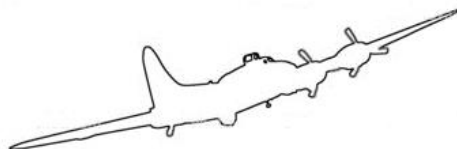


November 13th, 2018

Year 2, number 4

Newsletter

Mission Belle Foundation B-17G Memorial



Unveiling

Unforgettable happening

The hope, pronounced in a previous newsletter, that the unveiling of the Mission Belle Memorial would be an unforgettable happening, came true in every way. Due to the beautiful weather, around 500 people witnessed the removal of a parachute from the monument.



After that, some wreaths were laid out by people representing the Molenwaard County, the American Embassy and the Royal Dutch Air Force, which emphasized the solemnity of the moment. Among the people were 36 next of kin of the crew, who came from America for this event. It was very impressive to see the fly-over by 2 American Harvards, which ended the ceremony. The transport of the American guests was taken care of in style by the Delaware Company with chauffeurs in original outfits and American vehicles. The day ended with an informal gathering at 't Waellant nursing home, where a small, but educational exhibition was established by the Historical Society of the Western Alblasserwaard region about the fate of the Mission Belle.

Geert Ouweneel made a fascinating photo collection. You can find a selection of his work here on:

<http://www.missionbelle.nl/onthulling/>

Piet Stout recorded a film, which will be available on DVD later.

Thanks to all

The board of the Mission Belle Foundation B-17G Memorial would like to thank everybody who helped us realize this monument, in any way possible. Without the help of so many, our project could never have been so successful.

Current circumstances

With the realizing of the monument and the placing of touristic boards, the project is almost completed. The board will place a bench, promised by a sponsor. Presentations for clubs and schools are still possible. During the unveiling, more contacts were made and will be completed. Meanwhile, the balance of our bank account is getting very low, so donations are very welcome, and we can use that for the maintenance of the monument.

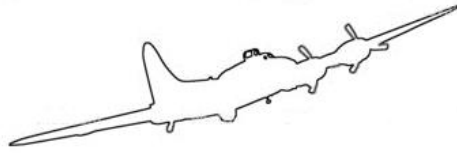
Mail address: Lekdijk 179 B, 2957 CG Nieuw-Lekkerland, The Netherlands, c.o. G. Verheij
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Bank account number: NL57INGB0007452668 - Chamber of Commerce number: 66774977

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Reminded memory

The Mission Belle monument is not only there to remind us to honor the crew. We see the monument also as a connection for remembering and contemplate the meaning of freedom. We do this in the first place with a short service on December 1st, 2018, the day that exactly 75 years ago the crash happened. The Dutch and American flag will hang at half mast that day. At 13:30 o'clock, the exact time the crash happened, you can place a wreath or flowers at the monument. A bugler of Apollo will play 'Taps', as was done at the unveiling. This event will be filmed, so the people in America will see that the effort of their relatives won't be forgotten. Everybody is welcome at 13:30.

On other remembrance days, in Holland or America, we would like to add them to the program of the monuments of our town Nieuw-Lekkerland. Op 1-12-2018 is het 75 jaar geleden dat de Mission Belle crashte.



Information

At Theo Jansen's you can still order our book about the crash of the Mission Belle and the fate of the crew. It will cost 9,95 Euros. Telephone: +31 – 646718970 or by e-mail: info@missionbelle.nl. He will also take care of making appointments for presentations.

The exhibition that was first at 't Waellant nursing home, is now in the library (near Het Carillon) until Friday, November 16th. Part of that exhibition was the parachute that was found during the salvage of the Mission Belle. We as foundation are very happy to tell you that this parachute is now our property.

Website: www.missionbelle.nl

As we mentioned before, a photo collection can be seen at our website: <http://www.missionbelle.nl/onthulling/>.

You can also see all the speeches given at the unveiling, like the one of mayor van der Borg and Jim Sweaney (son of the copilot). Next to the photos of the unveiling, you can see also shots of the visit to the military cemeteries Margraten and Neuville-en-Condruz.

