



AIR FORCE MUSEUM FOUNDATION

Post Office Box 33624 | Wright-Patterson Air Force Base | OH 45433-0624

Air Force Museum Foundation to present World Premiere of WWI Film “The Lafayette Escadrille” November 9 and Symposium November 10

Dayton, OH - October 29, 2019 – The Air Force Museum Foundation Living History Series will present the World Premiere of the film “The Lafayette Escadrille” at 7 p.m., with a conversation with the filmmakers to follow, on Saturday, November 9, in the Air Force Museum Theatre. A limited number of tickets are available for a VIP reception at 6 p.m. that evening.

A live symposium featuring current and retired members of the military, historians, and descendants of the Lafayette Escadrille pilots will be held starting at 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 10. The symposium will take place in the Carney Auditorium, also inside the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force™, near Dayton, OH.

“The Lafayette Escadrille” is the first comprehensive documentary film made about the American volunteers who flew for France before the United States entered World War I. They have been called “the Founding Fathers of American combat aviation.” The production was filmed at over 40 locations in France, drawing on over 20 interviews, and thousands of original artifacts, letters, memoirs, photographs, and films.

“The Lafayette Escadrille” follows the path of the young Americans who came to the aid of America’s oldest ally—standing up for the values of freedom and liberty shared by the sister republics. It is the only American story that covers the entire duration of the war, from one end of the Western Front to the other.

“The story of the Lafayette Escadrille is well-known, and since it embodies the spirit of devotion and sacrifice, it is dear to the hearts of aviators everywhere,” said Darroch Greer, co-producer/director of the film. “This film is our tribute to America’s first combat aviation squadron, and we are honored to hold its premiere at the National Museum of the United States Air Force.”

Raoul Lufbery III, great grand-nephew of Major Raoul Lufbery, the Escadrille’s leading ace, said, “The filmmakers have done a wonderful job telling this amazing story of remarkable Americans fighting for righteous causes for all mankind.”

Tickets for the Saturday film premiere in the Air Force Museum Theatre are \$12, \$10 for Foundation Members and military. Tickets for the VIP reception are \$50 and include a ticket for the film. For tickets, call 937-656-9631 or visit www.afmuseum.com/livinghistory.

The Sunday symposium in the Carney Auditorium is free. The first hour will feature a panel of experts discussing the historical legacy of the Escadrille. The second hour will feature personal stories by Escadrille descendants.

Scheduled symposium attendees:

Historical

- General Yvon Goutx, Armée de L'air [French Air Force] (Ret)
- Steve Ruffin - author of "The Lafayette Escadrille — A Photo History"
- David Hanna - author of "Rendezvous with Death — The Americans Who Joined the Foreign Legion to Fight for France and for Civilization"
- Dr. Doug Lantry – Curator & Historian, National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

Family

- Raoul Lufbery III - great grand-nephew of Major Raoul Lufbery
- Nick Rutgers - fighter pilot and great grandson of James Norman Hall
- Alexandra Truitt - great grand-niece of James McConnell
- George Thenault III - grandson of George Thenault
- Geoff Chapman - grand-nephew of Victor Chapman

The goal of the Living History Series is to “educate, honor and inspire.” The 2019 Living History Series is supported by [Holiday Inn Dayton-Fairborn](#) and the law firm [Taft](#).

About the Air Force Museum Foundation

The Air Force Museum Foundation, Inc., raises funds and awareness in support of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. The Air Force Museum Foundation, Inc. is a Section 501 (c)(3) private, non-profit organization. It is not part of the Department of Defense or any of its components, and it has no government status. The use of the Roundel image in the Foundation's logo is with the permission of the United States Air Force; endorsement by the Department of Defense or the United States Air Force in fundraising activities of the Foundation is not intended nor implied pursuant to DoDI 5535.12. For more information on the Air Force Museum Foundation, visit www.afmuseum.com.

About the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, is the world's largest military aviation museum. With free admission and parking, the museum features more than 350 aerospace vehicles and missiles and thousands of artifacts amid more than 19 acres of indoor exhibit space. Each year about one million visitors from around the world come to the museum. For more information, visit www.nationalmuseum.af.mil.

NOTE TO PUBLIC: For more information, please contact the Air Force Museum Theatre at 937-253-4629 or visit www.afmuseum.com or email theatre@afmuseum.com

NOTE TO MEDIA: For more information on the Air Force Museum Theatre, contact Mary Bruggeman, Chief, Attractions Operations, 937-656-9623, mbruggeman@afmuseum.com or Chuck Edmonson, Marketing Director, 937-656-9630, cedmonson@afmuseum.com