

Announcement Prepared for Glenn L. Martin Museum Lecture: Monday, 11/7/22

Skytrain Pilots: Unsung Heroes of D-Day

Lecturer: Regina Wirtanen Buker

More than seven decades after the D-Day Invasion, explore the courage of the unsung troop transport crews. The pilots of these unarmed and unarmored planes flew at low altitudes and slow speeds to deploy paratroopers, explosives, ammunition behind enemy lines. Most published accounts neglect the role of the C-47 pilots and crews and their acts of valor and self-sacrifice. Based on years of research, with access to eyewitness accounts, flight logs, and squadron reports, this lecture aims to fill this gap in the World War II record.

Regina Wirtanen Buker is the 10th recipient of the National Aviation Hall of Fame's Combs Gates Award, for her book – *The Skytrain Pilot: Flying a C-47 into Combat*. She lectures for the Johns Hopkins University's Odyssey Program, military and historical organizations, veteran groups, schools, community programs, and WWII reenactments. She is the director of the 442nd TCG, editor of *The Skytrain Gazette* and historian of the C-47 Club of the 82nd Airborne Division. She has recently retired from a 50-year career in nonprofit organizations and government service.

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