

Frank Luke Jr Day Remembrance @MMP



Mesa Market Place Swap Meet hosted a Frank Luke, Jr. Day Remembrance event on Saturday, Sept. 22nd, 2018. Joan Wells, of Mesa Market Place, shared this commentary on the day....

"What a wonderful event! Col. Bill Simon (Ret.) and his wife Sandi have long been collecting Frank Luke, Jr. memorabilia and other World War I era militaria. They are working toward opening a permanent display and museum. They brought out some of their extensive collection to Mesa Market Place in addition to several military vehicles from WWII. He also brought out an A-10 Trainer.

"Dr. Baron Smith brought out Deucey and Charlie Chopper. Charlie Chopper is a Viet Nam era helicopter (1970), a Series III OH-6A Hardbelly. 'Deucey' is an M35 triple-axle 2 1/2 ton cargo truck. A number of other collectors from the AHMTA [Arizona Historic Military Transport Association] and the AMVCC [Arizona Military Vehicles Collectors Club] including Matthew Walker, Mark Jewell, and Troy Moody brought out restored military museum-quality vehicles and equipment.

"The Motorcycle Color Guard of

America presented the Colors at the Remembrance. Children and adults also wrote notes and colored pictures to go into 'Packages From Home' care packages that will be sent to Armed Forces personnel serving in the Middle East.

"Here's a bit of info about Frank Luke, Jr. Arizona native Frank Luke, Jr. lost his life 100 years ago flying his Spad Biplane over Germany in World War I. He quickly became an ace pilot. What he accomplished in his short flying career was nothing short of amazing. He was known as the 'balloon-buster'. Those balloons were used by the Germans to surveil the location of Allied troops. They were not easy to shoot down, yet he doggedly shot down 14 German balloons. He also shot down four German airplanes."

Mesa Market Place Swap Meet is located at 10550 E Baseline Rd in Mesa, Arizona. They are open Fridays through Sundays year 'round. Their current [winter] hours are 7am-4pm.

MMP regularly hosts community-oriented events.... in support of GIs & Veterans, motorcyclists, and the general public. You'll find their calendar online at their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/mesamarket/> Mesa Market Place Swap Meet offers a great venue for recreational shopping, including a food court & live entertainment. Stop by MMP & support small businesses as you seek those perfect items on your gift-giving lists.

Betsy

