



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE HOUSTON WING

January 2020

Slips & Skids

Wing Leader

"Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go. They merely determine where you start".

— Nido Qubein



Hello Houston Wing Members!

It's a New Year and now time for new thoughts, ideas, a new beginning. One thing to remember is we are all

here and share the same common goals to Educate, Honor, and Inspire. It takes us all pulling on the same end of the rope, at the same time. When this teamwork happens, amazing things can be accomplished. It is now time for us to build upon our past and expand our horizons.

I want to say thank you to our past staff members: **Stan Turner, Dave Egan, Jim Placette, Nathan Harnagel, and Tammy Lockwood** for their dedication and hard work for the Houston Wing. As they step down new Officers step up. Please welcome our new staff members: Executive Officer -

Ed Vesley, Operations Officer - **Chris Walker**, Maintenance Officer - **Ryszard Zadow**, Adjutant-Membership & Public Information Officer - **Brian Kosior**, Cadet Coordinator (ground school) - **John Ryan**, and myself **Denise Walker** as your new Wing Leader.

The current staff positions that didn't change are Marketing, Development & Flyover Coordinator - **Sam Bulger**, Finance Officer - **Steve Sparks**, Museum and Education Officer - **Sam Hoynes**, WOH and WW Event Coordinator - **Frank Vargas**, Safety Officer - **Suzie Bredlau**, PX - **Susan Vaculik**, and Cadet Coordinator (maintenance) **Jim Placette**. All of us together are an awesome team and are ready to get to work for you, our membership, customers and friends. Please be patient with us as we all settle in and get acquainted with our new positions.

We need help! We need to encourage more friends to come play. How do we do that? Well we can start by smiling and having fun. Each one of us is our own best recruiters. When we are having fun and smiling. It's contagious! People want to join in, feel included and share in a sense of

accomplishment and belonging. The Houston Wing needs to be a place for us all.

We also need to have a Hangar that we are proud of. We need to clean it up and maintain our day to day activities within our current hangar situation. Spring cleaning has already begun. We are cleaning things out. There are some maintenance repairs that will need to be done to get us up to par as well. Not to mention, sprucing up the place a bit with some new paint. When you arrive at the hangar you will notice the new blue door. We have Houston Wing Logos coming for the outside walk door as well as in the O'Club. We are also in the process of replacing the hot water heater upstairs. Ryszard and Chris have started cleaning out the hangar and want to start inventorying all the pieces and parts we have.

BUT WAIT! With the New Year we all need to fill out new Hold Harmless agreements to keep on file. This goes for all members. If you are not a National member and a Houston Wing member, please get your dues paid. Unfortunately, you may NOT work on any aircraft or do any projects within the hangar without being a member. This rule was handed down from Headquarters for all of us Wings' to abide by. Together, with Brian, we are updating the member roster.

Awards Dinner Update

If you haven't purchased your Awards Dinner tickets, Please, Please do so. We need to receive all menu choice forms and payment by Saturday, January 18th as we need to turn in our counts on the following

Monday. We are obligated to pay for a certain amount of members regardless. It would be nice to see everyone there.

I have also secured a speaker. Du Tho Hua, He was a guest in our Heroes and Legends Tent at Wings Over Houston. His story is amazing. I don't want to ruin his presentation by saying too much, but he escaped Vietnam to come to America and is truly an inspiration to all of us.

2019 Wings Over Houston Airshow Update

Members who volunteered to work at the Airshow - THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!! Please give yourself a round of applause! Whoo Hoo! Well Done! The 2019 Air Show was very successful! The weather was beautiful and drew a lot of people out to see the show.

So here is what I have learned: The overall attendance was 85,723. This number includes customers, volunteers, and vendors. The total gross ticket sales were well over a million dollars. Remember, this is a gross number. Expenses still need to be deducted to reach the net amount. We don't have all the expenses in yet. In February, if all of the invoices are accounted for, then unit distributions will be discussed at the Wings Over Houston Board meeting.

For next year, the 2020 Wings Over Houston Airshow will be held on October 10th & 11th, 2020. Unfortunately, this is also the same weekend as the New Orleans Airshow. Bummer! Because The Canadian Forces Snowbirds had to cancel for the 2019

Airshow because of a safety reason, they have agreed to be our headliner or 2020.

The Houston Wing itself brought in a gross of over \$30,000 in PX, Dog Tag, and L-39 contributions. Yay Team!

The Airshow Board will be debriefing the 2019 Wings Over Houston Airshow in February. We need your help! How can we improve? Each volunteer is a set of eyes that sees things from different perspectives. If you have any comments or suggestions to share, please forward them to info@houstonwing.org at your earliest convenience so they can be presented at the debrief meeting. Your attention and help with this is very much appreciated.

If you would like to have the most current information as well as perks like discounted tickets for family and friends please go to wingsoverhouston.com and sign up for the "Insider Only Information".

Thank you again for your amazing teamwork to make Wings Over Houston Airshow successful.

New Year, New Staff, New directions! Status quo is not the way to go! We need to honor our past but at the same time embrace our future. Change is inevitable and changes will be made for the good of the Houston Wing. I look forward to your participation to make our Wing successful. Who's with me?

Embrace the Change!

Denise Walker

Eyes On the Horizon!

January 18

Museum Day

January 19

No General Meeting Today!

Please attend the Awards Banquet instead.

January 20-24

Headquarters Audit

January 25

Formation Ground School with Dave Guggemos

Awards Banquet

February 1

Ground School (1st day pilots only) in conjunction with Gulf Coast Wing



Executive Officer



As the new XO and right seat of the Houston Wing I look forward to advancing the positive message of CAF with our current members, expanding the wing membership particularly through the cadet program and supporting the completion of our two restoration projects.

Ed Vesely

Operations Update



Howdy Houston Wing!

Welcome to my first Operations column for January 2020. Wow, 2020! Sounds and looks weird doesn't it? I have heard that

time waits for no one. That must be true because there just doesn't seem to be enough hours in a day to get everything done. The job of volunteering for a staff position is daunting and demanding. I do not take it lightly and can't stress enough my appreciation for past staff members and their efforts. In Operations, I am following an impressive list of aviators who gave heart and soul to the Houston Wing. I pledge to do my best to continue that tradition of caring management of our pilots and aircraft.

Winter training is already in full swing for some Houston Wing pilots. Some aircraft checkouts have begun or continued. There will be a formation ground school taught by

our own Dave Guggemos on Saturday morning January 25th. That night is, of course, our banquet. Our Day 1 of our pilot ground school will be held in Conroe on February 1st in conjunction with the Gulf Coast Wing pilot group. This is a pilots only event due to limited facility space. Our Day 2 ground school for the Houston Wing will start at the hangar on February 22nd. This one is open and will hopefully get some cadet participation. That evening is the hangar dance. If you haven't RSVP'd to these ground schools, please get in contact with me as soon as possible. Yearly recurrent ground schools are mandatory for pilots wanting to fly Wing airplanes in 2020.

My plan for this year includes the further development of our pilot group. Specifically, recruiting new pilots and encouraging current ones to help support the mission of the Houston Wing. The emphasis will be on qualifying pilots that can and will support our rides program. This is a major revenue source for the Wing and an equally major liability. These pilots must possess a few key attributes that I consider essential to our success. In addition to stick and rudder skills is a sense of duty and responsibility to our roles here. Codes of conduct, if you will, of a Wing that stays and plays together and shares in our victories and lays the foundation for future recruitment. You will hear these themes constantly over my term.

In fact, here is a letter that I wrote to our current and prospective Houston Wing pilots. I will send it to them but will include it here for the general membership.

Houston Wing Pilots,

It is my pleasure to address you today not only as one of your fellow pilots, but as your Ops Officer for the 2020-21 term. I thank all of our previous Ops O's for a job well done and for their guidance moving forward.

Nathan Harnagel ran a tight ship and it is my desire to build on his successes and add my own ideas for the benefit and future of our pilot group.

Timely and effective communication combined with an unyielding optimism for our Wing and its potential will be the cornerstones in my service. Next, will be three codes of conduct that I will echo continuously.

1) Attitude = Altitude

Determine for yourself, why you want to be a member of the Houston Wing. Make sure you are here for the right reasons. A positive attitude towards our mission and your fellow members will make it fun for everyone including you. Showing up to the hangar and events with a prepared mind and a great attitude will be a key to our success. Many times, external factors and stresses can impact our performance. That's not always a good thing. Leave those demons at home. Make sure your mind is right before you strap in or even drive to the airfield. Do not let those distractions get in the way of a safe flight or the enjoyment of these activities for all. Onward and upward!

2) Currency vs Proficiency or Pilot vs Aviator

These are often debated concepts. They are subjective to be sure but, what are the differences between the above terminologies? Here is my take on the whole thing. They are both representative of a mindset to our flying. Currency is a legality, while proficiency is ability to dictate an exact response from your airplane. Your ability to achieve a predictable and safe outcome to any maneuver is an essential and required skill set in these old airplanes. Whether its keeping our tailwheel feet in shape or formation practice. Each one of us should inventory our skills constantly to evaluate our impact on safety. The pilot vs aviator debate discusses another mental model we have of ourselves and our flying. A pilot embraces the science and technical aspects of operating an airplane. An aviator takes those technical skills and knowledge and elevates them beyond science and into an art form. Have you ever flown with someone that exhibits such skill in an airplane that you are simply blown away with appreciation? For those that never got to see R.A. Bob Hoover fly in person, watch some old videos sometime. If that doesn't give you some inspiration and aspiration to improve, I'm not sure what will. Now, we all can't be Hoover, but that does not mean we can't constantly strive to improve our craft. Ask yourself if you have taken the steps lately to be a true aviator, not just an average pilot. We owe it to ourselves, our families, our passengers, these aircraft, and everyone in the Wing to be on top of our game. Be like Bob!

3) Take care of each other

We are fortunate to participate in an activity that most people could never dream. We are also lucky to have each other. Most folks could never understand the experiences we share and the bond that comes from them. Let's not lose sight of the importance and value we all have in each other. Take care of each other and appreciate that we are all volunteering for a common purpose. No egos, just passions!

I truly believe in our mission and our abilities to deliver on the motto of honor, educate, and inspire. I expect you to keep me in full compliance of these statements, as I intend to lead by example. I will ask each one of you to challenge yourselves to do the same.

Chris Walker

Adjutant/Membership



Happy New Year Y'all!

Please make sure that you have sent in your membership renewal by January 31st so that this years' roster can be completed. You must be

current with both CAF Headquarters and the Houston Wing to volunteer with us. This includes activities at the hangar, maintenance, barnstorming, flying, and holding a staff position. Thank you to those who have already done so. Our greatest asset in the hangar is YOU. Thanks for spending your time with us.

If you know of any member that is not receiving emails from the Wing, please let me know so that I can fix the problem. I can be contacted at briankosior@yahoo.com. Denise has been reaching out to the membership to update information to the Wing roster and we hope to have that completed soon.

If you are new to the Wing, please free to reach out to me with any questions that you may have. We are very happy to have you on board and I would love to help you find a project that you are interested in around the hangar.

'Keep 'em Flyin' - Brian Kosior

Maintenance



As the newly elected Houston Wing Maintenance Officer I'd like to thank everyone for their support and thank Jim Placette for his duty and dedication for the last five years. Jim has built a good foundation for

Houston Wing Maintenance. Our biggest challenge as we've grown is recruiting more qualified people to help maintain our historic aircraft. These types of aircraft, with round engines, tube and fabric like the N3N and wooden structures like the PT-19, are barely taught in A&P school. Mechanics experienced in our types are getting harder to find. The future of our ability to maintain our aircraft ties in with the educational mission CAF Headquarters has given us. As the

ranks of experienced mechanics in our aircraft types decline, we will have no choice but breed our own. We no longer have the luxury of just fixing airplanes, we have to teach maintenance too.

Houston Wing has six aircraft. All will be flying one day. That's a lot of work. With the approval of the Wing Staff we're implementing a plan to build a structured maintenance department and recruit more A&P Mechanics, ideally at least one for each aircraft, and people to support them. We've been fortunate to have Charley Lindley join our ranks. Charley is a Navy trained ADR, a round engine mechanic, and has volunteered with the Tora group for many years. Kerry Kaufman, A&P and Navy trained professional mechanic has also joined us. We have two new members, Jessica Lee and Manual Cachutt who are attending A&P school. Our ranks of maintenance technicians are already growing, but you don't need to be mechanically inclined to help. We have plenty to do aside from working on the airplanes. We are going to upgrade our tool room. Parts are stored all over the hangar and we will build and organize an inventory. The hangar, which is where we showcase our aircraft to the public, will get arranged so that it fits that purpose better. As you can see, there's plenty to do other than get your hands oily turning wrenches. Everyone is welcome. We're also making it very easy to participate, just attend the maintenance briefing which will occur every Saturday morning at 8am. That's when we'll cover what needs to be done that weekend, gather up our volunteers, itemize tasks and get to work. Come join us and

enjoy helping Houston Wing have the best maintained aircraft in the CAF.

Rzysard Zadow

Suzie's Safety Corner



Well hello and happy New Year everyone. Hope all had safe and happy holidays. Now we get down to the tasks at hand. Seein' as this is the first newsletter of the year I thought I would touch on the basics of everyday safety in the hanger and around the airport in general.

So my first task to all is to pay attention when you drive through the gate. On Saturdays and Sundays there can be a lot of aircraft traffic. So you have to use your sense of hearing and sight. That means turn down the radio and keep your head on a swivel. Aircraft always have the right of way. If props are turning pull over and ascertain if it is moving. If they are do not try to cut in front of them. Lots of time they will motion you to go. Remember the speed limit on the taxi way is 20.

Now when you have arrived at the hangar please pay attention to where your feet and head are going. If you are using your phone please be at full stop. Bumping your head because it was in your phone as you were moving is not a good thing. As for one's feet, watch for oil and other liquids on the floor. Ours girls like to mark their territory and can be a little messy. We have the public

coming through all the time and the state of the hangar is their first impression of us. There are always things to clean in the hangar and on museum days Sam can always use your help being a docent.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the awards banquet and around the hangar this coming year. Make it a safe one and always follow my biggest rule. Please don't make me fill out paperwork!! -Suzie B

Marketing Report



Sheesh, where has the decade gone? As I sit here in a reflective mood I'm reminded of the fun times, accomplishments and the changes that have taken place at the Houston Wing. I'm reminded of new friends made and friends always with us in spirit.

Where do we start? The Wing has grown from the West Houston Squadron to the Houston Wing early in the decade. From there our membership has grown significantly and for a most of the latter part of the decade all the planes in the hangar were flying. In 2011 the C-60 had it's first flight and we finished the restoration of the AT-6, remember that? All the other planes were flying and flying reliably. We trained a lot of new pilots and the membership swelled. With the C-60 the Houston Wing could not go to further away airshows and strut our stuff, something that hadn't happened since the West Houston Squadron

had a C-47. The C-60 became the lead plane in a lot of the local flyovers and is always a great attraction at Warbird Weekend (formerly Open House) and Wings over Houston. The Wing made many Texas airshows with all of our planes and with flying aircraft the Houston Wing became more involved in flyovers in the Houston area. We've performed emotional flyovers for friends gone west, Memorial Day and fun events like the Grand Prix of Houston and the Houston Astros opening day (that was amazing). The Houston Wing created a cadet program that is now coming to fruition and our cadet program is now helping young people with bright futures in aviation. The Wing has made many friends along the way with flyovers, barnstorming and airshows. Like any family we've had our ups and downs, that's just life really and we are a living organization like any other. Speaking of family we added a Ryan PT-19 and a Navion to the roost, sadly we said good bye to our beautiful little Stinson though. The Wing flew hundreds of hours safely bringing joy to many. A hearty thanks to every member that made that happen. The Wing went from mailing the Slips and Skids to sending a link over email. We went from the website being important to Facebook and the website working together to help promote events and sell Living History Flight experiences.

With a clear vision of 2020 Warbird Weekend on the horizon we are busy finalizing our marketing and graphics work. Late February we'll start making the big push for promotions and media attention.

As we cast a reflective eye on the past we are forging a strong and exciting future. The wing has grown a lot but the aviation family will always be strong and close knit.

Sam Bulger

A Blast From the Past



Museum Moment

It's A Small World

by

Sam Hoynes and Chuck Waters

I (Sam H.) grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana in the 1940s and 1950s. Recently my teaching high school (Thomas Carr Howe) alumni newsletter had an article about one of my high school teachers who had been a Tuskegee Airman. Charles H. DeBow began teaching English during my junior year in 1957; I took classes from him during both my junior and senior years.

I now know that Charles DeBow was one of the five men in the first graduating class (SE-42-C) of Tuskegee Airmen. He thereafter flew 51 missions in European Theater of Operations (ETO) and became commander of the 301st Fighter Squadron - 1943-1944.



Members of the first graduating class. Left to right: Captain Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., second lieutenants Lemuel R. Custis, George Spencer Roberts, Charles H. DeBow, Mac Ross

The March 23, 1942 issue of Life Magazine contains an article about the Tuskegee Airmen. A copy of this issue is in the collection of our museum. In the language of the times, the article reads, in part:

"White instructors of the 99th (Pursuit Squadron) agree that their Negro charges,

by virtue of exceptional eyesight, courage and coordination, will prove crack combat pilots. Upon their performance and promise hang the hope of additional thousands of aspiring Negro fliers throughout the land."



Charles H. DeBow

After completion of training the all black 99th Pursuit Squadron was deployed overseas to the ETO. After 52 missions aboard a P-51 Mustang, DeBow was injured and lost his flight status. When he returned home after the war ended, the young Captain completed his undergraduate degree at Indiana University and subsequently earned master's degrees IU and Butler University. He then taught in high school and at the university level until his death in 1986. He remained active in the Air Force Reserve and retired with the rank of Lt. Col.

Be sure to read ["I GOT WINGS,"](#) Charles H. DeBow's frank and revealing article about his life and training, published in American Magazine in July, 1942, shortly after his completion of pilot training. It may be accessed by searching "I got wings debow" via Google.



The first five fighter pilots graduated from the Tuskegee program on March 7, 1942. From left to right are: instructor R.M. Long, George Roberts, Benjamin O. Davis Jr., Charles DeBow, Mac Ross, and Lemuel Curtis.

Another of the five members of this graduating class of Tuskegee Airman was Capt. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, Class of 1936. In discussing this article with Chuck Waters I discovered that Davis and Chuck's father, Charles Henry Waters, were West Point classmates. Davis' father, Benjamin O. Davis, was the first black general officer in the U.S. Army; Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. was the first black general officer in the USAF. He retired in 1970 and was advanced to 4-star rank by President Clinton in 1998. He died in 2002 at the age of 90.

It is truly a Small World!

Gate Entry Process

Here are a few options:

1. If the gate is down and the guard is in the shack, all you need to do is tell the guard that you are going to Hangar B-5 with the CAF and they will open the gate.
2. The gate is supposed to remain open if there is no guard in the shack. Simply drive on in. If this is not the case, then see option 3
3. If the gate is down and there is NO guard in the shack, simply press the "Call Button" on the silver box near the guard shack. When they answer, tell them that you are with the CAF in hangar B-5 and they will open the gate for you.



Member Birthdays!

Our roster is currently being updated and we apologize if your birthday is missing. We are currently calling members to update and verify your information. Thank you for your understanding, we hope to have everything fixed soon.

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

Bill Stone	January 2
Frank Vargas	January 6
Christie Kaufman	January 8
Bill Schultz	January 9
Mike Phillips	January 15
Kelly Walker	January 15
Garnet McClure	January 16
Buck "Doc" Willis	January 16
Jim Bixby	January 19
Carlos Sisso	January 22
Rob Parish	January 23
Bruce Gispanski	January 24
Chris Dunin	January 25
Tony Bohert	January 31

Wing Anniversaries

Volunteering for the Wing takes commitment and we want to celebrate the following members for all of their help over the years. Again, we are editing our updating our files and apologize if you were not on this list and should be. We will have everything up to date soon.

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

Scott Rozzell	1/9/1987
Buck "Doc" Willis	1/9/1992
Steve Sehnert	1/16/1998
Suzie Bredlau	1/10/2006
Mike Steiger	1/05/2009
Linda Bush	1/25/2016
John Ryan	1/25/2018



Around the Hangar



Staff Directory

Wing Leader

Col Denise Walker
texflyers@gmail.com

Executive Officer

Col Ed Vesely
aviatored@comcast.net

Adjutant/Membership

Col Brian Kosior
briankosior@yahoo.com

Cadet Program Officer

Col Jim Placette
j_placette@yahoo.com
Col John Ryan
Jr51xx@comcast.net

Development Officer

Col Sam Bulger
wohphotopit@gmail.com

Finance Officer

Col Steve Sparks
bgsnet1a@aol.com

Maintenance Officer

Col Ryszard Zadow
ryszardzadow@att.net

Museum and Education Officer

Col Sam Hoynes
s.h.hoynes@sbcglobal.net

Marketing Officer

Col Sam Bulger
wohphotopit@gmail.com

Operations Officer

Col Chris Walker
rcwflyer@gmail.com

Public Information Officer

Col Brian Kosior
briankosior@yahoo.com

PX Officer

Col Susan Vaculik
svaculikjm@gmail.com

Safety Officer

Col Susie Bredlau
rikkysue@aol.com

Rides Coordinator

Col Denise Walker
texflyers@gmail.com

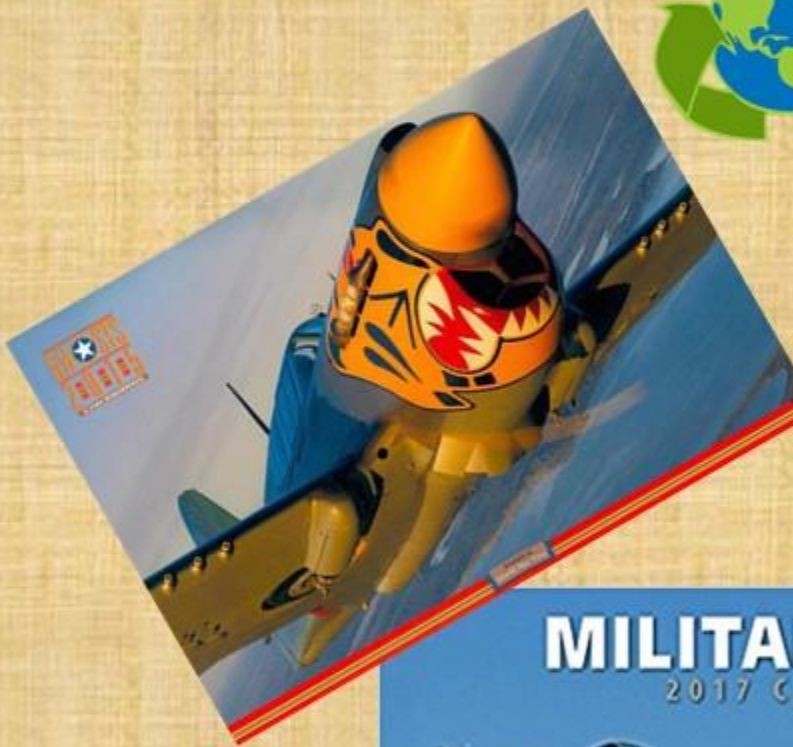
Mission Statement

The Houston Wing of the Commemorative Air Force is an organization that Educates, Inspires, and Honors our Veterans through the use of our vintage aircraft and our collection of artifacts to tell the story of the brave men and women that have served their country in times of war.

We ask that you please consider recycling your old aviation calendars so we can hand out the photos at the gate to the children who will be attending Warbird Weekend



Leave them in the
"O" club and we'll
do the rest



* In reality
whoever we give
these too will
probably throw
them away in the
trash.....but
John, we tried

HOUSTON WING DUES - \$ 50.00



You must be a current CAF regular, life, or Honorary member to be eligible for Houston Wing membership.

Tax deductible contributions will be accepted by the Houston Wing for any specified Commemorative Air Force aircraft or project. If you wish to make a contribution along with your Wing dues, please specify the aircraft and/or project along with the amounts(s) and include in your check total.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Houston Wing Dues

Amount: \$50.00

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to: _____ Amount: _____

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to the AT-6 Amount: _____

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to the BT-13 Amount: _____

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to the N3N Amount: _____

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to the PT-19 Amount: _____

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to the C-60 Amount: _____

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution to the L-17 Amount: _____

TOTAL: _____

Please make your check payable to the
HOUSTON WING - CAF
and mail with this form to:

Houston Wing-CAF
Attn.: MEMBERSHIP
18000 Groeschke Road - Hangar B-5
Houston, TX. 77084

Name: _____ Nickname: _____
First MI Last

RENEWING MEMBERS - Please fill in any information which has changed in the past year
NEW MEMBERS - Please fill in all applicable information

Address: _____ Phone numbers
(include area code):
Home: _____
Office: _____
City State ZIP

Email Address: _____ Fax: _____

Spouse: _____ Cell: _____

CAF Col. Number: _____ CAF Life Number: _____ Birthday (mm/dd/yy): _____

WHS Staff _____ Past Unit Staff _____
Office Interest: _____ Office: _____

Note: Phone Numbers and Email Addresses will be published in the Directory. If you do not want a phone number or email address published, do not provide it!

CAF Aircraft Sponsored: _____

WWII Aircraft Owned: _____

Other Aircraft Owned: _____

Squadrons, Wings and
Detachments: _____

Interests: _____