

# FCP Visions



To serve and support the men, women, families and mission of Luke Air Force Base

Spring 2016

## Luke Air Show: '75 Years of Airpower'

Luke Air Force Base presents to the Arizona community the "75 Years of Airpower" air show April 2 and 3. Attendees will get to experience exciting aerial acts, an array of static displays from both the past and present, and have the chance to interact with the Airmen who carry out the Luke mission of "Training the World's Greatest F-35 and F-16 Pilots." The Airmen at Luke are excited for the chance to say "thank you" to the community for the incredible support they give Luke's mission each day.

In addition to the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds precision demonstration team, other vintage and specialty aircraft teams will show their prowess



It's an awe-inspiring aerial show that happens just once every two years. This year is special. It marks the 75th anniversary of Luke Air Force Base. The community is welcomed with free admission to the air base that boasts its mission of "Training the World's Greatest F-35 and F-16 Pilots."

in flight. The U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team will also parachute from the sky in precision aerial fashion.

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Flown in the 1946 Piper J-3 Cub, this act begins as Greg - farmer Clem Cleaver - climbs up on the announcer's stand, demanding a flight lesson. Later in the show, he "steals" the plane and takes off alone, with his whole crew chasing. Grandpa shoots off a tire to get him down, and Clem lands on his pickup truck as it races down the runway.

MORE AIR SHOW ON 32

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### From the Desk of Fighter Country Partnership

# Fond farewell to Fighter Country

By **SUSAN LOVELACE**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
FIGHTER COUNTRY PARTNERSHIP/  
FIGHTER COUNTRY FOUNDATION



**Susan Lovelace**  
Program Director,  
Fighter Country  
Partnership

Happy March to everyone! We have had a very busy spring so far, kicking it off with the Finance Expo on Feb. 27, followed by our Annual Meeting March 16. We rolled into the March of the Fallen March 26, and are looking forward to the Luke Air Show April 2 and 3. I hope that you have an opportunity to attend. This year's Air Show promises to be the best one to date.

It seems as though we would be ready for a vacation after such a busy spring, but, alas – we are hosting our 7th Annual Honorary Commanders Golf Classic on the 26th of

May at the beautiful Wigwam Resort. These events would not be possible without the continued support of our Board members, as well as the Blue Blazer Squadron.

Fighter Country Partnership's mission is to support the men, women, families and mission of Luke AFB. I can attest to how true that statement is. You see, six years ago, FCP hired me as an executive assistant to the executive director. My husband had just retired from the Air Force, and I wanted a chance to give back to the Air Force, as well as to my community. The executive director

at the time, Steve Yamamori, hired me and had faith in me, at a time in my life when I didn't have a lot of faith in myself. I am forever grateful to him.

With that being said, I want to take this opportunity to say a fond farewell. My family is relocating to Tennessee, which is home to my family. We

will be residing on the beautiful Tennessee River, in the town of Sugar Tree, Tenn. Arizona has wonderful memories for us, and will continue to hold a special place in our hearts. My six years at Fighter Country Partnership have been nothing short of magical. I feel so blessed to have been part of such a wonderful organization. I will forever cherish my relationships with our wonderful Board, as well as our volunteer force, the Blue Blazer Squadron.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't thank a few individuals that have had the largest impact on me. First and foremost, I would like to thank my husband, Jeff, and my beautiful

girls, Sidney and Haylie. Their support has been nothing short of awe-inspiring, and has allowed me to be the best that I can possibly be. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the president/ executive director, and my boss, Ron Sites. Ron has mentored and encouraged me every step of the way. He has taught me so much about the civilian sector, as well things about myself. He has opened doors for me, and made the position of program director a reality.

His passion for our mission is contagious, and it is such a joy to work with him every day. He is my hero and friend. Secondly, I would like to thank Charley Freericks for giving me this

opportunity. Fighter Country Partnership would not be where it is today without the leadership and guidance of Charley Freericks. Charley has been a wonderful mentor, cheerleader, and friend to me.

Thank you to Rusty Mitchell, my friend, who continues to be our greatest advocate. Thank you also to David Scholl, and Rick Hearn – two wonderful men, both with great vision and leadership that have also been our greatest supporters.

A special thank you goes out to Bob Bambauer, who continues to lead the charge for the golf tournament every year. He is a wonderful man who brings

**MORE FCP/FCF ON 4**

**The City of Peoria is a champion of Luke Air Force Base and works hard to protect the Base to ensure their mission's viability for years to come.**

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO

On behalf of the Mayor and Council, City management and staff, we want to say **"THANK YOU"** for your service and dedication to our country.

**City of Peoria**

**FCP Visions**  
Fighter Country Partnership

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# FCP/FCF: Farewell and thanks from Susan Lovelace, From 2

great energy and passion to our organization. The golf tournament is the culmination of our events for the year, and Bob's leadership ensures the success of the tournament.

Thank you to Dina Steinberg, my friend, and one of the best people I know. She has always been there to support me and guide me, and I love her dearly. Thank you to Jody Alexander, and Angela Creedon – two amazing, talented women that I continue to look up to, and seek their guidance. I am blessed to know them, and call them friends. Love you both!

Thank you to the rest of our Board – Bruce Larson, Sam Young, Ed (Chief) Blanchard, Mike Nealy, Michael Green, Garland Williams, Rob Schramm, David Smith, Bill Olson, Pat Lowry, Steve Grubbs, and Bob Wiedower. You all mean the world to me, and it has been my honor to work with you, and for you.

Thank you also to the BBS Leadership - Bruce Larson, Danny Ortega, Josh Abel, Jason Klonoski, Patrick McDermott, and Jason Isaak. The Blue Blazer Squadron has so much passion for Luke, and you six gentlemen set the precedent. Thank you for your friendship, hard

work, and passion for our mission. It has been a joy to work alongside you, and our organization is blessed to have your talents.

Finally, thank you to Veronique "V" Cruikshank. She is so much more than a co-worker. V was retired from the Air Force when she came to us. She is a wonderful asset to our organization, and has been such a joy to work with. She always has my back - I love her dearly, and I will forever cherish her friendship.

I will continue to support Fighter Country Partnership/Fighter Country Foundation from Tennessee. They are a part of who I am, and I will continue to stay involved. Bill Johnston is assuming the role of program coordinator. Bill just retired from the Air Force a few months ago, he is very talented, and he will be an amazing asset to our organization.

If you have the chance to attend the Air Show, please take the opportunity to thank an Airman. As always, thank you for your continued support of the men, women, families and mission of Luke AFB.

Take care, and until next time.....

**"I feel so blessed to have been part of such a wonderful organization. I will forever cherish my relationships with our wonderful Board, as well as our volunteer force, the Blue Blazer Squadron."**

- Susan Lovelace

## Local VFW post celebrates major milestone

### Sandy Coor VFW Post 1433 turns 90 March 26

VFW Post 1433, 7618 N. 63rd Ave. in Glendale, has been serving local veterans for almost a century. Chartered March 26, 1926, by 29 local veterans, the post is named for Private First Class Sandy Coor. A member of the U.S. Marine Corps, Thirteenth Regiment, Coor contracted spinal meningitis in France and died Feb. 1, 1919. In 1947, the family of Sandy Coor donated the land the post occupies to this day.

Senior Vice Commander Mike Pearson has a special connection to the post. Pearson's grandfather, Frank Carden, was a charter member at its inception in 1926. Carden served in France with the U.S. Army (Infantry) in WWI. Pearson followed in his grandfather's footsteps, serving in the U.S. Army in Korea and with infantry in Southwest Asia. Pearson lives in Glendale with his

wife, and is a career firefighter, working as a captain with a nearby rural fire department.

The post is hosting a community appreciation celebration to commemorate the special occasion 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 26. The celebration will feature a Stuff the Truck clothing drive, car wash, a live band on the patio 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and a DJ host in the hall 2 until 6 p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs and ice cream will be available for purchase, and there will be raffles and giveaways throughout the day.

Ed Besta, Commander of VFW Post 1433, extends an enthusiastic invitation to all VFW and auxiliary members and their guests, as well as members of the Glendale and surrounding communities, to join the post's 90th anniversary celebration.

**Our commitment to the community will never equal that of the men and women that have taken up arms in defense of our country. Thank you for your service.**



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# 35th Annual Glendale Chamber Luke Shoot Out Golf Tournament benefitting Operation Warm Heart

Glendale Chamber Member and Past Chairman of the Board, Bill Kelleher of Dignity Memorial, has invested as a sponsor of the Luke Shoot Out Golf Tournament since day one. Kelleher said that this is one of the events he looks forward to each year. Not only is it a fun day out with fellow chamber members but he enjoys engaging with former and present military.

Kelleher said, "It is an acknowledgement of gratitude to those who serve in the military by placing 'Service above self and principles before personality.'"

With a portion of the proceeds going toward Operation Warm Heart, Kelleher and his company plan to remain a sponsor for years to come – it's a way to say thank you to



Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers is flanked by his former assistant Tom Adkins and Glendale Chamber of Commerce member Bill Kelleher during the Luke Shoot Out Golf Tournament last year.

*Submitted photo*

our U.S. Military.

Operation WarmHeart is a non-profit organization that distributes charitable

donations to service members and their families all year long. Thanks to our faithful

members we have been able to host this event for 35 consecutive years. The Glendale Chamber and

our members are proud to be able to give back to our service members through Operation Warm

Heart.

Join the Glendale Chamber of Commerce for our 35th Annual Luke Shoot Out Golf Tournament April 8 at Falcon Dunes Golf Course. Check-in starts 6:30 a.m. with a shotgun start 7:30 a.m. Single golfers can register for \$110 each or sponsor a Veteran. Tee Hole Sponsorships are also available for \$150 and include company signage on the golf course, ability to put promotional items in the golfer's goodie bags and the ability to represent your company on the course to directly connect with over 100 golfers.

Additional sponsorships are available! Registration is available online at [www.glendaleazchamber.org](http://www.glendaleazchamber.org) or by calling 623-937-4754.

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# New American Legion post in North Peoria

By **CAROLYN DRYER**  
EDITOR

If you were at the Links Neighborhood Grille at the Vistas in Westbrook Village around 6 p.m. Feb. 17, you may have caught a glimpse of a group of individuals gathering for what appeared to be some kind of meeting.

You would have guessed correctly if you thought, "This is a new club or something."

Eugene C. Yount American Legion Post 145 was temporarily chartered in April 2015, and it just received its national charter in November. The post's charter ceremony was held Jan. 20, and now, members meet 6 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month. Once summer hits, meeting time will be 5 p.m.

Commander Roberta Kimelton said the new post was chartered on the Arizona Department of American Legion premise

that "no one should have to travel to attend a post." Because Peoria's geography from the south to the north is so long, North Peoria residents had to travel to Post 62, which is near 99th and Peoria avenues.

"I attended two or three organizational meetings for the post," Kimelton said. "I was very committed to making this post successful."

That is coming from an individual who has never been a Legion member before. But, she has been a member of the military. She served in the U.S. Army.

Kimelton grew up in a small Ohio town, population 2,500. Her father was a member of Benjamin Harrison Post in Columbia, Ohio. Every year, there was a fair, and her father's post set up a tent and sold hamburgers and raffle tickets to win a car.

"That was a highlight of



Photo by Carolyn Dryer

**Roberta Kimelton is the first commander at Eugene C. Yount American Legion Post 145 based in Westbrook Village.**

the year," Kimelton said. "I grew up with poppy sales and community involvement."

She received encouragement from her husband to organize the new post. They worked hard to raise funds for community projects. Because the post is north of Union Hills Drive, individuals who live in Westbrook Village and Vistancia are joining.

Kimelton said.

To start off, the post made a \$500 donation to Arizona Stand Down, an event at the state fairgrounds two weeks ago that offered free services to veterans. Another \$500 donation went to the American Legion Law Enforcement Academy, almost like a boot camp for teenagers interested in pursuing a law enforcement career. That donation paid for two teens from a Peoria high school within the city limits of Peoria.

"Our strategic emphasis is supporting youth and veterans with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)," Kimelton said. "As a human resource professional, it's been my experience employers don't know how to deal with individuals with mental illness. By the time an employer becomes involved, it's become a discipline issue.

"Part of my personal

goal is to help employers recognize and provide support to employees before it gets to that discipline stage. So, that's part of our reason at the post."

There is no auxiliary unit at the post at this time. Kimelton said the post is membership-focused. It started with five members, and now, numbers 38. One of the members has been a Legion post member for 62 years.

Kimelton said one major goal this year is to send the four World War II veteran members on an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. and visit the World War II memorial.

"Our post is named after Eugene C. Yount, who was a C-46 pilot in the Air Force," Kimelton said.

Yount flew the Curtiss C-46 Commando on 77 missions across "The

**MORE POST 145 ON 9**

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# American Legion celebrates 97th birthday at Peoria Sports Complex

On March 15, the public was invited to celebrate The American Legion's 97th Birthday with the classic American icons of baseball and hot dogs. In recognition of the patriotic organization's 97 years of service to the country, the Peoria Sports Complex partnered with Peoria's American Legion Auxiliary to create a special day of veteran activities. In addition to free birthday cookies and veteran on-field performances, attendees at the Peoria Sports Complex on March 15 enjoyed the Chicago Cubs vs the San Diego Padres in a 1:10 p.m. Spring Training game.

"The Peoria Sports Complex is a great match for our organization," said Amy Hankins, president of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit in Peoria. "They already offer a standard ticket discount to active military and veterans. They are helping us promote our patriotic programs on the scoreboard, at tables and with volunteer greeters. Veterans performed all the on-field activities" she enthusiastically continued.

As part of the event, Post 62 member Bob Mrkvicka played the National Anthem

**MORE AMERICAN LEGION ON 10**

## POST 145: More local coverage, From 8

Hump," the Himalayas from Burma to China during World War II. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and is buried at the National Memorial Cemetery in Phoenix. His daughter, Kim Link, was present at the charter ceremony.

"She talked about her father's service and the challenges they had," Kimelton said. "It was an extremely perilous kind of flying, and sometimes, they would transport

foreign prisoners on the plane; sometime had to keep them on the plane at gunpoint."

Link's husband, rich Link, is senior vice commander of the new post.

"When we named the post after Mr. Yount, we really liked the idea of naming it after an Arizona hero," Kimelton said. "He did some of his training here, so after he retired, he and his wife moved here. He was also an

electrical engineer and ended up retiring from Honeywell."

If someone is interested in joining the new post, contact Kimelton by phone, 623-738-9755, or email, Roberta1552@msn.com. If a person needs transportation to a meeting or event, Kimelton said the club offers that service. Anyone interested in helping out with some of the post's project, the post is happy to include them.

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## AMERICAN LEGION: Looking good at 97 years old, From 9

on his flute. The Arizona Department Commander, Billy Ellis, threw out the first pitch. Peoria Mayor Cathy Carlat, a Unit 62 Auxiliary member, also attended the event.

Baseball is a fitting venue for The American Legion's birthday. Not only is baseball America's favorite past time, The American Legion has sponsored youth baseball for 90 years. MLB has sponsored Legion Baseball almost since its inception, and Legion Baseball has returned the favor, churning out major league prospects since the alumni base has been old enough to be scouted. The number of former Legion players who have gone on to the pros is far too large to chart. More than half of current major-leaguers played Legion Baseball. So did almost every working MLB manager, along with several former commissioners. In all, more than 60 program graduates are in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Names such as: Yogi Berra, Ted Williams, Frank Robinson, Mark Teixeira. Babe Ruth was too old to join when Legion Baseball started, but he spent the final years of his life promoting the program as its director of operations. Other prominent players include Ryne Sandberg, Roy Campanella, Dusty Baker, Albert Pujols, Greg Maddux and Chipper Jones. Today, about 82,000 youths play on Legion-sponsored teams each year.

The complex offers a \$2 military and veteran discount at the Peoria Complex ticket windows. Up to 4 tickets may be purchased with one military ID. Advance purchase is recommended as ticket prices go up on the day of the game.

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans' organization. Focusing on service to veterans, servicemembers and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Today, membership stands at over 2.4 million in 14,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50

## American Legion 97th Birthday Bash

states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines.

Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth.

In 1935, The American Legion started "Boys State" a program to help youths gain an understanding of the structure and operation of the federal government. Today, more than 19,500 young men participate in Boys State, and 98 in Boys Nation, from 49 of the 50 state.

In 1938, The American Legion conducted its first annual National High School Oratorical Contest. Today, more than 3,400 high-school students from around the country compete annually in the contest, which promotes a greater understanding of the U.S. Constitution. Winners receive thousands of dollars in college scholarships.

In 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs into law the original GI Bill, or Servicemen's Readjustment Act, ushering in monumental changes in U.S. society. Past American Legion National Commander Harry W. Colmery had begun that effort in 1943 by writing it in longhand, on Mayflower Hotel stationery in Washington. Higher education became democratized after 8 million veterans go to school on the GI Bill, get better jobs, buy houses in the suburbs and raise families. For every dollar spent on educating veterans, the U.S. economy eventually gets \$7 back.

In 1946, The Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary present a small, struggling organization called the American Heart Association with a \$50,000

grant. The grant inaugurates a nationwide program for the study, prevention and treatment of rheumatic heart disease.

In 1954, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is formed. Today, more than \$11 million has been awarded to youth organizations and projects designed to help America's children.

In 1966, The Legion voices great concern over the fate of prisoners of war in Vietnam. Today, the Legion urges a full accounting of all POWs and troops missing in action; and has formed a special group from among the nation's major veterans organizations to continue pressing for further resolution of this issue.

In 1972, The Legion implements a Halloween safety program for children; it remains the only national program of its kind.

In 1982, The Legion presents a \$1 million check to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for construction of the Wall in Washington, becoming the largest single contributor to the project.

In 1991, The Legion hosts its first Junior Shooting Sports National Air Rifle Championships at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. Today, more than 2,000 high school students a year enter the contest, which teaches gun safety and marksmanship.

In 1997, The National Emergency Fund surpasses the \$1 million mark in cash grants given to flood victims who belong to the Legion family. Most grant recipients reside in the flood plains of Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Minnesota and North Dakota.

Today, The American Legion together with the Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion boast over 3 million members whose contributions and efforts represent billions of dollars in service to military, veterans, youth and communities annually.

Learn more at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org), or [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).

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# Soldier's Best Friend training site under construction

By CAROLYN DRYER  
EDITOR

It has been a dream of John Burnham's for more than five years. The Peoria veterinarian, who for 26 years has cared for animals at the same location – northeast corner of 67th and Peoria avenues, has embarked on a journey to bring new beginnings, not only for four-legged creatures, but for those who suffer from combat-related injuries.

Burnham and his non-profit organization, Soldier's Best Friend, broke ground Feb. 18 on a site at 75th Avenue and Acoma Drive. Called Soldier's Best Friend Training Campus, the site will house a service dog training program. A 4,640-square-foot building with flexible open interior space for veteran/dog team training is planned for completion by the end of May.

"It's mind-boggling to think five years ago, we started training service dogs for PTSD," Burnham said.

Burnham's wife, Jan,



Photo by Carolyn Dryer

**Veterans with their service dogs flank Soldier's Best Friend founder and president John Burnham: Rudy (Jack Jack), Bobby (Daisy), Regina (Ava), and David (Caleb).**

said her late father-in-law, Ralph Burnham, a veteran, was her husband's inspiration for the training facility.

During his presentation, Burnham told those who attended the groundbreaking that so far, SBF has rescued 110 dogs from organizations around the state.

"We're averaging 70 to 80 inquiries a month from veterans interested in the program," he said.

SBF receives 1,000 inquiries a year, predominantly in state, from indi-

viduals asking how the program – the process - works, Burnham said. Up to now, SBF has relied on donated space, but that generosity has put limitations on the training as well. The new training campus offers an entirely different atmosphere.

There will be a small office, reception area, storage, a kennel for four dogs, grooming space and restrooms. A parking lot, outdoor training space, fencing, landscaping, lighting, signage and minor im-

provements to an existing administrative office – all are part of the project as a whole.

Instead of four days a week in donated space, the campus will offer training six days a week. From 16 hours a week to 40 to 50 hours a week is another plus.

On a pamphlet handed out to groundbreaking attendees, the benefits of the training campus are listed:

- Serve more veterans per year
- Rescue more Arizona

homeless dogs

- Increase training hours per week
- More flexibility in training schedule
- Offer extended hours for evening and weekend training
- Provide temporary housing for rescued dogs while in transition
- Option to partially pretrain dogs in certain circumstances
- Provide onsite training classes for fosters
- Create a new community resource

- Expand volunteer engagement opportunities

One of the benefits not listed is the fact that next door is Spirit of Hope United Methodist Church, whose pastor, John Fairchild, has been so supportive of the campus. There is a fence that divides the two properties.

Fairchild said, "We need to talk about taking the fence down. I like taking fences down. My goal as a church is to meet people, (learn) what's in their hearts, and try to help them."

He will have to wait a while, at least until the end of May. A construction fence will be erected in the next couple weeks to ensure everyone's safety while the campus is being built.

It does not come without a cost. Total capital needs for the project is \$750,000. SBF has until Aug. 15 to come up with \$250,000 to meet the Dorrance Family Foundation matching gift challenge.

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\*Federal Register, Vol. 76, No. 152, August 8, 2011

\*\*Dobson|DaVanzo analysis of research identifiable 20% sample of Medicare beneficiaries, 2005-2009



## FRIEND: Public can help, From 12

Rick Cohen, president of MACO Construction Services, said he has already been contacted by subcontractors and suppliers, who are offering many donated services and

products. "It's a tremendous honor to be associated with such a project," Cohen said.

Architect Rick Moore, president of RMA Design

Group, was similarly on board right away. He met with Burnham about a year ago.

"I said, 'Stop, I'm in.' I'm really proud to be involved in this project."

### Fundraising event April 2 for Soldier's Best Friend

Soldier's Best Friend will be hosting its 5th Annual Sporting Clay Event 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 2 at Ben Avery Clay Target Center, 1.5 miles west of Interstate 17 on Carefree Highway.

"Our service dog training program is provided at no cost to the veteran and it is all possible only with the support of the community. We hope they will come out to support us at this event. We receive an average of 40 inquiries a month from veterans interested in the program, so clearly the need exists," Burnham said. "The two critical components of our mission are 1) providing service dogs trained to do PTSD service work which helps mitigate the veteran's symptoms and readjustment to civilian life; and 2) providing homes for local shelter dogs. Once paired with a dog, the dog-veteran team trains together for six to nine months before graduating from the program.

"Soldier's Best Friend is committed to providing honorable work and loving forever homes for rescue dogs that are suited to this life-changing service. With each pairing, the veteran and dog build a relationship that can save two lives and inspire countless others. Upon graduation, the dog qualifies as a trained

Service or Therapeutic Companion Dog and aids in the veteran's readjustment to civilian life, rebuilding self-esteem, confidence and trust through the canine connection."

Through February 2016, 118 veteran-dog teams have graduated with an additional 40 teams now in training.

At the Sporting Clay Event, all skill levels are welcome and loaner equipment will be available. Competitive and non-competitive levels are offered, with discounts for active military, veterans and first responders. Registration includes 50 clay pigeons, 50 shotgun shells, lunch, prizes for first, second and third place, as well as opportunities for prize drawings for all participants.

Sponsorships remain available and offer a great opportunity to showcase your business. All proceeds from this event will be used to grow our pair and train program (average cost per veteran/dog team: \$2,700 to \$3,000), and provide ongoing support to our veterans and their families as they transition into their new lives.

For more information about Soldier's Best Friend and the Sporting Clay Event, visit the website at [soldiersbestfriend.org](http://soldiersbestfriend.org), or call 623-218-6486.



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# Luke Air Force Base earns coveted Hero Award from United Blood Services

The efforts of Luke Air Force Base were applauded in February at Valentines for Life, United Blood Services' premier annual awards event. Base blood drive coordinator Captain Sharlott Uriarte was presented with the coveted Hero Award, an honor that is reached by less than two percent of all blood drive coordinators across Arizona.

Hero Award winners provide the largest impact on the blood supply by organizing committees to recruit donors, holding internal recognition programs to thank donors and by hosting blood drives during the most difficult periods of the year to maintain Arizona's blood supply.

Under the leadership of Captain Uriarte, Luke hosted 29 blood drives and brought in 467 donations last year – providing a full day's blood supply for all 64 Arizona hospitals depending upon United Blood Services!

Luke Air Force Base has been providing volunteer blood donors for United



Photos courtesy United Blood Services

**Captain Sharlotte Uriarte of Luke Air Force Base was among the top 2 percent of award-winning blood drive coordinators recently honored by United Blood Services, earning a Hero Award for providing the largest impact on the blood supply. Of the 1,312 organizations that sponsored blood drives last year, Luke Air Force Base was among the top 27 organizations across Arizona that qualified for the Hero Award. Pictured from left: United Blood Services Executive Director Audrey Jennings with Luke's Major Charlotta Leader, Captain Sharlotte Uriarte & TSgt Alisa Frisch.**

Blood Services since the 1950s and has earned the Hero Award 10 of the 12 years since its inception. The key to success for the Luke blood program has been the development of individual blood drive committees in each of Luke's Air Force squadrons. We are proud and grateful

to Captain Uriarte and her blood drive committees for their devotion to Arizona patients and overall service to our country," said Audrey Jennings, United Blood Services' Executive Director. "You are heroes to Arizona patients and their families!"

Luke Air Force Base

blood donors help people like Amanda Missildine, who shared her story with honored guests at Valentines for Life last month. She is alive today because of 112 red blood cell, platelet and plasma transfusions. Amanda was diagnosed with a rare genetic liver condition



**Thanks to 112 blood donors that helped Amanda recover from a rare genetic condition, she and her husband, Marc, welcomed Elizabeth last year.**

known as Wilson's Disease in 2005 while she was a senior at Desert Mountain High School. When her liver completely shut down, doctors saved her life with an immediate transplant and blood transfusions. "Blood donors gave me the gift of life," Amanda said. "Their generosity will always be a part of who I am. As a matter of fact, they inspired me to become a nurse." Thanks

to the gift of life, Amanda and her husband, Marc, welcomed their first baby last year.

*Blood drives are hosted at Luke Air Force base regularly throughout the year, for donors with base access. To make an appointment at an upcoming base drive visit [www.BloodHero.com](http://www.BloodHero.com) (Sponsor Code: LAFB) or call 1-877-UBS-HERO (827-4376).*

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Photos courtesy Courtesy Chevrolet

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# Women veterans treated to informational workshops at GCC expo

By **BETTE SHARPE**  
**GLENDALE DAILY PLANET**  
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The Military/Veteran's Expo March 12 offered women veterans a chance to network and to attend workshops designed specifically for women. The event was free and open to all veterans.

The event was presented by the Arizona Department of Veteran's Services on the Glendale Community College campus, 6000 W. Olive Ave.

When Arizona Department of Veterans' Services Director Wanda Wright opened the expo, she explained she is the third generation of her family to serve in the U.S. military. She has three decades of military experience. As a 1985 United States Air Force Academy graduate, she has served as deputy budget officer with the Tactical Air Command at Myrtle Beach, S.C., with a follow-on assignment to Davis-Monthan AFB in Tucson as the budget officer.

The event was pairing women military veterans and other community leaders in four "tracks," or series of workshops, which were offered during the day: Employment, Health/Wellness, Benefits, and Legal, Financial and Housing Assistance. Each track featured three breakout sessions. Breakfast and lunch were provided.

Col. Wanda Wright introduced Deborah Amdur, director, Phoenix VA Healthcare System. Amdur holds a master's degree in social work from Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., and a bachelor of arts degree from Cornell University.

Guest speaker was Rear Admiral Sandy Adams. Adams has lived in Southern California for more than 20 years and in Rondo Beach for more than 10 years. She recently retired from a 34-year active and reserve Navy career and is a graduate of Michigan State University and the Naval War College.

Amdur has a mission that, at some point in the



**Col. Wanda Wright, Director, Arizona Department of Veterans Services**



**Deborah Amdur, Director, Phoenix VA Healthcare System**



**The expo was well attended by local women veterans.**

*Photos by Bette Sharpe, Glendale Daily Planet*

not-too-distant future, the Phoenix VA actually has a free-standing clinic solely for women veterans.

"Since 2000, the number of female veterans who use the VA Healthcare nationally has more than doubled," she said. "And actually, our new veterans coming into our system, women veterans have far outpaced the male counterparts."

By 2020, she estimates about 12 percent of veterans served in VA Healthcare settings will be women.

"I can tell you today that about 9 percent of the veterans that we have the pleasure of serving here in Phoenix are women veterans," Amdur said.

Healthcare for women includes specific services professionals trained in gynecology, mammography, mental health and family care. At the expo, women veterans were asked to enroll in the VA services, if eligible, and to offer their suggestions and comments.

"We still have a long way to go," Amdur said.



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# Luke AFB F-35 pilot training program taking off, boosting economy

Most people are aware that Luke Air Force base is a major contributor to the West Valley economy. But, there's more to the story, as members of the Real Estate Investment Advisory Council (REIAC) learned recently. The base is in the process of building an F-35 pilot training program that will boost the base's economic impact significantly in the next decade and will positively affect both the commercial and residential real estate markets.

Below is an overview of the program, as told by Maj. Matt "Diesel" Mayer of the 61st Fighter Squadron during a recent REIAC meeting.

Luke Air Force Base is roughly a quarter of the way toward its goal of building a six-squadron fleet of F-35 Lightning II fighter jets by 2024 – a move that will significantly enhance the base's \$2 billion annual economic impact in the West Valley.

Speaking at a recent meeting of the Southwest

Chapter of the Real Estate Investment Advisory Council (REIAC), Maj. Matt "Diesel" Mayer, assistant director of operations for the 61st Fighter Squadron, said the 56th Fighter Wing now counts 34 American, Australian and Norwegian jets in its first F-35 training squadrons. Ultimately, the fleet will include 144 of the jets known for their stealth and agility.

American and international pilots already have begun training side by side in a new, reciprocal program that has the base partnering with 14 nations over the next decade, including Israel, Japan, Korea and Italy. As the program expands, Luke will host pilots, planes and instructors from around the world for training.

From a real estate standpoint, Mayer said the \$5.3 million F-35 training program will enhance the base's economic impact to the community by requiring the construction of new facilities to house the sophisticated fleet. Additionally, as the number



Photo courtesy REIAC

**Maj. Matt Mayer, assistant director of operations for the 61st Fight Squadron, talks about the first F-35 training squadrons at Luke Air Force Base.**

of base personnel grows, so will the need for off-base housing. Presently, the base employs nearly 5,500 military members and civilians and generates approximately \$2 billion in economic impact, annually.

"Most people are aware that the base plays a major role in the West Valley's economy, but Major Mayer opened our eyes to how fortunate the Valley is to

host the F-35 program and its additional benefits to the region," said Mark Singerman, REIAC chapter president and vice president, regional director – Arizona for the Rockefeller Group Development Corporation.

"Our members – who are top real estate executives involved in developing, acquiring and/or financing real estate – were very interested to learn that

Luke provides permanent housing for only about 150 personnel on base. This means that the vast majority of military and civilian employees live and shop in the communities near the base -- including the visiting pilots from our partner nations here for training that lasts up to 12 months."

The first class of Air Force students began training on F-35 simulators last May, when the base officially announced a new mission focusing on the high-tech, fifth-generation aircraft. Trainees since have progressed to actual flights as Luke gradually sends its F-16s to Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico and replaces them with F-35s.

According to Mayer, the single-pilot F-35, which weighs 30,000 pounds empty, is technologically superior to any previous aircraft. It is able to diagnose mechanical problems and advise the pilot, pinpoint targets and threats with amazing accuracy, utilize voice recognition, and deploy versatile weap-

ons capabilities. It also is the first aircraft for which the pilot's helmet is specifically designed and equipped for the jet.

"The F-35 is extremely high tech," Mayer said. "It takes everything to an entirely new level."

Luke Air Force Base, which celebrated its 75th anniversary last year, was established to train fighter pilots in World War II. It has since trained pilots for every American conflict.

### About REIAC

The Real Estate Investment Advisory Council (REIAC) was established as a nonprofit trade association to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, concerns and experiences among senior executives who conduct commercial real estate transactions. The invitation-only group limits its membership to senior-level executives at companies, who act as principals, and whose function is to develop, acquire, manage and/or finance commercial real estate. To learn more, visit [www.reiac.org](http://www.reiac.org).

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# Two-year anniversary since Lightning II struck Luke

By 56TH FIGHTER WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

This month marks the two-year anniversary of the unveiling of the first F-35 Lightning II to arrive at Luke Air Force Base.

The arrival of the F-35 ushered in a new era of operational and mechanical training for the base whose primary mission for the past 34 years had been to train the world's greatest F-16 pilots.

"The F-35 will be the backbone of future joint and combined air operations," said Brig. Gen. Scott Pleus, 56th Fighter Wing commander. "As the F-35 draws closer to reaching initial operating capability, we will continue to train with our partners to operate seamlessly as a team in theatre. Luke will carry on the vital role of producing the world's greatest, and most lethal, F-35 fighter pilots."

Since its initial arrival, the F-35 program has grown rapidly. Over the last two years 6,100 flight hours and 4,125 sorties have been flown. There are currently 35 F-35s at Luke with 144 scheduled to be on the ramp by 2024.

One pilot, Lt. Col. Matthew Hayden, 56th FW chief of safety, started out as an F-35 test pilot



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Ridge Shan

An Italian F-35 Lightning II pilot is met by a 61st Aircraft Maintenance Unit Airman Nov. 5, 2015, at Luke Air Force Base, after the pilot flew the first Italian F-35 training mission.

in 2008 and became the first active-duty Air Force fighter pilot to surpass 500 flight hours in the F-35. His first two years in the program were primarily focused on planning and designing future course material, with much time spent in the simulators and meetings with engineers.

"My first flight didn't happen until 2010. It was a very smooth transition because of all the time and preparation that went into

my first flight," Hayden said. "So, as I concluded the mission that pushed me over the 500-hour mark earlier this year, I felt blessed to have had an opportunity to be involved in the program in various stages and in different roles. I'm excited there are so many of my fellow pilots at Luke that are very close to the same personal milestone in their F-35 flying experience, but also excited to see the program blos-

som with so much success."

After watching the F-35 program evolve over the past eight years, Hayden says he thinks the future of the F-35 program at Luke is promising and exciting.

"Training fighter pilots has been the cornerstone of the Luke mission for years, and the transition to the F-35 enables us to utilize our expertise in training, airspace, ranges, weather and

infrastructure of the West Valley and catapult the Air Force and our F-35 partner nations into the fifth generation strike platform training environment," Hayden said. "At even the early stages of Luke's F-35 training you can already see the far-reaching impact on the Air Force and the entire F-35 enterprise."

The F-35 is expected to be in service for the next 40 to 50 years. Hill AFB, Utah, and Eglin AFB, Florida, are both scheduled to reach initial operational capability in 2016.

It takes thousands of Airmen, both on and off the flightline, to support the critical mission of training the world's best F-35 pilots. Pleus is proud to have watched his team actively take on this new mission and drive it forward into the future.

"We've taken tremendous steps forward the last two years developing the Joint Strike Fighter program and made history as we hit important milestones for the F-35," Pleus said. "From training our first class of F-35 student pilots, to welcoming new international partners at Luke, the hard work and ingenuity of our Airmen and the overwhelming support of the community has made these successes possible."

## EXPERIENCE AVIATION HISTORY



**B-24 Liberator**



**P-51 Mustang**



**B-17 Flying Fortress**



**B-25 Mitchell**









**B-25 Mitchell**

### Wings of Freedom Tour

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# Luke Air Force Base named after Arizona war hero

Luke Air Force Base is named for the first aviator to receive the Medal of Honor, Lt. Frank Luke Jr. Born in Phoenix in 1897, the "Arizona Balloon Buster" scored 18 aerial victories during World War I (14 of these German observation balloons) in the skies over France before being killed, at age 21, Sept. 29, 1918.

In 1940, the U.S. Army sent a representative to Arizona to choose a site for an Army Air Corps training field for advanced training in conventional fighter aircraft.

The City of Phoenix bought 1,440 acres of land, which it leased to the government at \$1 a year, effective March 24, 1941.

March 29, 1941, Del E. Webb Construction Co. began excavation for the first building at what was known

then as Litchfield Park Air Base. Another base known as Luke Field, in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, released its name when the base was transferred to the Navy in June 1941, and the fledgling Arizona base was called Luke Field at the request of its first commander, Lt. Col. Ennis C. Whitehead, who went on to become a lieutenant general as commander of Air Defense Command in 1950.

The first class of 45 students, Class 41 F, arrived June 6, 1941 to begin advanced flight training in the AT-6, although only a few essential buildings had been completed. Flying out of Sky Harbor Airport until the Luke runways were ready, pilots received 10 weeks of instruction and the first class graduated Aug. 15, 1941. Capt. Barry Goldwater served as



Photo courtesy Luke Air Force Base

**Second Lt. Frank Luke Jr. was the first aviator to receive the Medal of Honor.**

director of ground training the following year.

During World War II, Luke was the largest fighter training base in the Air Corps, graduating more than 12,000 fighter pilots from advanced and operational courses in the AT-6, P-40, P-51 and P-38, earning the

nickname, "Home of the Fighter Pilot." By Feb. 7, 1944, pilots at Luke had achieved a million hours of flying time. By 1946, however, the number of pilots trained dropped to 299 and the base was deactivated Nov. 30 that year.

Soon after combat developed in Korea,



**F-84Cs of the 3600th Flying Training Wing**

Luke field was reactivated Feb. 1, 1951 as Luke Air Force Base, part of the Air Training Command under the reorganized U.S. Air Force.

Students progressed from the P-51 Mustang to the F-84 until 1964, then the F-104 Starfighter. Flying training at Luke changed to the F-100, and July 1, 1958, the base was transferred from Air Training Command to Tactical Air Command.

During the 1960s, thousands of American fighter pilots left Luke to carve their niche in the annals of Air Force history in the skies over Vietnam.

In July 1971, the base received the F-4C Phantom II and assumed its role as the main provider of fighter pilots for Tactical Air Command and fighter forces worldwide.

In November 1974, the Air Force's newest air superiority fighter, the F-15 Eagle, came to Luke. It was joined in December 1982 by the first F-16 Fighting Falcon, which officially began training fighter pilots Feb. 2, 1983.

Luke units continued to set the pace for the Air Force. The 58th TTW had two squadrons - the 312th and

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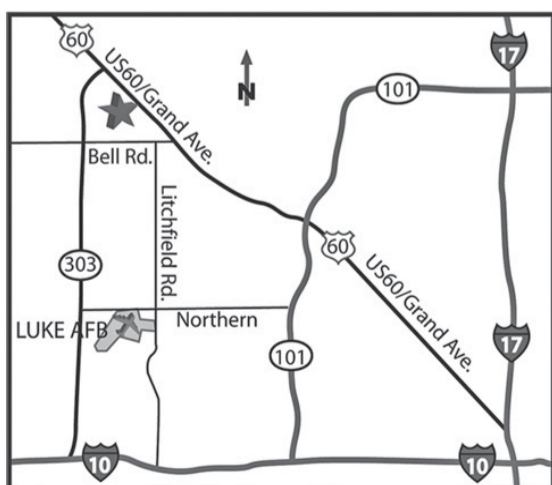


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# Raising kids to be financially savvy: 10 Do's and Don'ts

In a recently published article, *Forbes.com* talked with personal finance expert and author of "Raising Financially Confident Kids" by Mary Hunt. She offered 10 Do's and Don'ts to teach kids about money.

**Do: Model Good Money Behavior**

Actions speak louder than words and if you display healthy financial practices, kids are more likely to mirror those practices.

**Don't: Say "We Can't Afford It"**

Hunt warns against this phrase as it could cause a child to worry about the family struggling financially. She recommends phrases such as "We choose not to spend our money that way."

**Do: Involve Kids in Household Shopping**

Take your kids to the store to be a part of the shopping experience by holding the shopping

list or coupons and talking about planning ahead and shopping for the best price.

**Don't: Take Kids Shopping for Fun**

Over-exposing kids to shopping, especially leisurely shopping, can encourage consumerism and desire for impulse purchases.

**Do: Bring Your Kids to Your Financial Institution with You**

This shows them how financial institutions work and opening an account at a young age (with parent/guardian supervision, of course) can teach them how to manage an account.

**Don't: Use Credit Cards Around Young Children**

"Cash is very visual, clear cut and not confusing," says Hunt. "Credit sends a mixed message to kids." Using cash to make purchases

helps them understand the real consequences of spending.

**Do: Give an Allowance**

Although a controversial topic, Hunt believes giving kids an allowance helps them learn to handle money on their own, teaching them short- and long-term saving, good spending habits and giving philosophies.

**Don't: Give Your Kids Loans**

When kids have their own money, Hunt says, "It's important they make choices and then live with the consequences." Experiencing the negative consequences teaches them to make smarter choices.

**Do: Talk About Money Regularly and Casually**


Having casual conversations about money

shows children that finances are important and don't have to be scary and reinforces understanding.

**Don't: Downplay the Importance of Money**

Show your kids even at an early age that handling money in a smart and generous way is an important part of a successful life.

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## Wings of Freedom tour lands April 11 at Deer Valley Airport

In honor of our WWII veterans, the Collings Foundation's Wings of Freedom Tour brings extremely rare bomber and fighter aircraft for a local living history display as part of a 110-city nationwide tour.

Participating in the Collings Foundation's Wings of Freedom Tour, the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress "Nine O Nine" WWII Heavy Bomber, Consolidated B-24 Liberator "Witchcraft" WWII Heavy Bomber and P-51 Mustang fighter, will fly into Phoenix Deer Valley Airport in Deer Valley for a visit April 11 to 13.

This is a rare opportunity to visit, explore, and learn more about these unique and rare treasures of aviation history. The B-17 is one of only eight in flying condition in the United States. The B-24J and full dual control P-51C Mustang are the sole remaining examples of their type flying in the world. The B-25 is best known for being used in the daring Doolittle raid.

Visitors are invited to explore the aircraft inside and out - \$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 12 is requested for access to up-close viewing and tours through the inside of the aircraft. Discounted rates are available for school groups.

Visitors may also experience the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to actually take a 30-minute flight aboard these rare aircraft. Flights on either the B-17 or B-24 are \$450 per person. Get some "stick time" in the world's greatest fighter. P-51 flights are \$2,200 for a half hour and \$3,200 for a full hour. B-25 flights are \$400 per person. For reservations and information on flight experiences, call 800-

568-8924.

The tour will be on display beginning April 11 at Phoenix Deer Valley Airport in Deer Valley at Cutter Aviation, 732 W. Deer Valley Road. The aircraft depart after noon April 13.

Hours of ground tours and display are noon through 5 p.m. April 11; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 12; and 9 a.m. to noon April 13. The 30-minute flight experiences are normally scheduled before and after the ground tour times.

The Collings Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational foundation devoted to organizing "living history" events that allows people to learn more about their heritage and history through direct participation. The nationwide Wings of Freedom tour is celebrating its 27th year and visits an average of 110 cities in more than 35 states annually. Since its start, tens of millions of people have seen the B-17, B-24 & P-51 display at locations everywhere. The tour is one of the most extraordinary and unique interactive traveling historical displays of its kind.

The tour travels the nation as a flying tribute to the flight crews who flew them, the ground crews who maintained them, the workers who built them, the soldiers, sailors and airmen they helped protect; and the citizens and families that share the freedom they helped preserve. The B-17, B-25 & B-24 were the backbone of the American effort during the war from 1942 to 1945 and were famous for their ability to sustain damage and still accomplish the mission.

**MORE WINGS ON 28**



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**HISTORY:** Highly decorated unit, From 22

314th Tactical Fighter Training Squadrons - conducting training in the newest C and D models of the Fighting Falcon. The 405th TTW received the first E model of the F-15 Eagle in 1988 and two of its squadrons - the 461st and 550th - began training in this dual-role fighter.

In July 1987, the Reserve function at Luke changed when the 302nd Special Operations Squadron deactivated its helicopter function and the 944th Tactical Fighter Group was activated to fly the F-16C/D.

The early 1990s brought significant changes to the base. As a result of defense realignments, the 312th, 426th and 550th TFTSs were inactivated, as were the 832nd Air Division and the 405th TTW. The F-15A and B models were transferred out, and the 58th TTW, being the senior wing at Luke, was



Luke Field Class of 1943 yearbook

re-designated the 58th Fighter Wing and once again became the host unit at Luke.

In April 1994, after 24 years at Luke, the 58th Fighter Wing was replaced by the 56th as part of the Air Force Heritage program. Air Force officials established the program to

preserve the Air Force legacy and its history during the defense drawdown. The 56th FW is one of the most highly decorated units in Air Force history. Units flying the F-16 Fighting Falcon are the 21st, 61st, 62nd, 308th, 309th, 310th, and 425th Fighter Squadrons.



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# WINGS:

From 25

Despite the risks of anti-aircraft fire, attacking enemy fighters, and the harrowing environment of sub-zero temperatures, many B-17s and B-24s safely brought their crews home. The P-51 Mustang was affectionately known as the bombers "Little Friend" – saving countless crews

from attacking axis fighters.

After the war, many aircraft were scrapped for their raw aluminum to rebuild a nation in post-war prosperity, and therefore, very few were spared. The rarity of the B-17, B-25, B-24 and P-51 - and their importance to telling the story of WWII is why the Collings Foundation continues to fly and display the aircraft

nationwide. At each location, local veterans and their families are encouraged to visit and share their experiences and stories with the public. For aviation enthusiasts, the tour provides opportunity for the museum to come to the visitor and not the other way around. Visitors can find out more by visiting the website at [www.collingsfoundation.org](http://www.collingsfoundation.org).

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# The Wigwam salutes Luke AFB on its 75th anniversary

West Valley neighbors share long and storied past worth celebrating

In honor of their 75th anniversary, The Wigwam owners, management and staff would like to say happy birthday and congratulations to their neighbor, Luke Air Force Base (LAFB) and look back on their many years together, including the forging of a wartime partnership.

“The Wigwam and Luke Air Force Base were established back when both our outposts were surrounded by cotton fields and tumbleweeds,” said Greg Gooding, general manager/area managing director at the Wigwam. “Today, we’re surrounded by freeways and a bustling metropolis, and yet our connection is as strong as ever. We of The Wigwam celebrate Luke’s special day and to 75 more years of friendship and support.”

The Wigwam, in operation for more than 86 years, is steeped in history and award-winning traditions. A big part of that history has been the strong, multifaceted relationship with Luke Air Force Base.

Luke Airfield was established in 1941 as a training site for conventional fighter aircrafts. During World War II, Luke graduated more than 12,000 fighter pilots from advanced and operational courses and surpassed one million hours of flying time, making it the largest fighter training base in the Army Air Forces. Many residents even call Luke “Home of the Fighter Pilot” and point to it as a matter of civic pride.

Meanwhile, The Wigwam had expanded from its original nine holes of golf and 24 guest rooms in 1929 to 18 holes and 110 guest rooms in 1941. Despite their expansion, The Wigwam saw a greater calling for their growing guest ranch.

For the entirety of World War II, The Wigwam leased all of its 110 guest rooms to house military personnel training at Luke, providing the comforts of home for these brave pilots before they set

out to defend the United States of America.

“Honoring and supporting our troops has always been a huge part of The Wigwam’s philosophy,” said Tom O’Malley, chief operating officer at JDM Partners. “There is no greater example than what happened here during World War II.”

Today, that devotion to support military lives on as the Wigwam hosts The Patriot All-America – a collegiate golf tournament which honors fallen soldiers with commemorative golf bags. The “trophy bag” for this tournament commemorates Frank Luke, the namesake for LAFB.

For more information on the Wigwam, visit [www.wigwamarizona.com](http://www.wigwamarizona.com), or call 623-935-3811, or 800-327-0396. Connect on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

## About the Wigwam

Designated as a “Historic Hotel of America,” the Wigwam is an iconic Arizona landmark awarded AAA Four-Diamond property status for 13 consecutive years and a member of the Preferred Hotel Group’s Lifestyle Collection.

The Wigwam recently completed a \$20 million, multi-phase renovation – including new interior décor, a new pool complex with both adult and family areas, new restaurants and bars featuring al fresco dining and entertaining areas, and a variety of new social areas and event lawns. The resort celebrated 86 years Nov. 28.

Situated on an estate-like setting, The Wigwam spans more than 440 acres and features 331 casita-style guest rooms, including 72 suites, crafted from distinctive adobe architecture. The only resort in Arizona to offer 54 holes of championship golf on-site, The Wigwam also features a 26,000-square-foot Elizabeth Arden Red Door Spa, four pools, and five restaurants and bars.

The Wigwam invites guests to create new traditions and lasting memories by participating in a variety of activities from morning nature walks to cooking classes, wine-tasting events and more.

TripAdvisor has recognized the Wigwam in

its Hall of Fame for five consecutive years of receiving its Certificate of Excellence, most recently in 2015. The Wigwam is located in the affluent community of Litchfield Park– just 15 miles west of downtown Phoenix. Litchfield Park was named the best city in Arizona in which to live by online real estate brokerage, Movoto.



The Wigwam has evolved into a thriving luxury resort during its storied history, which includes a strong relationship with its neighbor, Luke Air Force Base.

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## Historic Warbirds featured at Luke Air Show

Aircraft currently flying missions in the Air Force can trace their origins back to three warbirds that will be exhibited at Luke AFB April 2-3, 2016.

CAF Airbase Arizona will bring a B-17 Flying Fortress, B-25 Mitchell and C-47 Skytrain to display for the public from their living history museum complex located in the East Valley.



The B-17 Flying Fortress was the first heavy bomber produced by the U.S. and was so successful in the Allied victory during World War II that heavy bomber development continues to this day. The B-52, B-1 and B-2 are all heavy bombers that can trace their lineage to the iconic B-17. While over 12,000 B-17s were produced up until 1945, less than 12 are still airworthy today. *Sentimental Journey* is one of very few B-17s restored to authentic combat configuration.

The B-25 Mitchell medium bomber was the 'sports car' of bombers and credited with pioneering multi-role, close air support tactics. So versatile, it was chosen to fly the famous Doolittle Raid against Imperial Japan after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. The USAF's A-10 Warthog and F-35 Lightning have 'tactical DNA' that traces back to the gutsy B-25. *Maid in the Shade* is a WWII combat veteran of missions in the Mediterranean Theater and is in authentic combat configuration as the B-25J version of the aircraft.

The C-47 Skytrain is the unsung hero of WWII and credited by General Dwight D. Eisenhower as one of the top weapons used in the war – noting there is no offensive power without logistics. Still true today, the modern and mighty C-17 Globemaster owes its prominence and muscle to this first cargo aircraft for the military. The C-47 appearing at the airshow is also a WWII combat veteran that flew with the 60th Troop Carrier Group in Southern Europe -- earning a Distinguished Unit Citation in the process. From airborne troops, life-sustaining cargo, inserting mules and small artillery at mountain air strips in the dark and rescuing downed airmen – *Old Number 30* survived the War and was purchased by the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) in 2015.

All three of these aircraft are based at CAF Airbase Arizona in Mesa and are part of its living history programs which include museum exhibits, flight experiences and appearances at community events in North America. Open year-round, the museum has been rated the No. 1 attraction in the East Valley by TripAdvisor.com. For more information, visit [www.azcaf.org](http://www.azcaf.org).

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# LUKE AIR FORCE BASE



# 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



## AIRSHOW: From 1 Static displays

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 F-35 C-45  
 F-15 T-33  
 KC-135 TBM Avenger  
 C-17  
 B-1  
 T-38  
 T-6  
 EF-18

**Civilian Airframes:**  
 B-17  
 B-25  
 A-26

### Air show hours and dates

April 2 and 3

9 a.m. - Gates open

11 a.m. - Aerial demonstrations

5 p.m. - Gates close

## Burst of power

U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds burst up into the sky in a demonstration of skills. Attendees at the airshow April 2 and 3 at Luke Air Force Base will see similar demonstrations. The show is free and open to the public.

*Photo courtesy U.S. Air Force*



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General admission is free. VIP tickets are available. Tickets include exclusive access to the VIP tent, where you can watch aerial demonstrations from a comfortable venue, private restrooms, food, drinks throughout the day and a parking pass for the VIP parking area.

### Prohibited items

All visitors are subject to search by Security Forces and will not be allowed to pass through security with any of the following items:

- Weapons of any kind, including pocket knives, pocket tools, scissors, box cutters, billy clubs, large-heavy chain-link jewelry or belts, mace and pepper spray
- Firearms of any type
- Toys that resemble firearms
- Fireworks
- Spray paint and silly string
- Outside food
- Glass containers of any kind
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs
- Bicycles
- Skateboards, heeies, roller skates or roller blades
- Coolers
- Backpacks/rucksacks
- Pets
- Medical marijuana

### Air show parking

During the 2016 Luke Air Force Base Air Show, 75 Years of Airpower, the 56th Security Forces Squadron and their Law Enforcement Partners would like to minimize traffic congestion and provide spectators and Luke personnel quick access to the base and parking areas. The following information will help you plan your travel to the base and guide you to one of three parking areas: Park & Walk (Lot A: located at Litchfield and Glendale), Park & Ride (Lot B: located at Litchfield and Olive), and Handicapped.

Parking Lot A and B will both have a \$10 parking fee (CASH ONLY) for cars. People parking in Parking Area "B" will be shuttled to and from the base, while Parking Area "A" will be a park and walk lot only.

#### Parking lot 'A'

Park your vehicle and walk to the airfield. From I-10, proceed northbound on either Dysart Road or Litchfield Road. If using Dysart Road, turn left (west) onto Glendale Ave and proceed to Parking Lot "A." If using Litchfield Road, continue northbound until you are directed to Parking Lot "A."

From the 101, exit on Glendale Ave.

Proceed west towards Litchfield Road until you are directed to Parking Lot "A."

There is no handicapped parking in this lot.

#### Parking lot 'B'

Park your vehicle and ride a chartered bus to the airfield. Please note that there is no access to this lot from Northern Parkway.

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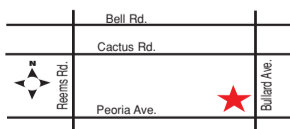
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# AIRSHOW: Follow directions for specific parking from different parts of the Valley, From 32

From the east: Take Loop 101 to Olive Avenue exit; proceed west on Olive to Litchfield Road. Turn left (south) on Litchfield to access the parking lot on the right.

From the west: From Cotton Lane and Olive, (no access from Loop 303) proceed eastbound on Olive to Litchfield. Turn right (south) on Litchfield to access the parking lot on the right.

Visitors from the Southeast Valley using westbound I-10 are encouraged to take the Loop 101 exit, and proceed northbound following the above instructions

(from the east).

### Visitors from the northwest (Sun City/Surprise area):

Proceed southbound on Litchfield to Olive. Turn right into Parking Lot "B" south of the intersection.

### Handicap parking

Please ensure you have a state issued handicap license plate or placard. No one will be allowed through the traffic control points or into the handicap parking without the proper state issued handicap license plate or

placard. ADA parking on base is limited. We cannot guarantee on-base ADA parking once our lots are at capacity.

### Handicap Visitors from the Surprise/Sun City area:

Use southbound Loop 303. Exit at the Northern Parkway and proceed to Litchfield. At Litchfield, officers will verify your plate or placard; you will then turn right (south) on Litchfield and proceed to the north gate on your right, turn right (west) into north gate – follow "After

entering the north gate" instructions below.

\*\*Northern Parkway users will not be allowed to turn on Litchfield.\*\*

### Handicap visitors from Goodyear/Avondale area:

Use northbound Dysart until you reach Northern Parkway. Turn left (west) on Northern Parkway and proceed until you reach Litchfield. At Litchfield, officers will verify your plate or placard; you will then turn left (south) on Litchfield and

proceed to the north gate on your right, turn right (west) into north gate – follow "After entering the North Gate" instructions below.

**All other handicap visitors:** Exit off of the Loop 101 at Northern. Proceed westbound on Northern (will turn into the Northern Parkway at Dysart) until you reach Litchfield. At Litchfield, officers will verify your plate or placard; you will

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# AIRSHOW: Entry at North Gate, From 33

then turn left (south) on Litchfield Road and proceed to the north gate located on your right, turn right (west) into north gate – follow “After entering the North Gate” instructions below after entering the North Gate. All handicap personnel follow the posted signs to their designated parking areas once on base.

Note: All vehicles entering Luke AFB are subject

to search. Failure to consent to search may result in the denial of entry of that vehicle onto the base.

**Luke personnel:**  
Luke personnel will be allowed access to the base prior to 0800 on both days of the open house. After 8 a.m., the west side of the base will be closed to vehicle traffic unless you have an air show pass. The east side (BX/Commis-

sary/Housing) will be open for normal business. Traffic going to the east side must use Kachina gate and be prepared to show your military ID to the police officers to be allowed access. All road closures will be in place by 8 a.m.

**Traffic around the base:**  
Glendale Avenue will be closed just east of Litchfield, which will be



Photos courtesy U.S. Army Golden Knights

**Soldiers in the Golden Knights perform precision parachute dives and aerobatics during their shows.**

closed off just south of Lot “A,” no through traffic will be allowed. Northern Glendale and just south of Lightning gate. Litchfield will be completely closed from Luke AFB to Peoria Avenue. Litchfield will be closed from Camelback Road to Luke AFB, with the exception of traffic parking in



The Golden Knights have conducted more than 16,000 shows in 50 states and 48 countries. They perform at more than 100 events per year.

### U.S. Army Golden Knights

Golden Knights are Army soldiers first, but they also have a unique history and creed that sets them apart.

### History of Golden Knights

In 1959, 19 Airborne soldiers from various military units formed the Strategic Army Command Parachute Team (STRAC). Brigadier General Joseph Stilwell Jr. gathered the soldiers with the intent of competing in the relatively new sport of skydiving, which at that time was dominated by the Soviet Union. That year, the U.S. Army team began representing the United States on the international competition circuit, and performed their first demonstration in Danville, Va. Two years later, the Department of Defense announced that the STRAC team would become the United States Army Parachute Team.

By 1962, the team earned the nickname the “Golden Knights.” “Golden” signified the gold medals the team had won, while “Knights” alluded to the team’s ambition to conquer the skies.

Since then, the Golden Knights have conducted more than 16,000 shows in 50 states and 48 countries, reaching an average of 60,000 people per show. The team has earned the U.S. Army 2,148 gold, 1,117 silver, and 693 bronze medals in national and international competition. Team members have also broken 348 world records.

The Golden Knights are one of only three Department of Defense-sanctioned aerial demonstration teams, along with the U.S. Navy Blue Angels and the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds. The team is composed of approximately 95 men and women, which includes four parachute units, an aviation unit and a headquarters. The demonstration teams, which use five dedicated aircraft, perform at more than 100 events per year. The tandem section is known for taking soldiers, celebrities and heads of state on jumps, and the competition section focuses on winning national and international skydiving events.

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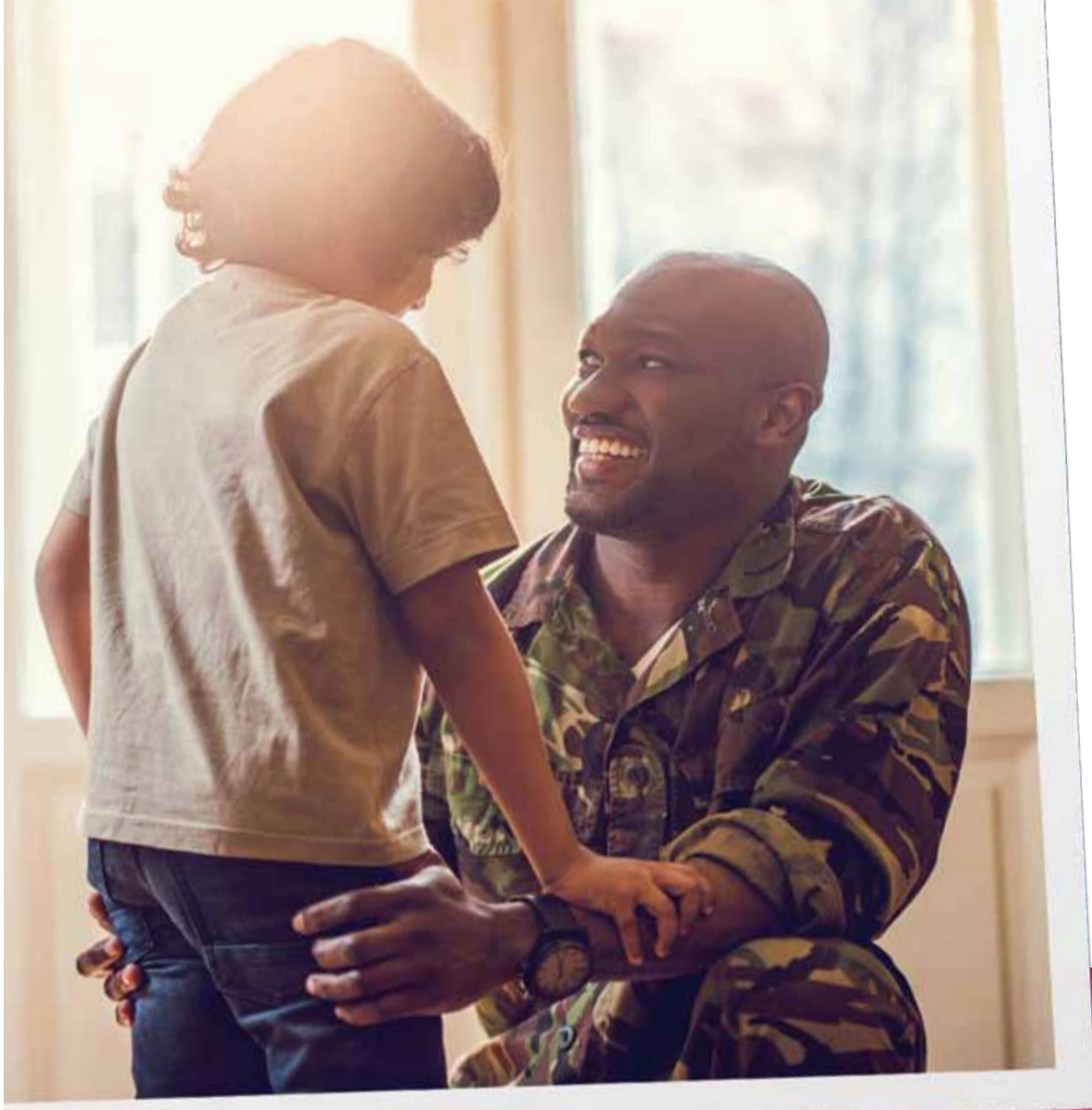
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"Top Homebuilder" for three consecutive years!



## A Special Offer for Our Local Heroes

Taylor Morrison would like to honor the men and women in our community who enrich our lives every day with their service by offering our local heroes an additional 1% of the base price\* of their new home to spend in our Design Studio.

*Ask about our...*

**PUBLIC SERVICE  
REWARDS**  
PROGRAM\*

[taylormorrison.com](http://taylormorrison.com) | 480.346.1738



If you are a member of the active or retired military, law enforcement, firefighting, healthcare or education professions, Taylor Morrison (Phoenix), want to show our appreciation with up to 1% of the base price in Home Town Hero Savings! \*Limited time Home Town Hero offer valid for cash or financed buyers for their primary residence. Available to individuals currently employed or retired as military personnel, law enforcement personnel, firefighters, healthcare professionals and educators. Must present valid written verification of employment (such as pay stub or military ID card) at time of contract execution. Valid for qualified buyers on new inventory or to-be-built new home contracts entered into as of 3/17/16-12/31/16 only. Super Hero Savings of up to 1% of the base price may be applied towards Design Studio Options on To-be-Built Homes or on Inventory homes. Any unused amount not used as described will be forfeited. All information (including, but not limited to prices, availability, incentives, floor plans, site plans, features, standards and options, assessments and fees, planned amenities, programs, conceptual artists' renderings, tax rates and community development plans) is not guaranteed and remains subject to change, or delay without notice. The program is not available outside of the Phoenix Division of Taylor Morrison and cannot be combined with any other offer unless expressly set forth in your Purchase Agreement. For financed buyers, Lender's restrictions on Home Town Hero incentive may apply for certain loan programs. Taylor Morrison reserves the right to change, extend or discontinue the Program at any time or retract the offer should buyer not meet eligibility requirements. Additional details and restrictions may apply. Not an offering in any state where prohibited or otherwise restricted by law. Prices may not include lot premiums, upgrades and options. Please see a Taylor Morrison Sales Associate for details and visit [www.taylormorrison.com](http://www.taylormorrison.com) for additional disclaimers. © March 2016, Taylor Morrison of Arizona, Inc. All rights reserved.

