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Flight Commemorates World War II CAP Pilots

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Preston — Frederick G. Herbert of Preston flew from Connecticut to Maine to commemorate the 65th anniversary of Connecticut Civil Air Patrol pilots who deployed to Maine to fly light aircraft submarine patrols in 1942.

"I wanted to honor all those who served the Connecticut CAP during World War II, and especially two Meriden heroes, Major Earnest L. Markham and 1st Lt. Welles L. Bishop," said Herbert, a colonel in the Civil Air Patrol who now serves as the organization's historian. "CAP air crews fly homeland security missions today with the same dedication displayed by the 1942 air crews."

Herbert has been flying for more than 47 years. The National Aeronautic Association approved his sporting performance on Aug. 14. He made the flight in a Cessna 177B in 1 hour, 36 minutes, averaging 106 knots over the route, which represents the fastest speed of a Cessna 177 over a short course, according to a press release.■

COL Frederick G. Herbert, CAP

NER Historian & CTWG Government Relations Advisor

Colonel Fred G. Herbert is a past commander of the Connecticut Wing and has also served the Maryland Naval Militia, Army of the United States, Civil Air Patrol, Maryland ANG, USAF, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. He received commendations from the Army for contributions in the retrofit of electronic equipment during the Korean War, and from the Air Force for service in Libya, North Africa, in 1957.

He holds a Commercial Pilot certificate and has been a CAP Mission pilot continuously since 1981. He has served as an FAA Aviation Safety Counselor and Aerospace Education Counselor. Colonel Herbert retired from Eastern Connecticut State University where he served as an Administrative Dean.

The Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, was founded on Dec. 1, 1941, less than a week before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor brought the U.S. into World War II. CAP is a nonprofit organization with more than 55,000 members nationwide. The organization's members perform 95 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions, as tasked by the Air Force's Rescue Coordination Center, and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 58 lives in 2006. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counterdrug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. Members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the more than 22,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet program.