



Commemorative Air Force Wisconsin Wing Newsletter

Chartered April 30th, 1982

Editor: Brad Ohde

September 2021, Issue #2109

From the Front Cockpit Col Gary Otto – Wing Leader



I am writing this article on 9/11 as we remember the terrible terrorist attacks of 20 years ago. Our own Vic Stottlemeyer, Paul Keppler and Stan Markus flew a 3-ship mission today (see photo) in their AT-6's to honor those lost on that historic day. Our planes and pilots are just one way we carry out our CAF mission to Educate, Inspire and Honor. There has been a lot going on this summer as we recover from the Covid shutdowns, and it has been so good to once again have an active and memorable flying season.

Last month we had all the excitement and adventure of AirVenture and now we kicked off September with the Waukegan Northern Illinois Airshow today. With a special 9/11 remembrance, the airshow had a perfect day and so did our PX crew that set a one-day PX sales record of over \$4000! (Sorry John Kmet, your old \$3700 record has been smashed!) Dennis Flancher led the PX crew including, Roberta Finkler, Angela Koehler, Max Koehler, Ed Pleva, Mike Guslick plus Mike Woods, who also flew our T-34 in for the show.

Check out the events still remaining for Sept including Oconto, East Troy and Oshkosh Squadron 32's fly-in! Lots more opportunities for WI Wing members to get involved in our mission.

While our aircraft and PX crew are at Oconto on the 18th, Tom McDermott will be leading the Sept Wing meeting with a very different format! If you are not headed to Oconto, be sure to participate in the meeting! Tom is dedicating this month's Wing meeting to our most senior member and B-29 WWII veteran, Henry Ratenski. Henry turned 97 this month and has done so much to share his experiences and history with so many of our members and families. It is time for us to do some honoring and wishing Henry a Happy Birthday! We will meet at the PT hangar for coffee and rolls at 9am. We'll talk about Henry's valued history and final mission. At approximately 10 am, we will depart for a brief visit with Henry. He's in an early stage of decline.

Not bad for 97, but his daughter, Kathryn Ratenski, encouraged us not to wait. If you'd bring a birthday card, that would make it extra special.....and if you are a newer member unfamiliar with Henry, a chance to learn more about the Wing and our special "gifts".

I encourage all our members to somehow get involved in carrying out our mission. We also have elections in November for Wing Staff positions. Look for more details in this newsletter. I can assure you that volunteering will be rewarding and very much appreciated!

Gary Otto - WI Wing Leader

COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

Wisconsin Wing Newsletter

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Wisconsin Wing News



The CAF WI Wing had the great honor to perform a missing man fly-over on Saturday, August 14th for a very special WWII hero and friend. Harvey R. Kurz, Jr. passed peacefully surrounded by his family on July 23rd, 2021. He was 96 years old.



Harvey Kurz with Bob Kuenzi signing Bob's Honor Flight Book.



Formation Returns to Home Base against Majestic Clouds



Honor Fly-Over in Diamond Formation for 1st Pass



Harvey was born on April 15, 1925 in Milwaukee. He was drafted into the US Navy after high school and served his country as a radio man on a Landing Ship. His ship was part of the fleet that was sent to Iwo Jima to land Marines and supplies onto the island. After the war, Harvey returned to Milwaukee and worked for Wisconsin Gas until he retired. Harvey was one of the founders of the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight program here in Wisconsin. He was featured in the "Honor Flight" movie that set records for viewing and was instrumental in securing initial support for the program that has grown to being a nationwide effort to take thousands of veterans to Washington DC to see the war memorials. Initially the Honor Flights were for WWII vets, but they have expanded and now include Korean and Vietnam era veterans. If you have not seen the movie, "Honor Flight", watch it now! It will touch your heart!

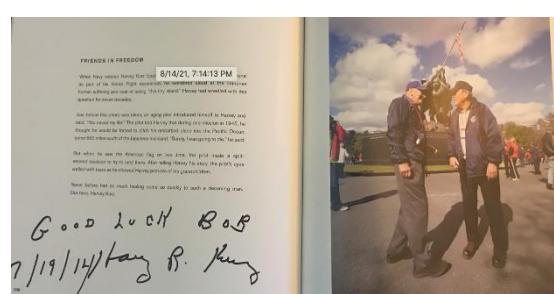


<https://dvd.netflix.com/Movie/Honor-Flight/70264284>

Harvey was a hero for being in harm's way at the Iwo Jima landing and for starting the largest and most memorable program ever to honor and thank our war veterans.

Vic Stottlemeyer, Paul Keppeler, Aaron Marshall, and Stan Markus flew this mission of honor, which was witnessed by so many of Harvey's family and friends.

Harvey Kurz: Gone West and remembered by so many!



Harvey's story told in the Honor Flight book,
Signed for Bob Kuenzi!



See this movie!!!

Missing Man Heads
West on 2nd Pass



Wisconsin Wing News



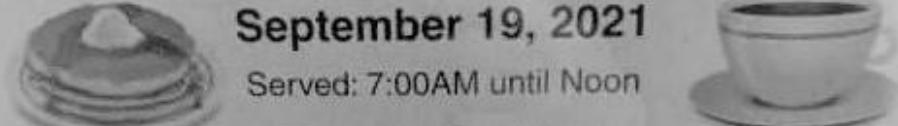
Ground Crew Volunteers Wanted!!!

If interested in joining this invaluable part of our operations team, please contact Mike Ziarniak at 414-380-9532 or email to ziarniakm@gmail.com

Drive In or Fly In
East Troy Airport Open House



Pancake Breakfast
Highway L & 20 East Troy, WI (57C)
FREE ADMISSION



September 19, 2021
Served: 7:00AM until Noon

Come for Breakfast

Pancakes Butter & Syrup Scrambled Eggs Sausages Coffee / Milk / Juice	Breakfast: Adults \$8.00 Children \$5.00 (8 and under)
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Stay for the Fun

- Vintage, Homebuilt & Warbird Aircraft
- WWII Display

Great Raffle Prizes
Free Admission - Free Parking

Sponsored by: The Friends of East Troy Airport, Inc.





Wisconsin Wing News



ELECTION SEASON IS HERE!!



We are fast approaching the annual officer election season at CAF. This year we have five (5) of the nine (9) elected officer positions up for election. This is a great opportunity for members to volunteer to help further our mission to Educate, Inspire and Honor.

Your WI Wing Staff will soon be appointing both a nominating and election committee to manage this election process. If you would like to serve on either of these committees, please advise Gary Otto or A.G. Bharatkumar ASAP.

The following WI Wing Staff Officer positions have expiring terms and are up for election. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, or you know someone you would like to recommend and nominate, be sure that the nominating committee is aware of that interest.

1. Exec officer elected 2019 for 2020-21 Up for election
2. Maintenance Officer elected 2019 for 2020-21 Up for election
3. Operations Officer elected 2019 for 2020-21 Up for election
4. Development Officer elected 2019 for 2020-21 Up for election
5. Education Officer elected 2019 for 2020-21 Up for election

Details on the election process will be sent out by the Election Committee. Consider getting involved with your WI Wing Staff.

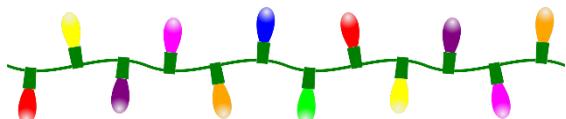
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WI WING PT-26 in the CAF 12 Planes of Christmas Program!

The WI Wing was just advised that our PT is one of the top 12 Planes of Christmas for the highly successful fundraising program run by CAF HQ. This is a huge opportunity for the WI Wing to get a national spotlight on our PT-26 and what we need to keep this historic aircraft flying long into the future, carrying out our mission to Educate, Inspire and Honor.

We need member involvement in managing the 12 Planes program, so if you are a PT-26 lover, you are needed now to help us get as much support for our PT as possible.

We get lots of help and guidance from HQ, and we truly need a team effort to do this right. If you are interested, please contact Bob Vajgrt or Gary Otto ASAP.





Wisconsin Wing News



Check these out !!!



WARBIRDS SQUADRON 32

FLY-IN/DRIVE-IN

SATURDAY, SEPT. 25, 2021

9:00AM – 4:00PM

WITTMAN REGIONAL AIRPORT

525 W. 20th AVE, OSHKOSH, WI 54902



JOIN WARBIRDS SQUADRON 32 FOR OUR 5TH ANNIVERSARY FLY-IN/DRIVE-IN!

- ENJOY BRATS AND HAMBURGERS PROVIDED BY THE VFW FLORIAN-LAMPERT POST 1908
- SEE WARBIRD AIRCRAFT ON STATIC DISPLAY AND FLYING
- AIRPLANE RIDES BY THE CAF-WISCONSIN WING IN THEIR SNJ-5 TEXAN AND PT-26
- MILITARY VEHICLES ON DISPLAY FROM THE MILITARY VETERANS MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER
- FREE YOUNG EAGLES FLIGHTS FOR KIDS 8-17 YEARS OLD
- PEDAL PLANES FOR CHILDREN

EVENT HOSTED BY EAA WARBIRDS SQUADRON 32

CONTACT US BY EMAIL AT WARBIRDSSQUADRON32@GMAIL.COM

OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/OSHKOSHQUAD

OUR WEBSITE: WWW.CHAPTERS.EAA.ORG/WAR32

ALSO PARTICIPATING:

COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE WISCONSIN WING – AIRPLANE RIDES AND DISPLAYS

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS FLORIAN-LAMPERT POST 1908 – FOOD AND BEVERAGES

MILITARY VETERANS MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER – VEHICLE DISPLAYS





Wisconsin Wing News



"Finding Loren" Movie Premiere Sept. 25th 12:30PM Bradley Symphony Center



The Finding Loren Documentary traces the life of P-47 fighter pilot Loren Hintz and the miraculous discovery of his downed plane and final resting place. Loren's son, Marty Hintz, was our guest speaker at our 2018 CAF banquet, during the early days of the film development. Marty died a year ago, but the family efforts to complete the film did not, and the movie premiere is Sat. Sept. 25th. I encourage you to attend the premiere. We plan to purchase a DVD of the movie and have a screening for the CAF WI Wing soon.

www.findinglorenthefilm.com

[https://www.gofundme.com/finding-loren-project.](https://www.gofundme.com/finding-loren-project)

PREMIERE

Saturday, Sept. 25 | 1:30 pm

Bradley Symphony Center

MILWAUKEE, WI

Doors open at 12:30, film begins at 1:30.
Join us for a complimentary beverage and light snack.
Tour the beautiful new building.

Free and open to the public.
Tickets not required, donations gratefully accepted.



Wisconsin Wing News



WI Wing Membership Meeting

Sat., Sept. 18th, 2021 → 9 AM!

Leader: Tom McDermott

We are dedicating this month's Wing meeting our most senior member and B-29 WWII veteran, Henry Ratenski. Henry turned 97 this month and has done so much to share his experiences and history with so many of our members and families. It is time for us to do some honoring and wishing Henry happy birthday!

We will meet at the PT hangar for coffee and rolls at 9am. We'll talk about Henry's valued history and final mission. At approximately 10 am, we will depart for a brief visit with Henry. He's in an early stage of decline. Not bad for 97, but his daughter, Kathryn Ratenski, encouraged us not to wait.

If you'd bring a birthday card, that would make it extra special..... and if you are a newer member unfamiliar with Henry, a chance to learn more about the Wing and our special "gifts".

An advertisement for the Wings Over Dallas WWII Airshow. The main title "AIRSHOW" is written in large, bold, black letters. To the left, there is a cartoon illustration of a woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue shirt, with her arms raised in excitement. In the background, several vintage military aircraft are depicted in flight. One aircraft has the number "887" on its nose. To the right, a banner reads "Texas goes to War". At the bottom, the event details are listed: "OCT 29-31 2021" and the website "WingsOverDallas.org". On the far right, there is a logo for "COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE WINGS OVER DALLAS WWII AIRSHOW" with the Frost Bank logo below it. A call-to-action box on the left encourages users to use the promo code "CAF4T2HA" to get \$5 off general admission tickets.

Get 50% off General Admission with promo code:
CAFCOLONEL21



Wisconsin Wing News



2021 Events and Opportunities to Volunteer

- ✓ Oconto Fly-In Sept. 18 PX, Rides Crew, Pilots and planes
- ✓ East Troy Pancake Breakfast Sunday Sept. 19 PX Pilots and planes
- ✓ Honor Flight Escort Sept 25th at KMKE 7AM pilots and planes
- ✓ EAA WARBIRD SQUADRON 32 5-yr anniversary fly-in PX pilots & planes
- ✓ "Finding Loren" Movie Premiere Sept. 25th 1PM Bradley
- ✓ AIRTOBERFEST at Waukesha Airport Sept. 24-25
- ✓ Rides Day at KUES 9/26 Sunday all day PX and Rides Crew
- ✓ Tri-StateTri-State CAF Wing Brat-Fry Janesville Oct 2nd. 10am to 2pm
- ✓ Rides Day at KUES 10/9 Saturday all day PX and Rides Crew
- ✓ Honor Flight Escort Oct 16 at KMKE 7AM pilots and planes
- ✓ Dallas CAF Airshow Oct. 29-31
- ✓ Honor Flight Escort Nov. 6th at KMKE 7AM pilots and planes
- ✓ Holiday Party: Save the date: Friday Dec. 17th



Remember that the CAF requires all volunteers who will be working within an arm's reach of a youth to take part in both Youth Protection and Interaction Training and Criminal History Background Check before you may work with youth at CAF units or CAF events. This is an online Youth Protection and Interaction Training that will take approximately fifteen minutes to complete. You will need to watch a short video, take a quiz, and apply for the background check. There is no cost to you or the Wing for this certification. Once you have completed the training and passed the background check, we will be notified that you are eligible to work with youth. The background check is handled by a secure third-party vendor and no confidential information is shared with the CAF. If you have any questions about the policy or how it is implemented, you can view the CAF Youth Protection Policy by following this link at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/bx9k41p13n2nryy/CAF%20Youth%20Protection%20Policy%20General.pdf?dl=0>

To complete the training, go to the CAF website under Education and click on the Youth Interaction and Protection box or follow this link. <https://www.cafeducation.org/youth-interaction-and-protection>

Thank you for doing your part to keep our young people safe as we Educate, Inspire, and Honor a new generation of aviation enthusiasts!



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Wisconsin Wing Holiday Party
Friday December 17th - Delafield Brew House

If you want to volunteer to be on the banquet committee and help plan this enjoyable event, please contact Kathy Laabs – Events Officer.



Wisconsin Wing News



Welcome
New Members!!!

2021		
John Schroeder	Matt Phillips	Gary Kozlowski
Paul McAllister	Tom Leunig	Herb Coussons
Chuck Christburg	Scott Meisenheimer	Tim Tyre
Steven Mueller	Jeff Otto	John Leidel
John Hartmann	Matt Phillips	Mike Pastore
Enzo Aita	Tracy Hunter	Ed Pleva
Michael Moynihan	Tonie Michaels	Karl Beckle
Noel Skerven		



PX Volunteers Needed NOW!!!

If interested in joining the PX team and representing the CAF WI Wing at events throughout the season, please contact Dennis Flancher, PX Volunteer Coordinator, at 414-543-0160 or email dennislf@att.net

Training provided and it's a great way to meet great people!

The upcoming PX outings need volunteers →

- Sept. 18 Oconto
- Sept. 19 East Troy
- Sept. 25 Oshkosh
- Sept. 26 & Oct 9 Rides Day KUE



Wisconsin Wing Holiday Party
Friday December 17th - Delafield Brew House

If you want to volunteer to be on the banquet committee and help plan this enjoyable event, please contact Kathy Laabs – Events Officer.



Wisconsin Wing News



Mission Reports:

Vic Stottlemyer, Paul Keppeler and Stan Markus honored 9/11 for the Boy Scout Camp at Daniel Boone Conservation League:




A.G. Bharatkumar has it "Made in the Shade!":



A.G.: "As I told my wife- my girlfriend from WWII...!"



"The world at my feet from the B-25 forward gun turret"



"Wide-eyed 'rookie crew' tensed up before take-off"

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CORNER

PX



We still have member apparel available through the PX. See Dennis Flancher for availability. You can also have customized shirts made up through our supplier, Geiger, in Waukesha, like A.G. recently did with this PT-26 shirt. The pattern for the embroidery is already made, so anyone wanting the PT-26 Wing Patch logo embroidered on a shirt of their choice can easily get this done. Contact Dave Cook for any questions about member apparel.



Wisconsin Wing News



A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO WAUKEGAN by Col Mike Woods



The week before the Waukegan Air Show, Gary Otto, our Wing Leader, asked me if I would be flying our T34A to the Northern Illinois Waukegan Air Show. I said I thought we needed to be invited and I was not aware that our plane was invited to be there. Gary did some checking and found out that we were indeed invited along with our PX operation. He and Ryan Beard filled out the required forms and obtained a certificate of insurance, and we were promptly approved. Hurdle number one was done. The weather forecast for the day was looking for winds to be gusting to 30 knots (34.5 mph), so your chicken-hearted pilot was thinking that it would not be a good day to fly since the stall speed of the T34 is much less than double the wind speed. It turns out the winds did pick up in the morning, but not nearly as bad as predicted. Hurdle number 2 was done. Lastly, I had previously laid out the short trip (only 18 minutes of flying) on my IPAD and saw that it came close to O'Hare's airspace but should be OK to fly without ADSB, which our T34 does not have. Late Friday afternoon, the day before the airshow, I double checked my flight planning and saw that O'Hare's airspace just included the Waukegan airport. We could not fly without prior permission. I called Gary Otto and said, "Milwaukee, we have a problem". As luck would have it, Gary was traveling with a Chicago area designated pilot examiner who gave me the phone number for the Chicago Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) and we figured they could help us get a waiver for flying in O'Hare's airspace without ADSB. I called and what did I get - yes, voice mail. Since it was Friday about 3:30 I figured we were done, but in the hope of all hopes I left a message. Shortly before 4:00 my phone rang, and it was a very nice lady from the Chicago FSDO and she walked me through the waiver request process. She should have said she was from the Government and she was there to help me, which she did. What a wonderful, helpful lady. With somewhat of a learning curve, I was able to eventually put in an electronic request for a waiver to go there and come back, and happily both were approved in less than a minute. Hurdle number three done.

Perhaps nothing funny happened on the way to Waukegan, but it was funny how things all fell into place, and there were a few lessons learned. First and foremost, do not wait until the end to check anything or better to double check them. Second, do your planning early enough to be able to pick up the pieces, if needed. Finally, don't give up and keep trying. For us, the day turned out great and we had a lot of help with our PX from Dennis Flancher who stocked our PX trailer and drove it to Waukegan, Ed Pleva who was a tremendous help with the PX along with Angela Koehler and her son Max, Mike Gusiick, who is always there to be so helpful, and Roberta Finkler for her great help and being able to operate our credit card charging unit which added over \$900 to our PX sales. Our total sales for the day were a little over \$4,000 and we sold out of nearly everything we had except for some of our hats and shirts. But the best part of the day was that we all had such a great time. Please consider joining the PX team and help us to grow our sales, but even more importantly, have fun being with your fellow CAF members while really helping the wing. It was truly a great time.



Calendar – Upcoming Events

Date	Event, Time, Location
Sat., 9/18	Wing Meeting 10:30AM - In Hangar & Virtual
Sat., 9/18	Oconto Fly-In 9AM – 4PM
Sun., 9/19	East Troy Pancake Breakfast
Sat. & Sun., 9/24-25	Airtoberfest Waukesha Airport
Sat., 9/25	Honor Flight Escort KMKE - 7AM
Sat., 9/25	EAA WARBIRD SQUADRON 32 5-yr anniversary fly-in Oshkosh
Sat., 9/25	“Finding Loren” premiere movie event 1:30PM Bradley Symphony Center
Sat., 10/2	Tri-State CAF Wing Brat Fry Janesville – 10AM – 2PM
Sat., 10/16	Wing Meeting 10:30AM - In Hangar & Virtual
Sat., 10/31	CAF – Wings over Dallas Airshow Dallas, TX
Sat., 11/20	Wing Meeting 10:30AM - In Hangar & Virtual
Fri., 11/26	Annual WI Wing field trip to EAA Museum
Fri., 12/17	CAF WI Wing Holiday Party Delafield Brew Haus

WI Wing Staff

Position	Person	Contact Info.
Wing Leader:	Gary Otto	262-875-1640 gary.arthur.otto@gmail.com
Executive Officer:	Paul Keppeler	262-443-0624 pbkepp@aol.com
Finance Officer:	Ryan Beard	847-858-7846 rcbeard1@gmail.com
Maintenance Officer:	Steve Sorge	414-852-8104 ssorge@wi.rr.com
Operations Officer:	Henning Henningsen	262-951-6472 henning.henningsen.wi@gmail.com
Safety Officer & Ground Crew Leader:	Mike Ziarniak	414-380-9532 ziarniakm@gmail.com
Public Information Officer:	*** Open *** This could be you!	
Development Officer:	Bob Vajgrt	414-550-2770 dawnbob@wi.rr.com
Education Officer:	Jeanette Anderson	414-313-9513 jfa16daa@gmail.com
Membership Officer:	Tom McDermott	608-289-2424 mcfender@yahoo.com
Adjutant Officer:	A.G. Bharatkumar	262-366-3295 agbkumar@wi.rr.com
Events Officer:	Kathy Laabs	414-418-7222 t28gal@att.net
Historian:	*** Open *** This could be you!	
Newsletter:	Brad Ohde	262-309-8600 bohde@wi.rr.com
PX Leader:	Tracy Sorge	262-366-0664 horseshowmomm@wi.rr.com
PX Volunteer Coord.:	Dennis Flancher	414-534-0160 dennislf@att.net
Fly-Over Coord.	Vic Stottlemyer	262-391-5110 stottlemy7@aol.com
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