

Honor those who serve



Submitted Photo

This B-25D plane served during WWII. It will fly over the Fowlerville Fairgrounds as part of the tribute to the troops celebration on Saturday, July 24.

By Erika W. Smith | PRESS & ARGUS

The Fowlerville Fair will honor those who serve their country with Armed Forces and Government Day on Saturday, July 24.

All veterans, current military personnel and government officials will receive free gate admission from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There will also be a parade, the singing of the National Anthem, the raising and dedication of the flag and a flyover. This will be the first Armed Forces and Government Day at the Fowlerville Fair.

The tribute starts at about 11:50 a.m. when the parade begins. Local VFW and American Legion posts have organized veterans to take part in the parade. Active service members, bagpipers, the Lansing 1st Battalion 24th Marines Charlie Company color guard and local 4-H members will also march in the parade. The Grand Marshal will be Major General Bradley M. Lott. Former marine Bob Crofoot will play the bugle. Grandstand admission will be free so all fairgoers can watch the parade and other tribute events.

Directly following the parade, there will be an official flag-raising at about 12:10, just before the flyover begins. After the flyover, the national anthem will be sung by a local 4-H member and the flag will be dedicated. Five veterans, including four WWII veterans, will participate in the flag-raising and dedication ceremony. There will also be guest

speakers and a presentation.

The flyover plane is a B-25D, a medium bomber that served missions in WWII. This specific plane, called the Yankee Warrior, served in the Mediterranean, completing seven combat missions over Italy, Sicily and Corsica. The Yankee Warrior is one of only two B-25Ds still flying today.

Gerald L. Lester of the Yankee Air Museum described the flyover as "a way to honor all veterans of our county."

The Yankee Warrior will be on static display at the Livingston County Spencer J. Hardy Airport in Howell Township from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on July 24.

This display will be open to the public at no charge.

Public flights will also be available, with the cost set at \$400 per person to help cover operational, maintenance, insurance and certification expenses of the plane. Tickets may be purchased at the airport on July 24 or beforehand by contacting Gerald L. Lester at 517-404-1061.

Jennifer Rhodes, office manager for the Fowlerville Family Fair, said that Armed Forces and Government Day is a way to honor veterans and current members of the armed forces.

"We felt that we needed to show some sort of tribute to our servicemen and women that have served and are serving," said Rhodes.

She hopes for a large turnout of armed forces members and government workers.