

For Release

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The Aviation Museum of New Hampshire will be honoring the late Brigadier General Harrison R. Thyng on Veteran's Day weekend, November 9, 2013 as part of the Museum's Second Saturday@Museum programs.

General Thyng is one of only 7 US combat pilots who became an Ace flying propeller fighters in WWII, then jet fighters in Korea where he became "the premier air combat commander of his time."

Harrison Thyng was born in Laconia, NH in 1918. He was schooled in Barnstead and Pittsfield, and graduated from University of NH in 1939 with a Reserve Commission, a 2nd Lt in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He earned his wings in 1940.

As a 1st Lt, he commanded the 309th Fighter Squadron and was shipped to England in 1942. The British equipped his unit with Spitfires and "Harry" nns soon led the first American fighter raids out of England into France. When he shot up a German FW-190, he entered the history books as the first American pilot in the Army Air Force to record a claim against the Luftwaffe.

His group was transferred to North Africa where it supported America's first invasion into the war. After 162 missions, and eight aerial victories, he returned to the States. He then trained the newly created 413th Long Range Fighter Group

flying P-47Ns which escorted B-29s on raids over Japan, Korea and China. On one of his 22 missions he observed the atomic bomb attack on Nagasaki.

Following WWII Harry returned to war in 1951. He was appointed commander of the 4th Fighter Wing in Korea flying the F-86 Sabre Jet against Russian, Chinese and North Korean pilots. On 20 May 1952, he became the 16th ace of the Korean War.

He retired as a Brigadier General with more than 27 years of service. He then brought a small aeronautical school in Nashua to the Daniel Webster College we know today. He was its first president.

General Thyng passed away in 1983 at age 65. He left behind a spectacular record of bravery, skill and dedication to his country. In his memory, a monument was erected in Pittsfield, NH on a knoll overlooking the Suncook River.

The Aviation Museum of NH is located at 27 Navigator Rd., Londonderry, NH. 03053 Tel. 603-669-4877, www.nhahs.org.

October 6, 2013