



THE READY ROOM

MAY 2022

Heart Of America Wing Est. 1982

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A **ready room** is the room on a Navy aircraft carrier where air crews hold their pre-flight and post-flight briefs. Crews serving during WWII considered the ready room to be a clubroom.

"The funny thing about a ready room is that you get attached to the hole. As much as you are attached to the ship. It's more than sentiment. It's an urge for protection. The loneliest feeling in the whole of a carrier pilot's world is when he's at sea with the gas running low, and he can't see his carrier. You think of the ready room then, and the noisy guys who make it the most desirable place in the world. It's your office, you live in it, it is the big thing in your life. [...] You sweat and worry in it, and grouse and argue, and you get mad at it when you can't hear yourself speak because everyone is yelling at once, but you're deeply attached to the place.

— Tommy Booth

"Wildcats" Over Casablanca

Wing Leader's Report

I hope everyone had a great Memorial Day weekend. It is not about backyard barbecues, picnics, vacations, or kicking off summer. It is about honoring and remembering the men and women of our armed forces whose service and sacrifice made it possible for us to experience all those things.

May has been a busy month and this summer is shaping up to be busy as well. June 3rd we are hosting our Authors, Artists and Appetizers event with B-29 DOC coming to visit. Please support the Wing by buying a ticket to this event. Tours of DOC, a commemorative wine glass, wine sampling, and the opportunity to meet some authors and artists all for \$40.

Several weddings have been planned for the summer, and other events as well. Hangar maintenance continues to keep the hangar in good shape for these events. The latest improvement is a new heating and cooling unit. The old one was about 16 years old and finally gave up. The new unit will be much more efficient and should work for years to come.

We are always in need of volunteers to help with projects, if you are interested, please get in contact with a Staff member.

-- Steve Zimmerman

NEXT MEETING:

18 JUN, 10:00

MEMORIAL DAY 2022



thegeorgiasun.com



Operations Report



The PT-19 Center Section all crated up.

Unsung Hero

The Editor wants to send a shout out to Jim Neese for his consistent efforts to make the wedding events a big success. He is in a small group who is always helping out around the Wing. This is not an exclusive group – all are welcome! If you have time, please consider helping at the Wing.

Wing Staff Meeting
2 JUN, 7 PM



8 May 1945, Victory in Europe Day



Gone West...



Stearman.net



Longtime CAF-HOA member Ed Toomey passed away May 4. Ed was a CAF national lifetime member, and a former Executive Officer and Wing leader of the CAF Heart of America Wing. He was instrumental in negotiating the ground lease for our hangar, and provided planning, materials, money and labor to build the hangar. His efforts were indispensable in securing the CAF-HOA a permanent home.

Ed owned Tec-Larm Fire Systems and has been maintaining the alarm systems for our hangar for years. He enlisted in the US Navy when he was 17 years old, and served from 1967 until 1971, spending much of that time on the aircraft carrier USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. Ed was on the FDR as part of the Navy fleet off the coast of Cuba during the

Bay of Pigs invasion.

In addition to those CAF-HOA members who attended the services on the ground, we were able to provide a missing-man overflight of the cemetery. Wing Leader Steve Zimmerman in his L-19 with Wing member Phil Pardon in the back seat, led Operations Officer Bob Robinson (in his L-2) and PIO Brian Von Bevern (in his PT-26, with new Wing member Jesse Plous riding "shotgun") in saying farewell to Ed. Our Stearman unfortunately developed maintenance issues at the last minute and was not able to participate.

Blue Skies, Ed. Blue skies.

-- Brian VonBevern



Dick Davy passed away April 26. He served in the Navy during WW2 and the Korean War, and worked many years at the TWA maintenance base here in KC. His son Richard is still a CAF-HOA member. The Navy sent representatives to the funeral, and they presented son Richard with the flag.

We were going to perform a missing man formation overflight for Dick's interment last Sunday, but the interment was postponed due to thunderstorms.





Top Gun Maverick Review

The Editor of this fine publication finds movie reviews to be banal and trivial, but this particular movie is an exception due to the commonly understood weakness of pilots to watch aviation movies. The Editor has to confess that despite every intention to NOT watch this movie, nor pay to watch it in a theater with lots of other obnoxious pilots, that is exactly what happened. Be assured, no movie spoilers will be revealed here (how can you spoil a rotten movie?) but if you happened to be tempted to spend your hard earned money on this frivolous folly, here are few things to consider.

[The following are the Editor's opinions. Feel free to disagree, but keep your stupid opinions to yourself or get your own newsletter.]

If you have no regard for realism, combat tactics, or the actual culture of the fighter pilot world, than tally ho and cleared in hot! Despite the Editor's sincere desire to hate this movie, a few things were done pretty okay...

First, there is a strong cast of famous actors who say their lines with straight faces, which demonstrates just how good they are at acting. Much of the sequel mimics the original. This is not all bad because the original movie did some things really well. If you enjoyed these aspects of the original, then you will find something to enjoy for your \$10 ticket. Unfortunately, the movie is so much of a copy, you can almost set your watch to what the next event will be (no, Goose doesn't die again in this version). The cinematography is truly stunning, and may be worth \$10 alone. Every pilot will be have stimulus overload from all the cool flying scenes and may lose the ability to speak temporarily. This movie is also full of one-liners that are perfect for belting out to other pilots to see if they are as cool as you ("I feel the need... the need for speed!" Or, "I AM dangerous.")

Those were all the positives the Editor could scrape together. On the other hand, if you have the option to watch this movie with other pilots, especially military pilots, this is a wonderful opportunity to laugh out loud early and often about all the idiotic and inaccurate things portrayed. The Editor has to confess to enjoying this aspect far too much and might have pulled a muscle doing this. In fact, this movie is a good option for curing depression because it is so comical in some scenes that you cannot help laughing. (For example, Tom Cruise really needs to shave – everyone knows you cannot get a good seal on your oxygen mask with a 5 o'clock shadow!)

So overall, this is a good movie for rainy day or to avoid mowing the lawn if seen with a few of the pilots from the airport. However, if you watch this movie and think, "Holy stink, I need to become a Naval Aviator", you may do well to have your car keys taken away and watch some R. Lee Erney until your senses return.





Barber Financial Group is sponsoring an Open House at our facility on Friday, June 17, from 3:30 until 7 p.m. While originally meant solely for their clients, they've graciously decided to extend the invitation to our membership.
FREE!

Barber Financial Group is excited and honored to partner with the Commemorative Air Force, Heart of America Wing. The event will be hosted in their hangar surrounded by historically accurate memorabilia and aircraft.

Raffle

At 4 p.m., we will start raffling off flights in the beautifully restored PT-13 Stearman biplane, as seen in the picture above. We will raffle one flight every hour for a total of five flights. Raffle winners need to be present to win. The raffle is no-cost to anyone who would like to participate.



Restrictions apply: age, weight, height, and alcohol.

If you would like to purchase a flight, there will be additional restored military aircraft available. Flights will be discounted on the day of the event.

Additional Attractions

There will be short movies playing in the upstairs museum during the event. Military veterans will be present in the museum to answer any questions you might have and to talk about their experiences.

Food & Beverage

Food and beverage will be provided during the event.

Attendance is limited! If you'd like to attend as a guest, Barber requires that you RSVP in advance. Click on the link below to register:

<https://barberfinancialgroup.com/event-registration/>



Friday, June 3, from 6 until 9 p.m. we'll be hosting a private reception featuring the only flying Kansas-built B-29 remaining--the fabulous "Doc."

Tickets \$40 per person

Each attendee will be entitled to appetizers, a glass of wine from Twisted Vines winery, a commemorative event wine glass, an "insiders" cockpit tour of the fabulously restored B-29 *Doc*, and the opportunity to visit with esteemed veterans and authors.

Attendance will be restricted to tickets holders only!

This is a fund raiser for the CAF-Heart of America Wing, a 501(C)(3) charitable museum dedicated to honoring America's veterans.



Buy your tickets here: <https://square.link/u/jn4M5zU7>

You'll get an email receipt within 30 minutes that will serve as your ticket. If you don't get an email or have questions please call us at (913) 907-7902.



We've arranged for some of America's true heroes to come. We'll have veterans from WW2, the Korean War, Vietnam, and more!
Come learn about these conflicts from the people who were there. Some of our vets have written books based on their experiences. See their books and discuss their memoirs. A once in a lifetime opportunity!



We'll have a great show of aviation art and photography on display. You don't want to miss it!



We're excited to announce that we've partnered with Twisted Vines Winery to provide tasting and sales of some of their incredible Kansas-grown wines. Sample them all, then buy a bottle of your favorite!

Wing Elected Staff Officers:

Wing Leader: Steve Zimmerman

Executive Officer: John Wittenborn

Finance Officer: Tom McChesney

Operations Officer: Bob Robinson

Maintenance Officer: Mark
McMahon

Safety Officer: Jim Boughan

Adjutant: Beth McCale

Development Officer: Beverly
Wittenborn

Education Officer: Janet McKenny

**Wing Appointed Staff
Officers:**

Guest Speaker/Veteran Outreach:
Dave Dyer

PIO: Brian VonBevern

Open Hangar Day Operations: Beth
McCale, Janet McKenney, and
Bev Wittenborn

Facility Rentals: Jim Neese

Wing Newsletter: Anita Mack

Museum & Library Curator: Darren
Roberts and John Curatola

Photographer: John English

Celebrating 65 years!



**COMMEMORATIVE
AIR FORCE**