

Manager: Little Egypt Fly-In to surpass previous events

Little Egypt Fly-In & Veterans Reunion at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport is set for Oct. 20

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MT. VERNON — Unusual aircrafts, veterans sharing stories to younger generations and youth taking their first flight will all happen during the upcoming 11th Annual Little Egypt Fly-In & Veterans Reunion at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport on Oct. 20.

The event will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and this year, Airport Manager Chris Collins has said, the fly-in has the potential to surpass

all previous events. More Warbird, active U.S. Military and general aviation pilots have expressed interest in attending and are working out the final details for their visit to Mt. Vernon.

"If the turnout for the monthly Fly-In/Drive-In SRT Aviation Breakfasts is used as a barometer, we can expect a large number of aircraft for this year's main event," said EAA treasurer Karen Spieth.

More than 2,000 children have participated in the Young Eagles local program to date and this year, the local EAA Chapter intends to add many more to that list.

The Young Eagles program introduces aviation to children, ages 8 to 17, with a free airplane ride. This year there will be more Young Eagle aircrafts and pilots scheduled than

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ever before.

For the veterans reunion portion of the event, Ken Burns' newest documentary series, "The War," about World War II will be shown on a large screen television throughout the day inside the lobby of the Koziera Terminal. Local WWII veterans will supplement the showing with personal details of their own experiences.

R.D. White, veterans reunion coordinator, will be speaking on the Iwo Jima invasion and the WWII military glider pilot program. The Civil Air Patrol Cadet Open House, will be held in addition to the Fly-in.

"It will not only be educational but an entertaining day for those in attendance," White said.

Speakers will also include Bill Royster, B-29 tail gunner and Lyle Endicott, FM-2 "Wildcat" pilot. Additional speakers are expected to be scheduled.

Community businesses have partnered with the EAA to bring numerous U.S. Military aircraft, or Warbirds, to the



Submitted Photo

FLY HIGH — Lt. Colonel Sandfifer, 47th Fighter Squadron-Barksdale Air Force Bas, La., waved to the crowd upon arriving at last year's Fly-in event.

event. Warbirds on the schedule include: P-51 "Mustang," Douglas C-47, Grumman TBM "Avenger," C-2 "COD," L-39 Jet "Albatross," two T-28 "Trojans," four T-6 "Texans" and an Army UH-60 "Blackhawk" and USAF C-21 executive transport aircraft.

The USAF A-10 "Warthog" will be making an appearance after last year's grand premiere.

"If you missed this rare sight last year, you will have the opportunity to see the aircraft that destroyed all of Saddam's tanks and armored personnel carriers," said Fly-In sponsor coordinator Don Davis.

Davis added there may be a

surprise in store.

"We are working on a big visitor from the U.S. Military for the event," Davis said. "We hope to have an announcement regarding other active-duty military aircraft coming to Mt. Vernon very soon."

Food, helicopter rides for a nominal fee and free parking will be available with free shuttle service from airport parking areas.

A special salute to Veterans, including an aerial tribute by EAA Warbirds of America, will follow the keynote Veterans Reunion address, given by State Senator John O. Jones at 2 p.m.

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