

Three-day Celebratory Event

Plans are underway for three days of public events May 17-19, 2018 in Dayton, Ohio. Events will include WWII-era aircraft static displays, WWII reenactors and vehicles, memorabilia and artifact displays, music from the era, related guest speakers for lectures, book signings and films, including both *Memphis Belle* films in the Air Force Museum Theatre. Activities will be both inside and outside the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

Event Schedule

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018

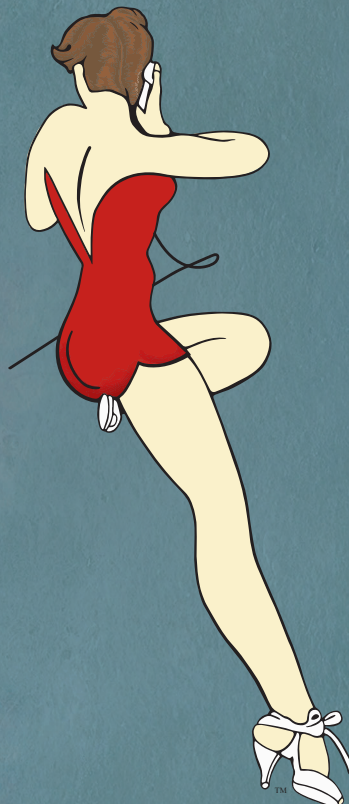
- *Memphis Belle* Exhibit ribbon cutting and public opening
- WWII aircraft on static display
- WWII reenactors and vehicles
- Air Force Museum Theatre Living History Film Series (\$)

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2018

- *Memphis Belle* Exhibit open
- WWII aircraft on static display
- WWII reenactors and vehicles
- Big Band Concert

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2018

- *Memphis Belle* Exhibit open
- WWII aircraft flyovers
- WWII reenactors and vehicles
- Air Force Museum Theatre Living History Film Series (\$)



THE MEMPHIS BELLE™

EXHIBIT OPENING & EVENTS May 17-19, 2018

For more information visit www.nationalmuseum.af.mil
1100 Spaatz Street | Dayton, Ohio | 937-255-3286



NATIONAL MUSEUM
OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE™

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This national aviation treasure and widely recognized symbol of American bravery and heroism during WWII will be placed on permanent public display exactly 75 years after its crew finished their last mission in the war against Nazi Germany on May 17, 1943.



The B-17F *Memphis Belle*™ was the first U.S. Army Air Forces heavy bomber to return to the United States after completing 25 missions over Europe. The *Memphis Belle* will be placed on permanent public display at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force on May 17, 2018.

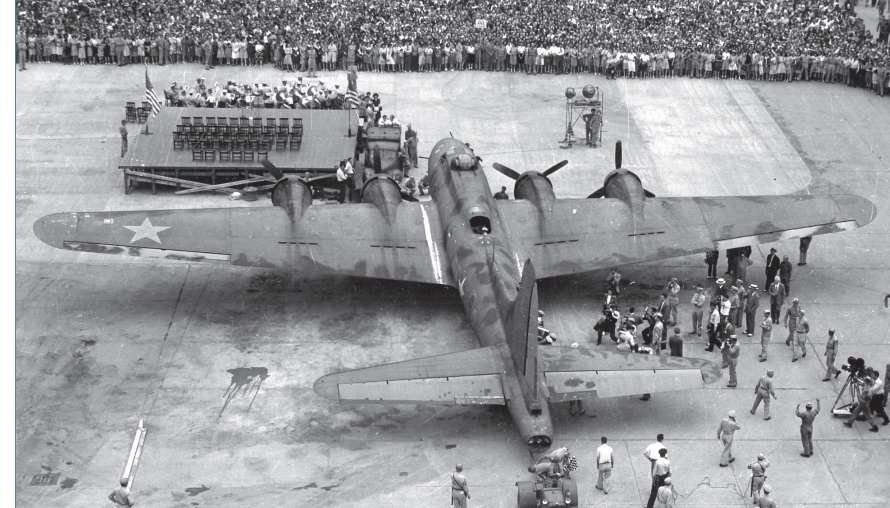
The History

The pilot of the *Memphis Belle*, then Lt. Robert Morgan, named the aircraft after his wartime girlfriend, Margaret Polk of Memphis, Tenn. Morgan chose the now famous artwork from a 1941 George Petty illustration in *Esquire* magazine.

The *Memphis Belle* and its crew of ten flew their first combat mission in Nov. 1942. Faced with hordes of enemy aircraft and deadly antiaircraft fire, the odds of a bomber crew finishing a required 25 missions was unlikely, but the crew of the *Memphis Belle* beat the odds with their 25th combat mission on May 17, 1943.

After returning to the U.S. in June that year, its crew flew the aircraft across the country to more than 30 stops on a war bond and morale boosting tour. With the bond tour and the 1944 William Wyler documentary, “The Memphis Belle,” the aircraft and its crew became widely known and celebrated. In 1990 a major motion picture of the same name added to their fame.

The aircraft, which had been on loan from the Air Force to the City of Memphis, was relocated to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in 2005 under the terms of an agreement with the Memphis Belle Memorial Association.



The Exhibit

The area immediately around the *Memphis Belle* will showcase the story of the aircraft and its crew, and it will include artifacts from several Airmen who served on the *Memphis Belle* in combat. Surrounding the *Memphis Belle* display will be an exhibit about Strategic Bombing in Europe. These stories will be told through rare archival film footage, and numerous personal artifacts never seen before by visitors.

