

Fly-In honors WWII veterans with ceremony

*Hundreds pass through
Mt. Vernon Outland
Airport to take rides,
view planes*

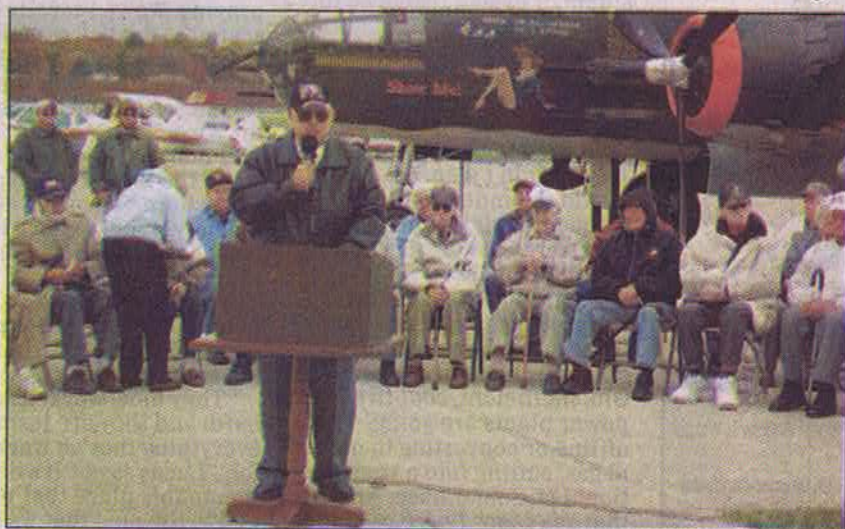
BY REANNE PALMER
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — This year the 16th Annual Little Egypt Fly-In and Veterans Reunion at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport started with a ceremony unlike any seen before in Mt. Vernon.

World War II Veterans filled two rows of seats in front of the CAF B-25 "Show Me" Bomber to listen to a tribute to the "Greatest Generation."

Chris Collins, manager of the airport, welcomed everyone to the Fly-In and helped recognize the efforts

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Sentinel Photo/REANNE PALMER

A WORD OF THANKS — Second Lieutenant Ted Buck paid tribute to a group of World War II Veterans Saturday morning during the 16th Annual Little Egypt Fly-In and Veterans Reunion at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. Behind the Veterans sits a B-25 Bomber, an aircraft used in the U.S. attack on Japan during the war.

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of the veterans.

"I want to welcome everyone to the 16th Annual Fly-In and Veterans Reunion. Today we pay tribute to the greatest generation — Veterans of World War II. It's an honor to be able to do this for them, because they're all heroes to me," he said.

Collins then introduced Ted Buck, second lieutenant in the Vietnam War, and keynote speaker at the ceremony.

"It's good to be in their fellowship and presence and it's always a pleasure to be at the Airport. I've been lucky enough to be able to listen to stories about World War I as a child, when I wanted to be a pilot. Back then, everyone in our community and everyone in our country was deeply patriotic," began Buck. "These men were our fathers, our brothers, our uncles, our cousins, our sons and our sisters. They came from villages, farms and the small city of Mt. Vernon. We celebrate that fight for freedom that would change their lives. What a display of heroism, patriotism and the will to be free."

During his speech, Buck informed the crowd that 192 soldiers from Jefferson Coun-

ty died during World War II. The rest returned home and got back to their lives as farmers, students, businessmen and more.

"For our communities and our families, the cost was great. This generation is now leaving us in great numbers, almost 1,000 every week. I want to say thank you for leading us through those troubling, but eventful, times," he said.

Buck also talked about the history of World War II and the use of the B-25 Bomber in the attack on Japan at the start of the war.

"That was one of the best things I've ever witnessed, and I've been through a lot out here with our veterans," said Collins. "It was seeing all of your heroes in one place and it was just great."

Afterward, the Fly-In brought in hundreds of people for many different events, such as free Young Eagle rides, WACO Bi-Plane rides, free helicopter rides for veterans, displays of the B-25 Bomber, C-130 Aircraft, "Chinook" CH-47 Helicopter, jets and small planes. Visitors to the airport were also welcome to tour the Hall of Honor and museum inside.

Many attendees of the Fall Fest were also able to see some of the aircraft as they flew over the parade and all-day events.

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Sentinel Photo/REANNE PALMER

A PEEK INSIDE — Attendees of the 16th Annual Little Egypt Fly-In and Veterans Reunion got the chance to walk onto a U.S. Air Force C-130 "Hercules" aircraft Saturday morning. The C-130 is no stranger to the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport as it has taken Air Force troops to and from the location.