



PRESS RELEASE

Balloons Over Mt. Vernon & Veterans Fly-In to Feature NAVY Carrier On-Board Delivery Aircraft

Topeka, Kansas based Trader Air's Grumman C1A Trader "Miss Belle", also known as COD, will make its first appearance at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport on Friday May 18th and Saturday May 19th for Balloons Over Mt. Vernon & Veterans Fly-In. COD is an acronym for Carrier On-Board Delivery and that is what "Miss Belle" did to and from the deck of the USS Independence during the Vietnam War.

Carrier On-Board Delivery aircraft hauled personnel, cargo, and mail on and off the decks of NAVY carriers. Along with the USS Independence, "Miss Belle" also flew to and from the USS Enterprise, Nimitz, Essex, and Randolph in a 30 year career. In over 15,963 NAVY hours, "Miss Belle" logged 190 carrier catapult shots and 890 assisted (catch the wire) landings. She is only one of two C1A CODs still flying.

The "COD", along with a Douglas AD-5 "Skyraider", will form a special background for a Salute to Vietnam Veterans scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 19th. USAF Lt. Colonel Ted Buck (retired) will be the keynote speaker. After Colonel Buck's address a Rifle Salute/Taps will be rendered by the American Legion Post #141 Honor Guard for all those that gave their lives in service for our country.

Organizers desire to capture a photo of all local Vietnam-era Veterans in front of the aircraft after the Salute.

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Photos attached: COD1.jpg & COD2.JPG

