



## Centenarian WWII Vet Celebrates Flight of a Lifetime at Stinson

San Antonio, TX. – April 22, 2015 – 102-year-old Retired Air Force Colonel Gerry Schriever, along with seventeen other veterans, will receive their dream flights in a 1940's Boeing Stearman biplane. The flights will be taking place on Thursday, April 23rd at Stinson Municipal Airport; 8535 Mission Rd. Flights are provided by Ageless Aviation Dreams Foundation (AADF), a non-profit organization dedicated to honoring seniors and United States military veterans living in long-term care communities.

"I'm so excited about taking this flight," said Schriever. "I feel like I'm going back to my youth because this plane is what I soloed in; I love the open-air cockpit, goggles, a cap, and a scarf, now that's really flying!" Schriever served 30 years as a pilot and test pilot in the USAF and actually experienced his first solo flight in a Stearman in 1939.

Other veterans selected for the dream flights include: Dorothy Ann Lucas, age 92, member of the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) during WWII and recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal; USAF retired Lt. Col. Loren Toohey, age 94, pilot and flight instructor during WWII; USAF retired Maj. James Smith, age 93, pilot during WWII; USAF retired Lt. Col. Norris Wynne, age 89, flew PT-17 Stearman in 1943 and transitioned to the B-17 when Germany surrendered in WWII; USAF retired Lt. Col. Bill Stevenson, age 89, pilot during WWII; USAF retired Lt. Col. Henry "Jack" Williams, age 86, disabled veteran who served as an instructor pilot, flight examiner, test pilot and command pilot; Col. John Murphy, age 79, retired USAF Assistant Surgeon General; and USAF retired Lt. Col. Mike Fox, age 78, who served 30 years as a meteorologist. Louis Salinas, 92, Army & Air Force, 20 years, TSGT. Served 1942 to 1963, during WWII he flew as a tail gunner on a B-17 and B-29. He survived two air craft crash landings in the Pacific during WWII and a third crash landing while stationed in Kansas. Numerous medals, commendations awarded to include Master Crew Chief Award. Eduardo Botello, 89, Army, 3 years, Private 1st Class. Eduardo served in Normandy in WWII, received 2 Purple Hearts and 1 Bronze Star.

The Ageless Aviation Dreams Foundation was established in 2011 by Darryl and Carol Fisher as a tribute to seniors and United States veterans. Their mission is "Giving back to those who have given." For more information about Ageless Aviation, please contact Darryl Fisher at [darrylf@agelessaviationdreams.org](mailto:darrylf@agelessaviationdreams.org).

In December, San Antonio's Stinson Municipal Airport will mark its 100th year since its founding. As the nation's second oldest continuously-operating airport, Stinson has played a significant role in the nation's aviation and military history. For information about Stinson Municipal Airport visit [www.stinson100.com](http://www.stinson100.com).

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*With more than 8 million passengers annually, the San Antonio International Airport (SAT) contributes more than \$5 billion to the region's economy. The Gateway for South Texas SAT offers nonstop service to 35 destinations and, in 2012, was named the nation's 10th largest gateway to Mexico. The San Antonio Airport System also includes Stinson Municipal Airport (SSF), the 2nd oldest continuously operating airport. A department of the City of San Antonio, the system is funded by an enterprise fund supported by user and tenant fees. For more information, visit [SanAntonio-Airport.com](http://SanAntonio-Airport.com) or [Facebook/SATAirport](https://www.facebook.com/SATAirport).*

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