



Edwardsville Township  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA ALERT!      MEDIA ALERT!      MEDIA ALERT!**

**EDWARDSVILLE TOWNSHIP TO RAISE U.S. NAVY A7E CORSAIR TO DISPLAY PEDESTAL  
RESTORATION COMPLETED BY FLIGHT DECK VETERANS GROUP**

**WHO:** Edwardsville Township Supervisor Frank Miles and Keller Construction  
**WHEN:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 12:00 pm  
**WHERE:** Robert C. Stille Edwardsville Township Community Park, 6368 Center Grove Road, Edwardsville  
**WHAT:** With restoration complete, the U.S. Navy A7E Corsair on display at the Robert C. Stille Edwardsville Township Community Park will be raised back to its display pylon by Keller Construction on Thursday, October 26 at 12:00 p.m.

In October 2016, Edwardsville Township approved a contract with the Flight Deck Veterans Group, a nationwide nonprofit organization based in Tennessee for the restoration of the historic aircraft on display at Township Park. The Flight Deck Veterans Group restores aircraft as a part of its mission of veterans serving veterans and to pass on the history and legacy of veterans and flight deck operations.

In May 2017, the aircraft was lowered from the pylon by Keller Construction and restoration work began. Volunteers from the Flight Deck Veterans Group completed required maintenance on the aircraft, including cleaning, sanding, and replacing aluminum panels.

In July, the Township received approval from the National Naval Aviation Museum to place Admiral Timothy J. Keating on the rail of the aircraft. Admiral Keating served as commander of Carrier Group Five, the U.S. 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet, the U.S. Northern Command and NORAD, and the U.S. Pacific Command. He retired in 2009 after more than 38 years of service and was the first Navy officer to head Northern Command Na NORAD. Most significant to the project, Admiral Keating was an A7 pilot with the VA-82, the Marauders, on the USS Nimitz in 1975 – the same squadron the Township's aircraft was assigned to.

Final restoration work was completed by the Flight Deck Veterans Group earlier this week.

The restoration is the culmination of a multi-year project to restore the historic aircraft, which had remained on the pylon since it was originally installed in Township Park by Keller Construction in 1991.

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After establishing a Community fund with the Edwardsville Community Foundation, the Township launched MISSION: PRESERVATION, The Campaign to Restore the Plane, a three-tiered approach to raising the funds necessary to restore the aircraft to 'display ready condition' as defined by the U.S. Naval Aviation Museum, from whom the aircraft is on loan from.

The Flight Deck Veterans Group has restored historic aircraft across the country including an F-14 Tomcat on display on the historic USS Yorktown in Charleston, South Carolina and the Fast Eagle 102, the first F-14 Tomcat to shoot down another aircraft in combat, on display at the Commemorative Air Force's High Sky Wing in Midland Texas. For more information about the Flight Dec Veterans Group, visit [www.fdv.org](http://www.fdv.org).

**Edwardsville Township is comprised of the City of Edwardsville, Village of Glen Carbon and unincorporated areas just outside of these two municipalities. The Township Supervisor's office is located at 300 West Park in Edwardsville and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday and Friday and from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.**

**Learn more about Edwardsville Township online at [www.edwardsvilletownship.com](http://www.edwardsvilletownship.com) or contact the Township Offices by phone at 618-656-0292.**

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