

# Salute to Greatest Generation set for Friday

*Ceremony to take place at 2 p.m. Friday in front of the B-17 bomber "Aluminum Overcast" at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport*

**BY EMILY ROTH**

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — The Jefferson County Hall of Honor, Col. R. D. White Veterans Museum, and the Jefferson County Heroes Memorial Committee will be hosting a salute to the Greatest Generation at 2 p.m. Friday at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport outside the Kozaria Terminal Airline Gate.

The ceremony will take place in front of the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress "Aluminum Overcast."

"We wanted to use the 'Aluminum Overcast' visit to remember the heroes from the Greatest Generation, perhaps for the last time," said Chris Collins, airport director and Hall of Honor secretary.

Retired United States Air Force Lt. Col. Ted Buck will speak, highlighting the sacrifices and significance of World War II veterans, as well as the role played by airmen in the skies over Europe and the South Pacific.

The American Legion Post 141 Honor Guard will perform a rifle salute and play "Taps" to honor those who have died in combat.

"We want to use this time to honor those men and women from that generation that gave everything," stated Collins. "Everything that we have in this great country is due to those guys. They're passing away.

Please see **Salute**, Page 3A



Submitted Photo

**A PIECE OF HISTORY** — The Boeing B-17 bomber "Aluminum Overcast" flies over Florida. The World War II-era Flying Fortress will be the backdrop of a salute to the Greatest Generation at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport at 2 p.m. on Friday.

## Salute:

*Continued From Page 1A*

This may be the last time we get to do this because they're all 90 years old and older now. It's such a rare opportunity to have one of these airplanes on the ramp like this. We were sitting around last week thinking about when we dedicated the Hall of Honor back in 2010, that was the last time a B-17 was here, 'Sentimental Journey' was here and we used her to help dedicate the Hall of Honor."

The Hall of Honor Committee plans to take a photo of the veterans and their spouses

in front of "Aluminum Overcast" after the ceremony.

"Then we did a salute to the Greatest Generation World War II era in 2012," reflected Collins. "We did a ceremony and there was one veteran ... He was standing up and everyone was sitting down. He said, 'Take a look at all those guys sitting there, and half of those guys won't be here the next time we do something like this.' He was exactly right because I look at that picture every day when I go by it in my office,

and half of those guys in the room were gone. You can't thank these guys enough."

The B-17 bomber, owned and operated by the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) is making a stop locally as part of its nationwide tour and will be at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Friday through Sunday. "Aluminum Overcast" was built in 1944.

"If we can say thanks one more time, we should take the opportunity to do so," said Collins. 7/2/15

[eroth@morningsentinel.com](mailto:eroth@morningsentinel.com)