45**  
**proclamation**

Commemorative Air Force hangar  
Dallas Executive Airport  
5661 Mariner Drive  
Dallas, Texas 75237  
RSVP to Toni Rabroker by 8/23  
[rabroker@hotmail.com](mailto:rabroker@hotmail.com)

Medal of Honor



KEEP THE  
SPIRIT  
OF '45  
ALIVE!



COMMEMORATIVE  
AIR FORCE

[WWW.SPIRITOF45.ORG](http://WWW.SPIRITOF45.ORG)

# Special Feature

## Meet *FIFI*'s summer interns Brady Allen and Chance Bowman



Jeff Skiles presents Brady Allen with an official crew hat



Glenn Mount presents Chance Bowman with an official crew hat



### Chance Bowman

Chance is from St Louis, MO, and has just completing his Freshman year at Southern Illinois University in the Aviation Technologies program.

He grew up in a aircraft loving household, with his father always taking them to airshows and museums when possible. There were always models of warbirds, pictures, books, magazines; anything and everything related about the house. At the center of his collection is a model of a B-29 Superfortress, that is signed by both Mr. Paul Tibbets and Mr. Theodore Van Kirk.

As a young adult he discovered that aviation is his passion. He enjoys learning and staying busy, performing any and all tasks required to help out the team, looking to build upon new experiences every day. After a short stint volunteering with the CAF in the Marion, IL last year, it seemed like a perfect fit to join the APHT.



### Brady Allen

Brady is from Dallas, Tx. and has been a cadet in the Commemorative Air Force since the Wings Over Dallas event in 2016.

He is an Eagle Scout and has spent 7+ years on hockey, swim, and lacrosse teams in leadership roles, including completing his freshman season as a defenseman for Texas A&M ice hockey. He has completed his first year pursuing a degree in aerospace engineering at Texas A&M University, maintaining a 4.0.

His aerospace engineering interests extend to the CAF, because of the historical and practical nature of our mission. Being able to work with restored military aircraft is an experience that many do not have the opportunity to undertake, and it would give new perspectives to take to school and after graduation.



"Brady and Chance have been on tour since May 17th and are outstanding young men. They are enjoying the APHT experience and we have all enjoyed working with them. They have taken to touring like Squadron veterans; are hard workers, eager to learn and get along well with everyone."

Allen Benzing, B-29 Pilot/AC



# Photo Album

## The Photos of Raymond Jeffcoat

### Raymond Jeffcoat 1924-2018

Raymond "Jeff" Jeffcoat passed away on Friday, July 13 at the age 93. He was a kind and generous man. Many knew him as an event and airshow photographer. He also volunteered for PR, photo and newsletter duty with the CAF DFW Wing based in Lancaster, TX. He was often at our Squadron events and I relied on him for pictures. His photo of my late friend, WWII veteran Robert Phillips graced the cover of our newsletter. He also loved photographing his favorite subject, Lisa "Rosie" Foster. Raymond will be missed by many and his skills as a photographer are a loss for all. I have gathered some of the pictures he shared with me over the years for this photo album. - the Editor





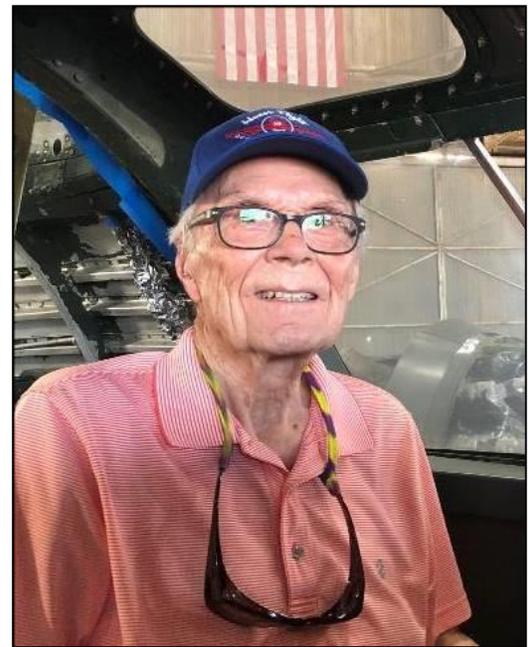
Blue Skies  
Mr. Paparazzi ☺



## Feature Story

# “Major Robert Phillips B-24 Pilot”

By Konley Kelley



A few weeks ago Toni Rabroker contacted me about an opportunity to meet a WWII veteran and B-24 pilot at the Vintage Flying Museum. The veteran’s grandson was visiting from Colorado and was able to round up several family members for the outing. Toni and I met Major Robert “Bob” Phillips and his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren in front of *Diamond Lil*. We arrived just before they did to open *Diamond Lil* up and turn on lights and fans to cool her off.



Bob is 94 years old. Thanks to *Lil’s* side door and stairs configuration, Bob climbed in just fine. He was ready to visit the cockpit and sit in the pilot’s seat, something he had not done in a B-24 since 1945.

As a kid growing up in Fort Worth, TX, there was a cow pasture that doubled for a landing strip about ¼ mile from the country dairy near Bob’s home. He and his friends were fascinated with airplanes and would spend hours watching planes take-off and land and making model airplanes. Inspired by recruitment posters, Bob said most kids before the war envisioned themselves as big tough Marines. The canvas and wire aircraft of the day were a curiosity but not a draw for many wanna-be soldiers. Having this experience near the cow pasture airfield changed that mindset for Bob and he was among eight of his friends in the neighborhood who went on to become pilots in WWII. One of his buddies, Harrold Owen, who lived a few doors down, would go on to become a P-38 pilot and post war one of the founders of Gearhart-Owen Industry, the legendary oil company.

When war broke out, Bob signed up for a cadet flying school at an airplane manufacturing plant in Tulsa, OK. He passed the aviation cadet exam and was sworn into the Army Air Corps on December 6, 1942. His first trainer was a Fairchild PT-19 monoplane with an open cockpit. There was no radio on board. A “conversation tube” was the only means of communication from the instructor to the pilot trainee in the front seat. The aircraft did not have a built-in starter so it had to have the engine started by someone hand-turning the prop.

The next phase of his training was at a base in Kansas in a BT-13 Valiant closed cockpit aircraft with a radio system. They trained all times of day and learned to land with a minimum of natural light. He learned to take off and land on air strips which had 3 torches at night, one at the beginning of the strip, one 1/3 of the way down and the third at the end of the strip. In the dim light, Bob recalls seeing flames shooting out of the exhaust which was normal and always pretty thrilling. His training then advanced to a UC-78 Bobcat, a twin-engine plane. The UC-78 was a mixture of canvas and metal surfacing. He recalls seeing one crash and burn to ashes – a reminder of how flammable the aircraft were.



He had a choice to pursue training on fighters like the P-38 Lightning and P-47 Thunderbolt, but chose a plane being built in his hometown of Fort Worth, the B-24 Liberator.

Bob was stationed at a B-24 base in Liberal, KS. One of his most vivid and thrilling memories was flying as a 2nd. Lieutenant in a B-24 with two Lt. Colonels and a full-bird Colonel. His position was on a stool between the two pilots with a Colonel in the right seat. The plane was put through rigorous in flight testing that was intended to standardize B-24 flight training. He was so impressed by the abilities of the aircraft he was technically “sold on the B-24” as the plane he wanted to master. In Bob’s words the mighty B-24 “fascinated” him.

When he was promoted to B-24 aircraft commander, he picked up his crew and they proceeded by train to Mountain Home, ID for combat training. On the trip he celebrated his 21st birthday on December 12, 1944 at a pool hall while stopped in Laramie, WY.

He got to know his crew and they practiced on their B-24. B-24 training stateside was no less dangerous than combat. Three B-24s were lost in the 1<sup>st</sup> month of combat crew training due to low visibility, explosions and pilot error. When training was complete, they were sent to CA in preparation to go overseas. Rumors of postings in Italy or Russia circulated among the men. The overseas trip never happened. They boarded a train for the east coast, but in New Mexico were diverted north to central Nebraska for B-29 training.



Orders came again and he was informed he would ferry a B-24 to China with a skeleton crew. This trip was canceled when he was told that pilots from China were going to make the flight, after he had calculated all of the instruments. The aircraft he prepared for the trip to China was the XB-24N Liberator. Only seven of this variant were built. Its single tail was said to be the inspiration for the PB4Y-2 Privateer's similar single fin/rudder tail design.

Bob's next assignment was in Monroe, LA, where he was checked out in the C-47, an airplane he really enjoyed flying. His primary duty was flying Cadets from Navigator school and all the while, be on constant lookout for German submarines while flying over the Gulf of Mexico. Bob’s last assignment was in Hondo, TX. He trained and became a trainer for B-29 FEs. The war ended shortly thereafter.



Bob was discharged and kept in reserve. With pay and benefits slightly better than the USAF, he joined the Army National Guard based at Fort Worth Army Airfield (later named Carswell AFB). One of his piloting duties was flying an L-19 bird dog as a spotter for target practice for the 49th Armored Division. He went to helicopter school in Mineral Wells, TX and became a qualified helicopter pilot.

He remained with the National Guard for 27 years and retired with the rank of Major.

I asked Bob to relay one of his most harrowing flying stories. He instead related to me a snap decision he made on a trip ferrying airplanes from Ft. Worth to Ft. Hood. The 10 light planes being sent were fighting strong headwinds and running out of fuel. He spotted a “filling” station on the highway in Clifton, TX. There was very little traffic, so he landed on the highway and taxied up to the “pumps.” The owner was surprised but liked the visit. After he refueled, the station Owner said “Big Orange Drink to you and come again any time.” With his big orange drink in hand, Bob turned his plane into the wind and continued his trip. The other planes landed in fields and the crews had to hike for miles to get help.

He met her working at the main Post Office during Christmas. Their first night out she joined two of her friends who were on dates with two of Bob's friends. When they arrived at a club in north Fort Worth, Bob opened the door for Virginia. The step was high and she fell into his arms so he planted a kiss on her. "On their first date," he says with a huge smile. Theirs was a great love story from beginning to the end. Bob and Virginia had four children, Nancy, Cheryl, Rhonda and Scott. Bob finished college and served in sales and as Personnel Director for Texas Refinery Corp in Fort Worth. He worked there for 40 years.

Watching Bob in *Diamond Lil's* cockpit was a joy to behold. Observing his loving family members watch him was also pure joy. His four children and their spouses, eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren call him their hero. Waving out the window of *Lil's* cockpit to his family he shouted "I'm home!" God bless you Major Phillips. Thank you for sharing your memories with us.





# Editor's Corner

## “EagleQuest XXVII”

It is no secret I enjoy scale modeling. In June, I made it to Squadron/Signal's EagleQuest, perhaps the #1 model show in the country. The best of the best come to Dallas to compete in this peer-judged competition. I didn't have an entry this year but I did provide a 12' zipline carrier for entertainment. Our CAF friend, Ken Kovar won several medals – congrats Ken!



The theme this year was WWI “The Great War.” There were a lot of WWI aircraft and armor displays (including every plane and figure from the movie THE BLUE MAX). There were also plenty of WWII military subjects, modern aircraft, tanks, hotrods, scifi and superhero figures. Below are some pictures. Don't miss it next year!



### “3D FIFI”

Brian Larrimer with Grande Unlimited 3D Animation (on Facebook) has modeled a 3D *FIFI* and posted it on our Squadron FB page. I connected with Brian. We use the same software for 3D modeling (Strata Studio). I am looking forward to swapping tips and techniques. He has also modeled *Doc* and my favorite jet, an F-86 Sabre. Awesome work!



# THE FLYER WANTS YOU!

You are welcome to contribute a story, photographs and artwork for this decades-old newsletter. If you are a veteran, please tell us your story. Squadron members continually meet veterans at the hangar, on tour and in everyday life – let us know their stories. We're also looking for contributors for “This Month in History” and news spotlighting our aircraft and members.

Thank you and  
“Keep ‘Em Flying!”

Konley Kelley  
THE FLYER editor  
[konartist@verizon.net](mailto:konartist@verizon.net)



# "FIFI"



Featuring the World's Most Famous B-29 Superfortress



C-45 Expeditor



B-24 Liberator



WASP T-6 Texan



PT-13 Stearman



## B-29 / B-24 Squadron

**Mailing Address:**  
PO Box 763577  
Dallas, TX 75376  
United States of America

**Street Address:**  
5661 Mariner Drive  
Suite 2924  
Dallas Executive Airport  
Dallas, TX 75237

[www.cafb29b24.org](http://www.cafb29b24.org)  
[www.AirPowerTour.org](http://www.AirPowerTour.org)  
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432-413-4100 (Ride Desk)