

16th annual Little Egypt Fly-In and Veterans Reunion Saturday at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport

STAFF REPORT

MT. VERNON — The aircraft made famous by the Doolittle Raid on Japan in World War II and the workhorse transport aircraft of all U.S. military branches will be the featured attractions at the 16th annual Little Egypt Fly-In and Veterans Reunion on Saturday at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Rides will be available on the Commemorative Air Force B-25 "Show Me" for \$395 on Friday and Saturday.

There will be a special ceremony and photo opportunity at 10 a.m. on Saturday to honor the remaining members of World War II veterans. Lt. Col. Ted Buck (U.S. Air Force retired) will be the keynote speaker followed by a special salute to veterans by the American Legion Post 141 Honor Guard.

The C-130 "Hercules" will be making its first

appearance at the event, Collins said of the transport plane. Other expected aircraft include the U.S. Army CH-47 "Chinook" transport helicopter, the U.S. Army UH-60 "Blackhawk" helicopter, the L-29 "Delphin" jet, and the North American T-6.

Kash Helicopter Services will provide free rides for all veterans. Proof of military service is required.

The Veterans Reunion will center around the Jefferson County Hall of Honor and Col. R.D. White Veterans Museum located inside the Koziara Terminal at the airport. The Hall of Honor opened in 2009 and has since grown to include about 400 framed tributes of local veterans.

Veterans wishing to be included in the Hall of Honor should bring photos of themselves, preferably in uniform, a copy of their DD214, and any other memorabilia they want included with the

tribute.

EAA Chapter 1155 will be flying Young Eagles for children 8-17. To date, 3,000 children have been introduced to aviation through the Young Eagle program, Collins said. Parents or guardians must give signed authorization in order for children to participate.

Rides in a 1941 open cockpit Waco bi-plane will

also be offered for about \$60, Collins said. The event also features antique military equipment displays.

About three hot air balloons are expected to take to the skies in the mornings and evenings Friday and Saturday. For more information, call 242-7016 or visit www.mtvernonairport.com

Food will be available and parking is free.

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organizers will put coins in the ground for people to find with metal detectors. Silver pieces, valued at \$2 or \$3 a piece, and coins representing three gold pieces will also be buried in the lot, Stevens said. Representative pieces are used to avoid any unfair advantage of metal detectors capable of looking specifically for gold.

Last year, the club put \$5,000 in the ground,

Stevens said, paid for through advertising published in a club booklet. Stevens expects about the same amount to be hidden this year.

Metal detectors will be available for those without one. The club has been hosting a treasure hunt for club members for about 10 years, Stevens said, but elected to open it up to newcomers in coordination with Fall Fest.

A host of other prizes will also be available, including a metal detector at Friday's hunt, Stevens said.

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