



THE AIR FORCE MUSEUM FOUNDATION. INC.

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## NEWS RELEASE

### **AIR FORCE MUSEUM FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES SPONSORS FOR THE DOOLITTLE TOKYO RAIDERS 70TH REUNION**

DAYTON, Ohio (February 23, 2012)— The Air Force Museum Foundation announced the initial sponsors for the 70th Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Reunion to be held at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force from April 17-20, 2012. The lead sponsor is Hennessy, the #1-selling cognac in the world. The heritage of Hennessy and the U.S. Air Force stems back to shortly after the raid when the outfit received a special bottle of Hennessy by a representative of the Hennessy family. At the 1959 reunion in Tuscon, AZ, a tradition of honoring the Raiders' legacy was formed when its members were presented with 80 silver goblets by the City of Tuscon. This year, corporate executives from Cognac, France will travel to Dayton to keep that tradition strong and personally thank the surviving Raiders at the reunion.

“We are thrilled to have the opportunity to sponsor the reunion and share the Raiders' story with the thousands of expected attendees. Hennessy is inviting everyone to toast the Doolittle Raiders this and every April in honor of their selfless heroism,” said Rodney K. Williams, Senior Vice President, Hennessy.

Other companies and organizations sponsoring the four-day event include the Dayton Montgomery County Convention and Visitors Bureau, The Greentree Group, Riverside Research Institute, Greene County Convention and Visitors Bureau, The Air Force Association, MBDA Missile Systems, Inc., Ferneding Insurance, and VFW Post 675 Dayton Ohio. A number of individuals have also stepped forward to lend their support.

The reunion will include autograph sessions, a memorial service at the museum, as well as a public lunches and a banquet. All five of the living Doolittle Tokyo Raiders plan to be on-hand for the reunion events. Also, Chinese survivors or members of their families who helped save the Raiders will be special guests to meet the Raiders. In addition, surviving sailors and officers of the USS Hornet, the aircraft carrier that transported them to their take off point, plan to attend.

Additional sponsors are needed to bring the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders to the Museum for the four-day reunion. “It takes significant money to host a world class event such as the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Reunion. We are proud to be involved with these true heroes,” said Larry “Scoop” Cooper, Executive Director of the Museum Foundation. Those interested in supporting the event should contact Dan Lyon, Special Gifts Manager, at 937-255-1425.

The Air Force Museum Foundation, Inc. was established in 1960 as a philanthropic, non-profit organization to assist the Air Force in the development and expansion of the facilities of the National Museum of the United States Air Force and to undertake and

advance programs and activities supporting the Museum. For more information on the Air Force Museum Foundation, visit [www.airforcemuseum.com](http://www.airforcemuseum.com).

NOTE TO PUBLIC: For developing information on the Doolittle Toyko Raiders Reunion, please periodically visit our website at [www.nationalmuseum@af.mil](http://www.nationalmuseum@af.mil)

NOTE TO MEDIA: For more information, please contact Dan Lyon at the Air Force Museum Foundation at (937) 255-1425.