



Honoring American Military Aviation through flight, exhibition and remembrance.

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR WWII Flying Museum and Veterans mark historic event

PEACHTREE CITY, GA (November 30, 2009) – The Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Dixie Wing, Honor Flight Fayette and local veterans organizations will join forces on Monday, December 7, 2009 to host Peachtree City's second observance of National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. The program will be held at the Historical Airpower Facility, Falcon Field 11:00am-1:00pm.

The 2009 Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration will include living history activities featuring vintage military aircraft and vehicles and education displays. World War II veterans, many who have visited the National World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. courtesy of Honor Flight, will be in attendance. A memorial program will begin at noon and conclude with a wreath dedication and taps.

On December 7, 1941 Japan launched a devastating air raid against the U.S. Pacific Fleet anchored at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. In less than two hours, the United States suffered 3,435 casualties, while also losing 188 aircraft, 8 battleships, 3 light cruisers and 4 other vessels.

The United States declared war on Japan the next day.

In 1994 President Bill Clinton signed into law Public Law 103-308, designating December 7th of each year as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. The day is meant to instill a greater understanding and appreciation of the sacrifice of those who served in the armed services during World War II. Flags should be flown at half-staff from sunrise to sunset.



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“The mission of the Commemorative Air Force is to honor America and her veterans through flight, exhibition and remembrance” said Jim Buckley, CAF Dixie Wing leader. “It’s a privilege to host a Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration.”

Founded in 1987, the CAF Dixie Wing is the Georgia chapter of the 50 year-old Commemorative Air Force, a 501c3 dedicated to restoring and flying WWII aircraft as tribute to America’s veterans, particularly the Greatest Generation, the men and women who won the Second World War.

Pearl Harbor Day is the second public history program hosted by the aviation preservation unit this year. In April, “WWII Heritage Days” brought reenactors from throughout the southeast to Peachtree City, recreating skirmishes between American and German troops. The weekend-long event included “Keep ‘em Flying”, a World War II-theme hangar dance.

The CAF Dixie Wing will display its growing collection of World War II and Korean War-era warbirds, including the “Lady in Blue”, the group’s rare Douglas SBD Dauntless dive-bomber. Also on display will be aircraft modified to represent an Imperial Japanese Navy Kate torpedo and Zero fighter. All three aircraft have been featured in motion pictures and television, including “Tora, Tora, Tora”, “Midway” and “Black Sheep Squadron”.

SBDs, nicknamed “Slow But Deadly”, were among the first to strike back at Japan, shooting down an attacker on December 7, 1941 and sinking a Japanese submarine the following day.

Members donate their time to maintain each aircraft. Repairs can cost up to \$125,000 if an engine must be replaced. Air show appearances, fund-raisers and donations support ongoing operations of the wing.

"We believe we are stewards of American history," continued Buckley "flying these aircraft preserves an important part of our nation’s heritage.”

Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration is free to the public, but donations are welcome. Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration will be held rain or shine. Please no pets. For more information, please visit www.dixiewing.org or call 678-364-1110.

The Commemorative Air Force is a non-profit organization dedicated to flying and restoring World War II aircraft. Based in Midland, Texas, the organization has over 9,500 members and operates a fleet of over 150 World War II aircraft. www.commemorativeairforce.org

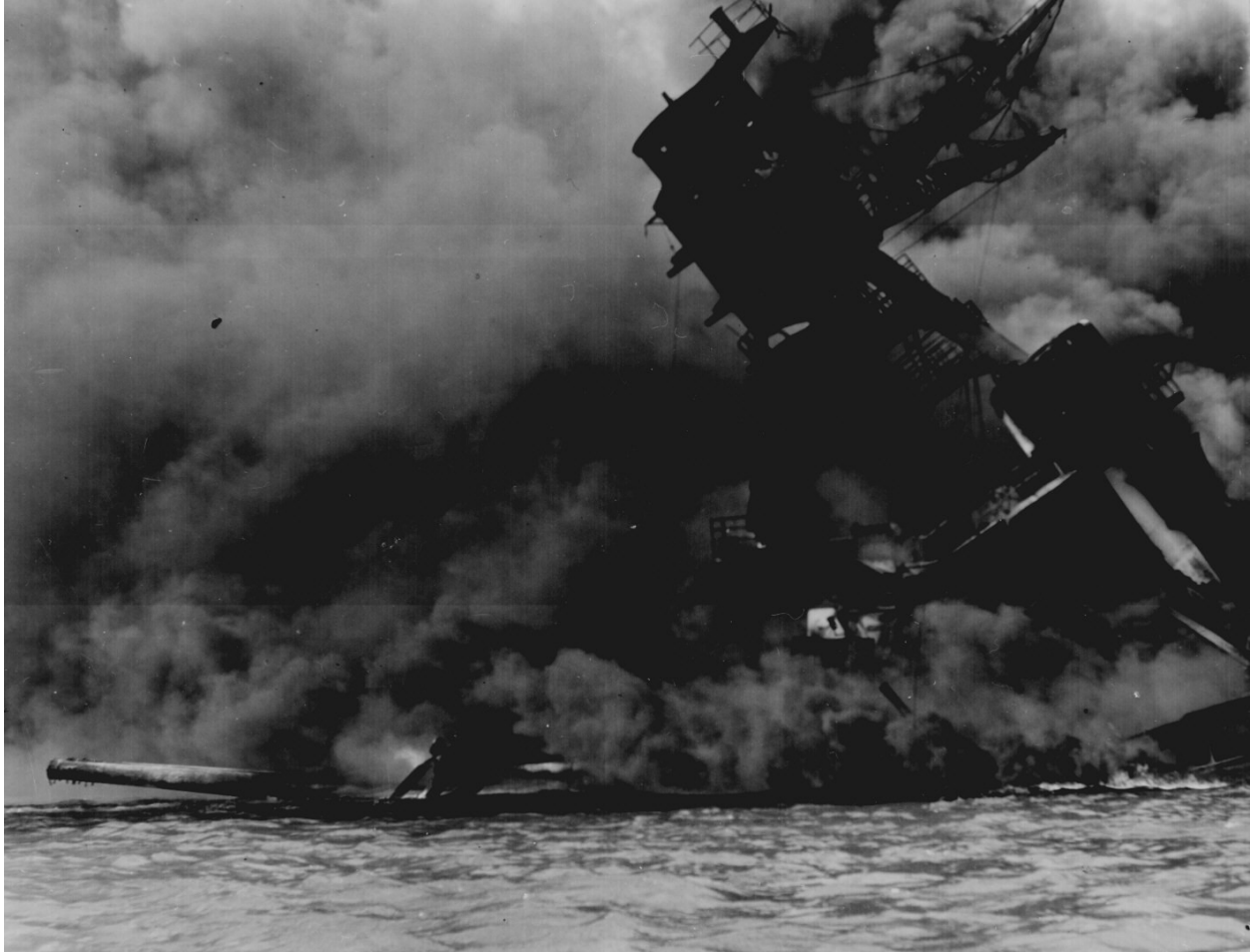
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PHOTO CAPTIONS



USS Arizona - Remembering Pearl Harbor. The CAF Dixie Wing will observe National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on Monday, Dec 7th, 11am-1pm at the Historical Airpower Facility (Falcon Field) Peachtree City. The event is free, but the public is asked to bring a canned food item for Fayette Samaritans Food Bank. For more info, visit www.dixiewing.org. (Photo National Archives)



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SBD - "Slow But Deadly", a rare SBD Dauntless dive-bomber and other WWII-era aircraft will be on display at Falcon Field, Peachtree City when the CAF Dixie Wing observes National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on Monday, Dec 7th, 11am-1pm. The event will be held at the Historical Airpower Facility (Falcon Field) Peachtree City. Admission is free. For more info, visit www.dixiewing.org. (Photo CAF Dixie Wing)



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Zero - The CAF Dixie Wing Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration will feature several WWII-era aircraft, including replica Japanese warplanes from the movie Tora, Tora, Tora. The event will be held on Monday, Dec 7th, 11am-1pm at the Historical Airpower Facility (Falcon Field) Peachtree City. Admission is free. For more info, visit www.dixiewing.org. (Photo CAF Dixie Wing)



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Rifle Squad - The CAF Dixie Wing hosts public history events throughout the year, including "World War II Heritage Days" that draws reenactors from throughout the southeast. Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration will be held on Monday, Dec 7th, 11am-1pm at the Historical Airpower Facility (Falcon Field) Peachtree City. Admission is free. For more info, visit www.dixiewing.org. (Photo CAF Dixie Wing)



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SNJ Pilot Joe - Wings of Gold. A member of the CAF Dixie Wing recreates a scene aboard a Navy aircraft carrier during World War II. A Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration will be held on Sunday, Dec 7th, 11am-1pm at the Historical Airpower Facility (Falcon Field) Peachtree City. Admission is free. For more info, visit www.dixiewing.org. (Photo Charles Burcher / CAF Dixie Wing)