

A Tribute to the 132d Wing and 124th Attack Squadron

We gather to honor the esteemed men and women of the 132d Wing and the 124th Attack Squadron in Des Moines, Iowa. Their legacy is one of unwavering dedication, exceptional skill, and profound service to our state and nation.

For over eight decades, this distinguished unit has answered the call to duty, a tradition beginning with the 124th Observation Squadron's inception in 1941. From the skies over Europe in World War II to the deserts of the Middle East in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, the members of the 132d have consistently demonstrated their courage and professionalism. Their exceptional service has been recognized with numerous accolades, including an impressive eight Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, a testament to their sustained excellence.

Throughout their storied history, the wing has adapted and excelled with a variety of aircraft, from the early jet age F-80s to the formidable F-16 Fighting Falcon, and now, the cutting-edge MQ-9 Reaper. This evolution reflects their commitment to remaining at the forefront of aerospace technology and tactics.

Beyond their combat and operational roles, the 132d Wing has consistently proven to be a vital asset to the state of Iowa. They played a critical role in relief efforts during the devastating floods of 1993 and 2008, providing essential logistics and personnel support to their neighbors in need.

As we reflect on their numerous accomplishments, it is only fitting to celebrate with a spirit that is uniquely Iowan. Just as the rich soil of Story County produces corn with a record-setting test weight of 61.1 pounds per bushel, the 132d Wing and 124th Attack Squadron produce Airmen of the highest quality and character. This exceptional corn, generously donated for their celebrations, has been masterfully distilled by Century Farms Distillery into "Wild Herky" whiskey, a spirit worthy of these local heroes.

Therefore, let us raise a glass of "Wild Herky" in a toast to the "Hawkis" of the 132d Wing and 124th Attack Squadron.

A Toast to the Hawkis

To the past, present, and future members of the 132d Wing and 124th Attack Squadron. May your legacy of service continue to inspire, your courage never waver, and your commitment to excellence forever shine. To the Hawkis!