



Vicksburg-Tallulah Regional Airport
179 VTR Airport Road, Tallulah, LA 71282
318-574-2731—<https://southernheritageair.org>

September 22, 2025

Dear Board of Mayor & Aldermen,

We would like to thank you for your kind support of \$250 toward the Best Little Air Show In The World.

Air Show Volunteer Organizers

Dan Fordice, Founder & Performer
Steve Gustafson, Co-Founder & Performer
Jimmy Fordham, Performer Recruitment & Performer
Bob Fitzgerald, Chairman, Ramp Boss
Patty Mekus, Event Manager, Safety Officer, PR, Advertising
Sabrina Kingston-Miles, Warbird Formation Clinic Chairman
Randy Woods, Airport Manager
Lex Thistlewaite, Air Boss
Ron Davis, Air Show Announcer
Stagelite Sound, Air Show Sound System
Dave Cantin- CAF Marshaling Detachment, Hot Ramp Boss
Tim Sherman, Transient Aircraft
Julia Dacy, Military Liaison
SFC Shelby Guarnieri, U.S. Army Golden Knights Advance Team
Deputy Sheriff Bobby Stewart WCSO, Security & Public Safety
Sheriff Chad Ezell MPSP, Security & Public Safety
Jerry Briggs WCFD, Emergency & Incident Response Boss
Angie Tarver, NELA Ambulance Service
Jon Woods, Pafford Emergency Air Evac
Dr. Jody Wilson, Onsite Physician
Dr. Susan Chiarito, Onsite Physician
Jackson FSDO, FAA Onsite Representatives
Bill Harvey, RC Show Organizer
James Fowler, Media/Photographer Chairman
Steve Pranger, Volunteer Chairman
Dean Anderson, Admissions Chairman
Leigh Ann Vanlandingham, Co-Chair VIP & Vol Hospitality
Lesa Wilson, Co-Chair VIP & Vol. Hospitality
Gay Gustafson, Performer Hospitality
Richard Dunaway, Litter Control & Clean Team
Kerry Roberts, Honor Tower Hospitality
Paul & Linda Banchetti, Twilight Extravaganza VIP Experience
Pam Pugh, Money Room
John Heggins, Food Vendors
Melissa McCoy, Merchandise
Aimey Tregre, NASA ACCP STEM Activity Zone
*Jim Helms, M*A*S*H Helicopter Rides*
Al Mashburn, Car- Truck- Jeep Display
Ryan Groves & Troop 88, General Admission Parking

Brigadier General (Ret'd) Robert Crear- U.S. Army Dignitary
Col. Jeremiah Gipson- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Dignitary
WWII Army Veteran Rufus Puckett, Air Show Grand Marshal

The last 3 years we partnered with the Chennault Aviation & Military Museum, by helping them start their Red, White & Blue Airshow. The local community continued to ask, when we would bring back the airshow to the area.

We asked Visit Vicksburg, The Vicksburg Post, The Vicksburg Daily News, and the Madison Journal to run polls to see if the community truly wanted us revive the show here. The results were clear on both sides of the River.

We began planning in June of 2024, as this is a large scale event with attendance recorded as 8K—10K over the two day period. The Volunteers of the Southern Heritage Air Foundation and the community have stepped up to bring the show back!

The goal of the show is to provide a family fun community event for Warren County, Vicksburg, Madison Parish & Tallulah. Yes we would like to raise proceeds for the 4 Veteran Organizations that would benefit, but even if we break even, they will receive a high profile at the show to be able to help Veterans and share their missions.

The economic & tourism impact for all 4 municipalities is quite impressive, from just what the Air Show itself will be covering and paying for. Then we have our annual Warbird Formation Clinic the same week, bringing trainees from all over the US to the area. This does not include, the shopping that their wives do while here for 4 days, nor those traveling in for the Air Show Week-end.

We understand budget constraints and make hard decisions every day on what we can support and what we cannot support. We do ask for your re-consideration in support for this event, as per the economic and tourism impact it will bring to you. Please review the support documents to back this up.

We are proud of the community we live in and we live by the adage, "The Red Carpet City". On behalf of our Air Show Committee, thank you for your consideration and time, and please reach out to us with any questions. May God Bless You, Our Community and Our Country.

\$750. -
9.30.2025-BM