

Event honors WWII vets

Salute to the Greatest Generation planned for 2 p.m. Friday

BY TESA GLASS

tesa.glass@register-news.com

MT. VERNON — A Salute to the Greatest Generation has been planned to honor the men and women who fought and served during World War II.

The event is sponsored by the Jefferson County hall of Honor, Colonel R. D. White Veterans Museum and the Jefferson County Heroes Memorial Committee and coincides with the special appearance of the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress Aluminum Overcast at

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

"As rare as it is to have these bombers here in these tour stops, it became an idea some members of the committee had to honor the Greatest Generation," said Chris Collins, airport manager and Jefferson County Hall of Honor secretary. "The last time a B-17 was here, we dedicated the Hall of Honor in 2010. We did the dedication ceremony

then, but it wasn't geared to the Greatest Generation, but all veterans."

Collins said in 2012, the EAA Fly-In and Veterans Reunion, World War II veterans were specifically honored. During that time, resident and World War II veteran Evertt Atkinson was interviewed.

"He said something that was very stark about our Greatest Generation veterans," Collins

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a larger group of World War II veterans together here at one time."

The Salute to the Greatest Generation will be held 2 p.m. Friday at the airport just outside the Koziara Terminal airline gate in front of Aluminum Overcast.

Lt. Col. Ted Buck (USAF Retired) will highlight the sacrifices of the World War II veterans, as well as the role played by airmen in the skies over Europe and the South Pacific. American Legion Post 141 Honor Guard will render a rifle salute and the playing of Taps to honor those that provided the ultimate sacrifice.

The Hall of Honor Committee plans to take a photo of the veterans and their spouses in front of Aluminum Overcast after the ceremony.

All World War II veterans, their families and residents are asked to salute the Greatest Generation at the airport, Collins added.

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said. "He said, 'look at that group six months to a year from now and half of them will be gone.' Every time I see the video or hear that, it gives me chills. We can never honor those guys and gals enough. We decided to take the opportunity while the plane is here to honor them. This may be the last time we will see

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