FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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World War II Warbird Rides and a Gyro Class Debut Come to Music City STOL in Lebanon, October 9–10

The Commemorative Air Force brings the P-51D Mustang "Red Nose" — the airplane that founded the CAF — with public rides from noon Friday and all day Saturday; National STOL premieres an exhibition-only Gyro Class

LEBANON, Tenn. — October 1, 2026 — Two additions are coming to Music City STOL at Lebanon Municipal Airport on Friday, October 9 and Saturday, October 10. The Commemorative Air Force (CAF) will have World War II aircraft on the field both days, with public rides beginning at noon Friday and continuing throughout Saturday, and the National STOL Series will debut an exhibition-only Gyro Class, with gyroplanes flying both days.

CAF Airbase Georgia is bringing its North American P-51D Mustang "Red Nose," the airplane whose 1957 purchase by Lloyd Nolen and three partners, for $2,500, is regarded as the founding of the Commemorative Air Force. Rolled out at Inglewood, California, in April 1945 and painted in the markings of the 334th Fighter Squadron, 4th Fighter Group, Red Nose is still flying more than 80 years later. Airbase Georgia is also bringing a Douglas SBD-5 Dauntless, the Navy dive bomber from the Battle of Midway and one of a handful still flying, and a Bell P-63A Kingcobra on static display. A second P-51 Mustang, from Music City STOL sponsor Adventure Flying, will also be on static display. The CAF Music City Wing, based at Lebanon, will fly its North American SNJ advanced trainer and Fairchild PT-19 open-cockpit trainer.

Red Nose, the Dauntless, the SNJ and the PT-19 will all fly rides. Rides are sold by the Commemorative Air Force and are separate from event admission; they can be booked in advance at airbasegeorgia.org and cafmusiccity.org or arranged on site. Riders come in through the main event entrance at 806 Castle Heights Ave. like every other guest, check in inside the gate and are carried to the aircraft by golf cart. Rides carry a minimum age of 12 and are subject to weather and aircraft availability. The CAF aircraft are on the field and open to walk up to both days.

New for 2026, National STOL is debuting an exhibition-only Gyro Class at Music City STOL — the first time the series has put gyroplanes on the card. Gyroplanes fly on a freely spinning overhead rotor and can land in remarkably little space, and they will fly both Friday and Saturday. Pilots include Bobby Tishaw, who has flown his gyroplane at Music City STOL before.

"The P-51 Mustang is an iconic World War II aircraft that almost everyone instantly recognizes," said Chad Hall, event director of Music City STOL and chairman of BOLD Aviation. "We'll have two of these rare birds at this year's Music City STOL, and you can even buy a ride in one of them, the airplane that started the CAF. It's literally a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. That, plus the new Gyro Class, makes this a year of firsts."

For media

- **Friday, October 9 — Media Day.** Media check-in from 8:00 a.m. at the main gate; pilots and aircraft on the ramp all morning; competitor practice 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. A warbird ride launch is the one picture at this event that can be scheduled to a fixed time — available on request from noon Friday onward. CAF crews and gyroplane pilots are available for interviews.
- **Media rides and credentials.** A limited number of ride-alongs with competing pilots are available to credentialed reporters on Friday, by prior approval only and subject to change at any time. Warbird rides are sold by the CAF and are not a press courtesy. Request credentials by Wednesday, October 7, and give notice of live shots by Thursday, October 8.

Admission: $20 general admission covers both days; children 12 and under are free. Tickets are sold through the National STOL Series — get them at boldaviation.org. Food trucks and vendor booths are on site; bring a portable chair. No pets or alcohol inside the airport.

Location: Lebanon Municipal Airport (M54); event entrance at 806 Castle Heights Ave., Lebanon, TN 37087 — about 30 minutes east of downtown Nashville. Saturday's competition streams live and free on the National STOL YouTube channel.

This release adds to Music City STOL's September 14 announcement; the schedule, admission and location are unchanged. Proceeds from Music City STOL fund flight-training scholarships for young people through BOLD Aviation, a Tennessee 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

For tickets, the full schedule and warbird ride information, visit boldaviation.org; the media kit, photos and both releases are at boldaviation.org/press. #MusicCitySTOL #NationalSTOL

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About Music City STOL

Music City STOL is a two-day short takeoff and landing (STOL) competition and community event held each October just outside Nashville, Tennessee. Part of the National STOL Series, the event brings competition pilots from across the country to Lebanon Municipal Airport (M54) in Wilson County to take off and land in the fewest possible feet — scored to the foot in front of a live crowd and a national broadcast audience. Founded in 2023, the event is produced by BOLD Aviation, a Tennessee 501(c)(3) nonprofit; proceeds support youth flight-training scholarships. boldaviation.org

About BOLD Aviation

BOLD Aviation is a Tennessee-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to inspiring the next generation of aviators. Through aviation events, education and flight-training scholarships, BOLD Aviation provides young people with pathways to pursue their passion for flight. boldaviation.org

About the National STOL Series

Founded in 2020, National STOL is the country's premier short takeoff and landing competition series, with ten events coast-to-coast in 2026 culminating in the National Finals in Texas. Every major competition is broadcast live; in 2025 the series drew 14,500+ in-person attendees, 759,000+ live-stream views and 267 million impressions across a social following of more than 611,000. nationalstol.com

Media contact: Chad Hall, Event Director · chad@boldaviation.org · (615) 400-6148. Interviews, credentials and high-resolution photography available on request.