



## PRESS RELEASE

### ***“Skyraider” to appear at Balloons Over Mt. Vernon & Fly-In***

One of the finest examples of the Douglas AD-5 “Skyraiders” will make an encore appearance at Balloons Over Mt. Vernon & Fly-In on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. Although single engine powered, the “Skyraider” could carry more ordnance (rockets, bombs, mines, torpedoes, and napalm) weight than a WW2 Boeing B-17’s bomb weight!

In Vietnam, “Skyraiders” carried out bombing strikes and close air support operations. “Skyraiders” earned the nickname “Sandy” as they provided an integral element in the recovery of downed aircrew.

The “Skyraider” appearing at Balloons Over Mt. Vernon is owned and operated by Eric Downing and is based in St. Louis. Downing’s “Skyraider” is one of only four operational multi-seat “Skyraiders” and holds the distinction as being the last “Skyraider” to leave active U.S. Military Service.

The “Skyraider” joins a Grumman C1A “COD” Carrier On-Board Delivery

The “Skyraider”, along with a NAVY “COD” (Carrier On-Board Delivery) aircraft, will form a special background for a Salute to Vietnam Veterans scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. 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: Skyraider Flight 2.jpg, Skyraider Flight 3.jpg, & Skyraider Ground 1.jpg

