

WWII Honor Flight
A Visit To A War Memorial page 16

Military Pay Increase page 13

Cowtown Warbird Roundup page 22



Warbird photos by
John Gilliland



Photos by Ken Cox

Honoring our Warriors on Memorial Day 2010

Story and photos by Ken Cox

After a day of work for some and many memorable cemetery events for others, over 100 members and guests gathered outside Greater Fort Worth American Legion Post 516 for the annual Memorial Day flag retirement. Flags that honored our country and have come to the end of their lifetime are respectfully cremated in honor of all those who have given the ultimate sacrifice to keep them flying and our country free.

The ceremony opened with a team of Native American Combat Veterans assembling the Fallen Warrior Battlefield Cross and draping of the POW/MIA flag over a chair in honor of those lost and those yet to be recovered. This was followed by the playing of TAPS by James Snow on a traditional Indian flute.

As the crowd dried their eyes Committee Chairman David Fenn introduced guests and emphasized the significance of the day and event. The

services continued under the command of Legion Rider Director Jack Cox, Auxiliary President Cheryl Estes, Sons of the American Legion Commander James Estes, Chaplain Clarence Howard, Sergeant at Arms Bill Pribble and Bill Putman tending the freedom flame.

Renegade Nation Color Guard presented the colors followed by a large detail of Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and family members carrying unserviceable flags. Kazy Shae beautifully sang the National Anthem and following the appropriate inspections and prayer over 50 flags were rendered to the flame as the sun set on the horizon. The crowd then came alive as Brittany Pigrenet sang the always inspiring "Proud To Be An American" by Lee Greenwood.

See the pictures at www.post516.org click on the scrapbook link for these and more event pictures. Submitted by Ken Cox, American Legion Post 516.

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A Jewel in the Crown of DFW airport, the USO volunteers of DFW

You've read about the welcome home given at the DFW Airport to returning servicemen and women-(approx. 250) every day of the week. USO volunteers organize this affair. They hand out lots of free snacks and gifts when the troops come in and when they return at the end of their leave, back to combat zones. They try to ensure that whatever the troops need is supplied, coffee, snacks access to phones and internet. Hugs are part of the gifts. They do everything they can to ease the thought of leaving home and returning to combat. These dedicated volunteers also staff the USO at terminal B-15. There the troops can relax while waiting; In addition to the snack bar and some small tables, comfortable lounge chairs/recliners, large TV screen, internet, a sleeping area, reading materials are provided. Every day these volunteers are there. How to support this excellent organization: visit on line at USO DFW. Phone 972-574-8182



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That complete freedom of the press is what keeps a free country - free! Our Founding Fathers knew this! The reason it is the First Amendment to the Constitution! When the press is thwarted or deterred, inch-by-inch, one's true freedom is stolen! When the press is free to report the facts and not dictated as to what they may write - then that assures us all of democracy's continuing liberty and freedom.

Ahhh, freedom - the sweetest of all words!

We proudly say that we will not be told what to say and/or be dictated to about how we report anything and/or how it must be slanted! We humbly and without arrogance or self-importance make this promise to our readers.

Thomas Jefferson in 1787 said it best...

Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.

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Cowtown Warbird Roundup

The Best Little Airshow Nobody Knows About

by Jim Hodgson



photos by John Gilliland



Saturday's Cowtown Warbird Roundup. We continue to be the best little airshow nobody knows about. This was our seventh in the series and coincided with the Marine Corps Aviation Association Symposium and Reunion. Nearly 4,000 people attended the one day show at Meacham International Airport, May 22nd. We had 34 current military aircraft, including F/A-18 Hornets, EA-6B Prowler, C-130 Hercules, E-2 Hawkeye, P-3 Orion, CH-46 Sea Knight and a first for the show, CH-53 Sea Stallion, AV-8B Harriers and the giant C-17 Globemaster III. In addition, we had approximately 16 civilian warbirds, including O-2 Skymaster, T-28 Trojan, R4D, O-1 Birdog, PT-17 Stearman and others.

The show opened with Dana Bowman, local celebrity and skydiver. His recovery team consisted of members of the American Legion Riders and Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, while local artist Randy Hignight sang his hot song "Freedom Your Freedom." As in past years,



we had a number of other attractions, including a Classic Car Show and appearances of members of the Cowtown T's, Model T Ford Club. The antique tractor pull was also conducted and attracted many visitors. Hangar exhibits included vendors of aviation related products, movie selections from our "Wings of War Film Festival" and tactical briefings from visiting military air crews.

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