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Wings and Wheels returns for a 3rd year

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MARION - Marion Municipal Airport will host the third annual Marion Wings and Wheels, Fly-In on Sept. 16 and 17.

If the charity is able to raise additional funds, the event will be extended to include a student-focused day on Sept. 15.

The event is meant to salute America's POWs and MIAs. Organizers also hope to inspire students to pursue careers in aviation.

The fly-in will include several aircraft. More details about the types of aircraft featured in the event will be available closer to the event. Currently, organizers are waiting on replies to several requests they have made for aircraft appearances.

"We've got so much stuff that we're hoping is going to happen," said communications director Terry Cline.

One famous aircraft that will be present at the event is known as the "Yankee Lady." The Yankee Lady is one of only about 10 B-17 bombers that is still flight-worthy. In fact, the plane has been so well-maintained that "it's like it just came off the assembly line," according to Cline.

The Yankee Lady "dropped more bombs than any other U.S. bomber in World War II," Cline said. Thirty-minute flights on the historic bomber are available for \$450. Tickets can be purchased at yankeeamuseum.org.

"(Passengers) will experience what the flight crews of World War II experienced, without being shot at. So, it's going to be the experience of a lifetime" Cline said.

He said the flight will be quite an experience and that "a lot of people spend a lot more on a lot less."

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