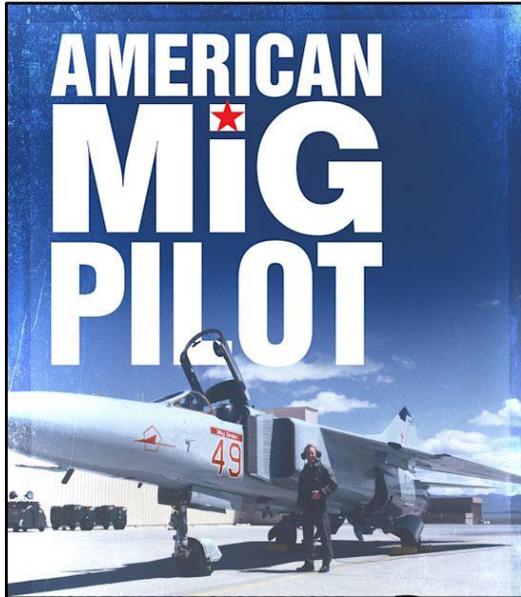


MARK YOUR CALENDARS

AMERICAN MIG PILOT



A LIVING HISTORY EVENT

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026

11:00AM

THE COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE MISSION:

TO EDUCATE, INSPIRE, AND HONOR

MORE THAN JUST A COLLECTION OF AIRWORTHY WARPLANES FROM THE PAST, THE CAF'S FLEET OF HISTORIC AIRCRAFT, KNOWN AS THE CAF GHOST SQUADRON, RECREATE, REMIND AND REINFORCE THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE DEFINING MOMENTS IN AMERICAN MILITARY AVIATION HISTORY.

FOR INFORMATION ON CAF SoCAL, CALL OR
CLICK

805-482-0064 / WWW.CAFSOCAL.COM



CAF SoCAL WING

PRESENTS

'SPITFIRES'

BECKY AIKMAN



A LIVING HISTORY EVENT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

PRESENTATION:

- ALL TRAINED AS PILOTS
- DENIED FLYING FOR THE U.S.
- GREAT BRITAIN WILLING TO LET THEM FLY
- Q&A



BECKY AIKMAN



'SPITFIRES'

BECKY AIKMAN



NEXT EVENT: UK F-35B TEST & OPERATIONS



ORDER OF BUSINESS

11:00A INTRODUCTION / WELCOME

11:05A QUILTS OF VALOR
• UELA HODSON



11:10A PRESENTATION – BECKY AIKMAN
• 'SPITFIRES'
• Q&A



~ 12:00P DISPLAYS
• CHARLIE CARR'S MAGIC
• MUSEUM DISPLAYS

~ 12:30P FLIGHT OPS (*TENTATIVE*)
• SNJ FLIGHT



A LIVING HISTORY EVENT

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026
11:00AM

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!

CAF SoCAL WILL HOST ROYAL NAVY PILOTS COMMANDER STEPHEN 'LOTHAR' COLLINS, OFFICER COMMANDING THE 17TH TEST AND EVALUATION SQUADRON (TES) AT EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, AND LIEUTENANT COMMANDER MARK 'HUX' HUXTABLE, 17 TES TEST PILOT. LOTHAR AND HUX WILL REGALE US WITH STORIES OF MODERN UK F-35B CARRIER OPS, THE ROYAL NAVY'S CARRIER STRIKE GROUP '21 CRUISE, AND AN F-35B EJECTION OFF THE CARRIER (BY ONE OF OUR PRESENTERS). THEY'LL PROBABLY ALSO DISCUSS F-35B TEST ACTIVITIES. SO COME HEAR ABOUT ROYAL NAVY F-35B OPERATIONS AND TEST ACTIVITIES IN THE SUMMIT OF HIGH-PERFORMANCE MILITARY AIRCRAFT.



CREDIT: CORBIS VIA GETTY IMAGES



MEET SOME OF THE SPITFIRES

- HELEN RICHEY - SHE WAS A FAMOUS AVIATOR, BUT WARPLANES TESTED HER NERVE. (PHOTO CREDIT: COPYRIGHT PHOTOQUEST/ CONTRIBUTOR VIA GETTY IMAGES.)



- DOROTHY FUREY - A LEGENDARY BEAUTY WITH AN 8TH GRADE EDUCATION, SHE REINVENTED HERSELF TO PASS AS AN ARISTOCRAT. (PHOTO CREDIT: COURTESY ADAM HEWITT.)

- VIRGINIA FARR - SHE ESCAPED THE LIFE OF A WEALTHY DEBUTANTE TO LIVE AS SHE PLEASED. (PHOTO CREDIT: MICHAEL BEASLEY COLLECTION.)



- WINNIE PIERCE - SHE TOOK CRAZY RISKS AND LAUGHED HER WAY THROUGH DANGER, IN THE AIR AND ON THE GROUND. (PHOTO: CREDIT MICHAEL BEASLEY COLLECTION.)

- MARY ZERBEL - YOUNG AND IDEALISTIC, SHE PERSEVERED THROUGH TRAGEDY. (PHOTO CREDIT: CROWN COPYRIGHT, IWM.)



- ANN WOOD - A COLLEGE GRADUATE SET ON A SERIOUS CAREER, SHE CULTIVATED CONTACTS WITH DIPLOMATS, JOURNALISTS, GENERALS, AND SPIES. (PHOTO CREDIT: ANN WOOD-KELLY ARCHIVE, D'YOUVILLE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.)



QUILTS OF VALOR

UELA HODSON

- FOUNDED IN 2003, THE QUILTS OF VALOR® MISSION IS TO COVER SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS TOUCHED BY WAR WITH COMFORTING AND HEALING QUILTS OF VALOR

“THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, SACRIFICE AND VALOR IN SERVING OUR NATION.”

- AN EXCEPTIONAL SEAMSTRESS DEDICATED TO HONORING CAF SoCAL MEMBERS WHO ARE VETERANS, PAMUELA HODSON IS EXCITED TO LEAD THIS EMOTIONAL PROGRAM TO HAIL OUR FORMER SERVICE MEMBERS
- “QUILTED” TODAY:



- PAUL MITCHELL
 - BRANCH: US ARMY
 - YEARS: 1966-1967



- DAVE WATSON
 - BRANCH: US ARMY
 - YEARS: 1970-1972



- RON MISSILDINE
 - BRANCH: US AIR FORCE
 - YEARS: 1969-1972



- STEVE RIDER
 - BRANCH: US NAVY
 - YEARS: 1973-1981



QUILTS = HEALING

OUR GUEST SPEAKER

BECKY AIKMAN

- DRAWN TO WRITING ABOUT ADVENTURE, HER SUBJECTS ARE REAL WOMEN WHO BROKE WITH CONVENTION TO CREATE NEW LIVES FOR THEMSELVES EVEN AS THEY CHANGED THE WORLD
- BECKY GREW UP IN RURAL PENNSYLVANIA AND MOVED TO NEW YORK TO EARN A MASTER'S DEGREE AT THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
- AWARDED THE PULITZER TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP
- COVERED THE WORLDS OF ENTERTAINMENT, MEDIA, AND OTHER CREATIVE INDUSTRIES FOR BUSINESSWEEK AND NEW YORK NEWSDAY
- WIDOWED AT A YOUNG AGE, LEFT DAILY JOURNALISM AND WROTE THE BOOK SATURDAY NIGHT WIDOWS, THE TRUE STORY OF A MISMATCHED GROUP OF FIVE OTHER YOUNG WIDOWS TO SHARE THE ADVENTURE OF REMAKING OUR LIVES
- HAVE APPEARED ON CBS THIS MORNING, THE KATIE COURIC SHOW, NPR, AND IN ARTICLES IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, USA TODAY, AND O, THE OPRAH MAGAZINE
- HAS SPOKEN TO GROUPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY
- BECKY'S DAY-TO-DAY LIFE REMAINS MUCH LESS EXCITING THAN THE PEOPLE SHE WRITES ABOUT, WHICH IS JUST FINE WITH HER



DRAWN TO
ADVENTURE

OTHER BOOKS BY BECKY

- OFF THE CLIFF: A LIVELY AND REVEALING BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT THE MAKING OF ONE OF HISTORY'S MOST CONTROVERSIAL AND INFLUENTIAL MOVIES, HOW THE MAKING OF *THELMA & LOUISE* DROVE HOLLYWOOD TO THE EDGE
- SATURDAY NIGHT WIDOWS: IN THIS TRANSCENDENT AND INFECTIOUSLY WISE MEMOIR, BECKY – A WIDOW, TOO YOUNG, TOO MODERN TO ACCEPT THE ROLE – FORMS AN UNLIKELY GROUP WITH FIVE OTHER YOUNG WIDOWS, EACH SEEKING A WAY FORWARD IN A STRANGE AND DISQUIETING WORLD, THE ADVENTURES OF SIX FRIENDS REMAKING THEIR LIVES

'SPITFIRES'

- THE HEART-POUNGING TRUE STORY OF THE AMERICAN WOMEN WHO FLEW THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS AIRCRAFT THROUGH THE TREACHEROUS SKIES OF BRITAIN DURING WORLD WAR II.
- THEY WERE CROP DUSTERS AND DEBUTANTES, COLLEGE GIRLS AND PERFORMERS IN FLYING CIRCUSES – ALL OF THEM PILOTS WHO WANTED TO SERVE IN WORLD WAR II. BECAUSE THEY WERE WOMEN, THEIR OWN COUNTRY TURNED THEM AWAY. BUT GREAT BRITAIN, IN A DESPERATE FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL, WOULD LET ANYONE—EVEN AMERICANS, EVEN WOMEN - FLY WARPLANES. 25 OF THEM BOLTED TO ENGLAND IN 1942. THEY BECAME THE FIRST AMERICAN WOMEN TO FLY PERILOUS MISSIONS IN MILITARY AIRCRAFT.
- “IN A FARAWAY LAND, THESE “SPITFIRES” LIVED LIKE WOMEN DECADES AHEAD OF THEIR TIME. THEY RISKED THEIR LIVES IN ONE OF THE DEADLIEST JOBS OF THE WAR, FLYING NEW, BARELY TESTED FIGHTERS AND BOMBERS TO AIR BASES AND RETURNING SHOT-UP WRECKS FOR REPAIR.”
- THE SPITFIRE PILOTS LIVED AN ADVENTURE MORE EXCITING THAN FICTION. THEY WERE CELEBRATED AT THE TIME BUT THEN LARGELY FORGOTTEN. TO BRING THEM BACK TO LIFE, AUTHOR BECK AIKMAN TRAVELED TO ENGLAND TO GO THROUGH RECORDS, INVESTIGATE CRASHES, FIND WITNESSES, AND TAKE IN THE HISTORY WHERE THE STORY TOOK PLACE.
- IN THE U.S., BECKY MET THE PILOTS' FAMILIES AND INTERVIEWED NANCY MILLER, THE ONE FLYER STILL LIVING AT THE AGE OF 104. THEY ALL SHARED DIARIES AND LETTERS FILLED WITH INTIMATE DETAILS, NEVER BEFORE SEEN BY THE PUBLIC.
- THEY BROKE NEW GROUND OFF DUTY AS WELL, SHOCKING THEIR HOSTS WITH THOROUGHLY MODERN BEHAVIOR.
- SPITFIRES IS A VIVID, RICHLY DETAILED ACCOUNT OF WAR, AMBITION, AND A BOLD GROUP OF WOMEN WHOSE LIVES WERE AS UNCONVENTIONAL AS THEIR DREAMS.

