



**Commemorative Air Force  
B29/B24 Squadron**  
4730 George Haddaway Drive  
Addison, Texas 75001

**Contact:**

Kim Pardon, Tour Media Correspondent  
(913) 636-6250  
[pardon@kc.rr.com](mailto:pardon@kc.rr.com)

***FIFI*, the World's Only Flying B-29 Superfortress, Returns to the Sky**

(Addison, Texas – January 23, 2013) The Commemorative Air Force's (CAF) famous Boeing B-29 Superfortress bomber, *FIFI* – the only remaining flying example of the aircraft in the world – returned to the sky Saturday, January 13 and flew to her home base in Addison, Texas. The flight crew arrived in Midland, Texas and conducted a successful maintenance flight followed by the one and a half hour trip. It was *FIFI*'s first flight since October of 2012.

During a routine photo mission at the conclusion of AIRSHO, the B-29 experienced trouble with the number two engine and returned safely to the ground. It was soon determined the number two engine would need major repairs and the aircraft was grounded. For three months maintenance crews worked tirelessly to repair the engine and get this historic aircraft flying again.

"It's all the difference in the world seeing it fly instead of in a museum," said Preston McPhail, the 70 year old son of a former B-29 mechanic. "You can smell the exhaust from the engines."

And for today's children, *FIFI* brings a history lesson to life. Melanie Skinner brought her 8 year old niece to see the B-29 in Lexington, KY.

"It's hard not to cry, it's real emotional. I'm happy these guys are keeping them flying," Skinner said. "My niece is a child of the millennium. World War II is ancient history. To be able to touch them, to feel them, to hear them, that's what history is all about."

A fundraising campaign was launched in November with a goal of raising \$200,000 to repair the engine and purchase a replacement. Currently the campaign has raised just over \$105,000 to get *FIFI* flying again, but is still short \$95,000 to purchase a 5<sup>th</sup> engine which will ensure continuous future operation and flight. For more information about the *FIFI* engine fund and how you can help, visit [www.keepFIFIflying.org](http://www.keepFIFIflying.org).