



[Media Release](#)

B-29/B-24 Squadron  
4730 George Haddaway Drive  
Addison, Texas 75001

Kim Pardon, Media Correspondent  
(913) 636-6250  
[pardon@kc.rr.com](mailto:pardon@kc.rr.com)  
[www.cafB29B24.org](http://www.cafB29B24.org)

**YOUNGEST PILOT IN THE CAF WILL FLY B-29 SUPERFORTRESS TO  
PHOENIX ON THURSDAY  
Co-pilot on flight to Mesa is first female B-29 pilot since World War II.**

(Addison, Tex., February 25, 2013) Thirty year old pilot David Oliver will be the aircraft commander Thursday when one of the Commemorative Air Force's (CAF) most rare and valuable airplanes – *FIFI*, the last flying example of the B-29 Superfortress – lands at Mesa Gateway Airport in Mesa. The B-29 is the feature aircraft for the *CAF AirPower History Tour* bringing an ever changing assortment of historic World War II aircraft to each of its eleven tour stops in the southwest United States.

David, a former Southern Illinois University aviation student and professional pilot, has landed, literally, what he believes is one of the greatest jobs in the aviation world – flying the last airworthy B-29 Superfortress in the world. The first female B-29 pilot in the history of the CAF will be in the right seat. Debbie King is not only the first woman to pilot the world's last flying B-29, but also one of only three female pilots ever to fly the aircraft. The first two were Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) who flew the airplane during World War II.



Oliver and King attract attention everywhere they travel with the airplane and not just because they are members of an elite group of warbird pilots. David and Debbie will be the first to tell you this experience is not about them. Rather they are on a mission to tell a story about the airplane and the generation of people who flew in them under much different circumstances than they do today. For them, the airplane is a way to pass those stories on to younger generations.

Debbie dismisses any comments about gender when talking about flying airplanes. “It has taken a long time waiting in the wings and paying my dues as a pilot,” Debbie says. “The CAF has promoted a dramatic change in attitudes and opportunity over the last few years and I foresee a wonderful future for the coming generations.”



Both Oliver and King were professional pilots before joining the 9,000 member organization. David worked his way up from the right seat to the left of *FIFI*, the B-29 he now commands. He also serves as flight operations officer, B-29 instructor pilot, and tour director for the CAF B29/B24 Squadron.

Debbie tells us what flying this airplane means to her, “My grandfather died in World War II and my great uncle, his brother, worked on B-29s during the war as a mechanic. My great uncle became my grandfather figure and I adored him. He was the epitome of the greatest generation; he came home from the horrors of war, raised a family and went on with his life.

“My Grandfather had just died and my great uncle was gearing up to move for the attack on Japan when the bombs were dropped. The B-29 represents a bit of salvation for my family. It saved American lives and it has allowed me to connect a bit, I believe, with my grandfather and uncle -- to see and touch what changed the course of their lives, of all of our lives.”

The *CAF AirPower History Tour* will be at Phoenix Mesa Gateway Airport in Mesa from February 28 through March 3 and at Deer Valley Airport in Phoenix March 4 through 6 featuring the B-29 Superfortress and other historic World War II aircraft including the B-17 Flying Fortress *Sentimental Journey*; P-51 Mustang *Man O War*; C-45 Expeditor *Bucket of Bolts*; and a Navy SNJ (T-6 Texan) and Navy N2S (PT-17 Stearman). The tour offers airplane rides and cockpit tours in many of the airplanes. More information is available at [www.AirPowerTour.org](http://www.AirPowerTour.org).

The B29/B24 Squadron of the CAF is based in Addison, Texas. The squadron is one of over 70 CAF units throughout the United States whose goal it is to restore and maintain the organization’s over 150 military aircraft in flying condition. The CAF is a 501(c)(3) educational organization. They believe their mission is best carried out by keeping these airplanes flying. More information about the CAF can be found at [www.commemorativeairforce.org](http://www.commemorativeairforce.org).