



NEWS RELEASE

United States Air Force

Headquarters, Air Education and Training Command
Office of Public Affairs
100 H Street, Suite 4
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas 78150-4331

Phone: (210) 652-4400
Fax: (210) 652-2027
<http://www.aetc.af.mil>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Memorial planned for final WWII Doolittle Raider

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – A memorial service to celebrate the life of retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Richard “Dick” E. Cole will be held here Thursday, April 18, 2019, beginning at 3 p.m. in Hangar 41.

Cole, who was the final surviving member of the famed Doolittle Tokyo Raiders of World War II, passed away in San Antonio April 9 at the age of 103.

Cole was the copilot for then-Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle in a B-25 Mitchell bomber during the surprise mission on April 18, 1942, by the U.S. Army Air Forces to strike the Japanese Home Islands. The strike was in retaliation for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and bolstered American morale in the early months of World War II.

The memorial also marks the anniversary of the Doolittle Raid. Air Force senior leaders, patriots, family and friends are expected to attend. Arlington National Cemetery will be Cole’s final resting place.

At the memorial service, hundreds of Airmen will line the main entrance to JBSA-Randolph to salute the family as they enter base. In addition to this tribute, there will be a flyby, missing man formation and several static aircraft displayed.

Cole’s decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and Chinese Army, Navy, Air Corps Medal, Class A, 1st Grade.

[Read Cole’s full bio at www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).

For more information, videos and photos of the Doolittle Raid and Raiders, visit the [National Museum of the Air Force at www.nationalmuseum.af.mil](http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil) and search [Doolittle Raid](#).

MEDIA ADVISORY: Media interested in attending event should contact AETC/PA at (210)-652-4400 or email aetc.pao@us.af.mil

Media must RSVP by Noon central Tuesday April 16 and provide names of representatives, contact information of representatives, requirements if needed and assignments/hit times (vo, vosot, pkg, live). Additional information, including earlier gate pick-up time, to follow.

