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Michigan Freedom Tour

Coming to an airport near you this summer to honor the

75th Anniversary of Victory in World War II.

The Greatest Generation is rapidly leaving us. These were the brave Americans - Marines, Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, Medical Corps - who went overseas to fight the battles and the industrious Americans of the Home Front who also put their lives on hold to work in the Michigan industrial powerhouse that was the famed Arsenal of Democracy. The 75th anniversary of the end of World War II is a fitting opportunity to help us honor hundreds of them, and all our other veterans, for their service and thank them for the sacrifices they made for us.

Join the **Yankee Air Museum** and the **Michigan Freedom Center** as we fly the Yankee Air Museum's historic World War II aircraft to airports around Michigan to honor those brave Americans one last time. At each stop, local organizations will have the opportunity to host programs and flights for veterans of all wars, in honor of this historic anniversary.

The following pages outline opportunities to express your thanks to that generation and show support for the veterans in your community.



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75th Anniversary Freedom Tour Stops – Sponsorships Available

By becoming a Freedom Tour Sponsor, you will have the privilege of providing a selected group of veterans and VIPs the opportunity of a lifetime – a ride on an historic, beautifully-restored, World War II military aircraft to one or more of the following tour stops:

Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti/Canton Area - Willow Run Airport, May 14: B-17

Detroit/Grosse Pointe Area - Coleman Young Municipal Airport, June 24: B-25

Midland/Saginaw/Bay City Area – MBS International Airport, July 1: B-17

Escanaba – Delta County Airport, July 15: C-47 & B-25

Iron Mountain – Ford Airport, Jul 16, C-47 or B-25

Muskegon Area – Muskegon County Airport, Jul 18, B-17

Pontiac/Clarkston Area - Oakland County International Airport, Aug 6: C-47

Grayling/Traverse City Area - Cherry Capital Airport, Aug 14: B-25

Grand Rapids/Granville – Kent County Airport, Sep 2: C-47, B-17 & B-25

Freedom Tour Sponsor: \$100,000

- Primary Sponsor recognition at all the stops and in all media
- Two full flights for the Veterans and/or VIPs of your choice at your choice of location(s) and available aircraft

Site Sponsor: \$25,000

- Site Sponsor recognition at the selected site and in local media
- Up to five flights for Veterans
- Four seats for VIPs of your choice at the site

Flight Sponsor: \$10,000

- Flight Sponsor recognition in local media at site of choice
- One flight for Veterans at the site of your choice and choice of available aircraft
- Two seats for VIPs of your choice on the flight

As a sponsor, you will be able to hand pick, use a lottery, or use any other method of your choice to select the Veterans that will fly on our aircraft.



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B-17 FLYING FORTRESS

The first U.S. strategic bomber to enter World War II was the Boeing B-17 "Flying Fortress." Able to carry over 6,000 lbs. of bombs 2,000 miles, the four-engine B-17 was the early workhorse of the war, and it was one of the toughest aircraft ever built. It was primarily used for long-range bombing missions in Europe, but also saw action in the Pacific Theater. Of the over 12,700 built during World War II, over 4,700 aircraft and 46,000 crew members were lost in combat. Imagine being a 19 or 20 year old airman, in a 10-person crew, flying for up to eight hours in one of these noisy, uninsulated, unpressurized, unheated machines at 25,000 feet and -25°F on a bombing run over Germany --- all while being attacked by German fighters and anti-aircraft guns. At times late in the war, over 1,000 bombers would attack Germany on a single raid.

The Yankee Air Museum's Yankee Lady B-17G is only one of nine of these magnificent aircraft in the entire world still flying. Acquired in 1984, it took over nine years to restore her to her current condition, which is acknowledged by many to be the finest example of a B-17 still flying. It can carry up to 12 passengers.





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B-25 MITCHELL

The North American B-25 “Mitchell” is one of the most storied aircraft of World War II. The twin-engine B-25 was mainly used as a low level, ground support and attack aircraft in the Pacific Theater, but also saw service in the European Theater. It had the ability to carry up to 3,000 pounds of bombs, giving it a medium level bombing capability. Over 9,800 of these air craft were built, and they typically carried a five-person crew. The B-25 is most notable for carrying out the first bombing raid on Japan on April 18, 1942, only four months after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Sixteen B-25s under the command of Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle flew from the aircraft carrier “Hornet” on the mission, which was one-way because the B-25s had insufficient fuel to return to the Hornet and could not land on an aircraft carrier even if they did make it back. Most of the crews survived, and their mission has gone down in history as one of the bravest and most important missions of early World War II.

The Yankee Air Museum’s B-25D is a combat veteran of the Mediterranean Theater and the only D-model flying today. The “Yankee Warrior” has been flying with the Yankee Air Museum since 1987. It can carry up to 7 passengers.





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C-47 SKYTRAIN

The twin-engine, C-47 “Skytrain” and its civilian variant, the DC-3, were developed by the Douglas Aircraft Company before World War II. The civilian DC-3 was the aircraft that transformed the airline industry into what it is today by allowing profitable air travel over distances of up to 1,500 miles. The over 10,000 C-47s produced were the unheralded workhorses of World War II, carrying up to 6,000 pounds of personnel, supplies and equipment, including jeeps and artillery, in all theaters of combat. It could also carry paratroops and tow gliders into combat areas, including dropping 23,000 troops into France on D-Day. C-47s were called back into service for the Korean War and again for the Vietnam War, where the AC-47 variant, nicknamed “Spooky”, became one of the deadliest gunships of that war. Several hundred are still flying around the world today providing a testament to the value and durability of this workhorse aircraft.

The Yankee Air Museum has been flying its C-47D since 1983. It is currently painted in the “Hairless Joe” livery of Lt. Col. Dick Cole, who was Jimmy Doolittle’s copilot for the 1942 raid on Japan. The livery represents the 1st Air Commando Group, the flying unit that Cole joined in the China- Burma-India Theater after the Doolittle Raid. That unit secretly flew C-47s full of supplies from Burma, over the Himalayas (the “Hump”), to China to support their fight against the Japanese.

Our C-47 can carry up to 12 passengers.

