



PRESS RELEASE

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Douglas C-53 Skytrooper and North American P-51 Mustang “D” Will Bring WWII Aircraft History to Palos Verdes Concours Oct. 1

The 2017 Palos Verdes Concours promises to deliver something for just about everyone and for vintage aircraft fans, this year’s show set for Sunday, Oct. 1, at Zamperini Field, Torrance, will include a Douglas C-53 Skytrooper flown during the Normandy Invasion and a 1944 North American P-51 Mustang “D,” also flown in World War II. The concours will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Douglas C-53 that will be part of this year’s event is an actual veteran of the Normandy Invasion where it carried members of the 101st Airborne and dropped them off behind enemy lines in the pre-dawn skies prior to the first wave to arrive on the beach.

The C-53 Skytrooper was a dedicated troop transporter based on the DC-3 airliner. Only 380 were ever built. The first order for the C-53, for just under 100 aircraft, was placed in June 1941. All 380 C-53s were built at Douglas’s Santa Monica plant.

The first 221 C-53s were powered by 1,200 horsepower Pratt & Whitney R-1830-92 Twin Wasp engines, and were equipped with 28 fixed metal seats arranged as in a conventional airliner.

The P-51 Mustang isn’t without its own impressive history including spending two months in England near the end of WWII before returning stateside. From 1945 to 1958, the aircraft served in the U.S. Air Force and National Guard. In 1958, she was decommissioned and sold to a number of private owners. Years later in 2004, a new owner acquired this P-51 and started the six-year restoration process. The current owner purchased her in 2011. Only 8,200 of the “D” model were produced.

Numerous other historic and unique aircraft will be included at this year’s concours in addition to a traditionally impressive array of classic, concours-caliber automobiles in side-by-side displays on the field.

This year’s show will spotlight the marques of Packard and Porsche. In addition to the featured marques, there will be a total of 19 classes of automobiles representing the finest in craftsmanship from all over the world.



Specialty concours-level automobiles will include a 1929 Packard Dual Cowl Phaeton, a 1933 Packard Phaeton V-12 Convertible Coupe, and a 1956 Porsche 356A Speedster. Participating aircraft will include, as of press time, a YF-23 Supercruiser, F-14A Tomcat, Travel Air Bi-Plane, and an F4F Wildcat.

In addition to an impressive line-up of automobiles and aircraft this year's event will include performers in period clothing; a host of some of the South Bay's most popular food trucks offering an array of food choices to purchase; craft beer and wine for sale for those 21 years old and older; and live music. As an added bonus, ticket holders will be able to tour the Western Museum of Flight, located at Zamperini Field, at no charge.

For those seeking a special experience, a VIP package featuring tent seating, a Mediterranean-style luncheon catered by the renowned Bites and Bashes, including craft beer and premium wine; and general parking, is available for \$150 per ticket.

Tickets are \$40 when purchased in advance by Sept. 30, \$50 the day of the show, and \$30 for bulk ticket sales of 25 or more tickets purchased through Aug. 31. Children 13 and younger will be admitted free. General parking will be \$10, cash only.

The Palos Verdes Concours d'Elegance is a 501(c)(3) charity event operated by an all-volunteer group of individuals dedicated to raising funds for charity and presenting a first-class concours. The proceeds of this charity event will benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor, an organization that has been serving youth who need assistance most and has supported countless individuals in reaching their full potential, and a new charity, the Western Museum of Flight, an organization that honors the aerospace industry heritage of Southern California and educates the public on the history of flight.

For more information, visit the Palos Verdes Concours d'Elegance website at www.pvconcours.org and follow us and Like us on Facebook.