

# ARMED FORCES MEMORIAL AEROBATIC COMPETITION

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May 17 – 20

Grenada Municipal Airport (KGNF)

Grenada, Mississippi

For one glorious week, in the Summer of 1997, aerobatic pilots from around the country met for the first International Aerobatic Club (IAC) sanctioned aerobatic contest ever to be held in Grenada, Mississippi. The Rebel – Cajun Aerobatic Competition was jointly sponsored by the Cajun Aerobatic Club (IAC Chapter 72), and the Mid-South Rebel Aerobatic Club (IAC Chapter 27).

For that one week, the sunlit skies over Grenada were filled with brightly colored aerobatic monoplanes and biplanes dancing among the clouds. The sweet music of engines straining and props screaming at high RPM echoed over Grenada Lake, as the smells of avgas, engine exhaust, and oil flavored the air, bringing to the forefront once again distant memories, long since dormant.

Grenada Municipal Airport, constructed for the U.S. Army Air Corp in 1943, was operated as Grenada Army Airfield during the final days of World War II, and housed the 63rd Troop Carrier Group, the 10th Troop Carrier Group, and the 443d Base Headquarters Squadron. Aircraft based at Grenada AAF included Douglas C-47's and C-53's, used as launch aircraft for the base's compliment of WACO CG-4A Gliders. The WWII era wooden hangar that housed these historic aircraft, and so many memories, still exists and is still in use today.

In 2010 and in 2011, IAC 27 again brought IAC sanctioned aerobatic competition Grenada. And, during the week of May 17-20, 2012, the skies over Grenada, Mississippi will once more be alive with activity as International Aerobatic Club Chapter 27, together with the Grenada Tourism Commission and a host of local sponsors, supporters, and friends, presents the third annual **Armed Forces Memorial Aerobatic Competition** at Grenada Municipal Airport (KGNF).

Power categories, including Primary, Sportsman, Intermediate, Advanced, and Unlimited will be flown. The unlimited 4-Minute Free Program competition is also anticipated. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place flight medals will be awarded in each category, for each flight. Awards will be presented for overall standing in each category.

Also to be presented is the Best First Time Sportsman Award, honoring the highest scoring first time Sportsman competitor, as well as the Grass Roots Achievement Award going to the highest scoring pilot of an aircraft with 180HP or less. Additionally, the presentation of the Sanders Cup award, an annual, non-flying award to be presented, by vote of all participants, to the volunteer who best embodies the helpful demeanor, willingness to serve, and constant "can-do" spirit of the late Buddy Sanders, long time Grenada aviator, aerobatic pilot, and friend.

Planned activities include Thursday night pizza blast at the airport, Friday night hangar party, Saturday evening awards banquet. Please make plans to come to Grenada, Mississippi (KGNF), during our nation's annual observance of Armed Forces Week, for the third annual Armed Forces Memorial Aerobatic Competition.