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### **P-51 ‘Mormon Mustang’ Returns to Heber Valley Airport, Russ McDonald Field**

**HEBER CITY, Utah – August 02, 2018 –**

A World War II vintage, Mustang fighter airplane once owned by airport namesake Russ McDonald, returns to Heber Valley Airport on Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Named the ‘Mormon Mustang’ after a similar airplane flown in combat during WWII, the aircraft is now owned and operated by the Legacy Flight Museum of Rexburg, Idaho. Mormon Mustang will be appearing at the Planes and Horsepower Show, Saturday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, at the Commemorative Air Force - Utah Wing Museum, Heber Valley Airport.

This Mustang was once based at Heber Valley Airport and flown regularly by then owner, Russ McDonald. Heber City recently rebranded the airport creating a new airport logo that features the silhouette of this vintage 1945 P-51 Mustang aircraft flying over the distinctive Timpanogos mountain range. The iconic plane was chosen to reflect the airport’s heritage of serving the aviation needs of the Wasatch Back region since 1947. The aircraft is also an homage to airport co-founder Russ McDonald, who owned and based the P-51, now known as the Mormon Mustang, at Heber Valley Airport.

### **About Heber Valley Airport**

Heber Valley Airport (FAA Identifier HCR) is a public use, municipally owned general aviation airport located one mile south of Heber City, Utah. It is a 40-minute drive from Salt Lake City and 20 minutes from Park City, Utah. With 76 aircraft storage hangars and a single 6900-foot long runway, the Heber Valley Airport serves a wide variety of aircraft from gliders to recreational aircraft to business jets. The airport hosts a wide variety of general aviation services such as aviation fuel, maintenance, primary to advanced flight training, and special events such as the Boy Scouts Aviation Merit Badge Encampment. Heber Valley Airport is home to the *Commemorative Air Force – Utah Wing*, a museum that is dedicated to preserving and sharing U.S. military aviation history. Founded in 1947 the facility, originally known as *Heber Valley Airport*, was formed by a group of local residents led by veteran aviator Russ McDonald. The airfield started as a 3300-foot long dirt landing strip where World War II veterans learned to fly under the GI Bill. By the mid-1950's the airport had transitioned to a general aviation airport with a full time fixed-base operator, offering fueling, parking, maintenance, flight instruction and related services for private aircraft. Today Heber Valley Airport is a preferred entry point for visitors to nearby Park City, UT and to destinations throughout Wasatch and Summit counties seeking to access the famed mountain recreation, and rich arts and cultural events such as the annual Sundance Film Festival, Heber Valley Western Music & Cowboy Poetry Gathering, and The Midway Swiss Days festival.

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If you'd like more information about this topic please call Denis Godfrey, Airport Manager at (435) 654-4854 or e-mail Denis at [dgodfrey@ci.heber.ut.us](mailto:dgodfrey@ci.heber.ut.us)

