



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 21, 2010

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The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum to Host "The Flying Fortress 5K Run" November 6

POOLER, Ga. – The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum is gearing up to host the inaugural "Flying Fortress 5K Run" on Saturday, November 6, at 8:30 a.m., which will benefit the restoration of the museum's B-17 bomber, *City of Savannah*.

Runners will begin the 5K course at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum and wind their way through the sprawling campus of fellow neighbor JCB, ending back at the Museum. Registration is \$25 and will include a discounted price to those who register in advance.

In 2009, The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum welcomed its very own World War II Flying Fortress B-17 Bomber. The plane was transported from a storage hanger at the National Air and Space Museum to its permanent home inside the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum's Combat Gallery.

"We are diligently working to preserve an incredible piece of American history," said Jane Harper, this year's 5k event chairperson from the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. "It only makes sense to involve the community in our quest for the restoration of this beautiful plane. We all have a stake in safeguarding these precious artifacts that played such a vital role in our nation's history."

The Mighty Eighth named its B-17 bomber *City of Savannah* in honor of another B-17 bomber that left from Hunter Army Air Field in Savannah and flew bombing missions over Germany during World War II. The *City of Savannah* is currently in the process of being restored to its wartime configuration. The bomber will remain on permanent display inside the Museum following the restoration.

"The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum honors the Mighty Eighth's proud legacy by preserving the stories of courage, character and patriotism displayed by the men and women of the Eighth Air Force from World War II to the present," said Harper. "Activated in 1942 in Savannah, Georgia, the Eighth Air Force was an important strike element in World War II and remains an active force today."

(more)

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"The Flying Fortress 5K Run" is sponsored by Fleet Feet Sports Savannah, located at 3405 Waters Avenue, www.fleetfeetsavannah.com. Additional sponsors and donations are welcome. For more information on how to become a sponsor or to make a donation, please contact Jane Harper at jharper@mightyeighth.org or 912-748-8888 ext. 107.

ABOUT THE MIGHTY EIGHT AIR FORCE MUSEUM

The Mighty Eight Air Force Museum, a 90,000-square-foot museum complex located at 175 Bourne Avenue in Pooler, Ga., came to fruition on May 14, 1996 with a dedication in the presence of 5,000 8th Air Force veterans, their families, dignitaries and supporters. On January 28, 1942, 53 days after the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor, the 8th Air Force was officially activated in the National Guard Armory on Bull Street in Savannah, Ga. In 1983, Major General Lewis E. Lyle, USAF Retired, a B-17 veteran of 70 combat missions during World War II, began planning a museum with the extended help of other veterans. The Museum honors the men and women who helped defeat Nazi aggression by serving in or supporting the greatest air armada the world had ever seen—the 8th Air Force. These individuals pledged themselves to honor the courage and commitment of more than 350,000 members of the 8th Air Force. Of this number, 26,000 were killed in action and 28,000 became prisoners of war during World War II. For more information, please contact 912.748.8888 or visit www.mightyeighth.org.

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