



Media Advisory
For Immediate Release

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Luncheon Speaker, Vietnam Pilot Holding Book Signing
At the Naval Aviation Symposium
May 7, 2009

Pensacola, Fla.—April 30, 2009—Retired Navy Commander Kenny W. Fields will be on hand to sign copies of his book, “**Rescue of Streetcar 304**” from 11 a.m.–noon and also from 1:30–5 p.m., following his luncheon speech, at the 23rd Annual Naval Aviation Symposium held at the National Naval Aviation Museum on Thursday, May 7. In addition, he will be available for another book signing from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. on Friday, May 8 near the Flight Deck Store where books can be purchased.

On May 31, 1968, Lieutenant Kenny Fields catapulted off the USS *America* in his A-7 *Corsair II* on his first combat mission during the Vietnam War. His target was in Laos. Fields, with the call sign “Streetcar 304,” was the first to roll in and destroy the target with a direct hit. Despite rapid fire from three AAA guns, Fields continued to follow his wingman and went in again. More AAA guns opened up and Fields was shot down, hitting the ground with enemy troops in hot pursuit.

The “**Rescue of Streetcar 304**” is Fields’ exhilarating narrative of the 40-hour ordeal that followed, in what turned out to be one of the largest and more harrowing air rescues of the Vietnam War. Before it was over, the U.S. Air Force had flown 189 sorties to rescue Fields. In the process, four pilots had ejected, seven planes were lost or heavily damaged, and one aviator became a prisoner of war for the next five years. This tale of a Navy attack pilot’s escape and rescue is a gripping story of courage and brotherhood during the Vietnam War.

The book signing will take place in front of the Flight Deck Store.

Other symposium events include:

- **Golf Tournament.** Noon–4 p.m., Wednesday, May 6 at A.C. Read aboard NAS Pensacola.
- **Navy Band New Orleans Concert.** 7:45–8:30 a.m., Thursday, May 7 in the Blue Angels Atrium. The 18-member ensemble will fill the air with big band, jazz and patriotic music.
- **Panel Discussion Session I –“Something New in the Air: A Look at the Latest in Naval Aviation”** 9:45–11:45 a.m., Thursday, May 7 in the Blue Angels Atrium. Moderated by Lieutenant General John Castellaw, USMC (Ret). Panelists include Captain Bradley S. Russell, USN; Colonel Arthur Tomassetti, USMC; Major Steven R. Turner, USMC; and Lieutenant Commander Michael A. Wilson, USN.
- **Luncheon on the Flightdeck.** Noon–1:15 p.m., Thursday, May 7. Guest speaker: Commander Kenny W. Fields, USN (Ret).
- **Panel Discussion Session II –“Valiant Rescue Attempt: North Vietnam”** 1:30–3:30 p.m., Thursday, May 7 in the Blue Angels Atrium. Moderated by Rear Admiral Frederick L. Lewis,

USN (Ret). Panelists include Mr. Robert W. Burnand, Jr.; Mr. Douglas G. Heggie; Captain Edward G. Marsyla, USNR (Ret); Lieutenant Commander Rawson B. Mordhorst, USN (Ret); and Commander R. Deane Woods, USN (Ret).

- **Opening Reception on the Flightdeck.** 6–7:15 p.m., Thursday, May 7.
- **Banquet in the Blue Angels Atrium.** 7:15–9:00 p.m., Thursday, May 7. Guest Speaker: Admiral Patrick M. Walsh, USN, Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
- **Navy Band New Orleans Concert.** 9–9:45 a.m., Friday, May 8 in the Blue Angels Atrium. Navy Band New Orleans returns for an encore performance of patriotic music.
- **Panel Discussion Session III –“Naval Aviation: Issues and Answers”** 9:45–11:45 a.m., Friday, May 9 in the Blue Angels Atrium. Active Navy & Marine Corps flag and general officers will discuss the state of Naval Aviation. Issues covered by 7 Naval Officers include combat experience, personnel, training, deployment schedules and more.

The Symposium sessions are FREE and open to active duty and retired military as well as the general public. For more information or to reserve your seat, call the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation at (800) 327-5002 or (850) 453-2389, or go online to download a registration form at NavalAviationMuseum.org.

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Media Note: For more information about the National Naval Aviation Museum, contact Shelley Ragsdale, Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, Inc. at (850) 453-2389 or sragsdale@navalaviationmuseum.org.

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About the National Museum of Naval Aviation

The National Naval Aviation Museum features nearly 300,000 square feet of displays and is one of the world’s largest aviation museums. Located aboard Pensacola Naval Air Station, the facility boasts more than 150 beautifully restored aircraft representing Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard aviation and is Florida’s most-visited museum. Among the countless things to touch, see and experience is a thrilling Top Gun flight simulator, a variety of special exhibits as well as the drama and power of amazing IMAX® films. The Cubi Bar Café offers a unique dining experience, and the Flight Deck Store is the perfect place to find a memento of the spirit of Naval Aviation. Museum admission is FREE. The National Naval Aviation Museum is open everyday from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. For more information, visit NavalAviationMuseum.org.

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