



The “Memphis Belle”, the legendary WWII B-17 bomber credited with more than 25 combat missions over Europe now shares its famous name and proud heritage with its 21st century successor, a B-1B bomber of the 116th Bomb Wing of the Georgia National Guard.

Georgia’s B-1 “Memphis Belle” was dedicated July 28 at Robins Air Force Base. On this historic occasion, the Georgia B-1 received not only the name of the famous WWII bomber, but the distinctive noseart design for the “Memphis Belle” -- a girl dressed in high-heels and bathing suit -- which was meticulously reproduced on the B-1.

“This was an exciting event for the Bomb Wing as we became linked with the remarkable heritage of this aircraft,” said Colonel Tom Lynn, 116th Bomb Wing Commander.

Colonel (Ret.) Robert Morgan, who commanded the original “Memphis Belle” through daring aerial combat missions in Europe, was on hand to dedicate the Georgia Guard’s “Memphis Belle”. Highlighting the event was the arrival of the B-17 used in the 1991 film, “The Memphis Belle”. Both the B-17 and the giant B-1 aircraft conducted flybys before landing and taxiing into position for the dedication ceremony.

Colonel Morgan also presented the 116th Bomb Wing with a commemorative piece of metal from the wing of the original “Memphis Belle” that was mounted in the cockpit of the B-1 bearing its name.

