

201 W. W. Welsh

5 February 1952

Brig Gen W. W. Welsh
1015 Cafritz Building
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your letter of 1 February in regard to the Daedalians. This is evidence that we must set up some definite period in the future when we will meet annually. Otherwise, I fear that the organization will fold up.

Unfortunately, I cannot come on 7 February because I am committed to a program that has been planned for some time. Nevertheless, I still am an airplane pilot and can still fly even though today I am sixty years old. As an incidence of this, yesterday afternoon, in process of testing a B-29 at this Base, I ran out of brakes on landing. My reactions were sufficiently alive to preclude any damage happening to the airplane. I was landing from a test flight which required testing the radar at 28000 feet. That's all in a day's work for me.

I am so sorry I will be unable to be with you. I hope that you people will take some definite action with regard to setting up a positive date each year when the Daedalians will meet. I presently have a committee considering the setting up of a definite date for celebration of the establishment of Kelly Field. Kelly is the oldest station within the Air Force. It appears that 9 April, when the first aircraft landed at Kelly may be a good date. This could be accepted as a proper date for the Daedalians. Another suggestion is 11 May. On 11 May 1911, Lieutenant George E. M. Kelly was the first military officer and pilot to pay the supreme sacrifice in the interest of science in the development of aviation. This happened here in the environs of San Antonio, and it is for him that Kelly Field is named. In view of the tenets of our organization, I think it would be very proper that we celebrate this each year. Another likely date is 17 December, which is the anniversary of Wright's first flight.

Anyhow, I think we ought to do something about it
or else forget about it. Looking forward to your decision
and extending you my best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

CLEMENTS McMULLEN
Major General, USAF
Commanding