

# FLYING TIGER HISTORICAL ORGANIZATION

a NON-PROFIT 501c3 ORGANIZATION • E.I.N. 26-1492466



14th AAF



AVG

HONORING THE PAST • LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

## Flying Tiger Historical Organization Newsletter

*November 25, 2010*

*Volume 1: Issue 1*

### Park Progress

We are informed that the construction of the museum building is underway as well as some of the surrounding park accoutrements. At this time we don't have any pictures. However, by the time our next news letter comes out, Travel Aire Tours will have returned from their annual trip to China which includes a visit to the site. Pictures will be taken on that tour and published in the next news letter.



*Artist rendition of museum building and approach.*

### Progress on Artifact Collection and Transfer

Thanks to the generosity and efforts of several people, we have collected quite a few items of historical significance and relevance to the Flying Tigers and American Fighting Forces in China in WWII. Phil VanZandt, one of our greatest contributors, has sent a crate, ready for

international shipment. This crate weighs just under six hundred pounds and presently we are exploring ways to get the items in it to China for as little cost as possible. We will be transporting many additional items to China on Travel Aire's "American Aviator's VIP Tour to China" this March, checked as luggage, on the international flight from San Francisco to Shanghai. Lingui County representatives will meet us in Shanghai and then transport the items to the museum site. Anyone wishing to donate historical items and relics for display at the Flying Tiger Heritage Park is invited to do so. They can be sent directly to- FTHO, 21133 Jimmersal Lane, Groveland, CA 95321 or call (209) 962-5501 and we will see what we can do to arrange shipment or pick up.



## Progress on FTHO Recognition and Publicity

On September 23, 2010 board members General James Whitehead, Michael Bianco and Larry Jobe went to Washington, DC to receive a certificate of Congressional Recognition from Congresswoman Jackie Speier (D) California. The Certificate was read into the congressional record during the 111<sup>th</sup> congress' first session. While there the board representatives met with several other congressmen and two Senators, Senator Harry Reid of Nevada and Senator Diane Feinstein of California. A visit was paid to the Chinese Embassy and a copy of the Congressional recognition was presented to the Embassy. On October 26<sup>th</sup> the entire FTHO board was invited to dinner at the personal residence of Consul General Gao, head of the San Francisco Chinese Consulate. At the dinner Consul General Gao was presented with several items being donated to the museum as well as a copy of the Congressional Certificate. This event was widely covered by the local Chinese news media. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> President Larry



Jobe presented a program on our project to the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association, a group of about 300 members with an interest in aviation. See PMLAA NEWS below.

Chinese Embassy in Washington, DC

Larry Jobe

Michael Bianco

Zhang Ping, Minster Counselor (Congressional Affairs)

General Whitehead

Zhang Jianmin, Counselor



Volume 25: Issue 7 • November 2010

A Monthly Publication of the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association

**“Flying Tigers”  
“Honoring the Past –Looking to the Future”  
Saturday, November 6th  
at the Gais’ Hangar  
20919 Woodside Way**

- by Frank Perry

As many of you know, Larry and Nina Jobe spend a lot of time in China. A few years ago they became passionately interested in the legacy of the Flying Tigers. This week Larry and Nina were honored at the home of Chinese Consul General Gao, in San Francisco where Larry presented a Flying Tiger historical presentation. Now, we get to hear it too and learn about these remarkable men.

For several years now Larry and his volunteer team have been working on a project with the citizens of Lingui County in China to build a historical and memorial park honoring and remembering the Americans and Chinese who, side-by-side, fought to defeat a brutal and determined Japanese enemy in WWII. Their battle was long, their battle was tough, but through mutual cooperation and trust they emerged victorious.

The Flying Tiger Heritage Park in Guilin, China will honor the memory of American forces who fought in China in WW II, collectively known as The Flying Tigers by the Chinese, the American Volunteer Group, (better known as the AVG); as well as the Hump pilots and China-Burma-India theater forces; and the 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Army Air Forces under General Claire Chennault.

The AVG entered China before the US entered the war to help the Chinese defend against heavy bombing of Chinese cities and civilians by the Japanese Air Force. With never more than 98 pilots and only 89 operational air planes, under the leadership of Claire Chennault, they were able to stop a Japanese Air Force of over 1000 planes while compiling an aerial combat record that has never been matched.

When the US entered the war against Japan the only route of supply lay over the Himalayan Mountains. Transport pilots flying out of India and Burma hauled in tons of war material and supply to keep the Chinese army and Army Air Forces fighting. They did this at great risk and peril. The Hump route was one of the most dangerous routes you could fly due to

high terrain and unpredictable weather. The Japanese Air Force regularly patrolled the route shooting down many unarmed transport aircraft. Proof of how dangerous this route was lies in the fact that more Hump pilots were killed than fighter and bomber pilots combined. That route is sometimes referred to as the aluminum trail because of all the aircraft wrecks along it.



The respect and admiration between the American forces and Chinese in WW II has left us with a legacy of friendship that we hope to be able to show and honor in the Flying Tiger Heritage Park

Larry's presentation will cover the memorial project and the amazing achievements of these dedicated and brave men.

## Progress on Fund Raising

We have picked up momentum on our fund raising with two generous donations of \$10,000, one for \$1,000, several more for \$500, plus numerous smaller donations. In addition we have several potential substantial donations in the wings. We are also launching a people to people campaign to raise funds. It will be an Email campaign where we ask every one of you to forward an Email we send you to everyone in your Email address book; they in turn will be asked to do the same, etc. You can see where this could very rapidly inform literally thousands of people about our joint project. In the Email we will ask each recipient to make a small donation, \$1 to \$10. We have high hopes that this will generate thousands of small donations truly making this a people to people project. So watch for an Email coming soon.



14<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force Flying Tigers in front of the command cave.



Looking across the field from the rock which General Chennault stood on.



Wings symbolizing friendship with a hand shake presented by Beijing Aviation Association WWII pilot Mr. Li. Mr. Li was part of the Chinese American Composite Wing (CACW). Mr. Li trained in the United States in Texas.

# WHY THE FLYING TIGER HISTORICAL PARK

## The Obvious Answer

The obvious answer is it is a chance to honor, preserve the memory of, and record for history the remarkable story that is the Flying Tigers, the Chinese and the CBI theater of World War II, a story that for many reasons has been overlooked, forgotten, or buried.

Many books have been written about the Flying Tigers and the pilots who flew the Hump, but for the most part the story and record set by these combatants has been passed over when reporting on the larger history of the Pacific War in WW II. **The Chinese contribution has all but been ignored, and yet their sacrifices were what made it possible for our American fighting men to achieve the success they did.**

So within the park grounds, **the museum and the cave, we will tell their story.** We will have memorial walls and statues honoring those who gave the ultimate sacrifice on foreign soil. The museum will have archives which will hold records, books and personal accounts of that dark period in our world history. Photographs and artifacts, both military and personal, will be on display. Archival film footage will allow one to revisit that time and experience a little of what these warriors experienced.

## The Less Obvious Answer Is More Compelling

**People and governments tend to forget what happened, sanitize what happened, or distort the record of what happened for their own ends. Nowhere is that more true than in the CBI and China theater of WW II.**

In the late 1990's the Japanese government published a text book for their high school students which depicted the Japanese Army of WW II as an "Army of Liberation". **This text book failed to mention the rape of Nanching**, unit 731 (the Japanese chemical and biological experimentation unit which used Chinese civilians and prisoners of war as guinea pigs), Pearl Harbor, the Bataan Death March, Korean comfort women, or any of numerous other atrocities committed by the Japanese military forces in WW II.

When the Asian nations who had these crimes perpetrated upon them learned of this text book there was hue and cry which demanded that the Japanese remove the text book from their schools. The book was withdrawn but it exemplifies the lengths that a government will go to in order to cover up and remove from history that which is undesirable or embarrassing to a people or a nation.

On a tour to China and Guilin we came across a couple of **Japanese tourist** who were asked if they had sensed any hostility from the Chinese for the atrocities committed by the Japanese against the Chinese in WW II. Their answer was eye-opening. **"Oh we weren't in China in WW II."**

They don't know because their government has chosen to keep this embarrassing part of Japan's history from them. History ignored or forgotten is history to be repeated, and we never want this kind of history repeated again.

**Guilin is rapidly becoming the fourth leg on the tourist route to China**, and as such the Flying Tiger Historical park will be on the traveled path and accessible to many. This should insure that the widest possible audience is exposed to the history that occurred here and in the rest of China.

The last reason for the park is that we have an opportunity to strengthen and build on the genuine feelings of good will left by the Flying Tigers. The Chinese have never forgotten what these men accomplished on their soil for their benefit, and the Flying Tigers have never forgotten what the Chinese did for them. 95% of all Flying Tigers who were shot down in enemy territory and who were picked up by the Chinese made it back to their own lines to fight another day. Often the Chinese paid the ultimate price while protecting the Flying Tigers.

The Flying Tiger Historical park will be a place where our two great nations and people's can come together to remember the past and work for a bright and peaceful future.

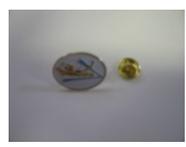
**Items Available for Donation to FTTHO**



Hat \$10.00



Patch \$3.00



Tie Tac \$3.00



Blood Chit  
Silk & Leather  
\$30.00 to \$40.00



Leather Patches  
Different Squadrons  
\$20.00 to \$30.00



Back

"T" Shirt \$15.00



Front

## Flying Tiger Historical Organization Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board

**Major General James T. Whitehead Jr.,** USAF (Ret.)

President

**Larry Jobe,** President, Travel Aire

Secretary

**Bill Silzer,** President, Precision Acc. Services

Director

**Michael F. Bianco,** Chairman & CEO  
American Capital Markets Group

Treasure

**Harvey McCown**

Director

**KC Ma,** President, Asia Holiday travel

Director

**David Thuillez,** Sr. Project Manager  
Colombo Construction Company, Inc.

## Advisory Board Members

**Philip VanZandt**

Historical Advisory Board

**Clay Lacy**

CEO/Founder -- Clay Lacy Aviation

**Rob Custer**

Retired County Officer/Pilot

**Paul Murphy**

Executive Vice President Spiers Investment LLC

**Patric Bergin**

CFO Tel-Tec Security Systems

**Mel McGowan**

Business Owner & Executive

**Simone Wright**

Flying Tiger AVG

**Thomas K. Jue**

CPA

**Charles Michael**

Retired Account Executive Ethyl Corp.  
Pilot, Flight Instructor

**Judge Michael Ward**

Administrative Lawyer

Flying Tiger Historical Organization News Letter is published quarterly by the FTHO  
21133 Jimmersall Lane – Groveland, CA - 95321 (209) 962-5501

<http://www.FlyingTigerHistoricalOrganization.com> [larryjobe1@gmail.com](mailto:larryjobe1@gmail.com)

Every effort is made to present factual and accurate information; however there are always some disagreements in areas of history. If you wish to be removed from our E-mail list please reply to this E-mail News Letter and type “unsubscribe” in the subject line.