



THE
DISTINGUISHED
FLYING CROSS
SOCIETY

Distinguished Flying Cross Society Reunion Dayton/Fairborn, Ohio September 15-19, 2019 *Celebrating 100 Years of American Air Power*

This Distinguished Flying Cross Society Reunion is not to be missed. We have planned an extensive lineup of distinguished speakers on airpower people and events, an exploration of the Wright Brothers history, and a day at one of the very best aviation museums in the world.



*DFCS Member CPT James E. Miller
First WWI DFC Recipient*

The theme for the 2019 DFC Society Reunion will be "*Celebrating 100 Years of American Airpower,*" dating from establishment of the United States Army Air Service in 1918 during World War I. The 38 pilots of the Lafayette Escadrille, who flew for France beginning in 1916, before the United States entered the war, helped shape the U.S. Army Air Service when it was formed. By the end of the war, the Air Service used 45 squadrons to cover 85 miles of front. 71 pursuit pilots were credited with shooting down five or more German aircraft while in American service. They created a culture that influences combat pilots today.

The Reunion will be held at the **Holiday Inn/Fairborn**, located at 2800 Presidential Dr., Fairborn, Ohio 45324. The room rate is \$111 per night plus tax (12.75%). Breakfast is included. **The room rate will be honored 3 days before and 3 days after the reunion dates based on availability**, for anyone who would like to extend their stay. The hotel offers complimentary parking.

As part of **Celebrating 100 Years of American Airpower**, the Distinguished Flying Cross Society welcomes the **B-29 Wings of the Marianas Association**, <http://www.b-29wings.org/>, in joining our Reunion. The B-29 Wings of the Marianas is dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history and achievements of the World War II B-29 wings stationed in the Marianas. It is an umbrella association formed to educate and to preserve the B-29 legacy following the age-out of prior B-29 associations. The B-29 Wings of the Marianas will host their own memorabilia suite, displaying numerous B-29 historical artifacts.



Also in support of our Reunion theme, we have a phenomenal set of speakers lined up. Our first night speaker will be **Air Force Major General James C. Dawkins, Jr.**, current commander of the legendary Eighth Air Force of WWII European Theater bombing renown. Our Banquet speaker is record-breaking aviator and DFC Society member **Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Dick Rutan**, who piloted the Voyager aircraft around the world non-stop. In Vietnam, Lt Col Rutan flew the F-100, and he was a founding member of the Misty Fast FACs. In addition to his five DFCs, he has been awarded the Silver Star, 16 Air Medals, and the Purple Heart.

We are introducing a new feature – **Chock Talks**. These are presentations of approximately thirty minutes, and we have four scheduled. Our speakers are DFC Society member **Brigadier General (Ret) Paul Tibbetts IV**, grandson of DFC Society member Paul Tibbetts II (pilot of the Enola Gay), DFC Society Associate Contributor **Jonna Doolittle Hoppes**, granddaughter of DFC Society member General Jimmy Doolittle, and DFC Society member **Major General (Ret) Don Shepperd**, another F-100 Misty FAC and former Director of the Air National Guard. Our fourth Chock Talk will be a team presentation on **Operation Tailwind** in the Vietnam War, a 1970 secret operation into Laos with 16 Green Berets and 120 Montagnards, kept alive by continuous air support.

During 2018, **Orville and Wilbur Wright** became posthumous members of the DFC Society. Dayton was their home base. Reunion events will explore the Wright Brothers history in the **Dayton National Aviation Heritage Area**. We will also have a day at the **National Museum of the Air Force**, the world's largest military aviation museum.

At the Reunion banquet, we will be rendering special honors to our WWII, Korean War, and female DFC recipients, not previously honored, for their "heroism or extraordinary achievements while participating in an aerial flight." We will also honor B-29 veterans in attendance.

Hotel Room Reservations Due by August 15, 2019

Make your hotel reservations no later than August 15, 2019. Be sure to mention you are with the Distinguished Flying Cross Society to receive the reduced group rate of \$111.00. After August 16th the group rate will not be available.

Call the Holiday Inn/Fairborn at (877) 390-5931 or (937) 426-7800 or online by copying and pasting this link into your computer search engine:

<https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=FBNPD&PMID=99801505&GPC=DFC&viewfullsite=true>

- Confirmation of registration and itinerary will be sent out by August 20, 2019

Reunion Registration Cancellation Policy

- By sending in the registration form, you are agreeing to the cancellation policy
- A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event.
- Cancellations received within 10 days of the event will be non-refundable.
- Cancellations can **ONLY** be requested over the phone at 360-663-2521. You will receive a cancellation number; no refund will be issued without this number. Please make sure to keep this number for verification of your cancellation.