

FLYING TIGER HISTORICAL ORGANIZATION

a NON PROFIT 501c3 ORGANIZATION

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14th AAF



AVG

GUILIN CHINA

HONORING THE PAST □ LOOKING TO THE FUTURE
Flying Tiger Historical Organization Newsletter

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FLYING TIGERS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION AND CHENNAULT AVIATION AND MILITARY MUSEUM GALA AT THE EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN WASHINGTON D.C. CELEBRATES US-CHINA TIES BY HONORING WWII VETERANS AND FAMILIES

On September 17, 2013, the Washington DC embassy of the People's Republic of China graciously hosted a gala for the Flying Tigers Historical Association and the Chennault Aviation and Military Museum. The event was held in the embassy and the embassy provided not only a spectacular setting but a delicious buffet as well.

The Chinese Ambassador, Cui Tian Kai, attended and met with attendees for over an hour, discussing the Flying Tigers and the Guilin project and giving encouragement for the efforts of both the FTHO and the Chennault Aviation and Military Museum. Artifacts and photos were on display for all to see and appreciate.

**Nell Calloway
14 AAF Paul Crawford
Ambassador Cui Tian Kai**



The evening program focused on commemorative plaques awarded to Anna Chennault and Catherine Stevens. Anna Chennault was married to General Claire Lee Chennault. They met during the war at Kunming and wed after the war in 1947. She worked as a war correspondent from 1944 to 1949. After the death of Claire Chennault in 1957, she worked as a publicist for the Civil Air Transport in Taiwan, occasional correspondent for the Central News Agency and the Hsin Shen Daily

News. She served in several other mainstream political activities and as relations with China and the US improved in the 1980s, she served as an envoy between China, Taiwan, and the US, and at one point was sent to Beijing as a special ambassador to meet with Deng Xiaoping. To this day she continues to promote exchanges between the mainland, across the straits, and with the US.

Catherine Stevens, an attorney, federal prosecutor, and lobbyist, married US Senator from Alaska, Ted Stevens in 1980. Ted Stevens was a pilot in the Army Air Corps in WWII, serving in General



Anna Chennault

Catherine Stevens



Claire Chennault's 14th AAF, flying the "hump" in C 46s and C 47s in support of the Flying Tigers. He

earned several medal in the course of his work, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, an Air Medal, and the Chinese Order of Yuan Hai for service in which he "distinguished himself by heroism and extraordinary meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight." The commemorative plaques to both women recognize both their husband's and their own contributions.

Commemorative gifts were also presented to several veterans from the WWII CBI conflict. Frank Losonsky, AVG veteran, was assigned as a crew chief in the "Hell's Angels" squadron of the AVG, where he was generally responsible for 3 to 4 air craft at a time. He was also called upon to deliver bombs via truck from Kunming to Paoshan and salvaging parts from ill fated P-40's. After honorable discharge from the AVG, he returned home, married, but then returned to the Far East to work as a mechanic for the Chinese National Aviation Corporation (CNAC). Paul Crawford came to China as a 14th AAF Flying Tiger in the fall of 1944 and left in June 1945. He flew P-51's from bases in both Xi'an and Chengdu. He was once shot down and rescued by Chinese villagers. He participated in missions bombing Japanese supply routes in Hebei and once met with Mao Tse Tung. Jerry Yellin was also a p-51 pilot in the 14th AAF and had the unique position of flying the final combat mission of WW II over Japan on August 14, 1945, the same date US President Harry S. Truman announced the war had ended. Yellin is now the national spokesman for "Spirit of '45 Day", a national day of remembrance honoring the men and women of the World War II generation.



Jerry Yellin and Paul Crawford greet each other FTHO Board members KC Ma, Michael Bianco look on.



Commencing the program were welcome remarks by **Minister Lu Kang**, pictured to the left. General James T. Whitehead, Chairman of the FTHO, in his remarks, said “ The Flying Tiger Historical Organization in partnership with the Chennault Aviation and Military Museum are grateful for the reception being held in our honor at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China. It is through events such as this that we will continue to build on a past special relationship between the Chinese and American people for a better understanding in the future.”

General Whitehead with Ambassador Cui



Nell Calloway, granddaughter of Claire Chennault and Director of the Chennault Aviation and Military Museum, pictured with Congressman Joe Wilson, commented:

“I have wondered many times what my Grandfather would have thought were he able to be present with us tonight. Perhaps we can see it in his comments, “bluntly stated, I am confident that they (China) are hiring me to prepare them to whip hell out of Japan in a couple of years. If my surmise is correct, I am all for it and will exert my utmost effort to achieve that happy end.”

All of us have been influenced by this

history. The question is what we can do to see that this history lives on and that people of both countries (China and the US) can be brought together by this common bond. We would not be here tonight if we did not feel the importance of teaching this history of unity and friendship. By working together we are building bridges for generations to come.”

Various dignitaries were also at the event, including US Senator from Louisiana, David Vitter, and Congressmen Joe Wilson. Several other congressmen and Senators had planned to attend but due to the budget crisis in Washington they were unable to get away.

Special contributions to support the gala came from Northrop Grumman, Potomac Partners, L-3 Communications, Chinese internet giant Sohu.com, and Hezan Group. Instrumental in securing contributions was FTHO Goodwill Ambassador Kerry Berry Brogan. She flew in on leave of absence from the filming of her current film, "Old Boy" in China to show her support for the event. Fluent in Mandarin, Brogan is presently based in Beijing and has appeared in more than 60 Chinese films and television series in a wide variety of dramatic, comedic, starring and supportive roles. Off screen she is well known for her work in promoting better Sino-American cultural understanding and in recent years was the youngest recipient of the Goddess Artemis Award (Euro-American Women's Council) and the Sino-American Friendship Award (US-China Foundation). About her appointment as Flying Tiger Goodwill Ambassador, Brogan said, "I know our younger generation has come a long way in contributing to a positive and healthy development of US-China relations, but I also know we have a lot more work to do. In the face of so many present day challenges, it is important to turn to periods of strength in US-China relations to draw lessons for how to face and overcome obstacles in the future. So I want to do everything I can to help the legacy of the Flying Tigers live on." Ms Brogan came appropriately attired in her hand made dress adorned with a "blood chit" and several patches from various squadrons and units that served in China in WWII.



Standing left to right- Larry Jobe, KC Ma, Nell Calloway, Paul Crawford, Ambassador Cui, General Whitehead, Kerry Brogan, Michael Bianco and Minster Lu Kang.

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES AT GUILIN

As the photo depicts, the construction at Guilin moves ahead. Note the three flag poles and base located right in front. These were the ones where Chinese, American, and AVG flags were displayed at the ceremony earlier this year. Recently, FTHO advisory board member Pedro Chan and his wife traveled to Guilin and reported back on the construction progress.



Dr. Pedro Chan & Wife

Dr. Pedro Chan tour group

Flying Tigers Memorial Museum work and schedule

(Progress plans sent to FTHO by Lingui County officials, unedited) :

1. Memorial internal the planning and exhibition decoration design, is expected to be completed by the end of June this year. (Time 2).
- 2, the preparation of the exhibit and renovation plan submitted to the Government for approval, is expected to be completed by the end of July this year. (1 month)
- 3, project public bid is expected to be completed by the end of September this year. (2 months).
- 4, exhibition display and interior decoration construction is expected to be completed by the end of October 2014 (1 year)

Second, the Flying Tigers Heritage Park comprehensive construction work

- 1, the park's overall layout of the program, detailed planning and construction design is expected to

- be completed by the end of July this year. (2 months)
- 2, the detailed planning of the park's overall layout scheme and construction summit to the Construction Bureau and the county government for approval, is expected to be completed by the end of August this year. (1 month)
 - 3, individual engineering design and preparation of the budget submitted to the Government for approval. Is expected to be completed by the end of October this year (2 months)
 - 4, project bidding and for start clearance, is expected to be completed by the end of December this year. (2 months)
 - 5, the whole construction work is expected to completed by the end of May 2015. (1 year 5 months)

Note: The Arab serial number listed for the work a case-by-case basis, non-simultaneous advance. if the work can be carried out smoothly, The interior decoration and exhibition displaying and the overall construction of the Flying Tigers Memorial park should be ongoing as expected in March 2014

CNAC SUMMER MEETING SEPTEMBER, 2013, MOON FUN CHIN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY AND THE CONNECTION WITH JAMES DOOLITTLE AND HIS TOKYO RAIDERS



As in summers past, members of the FTHO were invited to attend the Chinese National Aviation Corporation (CNAC) semi annual luncheon at the home of Moon Fun Chin in Hillsborough, California. Attending were Chairman James T. Whitehead and his wife Sondra, President Jobe and his wife Nina, Directors K. C. Ma and Michael Bianco, and Newsletter Editor Michael Ward and his wife Pauline. Moon Fun Chin was one of the most decorated civilian aircraft pilots of WWII. He began his career on 1933 with CNAC and thereafter flew for years as a civilian and then during WWII

when CNAC was taken over by the Chinese Nationalist Air Force. He followed WWII as a commercial pilot of great distinction. This year happened to be his 100th birthday! A special celebration was had with the presence of Consul General Yuan Nansheng (photo to left) of San Francisco Chinese Consulate who presented a congratulatory plaque.



San Francisco Chinese Consulate representatives, FTHO board members with Capt. Moon Fun Chin.

FTHO also made a special presentation of a gift box decorated with the AVG logo, a DC 2 such as Moon flew, and various medals he received.



On very special event in Moon Fun Chin's flying career was the rescue of Lt. Col. James Doolittle after the famous Tokyo bombing raid by B 25's flown from the US aircraft carrier Hornet in 1942. The bombers could not return to the Hornet but were to land in China after the raid. Many crashed and lives were lost. The survivors were largely assisted by Chinese villagers at great risk and great reprisal by furious Japanese afterwards. Doolittle, architect of the raid, managed to get to Chungking with Chinese assistance, where coincidentally Moon Chin had arrived in a DC 2. Doolittle boarded the plane and it left for Kunming. Claire Chennault was there. He and Doolittle talked some and Doolittle re-boarded. Moon then flew to Myitkina airfield in Burma which was under Japanese attack. Moon landed there regardless and took on many refugees. With a full plane, he then flew to Calcutta, where Doolittle was met by awaiting US authorities. At the time of all this, Moon was not aware of the Tokyo raid, he learned about it from newspaper accounts the following day. Moon had great respect for Doolittle who he felt was a great pilot willing to take great risk.

Ironically, 2013 was also a special year for the surviving Doolittle Raiders. They had stayed in



touch after WWII and had regular annual reunions. In 1959, the city of Tucson presented 80 goblets, one for each raider, with the names engraved twice, the second upside down. Each year, cognac was poured into the goblets, and drunk by each raider present. The deceased's goblets were turned upside down. The cognac by the way is from 1896, the year Doolittle was



born. This year there were only four remaining raiders, and one too ill to travel. The three who made the final ceremonial toast felt they should make a final toast as they might not make it to another year's ceremony.

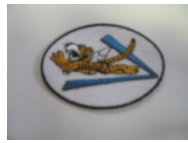
As is so often the case, the Flying Tiger has its moment with these raiders. A restored B 25 still operational appeared at the 2013 Experimental Aircraft Association Air Show at Wittman Regional Airport, Oshkosh, Wisconsin and what do you know? The B 25 had a shark's mouth and leering eyes.



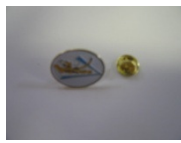
Items Available for Donation to FTHO



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

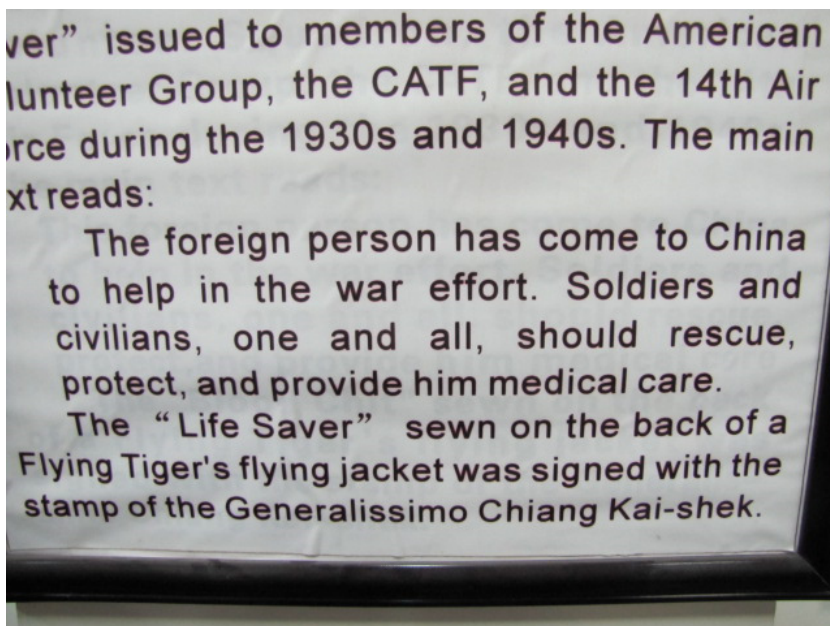
Items may be purchased by sending check or money order to:

FTHO

21133 Jimmerrall Ln., Groveland, CA 95321

Please specify "T" shirt size- S,M,L,XL,XXL. Some women sizes available.
Questions and for list of Blood Chit and Patches available email: larryjobe1@gmail.com.

What does Blood Chit say?



The picture of the blood chit and its interpretation was taken at the Flying Tiger museum in Chongqing. Many Flying Tigers owe their lives to this item which was used extensively in China

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