



Air Force Heritage Flight Foundation // Wings Over Houston Airshow Media Summary

Overview:

The Air Force Heritage Flight Foundation will perform in the Wings Over Houston (WOH) Airshow hosted at the Ellington Airport on October 20-21 by providing Heritage Flight Team pilots (Charles “Tuna” Hainline & Tom “Gumby” Gregory, III) and one P-47 Thunderbolt vintage warplane (Snafu) which will fly alongside the U.S. Air Force F-16 “Viper” Demo Team’s Fighting Falcon.



Air Force Heritage Flight Team (available for interviews):



Charles “Tuna” Hainline, P-47 Pilot, Air Force Heritage Flight Foundation

Charles was born in Medford, Oregon in 1964. He grew up on a small farm and worked his way through college harvesting wheat and grass seed in the Willamette Valley. He saved up and learned to fly when he was 18 — his instructor would land the Aeronca Champ on a farm road near the field Charles was working and give him a lesson at lunchtime.

After graduating from Oregon State University, Charles was accepted to U.S. Air Force Officer Training School and was commissioned a second lieutenant in October 1986. After pilot training, Charles flew the A-10 in Korea and in Louisiana, where they started calling him “Tuna.” He then moved on to the F-117 Stealth Fighter at Tonopah Test Range, Nevada and Holloman AFB, New Mexico. After the F-117 he was accepted as an exchange officer with the Navy, where he flew the F/A-18 Hornet in VFA-106. As a RAG (RTU) instructor, he was carrier qualified with 101 traps. He was then re-assigned to the F-117 and saw combat action over Belgrade in the Kosovo conflict. During Operation Allied Force, Charles flew multiple combat missions over Belgrade, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. After the F-117, Charles flew the F-4F with the German RTU at Holloman AFB, then finished his career flying the QF-4, becoming the first F-4 West Heritage Pilot.

In 2006, Tuna retired as a Lieutenant Colonel and command pilot with over 5,000 total hours in the T-37, T-38, A-10, F-117A, F/A-18A/B/C/D, T-34C, F-4F, and QF-4E/G. His military decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with one device, Air Force Achievement Medal with three devices, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Combat Readiness Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Air and Space Campaign Medal and Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

After retirement, he was hired by Southwest Airlines and flies the 737. He spends his spare time working on airplanes — he has restored a Stearman, T-6, J-3 Cub, DHC-2 Beaver, Beech 18, and Grumman Albatross. In 2006, Charles was fortunate enough to be

invited to fly with the Lone Star Flight Museum, in Galveston, Texas, where he is qualified on the PT-17, T-6, B-17, B-25, P-47, F4U, AD Skyraider and the P-51.



Tom “Gumby” Gregory III, Air Force Heritage Flight Foundation Pilot

Tom Gregory, III is a native of Galveston County, Texas and began his association with aviation at a very early age. He took flying lessons at the La Porte, Texas airport during his high school years and was always out at Cover Field with his dad working on the Stearman.

After graduating from Texas A&M in 1980, Tom was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. He proceeded to Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida, for pilot training in December of that year. Upon earning his wings, Tom was "plowed back" as an advanced jet instructor pilot. After 18 months, he was transferred to Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina and the OV-10's of VMO-1. Tom flew the Bronco for two years and was deployed to Okinawa, Japan and Korea during the summer of 1986. After seven years, he took a job flying for the U.S. Customs Service in Houston, Texas. This took him to Mexico and South and Central America, flying counter narcotics interdiction missions. Tom continued his education at USC and the FAA academy, training as an aircraft accident investigator. He also completed his instructor pilot ratings and teaches single/multi-engine and instrument flying.

After 16 years in the workforce, Tom now flies B-727s for Federal Express.

Tom's interest in warbird aviation comes naturally. His father has been flying air shows for over 20 years, frequently flying with son. Tom has been flying for the Lone Star Flight Museum since 1993 and is qualified on the B-17, B-25, F-4U, F-6F, SBD-5, P-38, AT-6, P-47, Spitfire, Seafur and T-34.

About the Air Force Heritage Flight Foundation:

Founded by The Friedkin Group chairman and CEO Dan Friedkin, the Air Force Heritage Flight Foundation (AFHFF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes the U.S. Air Force and celebrates our nation's air power, influence and impact on America's national security. AFHFF's priority is to increase awareness, understanding and interest through Heritage Flights demonstrations around the world. These performances feature modern fighter and attack aircraft flying alongside World War II, Korea and Vietnam-era planes in a dramatic display of our nation's combat aviation history. The team currently consists of 10 civilian pilots qualified to fly these vintage warbirds alongside the Air Force's A-10, F-16, F-22 and F-35 pilots. Their formations serve as a living memorial to the men and women who have served and sacrificed and remain today to serve in the U.S. Air Force. You can learn more about the organization and support its efforts by visiting www.airforceheritageflight.org

Our Mission:

Building a global organization through strategic alliances and partnerships to promote aviation history, advocacy, research, recruitment, training and education.

Based in Houston, AFHFF leads the way in high profile events and special projects that include:

- 50+ Heritage Flight performances each year at airshows, sporting events and concerts
- Offering a living museum and aerial monument to U.S. Air Force history
- Celebrating and honoring the sacrifice of those currently serving, as well as the sacrifices of war heroes of the past
- Educating current and future generations on the long-term importance of the U.S. Air Force
- Strengthening and enhancing U.S. Air Force recruiting and retention efforts

Since its inception in 1997, the Heritage Flight program has supported hundreds of events and touched millions of people. Heritage Flights seek to honor the contributions of every man and woman who has served in the U.S. Air Force while educating the general public on the importance of the U.S. Air Force and its mission.

Owned and Partner Social Media Handles:

All social media posts should include #WOHAirshow, #AFHFF, #HeritageFlight and #ViperDemo

Facebook

- www.facebook.com/AirForceHeritageFlightFoundation
- www.facebook.com/viperdemoteam
- www.facebook.com/WingsOverHoustonAirshow

Twitter

- <https://twitter.com/HoustonAirshow>
- www.twitter.com/viperdemoteam

Instagram

- www.instagram.com/wohairshow
- www.instagram.com/viperdemoteam

YouTube

- www.youtube.com/user/AFHFF
- www.youtube.com/user/WingsOverHouston

Contact Information:

All WOH airshow media inquiries related to the AFHFF can be directed to:

Kristen McMahon, Endeavor on behalf of AFHFF

KMcMahon@endeavorco.com

336-831-0784

For all other inquiries, please contact:

Air Force Heritage Flight Team

1375 Enclave Parkway

Houston, TX 77077

info@airforceheritageflight.org

www.airforceheritageflight.org