

# EAA Fly-In and Veterans Reunion to coincide with Fall Fest

*The event plans to honor its tradition of aviation education and honoring veterans*

**BY GREG PETERSON**

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

**MT. VERNON** — The EAA Little Egypt Fly-In and Veterans Reunion will undergo some changes this year for its 17th anniversary.

The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport, and it will coincide with Fall Fest.

Due to the military sequestration, there will not be any military aircraft's at the Fly-In like there usually is. This obstacle has forced the airport to try and make the best out of a less than ideal situation.

Mt. Vernon Airport Manager Chris Collins explained that the two core values of the event have always been to spur young people to pursue aviation and to do some-

thing to honor veterans.

Collins informed that the event is "going to remain true to our core principles."

EAA Chapter 1155 pilots will offer free Young Eagle flights for children, ages 8 to 17.

More than 3,200 local children have been introduced to aviation through the Young Eagle program. A signature from the child's parent or guardian will be required for participation in the flight.

For the first time, there will be a Pilot Wannabee Seminar that will

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aim to show younger and older individuals interested in aviation what it is all about.

The seminar will be held at 10 a.m. Certified Flight Instructors will be on hand for prospective students to meet with and ask questions.

Coinciding with the seminar is another new event, Eagle Flights, which are free

flights for interested parties over the age of 17. Collins indicated that the participants of the Eagle Flights may even get to briefly handle the controls of the aircraft during the flight.

The Eagle Flights will be sequenced in with the Young Eagle Flights, with priority given to the Young Eagle Flights.

Collins said that one of the hardest parts of learning about aviation is going to the airport and getting your first flight. He sees the Eagle Flights and Young Eagle

Flights as a good way to break the ice and get people interested in aviation.

The Veterans reunion will be based in the Jefferson County Hall of Honor and the Colonel R.D. White Veterans Museum inside the Koziara Terminal of the airport.

Veterans may inquire about joining the Hall of Honor at the reunion. Interested veterans are encouraged to bring photos (preferably in uniform), a copy of their DD214, and any other memorabilia they wish to have included on their tribute.

Food and free parking will be available at the event, as well as the chance to see a variety of military artifacts.

There will also be hot air balloons at the airport during the weekend of Fall Fest.

Collins doesn't think that the balloons will deter from the EAA event. He commented, "We're excited to have another direction after 16 years."

Even though there won't be any military aircraft's this year, Collins is hopeful they will return next year. Despite their absence, Collins anticipates the EAA Fly-In is "still going to be a big event for the airport and the city."

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