



THE  
DISTINGUISHED  
FLYING CROSS  
SOCIETY

## Distinguished Flying Cross Society Reunion Dayton/Fairborn, Ohio September 15-19, 2019 *Celebrating 100 Years of American Air Power*

This Distinguished Flying Cross Society Reunion is not to be missed. We have planned an extensive lineup of distinguished speakers on airpower people and events, an exploration of the Wright Brothers history, and a day at one of the very best aviation museums in the world.



*DFCS Member CPT James E. Miller  
First WWI DFC Recipient*

The theme for the 2019 DFC Society Reunion will be "*Celebrating 100 Years of American Airpower,*" dating from establishment of the United States Army Air Service in 1918 during World War I. The 38 pilots of the Lafayette Escadrille, who flew for France beginning in 1916, before the United States entered the war, helped shape the U.S. Army Air Service when it was formed. By the end of the war, the Air Service used 45 squadrons to cover 85 miles of front. 71 pursuit pilots were credited with shooting down five or more German aircraft while in American service. They created a culture that influences combat pilots today.

The Reunion will be held at the **Holiday Inn/Fairborn**, located at 2800 Presidential Dr., Fairborn, Ohio 45324. The room rate is \$111 per night plus tax (12.75%). Breakfast is included. **The room rate will be honored 3 days before and 3 days after the reunion dates based on availability**, for anyone who would like to extend their stay. The hotel offers complimentary parking.

As part of **Celebrating 100 Years of American Airpower**, the Distinguished Flying Cross Society welcomes the **B-29 Wings of the Marianas Association**, <http://www.b-29wings.org/>, in joining our Reunion. The B-29 Wings of the Marianas is dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history and achievements of the World War II B-29 wings stationed in the Marianas. It is an umbrella association formed to educate and to preserve the B-29 legacy following the age-out of prior B-29 associations. The B-29 Wings of the Marianas will host their own memorabilia suite, displaying numerous B-29 historical artifacts.



Also in support of our Reunion theme, we have a phenomenal set of speakers lined up. Our first night speaker will be **Air Force Major General James C. Dawkins, Jr.**, current commander of the legendary Eighth Air Force of WWII European Theater bombing renown. Our Banquet speaker is record-breaking aviator and DFC Society member **Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Dick Rutan**, who piloted the Voyager aircraft around the world non-stop. In Vietnam, Lt Col Rutan flew the F-100, and he was a founding member of the Misty Fast FACs. In addition to his five DFCs, he has been awarded the Silver Star, 16 Air Medals, and the Purple Heart.

We are introducing a new feature – **Chock Talks**. These are presentations of approximately thirty minutes, and we have four scheduled. Our speakers are DFC Society member **Brigadier General (Ret) Paul Tibbetts IV**, grandson of DFC Society member Paul Tibbetts II (pilot of the Enola Gay), DFC Society Associate Contributor **Jonna Doolittle Hoppes**, granddaughter of DFC Society member General Jimmy Doolittle, and DFC Society member **Major General (Ret) Don Shepperd**, another F-100 Misty FAC and former Director of the Air National Guard. Our fourth Chock Talk will be a team presentation on **Operation Tailwind** in the Vietnam War, a 1970 secret operation into Laos with 16 Green Berets and 120 Montagnards, kept alive by continuous air support.

During 2018, **Orville and Wilbur Wright** became posthumous members of the DFC Society. Dayton was their home base. Reunion events will explore the Wright Brothers history in the **Dayton National Aviation Heritage Area**. We will also have a day at the **National Museum of the Air Force**, the world's largest military aviation museum.

At the Reunion banquet, we will be rendering special honors to our WWII, Korean War, and female DFC recipients, not previously honored, for their "heroism or extraordinary achievements while participating in an aerial flight." We will also honor B-29 veterans in attendance.

#### **Hotel Room Reservations Due by August 15, 2019**

**Make your hotel reservations no later than August 15, 2019. Be sure to mention you are with the Distinguished Flying Cross Society to receive the reduced group rate of \$111.00. After August 16th the group rate will not be available.**

**Call the Holiday Inn/Fairborn at (877) 390-5931 or (937) 426-7800 or online by copying and pasting this link into your computer search engine:**

**<https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=FBNPD&PMID=99801505&GPC=DFC&viewfullsite=true>**

- Confirmation of registration and itinerary will be sent out by August 20, 2019

#### **Reunion Registration Cancellation Policy**

- By sending in the registration form, you are agreeing to the cancellation policy
- A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event.
- Cancellations received within 10 days of the event will be non-refundable.
- Cancellations can **ONLY** be requested over the phone at 360-663-2521. You will receive a cancellation number; no refund will be issued without this number. Please make sure to keep this number for verification of your cancellation.



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## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

### **Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>**

2:00pm ~ Registration Opens  
2:00pm-Midnight ~ Hospitality Room Bar Open  
6:30pm – 7:30pm ~ BOD Meeting  
8:00pm – 8:30 ~ Chock Talk #1

### **Monday September 16<sup>th</sup>**

9:00am - Midnight ~ Silent Auction set up in Hospitality Suite  
8:30am-12:00pm – Optional Tour ~ Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park  
TBD ~ B-29 Wings of the Marianas membership luncheon/meeting  
2:30pm-3:30pm ~ DFC Society Membership Meeting  
4:00pm-4:30pm ~ Chock Talk #2  
6:00pm-10:00pm ~ First-Night Dinner  
10:00pm-Midnight ~ Hospitality Room Bar Open

### **Tuesday September 17<sup>th</sup>**

8:15am~ 4:00pm ~ Optional Tour ~ National Museum of the US Air Force  
Special B-29 Viewing ~ Busses rotate during the day  
4:30pm-5:00pm ~ Chock Talk #3  
6:30pm-10:00pm ~ Dinner & Silent Auction  
7:00pm ~ Silent Auction Closes  
10:00pm-Midnight ~ Hospitality Room Bar Open

### **Wednesday September 18<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 am-8:00am ~ Breakfast Chock Talk #4  
8:45am-4:00pm ~ Optional Tour ~ Huffman Prairie  
Carillon Historical Park ~ Wright Brothers Aviation Center  
Lunch at historical Carillon Brewery  
4:00pm-5:00pm ~ Hospitality Room Bar Open  
6:00pm-11:00pm ~ Banquet Gala

### **Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup>**

Checkout and RTB

## OPTIONAL TOURS

### DAYTON AVIATION HERITAGE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 ~ 8:30AM-12:00PM ~ PRICE \$23



The tour will explore Dayton's aviation heritage at the Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, where interpretive centers give you a glimpse into that history and the accomplishments of Orville and Wilbur Wright. At the park you will be able to visit the Wright Dunbar Interpretive Center, the original site of the Wright Brother's Bicycle Shop and the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum. The Parachute Museum tells the story of the development of the free fall parachute from its invention at Dayton's McCook Field after World War I, up to the vital role it plays in safely landing today's spacecraft. The Museum also includes interactive exhibits, artifacts, historic photographs and text.

### THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 ~ 8:15AM-4:00PM ~ PRICE \$15



The National Museum of the United States Air Force galleries present military aviation history, boasting more than 360 aerospace vehicles and missiles on display – many rare and one-of-a-kind – along with thousands of historical items and powerful sensory exhibits that bring history to life and connect the Wright brothers' legacy with today's stealth and precision technology. The Museum's galleries are arranged in chronological order. The Early Years Gallery features airplanes and exhibits from the dawn of aviation through World War I. The Air Power Gallery focuses on World War II aviation, while the Modern Flight Gallery covers the Korean War and the Southeast Asia (Vietnam) conflict. The museum's newest buildings, the Eugene W. Kettering Cold War Gallery and the Missile and Space Gallery, take visitors from the Soviet era to the cutting edge of space exploration. Lunch will be on your own at the museum café. There will be a shuttle bus scheduled at designated times to go between the museum and the hotel during the day.

**HUFFMAN PRAIRIE ~ CARILLON PARK & LUNCH**  
**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2019 ~ 8:45AM-4:00PM ~ PRICE \$59**



Huffman Prairie Flying Field is where the brothers turned their idea of powered flight into a practical, useable machine during 1904 and 1905. It is where the brothers would train the next generation of aviators between 1910 and 1916. When the Wright brothers returned to Dayton, after their historic first flights at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on December 17, 1903, they looked for a suitable flying field closer to home. Dayton banker, Torrence Huffman allowed the brothers to use his pasture, which was located eight miles northeast of Dayton, rent-free. Here at Huffman Prairie in 1904 and 1905, through a series of unique experiments, the Wright brothers mastered the principles of controlled powered flight and developed the world's first practical airplane.

The Park is situated on 65-acres on the banks of the Great Miami River, just around the bend from where the Wright Brothers perfected their first float plane. The Park immerses you in Dayton's rich heritage of creativity and invention—two centuries of expansion, industrialization, and innovation. From the Wright Brothers through the first half of the Twentieth Century, new inventions were being turned out in Dayton at an unparalleled rate: the automobile self-starter, the electric cash register (think computer), the refrigerator, information technology, code breaking—even the pop-top can. Learn about these revolutionary achievements while strolling through the Park with its hundreds of artifacts and interacting with costumed interpreters in its 25 historical buildings. There's something for all interests, including a transportation hall with early rail transportation, antique cars and trucks, and canal operations

The highlight of the Carillon Park tour will be the Wright Brothers National Museum. The museum has more Wright artifacts on display than any other place in the world, including the 1905 Wright Flyer III: the only airplane designated a National Historic Landmark, the first practical flying machine, and what the Wright brothers considered their most important aircraft. Referred to as "the first pilot's last project," preserving the 1905 Wright Flyer III for Carillon Historical Park was Orville Wright's last major project before he died on January 30, 1948. And while Orville died before Carillon Park was opened in 1950, he had a hand in designing Wright Hall—the building that houses the 1905 Wright Flyer III. A buffet lunch is included at the Carillon Brewing Company.