

Airport hoping to bring B-17 to town

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4/24/08

MT. VERNON — The Mt. Vernon Airport will have the opportunity to host the Commemorative Air Force Boeing B-17 Superfortress "Sentimental Journey" on Aug. 15-18 — if the money for fuel can be raised.

"Since we are basically filling a gap in their schedule, I have one week to raise the approximate \$4,000 required for us to play host," airport manager Chris Collins said. "The money will be used to purchase 800 gallons of fuel for the aircraft. ... The bottom line is the airport needs sponsors to help offset the cost of hosting the CAF."

The B-17 Superfortress was last in Mt. Vernon June 21-24, 1999, and is part of the Arizona Wing of the Commemorative Air Force.



Collins

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The B-17 Flying Fortress flew daylight bombing raids over Europe in World War II and earned its name by being able to sustain considerable damage and still bring its 10-man crew home.

According to information from the Confederate Air Force, Sentimental Journey is the most authentically restored B-17 people can see and the only one still flying.

"Seeing veterans around this flying museum is priceless," Collins said.

Anyone who would like information about being a sponsor for Sentimental Journey may contact Collins at 242-7016.