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Historic B-17 Pays a Visit to Asheville Regional Airport

Fletcher, NC, May 28, 2008 – “Yankee Lady,” a restored B-17 bomber, will make a stop at the Asheville Regional Airport this Friday courtesy of the Yankee Air Museum.

The public will have the opportunity to tour the aircraft and fly a mission just as brave soldiers did more than 60 years ago. “Yankee Lady” will be stationed at Million Air, Asheville Regional Airport’s Fixed-Base Operator. Flights will take place weather permitting between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. beginning Saturday, May 31 through Monday, June 2.

Flights, which last approximately 25 minutes in the air, cost \$425 and can be scheduled by calling Dave Wright at 734-483-4030 (Wed. and Thur.) or Norm Ellickson at 734-637-8879 (Friday – Monday). Ground tours are also available to aviation enthusiasts. A \$5 donation for adults, \$2 donation for students with no charge for children under 6 is requested. Veterans can take the ground tours free of charge.

“This magnificent aircraft known as *The Flying Fortress* is considered one of the greatest military airplanes ever built,” says David N. Edwards, Jr., Airport Director. “We are pleased to have this aircraft from the World War II era visit us here in Asheville.”

Today there are about a dozen B-17’s still flying. “Yankee Lady” was built in 1945 and delivered to the Air Force, but it was too late to see active service in World War II. It was later purchased and served in survey operations, then later assisted in fighting forest fires. During 1969, the Yankee Lady was amongst five B-17s flown to Hawaii for the filming of the movie “Tora, Tora, Tora”. The Yankee Air Force purchased the aircraft in 1986 and it underwent a comprehensive repair/rebuild, with its first post-restoration flight taking place in 1995.

For more information visit www.yankeeairmuseum.org

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