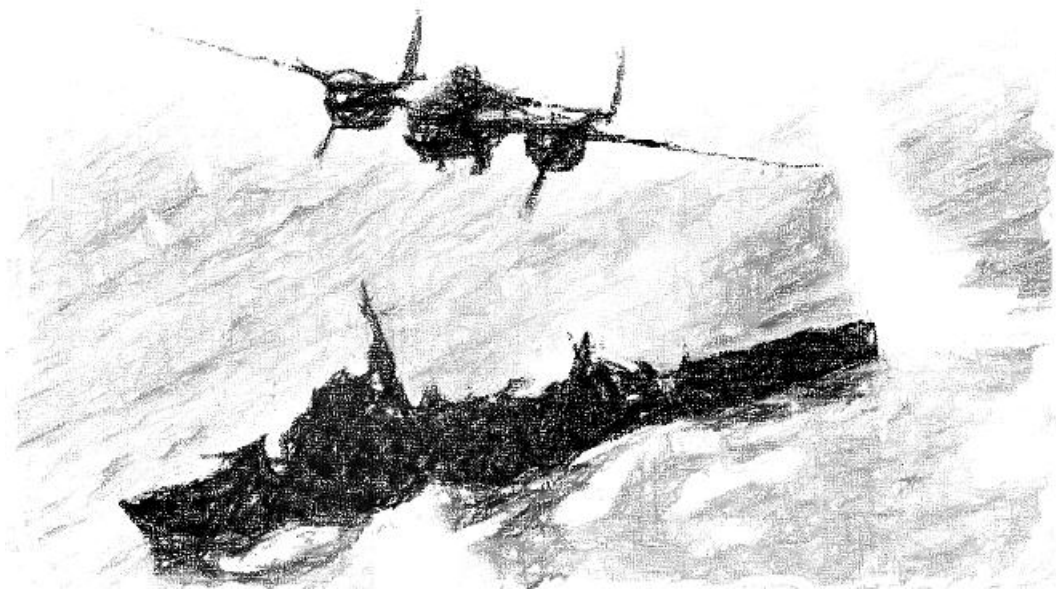


**PRESS RELEASE –**

The Gathering of  
**Warbirds and Legends**



**Our Greatest Generation**

*Our final times together*

**[www.WarbirdsandLegends.org](http://www.WarbirdsandLegends.org)**

HOSTED BY THE PATRIOTIC CITIZENS OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

August 1 – 4, 2013

**February 8, 2013 – Topeka, Kan.** The inaugural Gathering of Warbirds and Legends just got a gathering of Grumman!

America's best warbird pilots. America's finest warbird aircraft. America's largest warbird formations. America's greatest generation.

The reserved slots are filling up as Warbird operators from across North America are planning to attend the very first Gathering of Warbirds and Legends. And several prized spaces on center stage now belong to a very special group—the Grumman Gathering.

For the first time in recent memory—and possibly *ever*—a comprehensive collection of the surviving Grumman F-series Warbirds will assemble. Enabling this once-in-a-lifetime display is the Historic Flight Foundation, of Everett, Wash., with its commitment to fly in its very rare F7F Tigercat.

The first Tigercats were delivered at the end of World War II—the Navy's first twin-engine fighter driven by two 2,500-hp Pratt & Whitney engines, outperforming virtually every fighter despite its ten tons, and capable of delivering more ordnance than most bombers. Because it could not pass critical carrier-landing tests in 1944, it did not see WWII service, and less than 350 were delivered, of 1,500 ordered. Still, the tenacious Tigercat flew on, and its sleek design, range, and speed meant it gained respect in combat during the Korean War. Only six Tigercats have survived. One of those, "Bad Kitty," is scheduled to join its Grumman brethren—an amazing group including one each of the TBM, F4F, F6F, F8F, F9F, and F11F—this summer at the Gathering of Warbirds and Legends.

Picture seven originals of Grumman's finest fighting machines from the Golden Age of flight in a close circle formation on the ramp at Forbes Field Airport in Topeka, Kansas. "The more I'm around these classic aircraft, the more I understand how important they were to their generation, and to ours as sources of inspiration and motivation," says John Sessions, founder of the Historic Flight Foundation. The Tigercat has "the slender fuselage of a fighter and two enormous Pratts," adds Sessions. "We're proud to be a part of this rare and historic gathering of the Grumman's." More information on this particular F7F is available on the Historic Flight Foundation website, at [www.historicflight.org](http://www.historicflight.org).

The team of organizers has launched both a web site and a Facebook page that give all of the details of this incredible event. Warbird owners interested in participating in the gathering (centrally located in the heartland of America, in Topeka, Kansas, on August 1-4, 2013), can apply for positions, or "slots," to be awarded based on their aircraft and crew credentials. A special effort has been taken to cater to the media specialists and assist them in gaining access to the planes, the crews, and in-flight positions to capture every thrilling moment.

For more information, see [www.WarbirdsandLegends.org](http://www.WarbirdsandLegends.org), as well as The Gathering of Warbirds and Legends page on Facebook.