

Cold War Times

The Internet Newsletter for the Cold War Museum
and Cold War Veterans Association

February 2005

Volume 5, Issue 1



Partners in Preservation: Salvage crew at LA-96L in Van Nuys, California. Group includes members of the LAADMA Board of Directors, the Nike Historical Society, the Cold War Museum, Cold War veterans and other local volunteers from Alameda, CA.

The Los Angeles Air Defense Museum Association's (LAADMA) project to restore the **Fort MacArthur Nike missile site LA-43L** (Launcher area) to a mechanically operational status began its official work in September 2004. In the photo above, the crew is working at LA-96L to dismantle, catalog and relocate the hardware from this site to safe storage where it can be rehabilitated so that LA-43L can become operational as a museum. Read more about their progress on page 11.



In This Issue:

Cold War Museum Update	3
Cold War Museum Moves Closer to Construction	5
Midwest Chapter Update	8
CWVA Chairman's Corner.....	9
<i>By Vince Milum</i>	
California Chapter Update.....	11
Preservation In The West.....	11
<i>By Scott L'Ecuyer</i>	
Museum Openings	14
Trial of an American Daughter vs. Fidel Castro: Press Release	16
Swift Boat Veteran Headaches	17
<i>By Frank DeBenedictis</i>	
A Soldier's Story: 299 th Engineer Battalion (Combat) – 1959 to 1961.....	19
<i>By William J. Sobolewski</i>	
Historic Tours' News	21
The Cold War Museum Charity Golf Tournament.....	33
<i>Information and registration forms</i>	

About the Cold War Museum

Founded in 1996 by Francis Gary Powers, Jr. and John C. Welch, the Cold War Museum is dedicated to preserving Cold War history and honoring Cold War Veterans. For more information, call 703-273-2381, go online to www.coldwar.org or write: **Cold War Museum, P.O. Box 178, Fairfax, VA 22030.**

To contact the Editor of The Cold War Times or to submit articles for future issues, email Scott L'Ecuyer: editor@coldwartimes.com or visit www.coldwar.org.

The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of Cold War Times, the Cold War Museum, the Cold War Veterans Association, and/or their Association, and/or their respective Board of Directors. As is the case with all history, the history of the Cold War is subject to some degree of interpretation.

The Cold War Museum Update

Over the past eight years the Cold War Museum has made great strides in honoring Cold War Veterans and preserving Cold War history. On behalf of The Cold War Museum's Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our efforts to locate The Cold War Museum at the former Nike missile base in Lorton, Virginia. This year, with your help, we can contract with a museum design firm, finalize Phase II of the Fairfax County Proposal for possession of the Nike site, and prepare to open the Museum's first phase in 2006.

Last week, our Phase I proposal for use of the Nike site was delivered to Fairfax County. Congressman Tom Davis is working with us to secure Federal appropriations and Delegate Vince Callahan is working with us to secure State appropriations for the Museum this year. If you live in Virginia, please write your state delegate and have them support the legislation for a non-state agency appropriation for the Cold War Museum. Click [here](#) or visit <http://dele.state.va.us/dele/MemBios.nsf/MWebsiteEL?OpenView> for a list of Virginia delegates' email addresses.

Past support from the Virginia House of Delegates resulted in a \$28,000 State grant, which led to a \$20,000 donation from the Springfield/Lorton VFW, a \$10,000 donation of Zurab Tsereteli art works from a private collector, and several thousand dollars more in small and medium size financial contributions. The Phase I proposal asks Fairfax County for a \$100,000 appropriation in 2005 and similar appropriations through 2011 when the museum would be fully operational.

I am pleased to report that former Secretary for the USAF, Tom Reed, and Delegate Dave Albo serve on our Advisory Board and Laurel Hills High School Principal, Dale Rumburger, serves on the Museum Board.

Here is a listing of upcoming Museum events:

- Our mobile exhibit of the U-2 Incident will be on display at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor's Center in Old Town Fairfax, Virginia, through April 18, 2005.
- Our spring golf tournament will take place on May 16 at Piedmont County Club in Haymarket, Virginia. If you would like to participate in the golf outing, please visit http://www.coldwar.org/museum/charity_golf.html for additional information.
- Our educational Spy Tours will start to operate again in March 2005. Visit www.spytour.com for dates and more information.

The Cold War Museum is a 501(c)(3) charity dedicated to preserving Cold War history and honoring Cold War Veterans. The Museum is part of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #7475) and in January 2001 the Cold War Museum became a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate. On March 8, 2001, the Museum was called to testify before a Congressional House subcommittee on the need to preserve Cold War resources across the country. Our feasibility study, conducted by George Mason University Professor Stephen Fuller in 2004, indicates that the museum will generate over 350,000 visitors per year when fully operational.

Please consider making a donation to the Cold War Museum's general fund. Your gift will help us plan for the new year and the new physical location. Tax-deductible contributions and artifact donations to the Museum will ensure that future generations will remember Cold War events and personalities that forever altered our understanding of national security, international relations, and personal sacrifice for one's country. Please help spread the word about the Museum. Together we can make this vision a reality.

If you have any questions, want additional information, or would like to be added to our Cold War Times email newsletter distribution list, please contact Francis Gary Powers, Jr., Founder, The Cold War Museum: P.O. Box 178; Fairfax, VA 22030. 703-273-2381.

Cold War Museum Partial List of Recent Accomplishments

- Signed Partnership Agreement with Fairfax County Public Schools. (Pending February 2005).
- Submitted Phase I Lorton Nike Site Use Proposal to Fairfax County Park Authority.
- Displayed U-2 Incident Mobile Exhibit at Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center through April 2005.
- Commissioned GMU Professor Stephen Fuller to produce Museum site feasibility study that indicates substantial tourist visitation.
- Commissioned George Washington University Museum Studies students to prepare Collection Management Policy.
- Co-sponsored International Conference on the Cold War with the Cold War International History Project and the Truman Library.
- Co-sponsored Cold War conference with Brown University, USS Saratoga Foundation, and the Russian Sub Museum about Soviet and US Naval Operations during the Cold War.
- Co-sponsored Cold War conference with Virginia Military Institute and The George C. Marshall Foundation on Vietnam and the Cold War.
- Secured \$28,000 VA non-state agency grant.
- Received \$20,000 donation from the Springfield / Lorton VFW.
- Received \$10,000 donation of Zurab Tsereteli art works from private collector.
- Received Commonwealth of Virginia Resolution of Support for locating the Cold War Museum at the Lorton Nike Missile base.
- Contracted with The Alford Group to provide strategic plan.
- Opened Midwest Chapter office in Chicago and staffed with volunteers.
- West German Cold War Radio Intercept exhibit unveiled at the Historical Electronics Museum, Maryland.
- Loaned Cold War Museum artifacts to the espionage "Duell im Dunkel" exhibit in Leipzig, Germany.
- Loaned Cold War Museum artifacts to the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC.
- Received extensive donation from Washington DC's Civil Defense HQ in Lorton, Virginia, courtesy of the Washington DC Emergency Management Agency.
- Hosted Book Signing Lecture at National Archives cosponsored by Association of Former Intelligence Officers, Cold War Veterans Association, and the DC DDR Cold War Re-enactors Group.
- Displayed U-2 Incident Mobile Exhibit at Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Conducted Spy Tour of Washington for World Congress, Forbes Magazine, National Geographic Society, and Vanguard Financial Services.
- Co-hosted reception with Embassies of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia at the Romanian Embassy to remember, commemorate, and interpret the Cold War and promote our efforts internationally.
- Secured twenty-four quality museum display cases from the Museum valued at \$75,000.
- Provided resources and information for tens of thousands of students in Virginia and abroad via our website www.coldwar.org.

COLD WAR MUSEUM MOVES CLOSER TO CONSTRUCTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAIRFAX, Va., January 21, 2005--The National Cold War Museum planned for Northern Virginia moved a step closer to construction today, with the submission to Fairfax County authorities of a plan for the institution to lease and occupy the former Nike Missile launch site at Laurel Hill Park in the Lorton area.

Francis Gary Powers, Jr., Museum founder and president, submitted the document. The Fairfax County Park Authority invited the submission after Powers and others presented a proposal before the park board last September.

“We are convinced that the Cold War Museum, a world-class attraction, would be an asset to Fairfax County, and an appropriate use for the Nike missile site...,” Powers stated in a letter to the Authority.

“We are prepared to move forward with more detailed site analysis, facilities design, planning for phased occupancy of the site, and financial analyses as soon as we can obtain an indication of interest from Fairfax County. The Museum’s ability to embark on its necessary fundraising program from corporate and private sources depends on having a firm commitment to a permanent home for the Museum, and our ability to obtain grants from Federal sources requires us to have been open on a permanent site for at least 120 days. Thus, it will be important for us to be able to receive a formal expression of interest from Fairfax County very quickly so that we may embark on fundraising efforts that will in turn allow us to complete the detailed studies of the site and our financing plan. We hope to be able to open the Museum to the public in spring 2006.”

Powers is the son of the U2 “spy plane” pilot who was shot down over the Soviet Union in 1960, a major incident in the Cold War years. He and John C. Welch founded the Museum in 1966. It possesses a collection of artifacts, documents, books and manuscripts, some of which were developed by Powers as a traveling exhibit built around his father’s personal items. The proposed installation would provide a permanent home for the collection, where research could be conducted and educational materials developed in cooperation with area schools. The museum has branches elsewhere in the country and is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. It also sponsors “spy tours” of locations in the Washington area associated with celebrated espionage cases.

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Further information: Gary Powers, Jr., (703) 273-2381; e-mail: gpowersjr@coldwar.org.

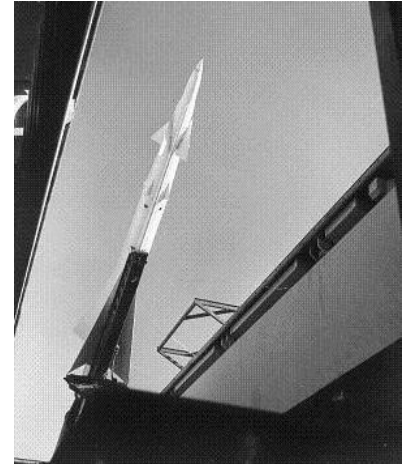
The Museum web site is at www.coldwar.org.



National Cold War Museum and Memorial Center Proposed for Lorton's Laurel Hill Park

Over the past eight years the Cold War Museum (CWM) has made great strides in honoring Cold War Veterans and preserving Cold War history. However, the work has just begun to raise the millions of dollars necessary to build The Cold War Museum and Memorial on the grounds of the former Nike Missile Launch Site in Lorton. With the Fairfax County Park Authority's recent action approving setting aside the 20-acre parcel of land at the intersection of Furnace and Hoes Roads as a major heritage park within its new 1,600-acre Laurel Hill Park, the Foundation, led by its Co-Founder and President, Gary Powers, Jr., is at a critical stage in its development.

The site will not only house and display exhibits and artifacts of the Cold War, but will also feature special informational and research opportunities to a myriad of students, scholars and just plain citizens interested in the Cold War and its impact on American and world affairs during the latter half of the past century. A key aspect of the CWM will be a unique remembrance area to memorialize the estimated 10,000 Americans who sacrificed their lives and the millions more who faithfully served during the often-unseen and un-heralded 46-year-long Cold War Era. In association with the Smithsonian Institution and other area museums (such as the new National Marine Corps Heritage Center, the GMU's Institute of Conflict Analysis & Resolution and the National Army Museum at Quantico, Mason Neck and Ft. Belvoir, respectively), CWM will also sponsor area or on-site seminars and educational conferences concerning all aspects of U.S. involvement in that single longest period of international conflict in U.S. history.



The CWM has just begun working with Fairfax County Park Authority staff to negotiate a formal leasing agreement by which it will eventually transform the approximately 150,000 square feet of existing above-ground structures (both the original Army buildings and the newer former D.C. Prison facilities) as well as a similar amount of underground bunker space into its professionally-designed and -managed Museum and Memorial Center, under the Park Authority's Public-Private Partnership Program. Estimated at a total capital investment cost of \$15 million, the CWM expects to raise most of the necessary construction funds via a mixture of industrial-development revenue bond financing, cultural and historic preservation grants, and voluntary contributions from a wide range of local, regional and national agencies and organizations.



The Fairfax County Public School System has indicated its interest in partnering with the Museum on educational programs, especially with the major opportunity to share educational and cultural experiences about the Cold War Era with students at the new South County High School, now under construction immediately adjacent to the former Nike Missile Base's Command and Control Site. In a similar fashion, the Lorton Arts Foundation plans to develop an alliance with the CWM in order to better represent and feature the important heritage role that Lorton has played within the overall national defense structure (including the Revolutionary, Civil and World Wars) as part of the Workhouse Arts Center at Lorton's Community Heritage Museum.

Earlier this year, the Cold War Museum renewed its affiliation with the Smithsonian Institution. As a result, it has pledged support for allied forces' artifact loans from the Smithsonian's Air and Space and American History Museums, along with the National Portrait Gallery and U.S. Postal Museum. The Museum is working with the

Historical Electronics Museum in Maryland, the International Spy Museum in Washington, and the Florida International Museum to temporarily display artifacts from their collections, including an actual decommissioned Soviet SA-2 Missile of the type that shot down Francis Gary Powers over the former Soviet Union and major Rudolph Anderson who was shot down can killed over Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The Cold War Museum has also acquired many important Eastern Bloc artifacts, including an East German admiral's uniform, a Checkpoint Charlie sign, a Stasi prison door and bed, and a piece of the "Iron Curtain" itself. The mobile exhibit of the U-2 Incident, the "Spies of Washington Tour," and CWM book signing receptions continue to generate interest and support. The mobile exhibit recently returned from a one-year display at the National Test Site Museum in Las Vegas, Nevada, and is now available for display. The educational "Spies of Washington Tour" now includes an optional stop at the International Spy Museum in Washington DC. The CWM's latest book signing reception took place at the National Archives and featured author John Fahey who wrote, "Licensed to Spy", about his involvement with the United States Military Liaison Mission (USMLM).

As a result of CWM efforts, former Secretary of the USAF, Tom Reed; Sergei Khrushchev, son of the former Soviet Premier; General Andrew Goodpaster, former Eisenhower aide; Dino Brugioni, renowned photographic interpreter; and Lorton's very own Virginia GA Delegate, Dave Albo, have agreed to serve on the Museum's Advisory Board of Directors. In addition to the Commonwealth of Virginia's earlier allocation of a \$28,000 matching grant to the Cold War Museum, the Springfield VFW (Post 7327) donated \$20,000 to the Museum. Finally, area Congressman Tom M. Davis, III (11th Virginia) is working to assist the museum at the Federal level. For the fourth year in a row, the museum is part of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC# 7475), which allows Federal government and military employees to donate to the Museum directly through payroll deduction.

COLD WAR MUSEUM HOSTS Charity Golf Tournament

On Monday, May 16, 2005, from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM, come join the Cold War Museum at Piedmont County Club in Haymarket, Virginia, for their annual charity golf tournament. The cost is \$150 per golfer and includes a round of golf with cart, awards dinner, trophies, and hole prizes. Space is limited so reservations must be confirmed by May 1, 2005. Visit www.coldwar.org for more information.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Need not have a foursome to play. Best Ball format. This fundraiser will help ensure that future generations remember Cold War events and personalities that forever altered our understanding of national security, international relations, and personal sacrifice for one's country.

Our golf flyer and registration forms can be found at the end of this issue. Additional information is available online at http://www.coldwar.org/museum/charity_golf.html.

Please distribute the golf info as you see fit to those you think would be interested in playing or supporting our efforts. Sponsorship opportunities are available. We will be scheduling a golf committee meeting soon. If you would like to serve on the committee, please let me know and I will follow up with you about the date and time.

Midwest Chapter Update

Our Midwest Chapter board met in September and discussed, among other issues, a temporary site out of which the chapter will operate until the city of Waukesha decides on the radar site property. Werner, Dave Baldwin, and I toured several properties downtown with a realtor and discussed leasing issues and future options. We will need time to research and detail this possible temporary alternative. With the city dealing with continued budget issues and threatening job eliminations in the Parks Department, it is difficult to see when a decision will be made in regard to Hillcrest Park becoming our chapter home.

We hosted an event at Carroll College on Monday, November 22, on the topic of "Land Based Missiles During the Cold War". Our guest Ken Grigas was a former Pershing Missile specialist who was stationed at a NATO base in West Germany in the early 1970s. He discussed the development of land based missiles after WWII and their role during the Cold War era.



Werner made a presentation to the Polish Women's Civic Club in Chicago in October 2004 (see photos). He discussed espionage activities between NATO and Warsaw Pact forces during the Cold War. We were grateful to the Civic Club for donating \$50 to our chapter. Currently we have \$550 in the bank, and, minus expenses, have raised nearly \$1,000 over the past year through mainly small donations.

We are receiving a series of plaques depicting the history of Waukesha's Amron Corporation and its founder, the late Ken Tapper, from his widow Virginia Tapper. Mrs. Tapper is donating one picture of Ken and another of the company and its employees who developed shell casings, ejection seats, and other war material on a wide scale from the late 1950s to the early 1990's. The plaques will be part of an Amron exhibit featuring several shell casings once a location allows us to exhibit them.



The Cold War Museum would like to extend thanks to the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center and the Milwaukee Art Museum for having hosted in their lobby the KGB / STASI cell door exhibit for the past six months. Besides a graphical display of images of the guillotine used to execute political prisoners and western agents, the exhibit contained uniforms of prison guards and prison garbs of a political maximum security prisoner and an original cell door from the underground interrogation prison in the former East Berlin.

Finally, we have an intern helping us at the chapter. Her name is Kelly Scheiber and she is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater majoring in business administration. She will be assisting primarily with chapter organization, membership development, and seeking grants to aid in the chapter mission.

Visit the Midwest Chapter website at <http://www.freewebs.com/coldwar/index.html>

CWVA Chairman's Corner

By *Vince Milum*

On November 8, 2004, I met with **Rich Kolb, the Editor of VFW Magazine**. We discussed Cold War Veterans related issues for two hours at his office and over lunch. Topics discussed included:

- Creating a **National Cold War Memorial** which will be dedicated to honoring the men and women of the armed forces who fought and won our nation's longest war;
- Establishment of a **National Cold War Victory Day**;
- Rich's new book, **Cold War Clashes: Confronting Communism, 1945-1991**, which we agreed that the CWVA will help promote. For more about the book and information about ordering, click [here](#) or see next page.
- Due recognition for *USS Liberty* crew members.

As a direct result of the aforementioned meeting, the Cold War Veterans Association was discussed in the **February 2005 issue of VFW Magazine** ("*Political Correctness Pervades History Textbooks*"), where I am quoted as saying:

"Our entire legacy is up for grabs—the worthiness of why we served is called into question in history textbooks. We have an uphill battle in seeing that students receive a historically correct interpretation of what we accomplished."

On November 17, 2004, we convened the first post-election meeting of the **Veterans/Military Advisory Committee** of the third U.S. Congressional District of Kansas (upon which I serve). During the meeting, we conducted a conference call with DC where we discussed numerous veterans- and military-related issues including (a) the **National Defense Authorization Act of 2005**, (2) **pending Congressional legislation**, as well as (3) **V.A. funding and access**.

COLD WAR MEDAL PETITION. On November 4, 2004, the CWVA launched a major petition initiative to develop a groundswell of support for the Cold War Victory Medal. Please visit the CWVA main web site at www.coldwarveterans.com for further details and to download a copy of the petition which you can circulate.



[Don't forget! Click here to go online and sign the petition!](#)

COLD WAR VICTORY DAY Update. Dr. David Clevenger has been appointed National Coordinator for recognition in 2005. To find out how you may help us gain recognition for this important holiday on May 1st, please contact David at pastordoc@telepak.net or call him at 601-734-2323.

NEW ZONE DIRECTOR. Replacing Dr. Clevenger (see above) as **Mountain West Zone Director** is Michael Stewart who can be contacted via email at cwvamountainwest@yahoo.com

Don't forget to join us anytime in discussion at the official **CWVA Forum** at <http://cwva.aimoo.com>

As a reminder, the following are the **MISSION and GOALS** of the Cold War Veterans Association:

The CWVA is an aligned organization representing the Cold War Veterans community.

The **Mission** of the Cold War Veterans Association:

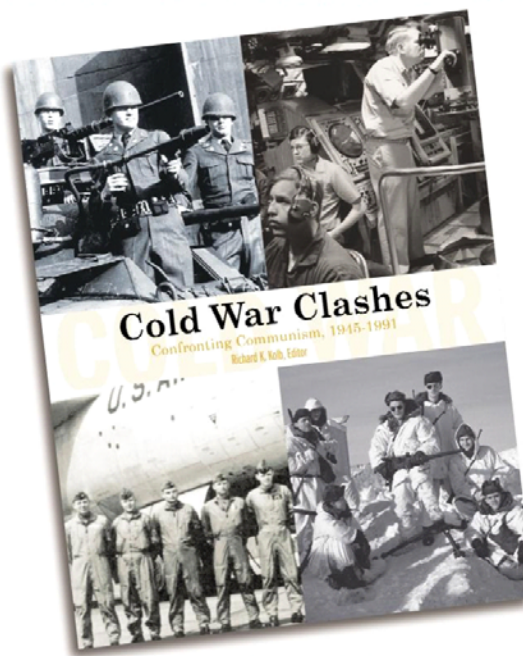
- 1) **To fight** for the rights of Cold War Veterans;
- 2) **To educate** people as to why the Cold War was fought and won and why vigilance must be maintained; and
- 3) **To provide** a fraternal community for men and women whose patriotism binds them together.

2005 CWVA Goals

- 1) **Increase** the number of states recognizing May 1st as **Cold War Victory Day** and work toward the establishment of a federal Cold War Victory Day to be declared in perpetuity;
- 2) **Expand** our victory in Louisiana by having **Cold War Victory Medal recognition** for every man and woman who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces during America's longest war;
- 3) **Expand** our victory in **Massachusetts** of having **full veterans benefits** bestowed on Cold War Veterans;
- 4) **Sustain** the **continued growth** of the Cold War Veterans Association;
- 5) **Achieve equitable tax treatment for VSOs*** and
- 6) **Build UNITY** within and among all the nation's (and free world's) Veterans' Service Organizations.

[*NOTE: 501(c)(3) Charitable organizations which study the military receive more favorable tax treatment than 501(c)(19) Veterans Service Organizations made up of veterans who actually served in the military]

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California Chapter Update

During the past two years, the California Chapter of the CWVA helped promote and participate in a new Memorial Day parade and celebration in the city of Redondo Beach, California. This parade was the first of its kind for this beachside city and, as it grows in scope and popularity, the community and its citizens are now embracing this patriotic tribute to our veterans and our troops.

On Tuesday, December 7, 2004, at the City Council meeting in Redondo Beach, CA, Bhagavan Friend, the founder of the **Redondo Beach Memorial Day Parade and Tribute**, handed the reins of responsibility over to Lt. Col. Falasco, his Cadet Mallory Ogle, and the Redondo Beach Union High School JROTC. The handoff was made official at a Change of Command Ceremony that took place on December 16 in Veterans Park.

More people attended than were anticipated. The Redondo Beach High School Marine Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (RBMJROTC) provided a Color Guard. The new head of the Parade Committee is Ken Falasco. He has delegated the primary responsibility and the authority of organizing the third annual/2005 parade to a 17-year-old ROTC Lieutenant/H.S. Senior. Lt. Ogle and her subordinates were very poised and appeared to be very capable. There is a high confidence level for a solid working relationship with the parade's original Board of Directors.

Mission Complete! The Redondo Beach Parade and Tribute will now be a permanent institution in the city of Redondo Beach! For information about participating in the 2005 Redondo Beach Memorial Day Parade and Tribute on May 31, 2005, please contact Lt. Mallory Ogle at rbmdp@hotmail.com or call (310) 798-8665, Ext. 2109.

Preservation In The West

By Scott L'Ecuyer, CWT Editor

The Los Angeles Air Defense Museum Association's (LAADMA) project to restore the **Fort MacArthur Nike missile site LA-43L** (Launcher area) to a mechanically operational status began its official work in September 2004. According to an association spokesman, Frank Evans, "Association volunteers and staff, assisted by a crew of experienced volunteers from Alameda, California, began the actual removal of electrical, hydraulic and mechanical parts from Nike site LA-96 in Van Nuys. These parts are being cataloged, documented and transported for storage in the San Pedro, California, area. They will be used in the restoration, rehabilitation and preservation of the two (2) underground Nike Missile Storage Magazines".



The Los Angeles Air Defense Museum Association's (LAADMA) project continues after some minor delays. Volunteers and Staff from LAADMA, Nike Historical Society and the Cold War Museum have been continually working to move the project to completion, supported by the Los Angeles City Council District Office and the

Los Angeles Conservancy, the largest conservancy in the nation with some 6,000 members.



"The holiday seasons -- and especially the recent rain storms that plagued us for weeks -- slowed the project somewhat. However it is now back on track and moving on target," said Evans. Two 45' flatbed trucks and a large steel cargo shipping container will be used to transport the equipment from Van Nuys to San Pedro. The Association continues in search of a heavy equipment operator to provide a crane to do heavy lifting.

The 261st Combat Communication Squadron, based on the site, not only approved removal before demolition of the Nike resources; they have helped extensively in many ways to make this project a success. They are partnering with the Association to lower the

platforms, drain the hydraulic fluid for environment disposal, and remove steel plates and personnel access hatches and ventilations covers to the magazines.

The project entails lowering two large 24,600 lb., 50x9 ft. missile elevator platforms into the magazines to facilitate removal of large hydraulic power units which will be raised to the surface along with their electrical parts.



"Motor starters, relay control panels, power transformers, switches, circuit breakers, hydraulic door openers, massive steel locking bars and such will be removed and shipped for restoration of the Nike missile magazines at White Point's Nature Preserve. This will optimistically be home for a Nike Ajax missile now at the Fort MacArthur Museum and a yet-to-be-acquired Nike Hercules missile" said Frank Evans.



Another weekend work project will be scheduled in February to try to finalize the project at the Van Nuys, California, source location. The museum project and other tasks can be followed at the association's new web site: www.laadma.org. Several written articles are pending in the Smithsonian "Air and Space" magazine and the local US Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District's newsletter. The Association will be completing grant applications for both private sector and government funding to establish a long overdue world class Cold War Era Air Defense Museum in Southern California.



VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORSHIPS NEEDED!

To help us create this Cold War educational resource in the West by volunteering some time or by financially sponsoring part of the project, please contact:

- President Frank Evans: fevans@laadma.org or (818) 562-1515
- Project Engineer Scott L'Ecuyer: slecuyer@laadma.org



Museum Openings

Two exciting museum openings are coming up in the near future – one this year and one in 2006. The U-2 exhibit has visited both of these museums.

Grand Opening of the Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas on Sunday, February 20, 2005

The Atomic Testing Museum located in Las Vegas, Nevada, has announced that its public opening will occur on Sunday, February 20, 2005. Werner Juretzko and Chris Sturdevant were on hand for the dedication of the building in October 2003. Many state dignitaries and guests were on hand for the dedication, which also featured a talk with Sergei Khrushchev, son of former Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev.

- Beginning February 1, 2005, the museum will be open to the public Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Admission prices will be:
 - \$10.00 for adults
 - \$7.00 for seniors, military, and students (must present ID at time of ticket purchase)
 - Children under 6 years of age are FREE.
- Beginning February 20, 2005, the museum will be open to the public Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sundays from 1:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The museum will be closed to the public on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day.

755 East Flamingo Road

Las Vegas, NV 89119-7363

Phone: 702-794-5151

Fax: 702-794-5155

<http://www.ntshf.org>

The National Atomic Museum is soon to be renamed the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History.

In spring of 2006, the National Atomic Museum in Albuquerque, NM, will reopen as the new National Museum of Nuclear Science and History with a mission of sharing the story of nuclear science with the public.

With hands-on programs and high-tech exhibits, the Museum will cover topics that range from energy to space applications. Exhibits will interpret the atomic universe, nuclear medicine and other technologies. The “Engineerit! Lab” will create a mission-based learning environment to introduce students to science.

Congress chartered the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History to showcase new technology while exploring the past. View images of the new Museum by clicking on the link below, discover more about the exciting facility, and discover how you can help the Museum's Foundation bring the plans to life.

The National Atomic Museum is located at 1905 Mountain Road NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87104. Two

blocks east of Rio Grande Boulevard and just north of Old Town, Albuquerque. The phone number is (505) 245-2137.

The museum is open daily 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The museum is closed on New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Admission fees:

- \$5.00 for adults 18-59
- \$4.00 for seniors 60+
- \$4.00 for youth 6-17
- Children 5 and under are free.

The mission of the National Atomic Museum is to serve as America's resource for nuclear history and science. The Museum presents exhibits and quality educational programs that convey the diversity of individuals and events that shape the historical and technical context of the nuclear age.

General Information: (505) 245-2137

Museum Gift Store: (505) 242-6083

Fax: (505) 242-4537

Tours: (505) 245-2137 ext. 103

Website of current museum: www.atomicmuseum.com

Email: info@atomicmuseum.com

Website of new museum: www.atomicmuseum.org

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Trial of an American Daughter vs. Fidel Castro

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Media Advisory / Press Release

ON NOVEMBER 15, 2004, A CIA PILOT'S DAUGHTER COMMENCES A TRIAL AGAINST FIDEL CASTRO FOR THE EXECUTION OF HER FATHER AND FOR THE EIGHTEEN YEAR DESECRATION OF HIS BODY.

MIAMI, FLORIDA -- In April 1961, then six year-old Janet Ray saw her father for the last time. Thomas Willard Ray, a CIA pilot who was flying air support during the Bay of Pigs action, was shot down, captured, and summarily executed by the Cuban government.

His body was kept in Havana and desecrated over the course of eighteen years until Janet Ray Weininger, through heroic effort, secured the return of her father's remains back to the U.S. Captain Ray was decorated by the CIA for his ultimate sacrifice.

Now, in a monumental trial to be held on November 15, 2004, Janet Ray Weininger will seek justice for her martyred father, an American hero. The trial will commence on Monday, November 15, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. before the Honorable Ronald C. Dresnick, Circuit Court Judge, at the Miami-Dade County Courthouse, 73 West Flagler Street, Miami, FL 33130.

Janet Ray Weininger is represented by attorneys Joseph I. Zumpano and Leon N. Patricios of Zumpano Patricios & Winker, P.A. and Spencer Eig of the Law Offices of Spencer Eig. For more information, visit www.wingsofvalor.org or contact Spencer Eig at (305) 672-2770, Leon Patricios at (305) 444-5565 or Janet Ray Weininger at (305) 255-5994 or (305) 610-6464, wingsvalor@aol.com

SWIFT BOAT VETERAN HEADACHES: WHY ONE COLD WAR VETERAN BEMOANS THEIR ADDITION INTO THE ELECTION DEBATE

By Frank DeBenedictis

A few ghosts from Oliver Stone's seminal Vietnam epic film *Platoon* recently surfaced in this election season. Internecine sniping among Vietnam veterans pits John Kerry's band of brothers against the shadowy Swift Boat Veterans for Truth. The resultant television ads and theatric nighttime cable TV punditry is reminiscent of the 1986 cinematic battle between Sergeants Barnes and Elias in Stone's.

On Chris Matthews' *Hardball*, the tempo recently reached a crescendo. Matthews's nominal aggressiveness exhibited unusual fury against John O'Neill and the Swift Boat vets for cloaking their invidious right wing campaign tactics under the cover of their overt pummeling of Kerry.

Matthews implied the Swifties couldn't be trusted. He's right. I say this assuming the Swift Vets honest effort in pointing to glaring vagaries about Kerry's participation among discredited witnesses in the tainted 1971 Winter Soldier Investigation. But all this also reflects back on Kerry adversary and fellow Swift Boat Veteran John O'Neill.

In 1971, O'Neill headed the pro-Nixon Vietnam Veterans for a Just Peace. The Swift Vet's 527 ads against Kerry call into question O'Neill's past as much as Kerry's. Underhanded campaign tactics are what the Swift Boat Vets represent to Kerry supporters. However, this may only be an aside to what the Swift Boat Veterans may embody in the end.

Harnessing a combat veteran's group political power speaks on behalf of an administration, which according to prominent historians, has initiated the most radical shift in US foreign policy since 1945. It is most unsettling. The Bush administration literally walked into a power vacuum. Lost in the heated debate over scandalous election season behavior, this point of an enormous historical shift becomes a diminutive point unless one is an academic historian. The Swift Vets phenomenon and voluntary insertion into the foreign policy debate deserves closer analysis within the context of the early years following World War II.

June's edition of *American Prospect* magazine featured Dean Acheson biographer James Chace. Chace emphasized the foreign policy realism of Acheson, Harry Truman, and George Marshall and touched upon the highly successful Cold War policy of containment. The author wrote a contemporary piece on post-World War II diplomats who gained reputability and reverence as the "wise men." In doing so, Chace introduced a viable alternative to the current plague of false information and aggressive policy toward Iraq.

My own military tour of duty took me to Turkey, a Truman Doctrine focal point. I watched the Swift Vet ads and reread the Chace article. I decided to personally question the Swift Boat Veterans. Someone had earlier sent me a hyper-linked Swift Vets e-mail. I answered the e-mail asking for not the truth about Kerry's military service, but the group's foreign policy philosophy. Did these veterans believe in the idea of containment as a viable foreign policy during the Cold War, and in the present day toward Iraq?

My suspicions of John O'Neill and his ties to the Nixon administration gave me an uneasy feeling about him since the former president referred in the 1950s to Dean Acheson's "cowardly Communist

containment.” Nixon appears to be O’Neill’s mentor on foreign policy. In spite of O’Neill and the Swift Vets desire to make Kerry’s honesty a focal point, I began to see a possible replay of Nixon vs. Acheson in addition to the Oliver Stone Vietnam War replay of Barnes vs. Elias.

Six e-mails over a twenty day period were sent to the group internet contact Admiral Hoffmann and his address Latch@SwiftVets.com. I also attempted to contact the web administrator. No reply came from “Latch,” or the others. The Swift Boat Vets continue to post ads, but say nothing about long term goals. They look more like covert Bush administration’s foreign policy activists run by Karl Rove’s associates rather than trustworthy tellers of Kerry’s Vietnam duty. But to get back to sweeping foreign policy ramifications----the Swift Boat vets are not alone. There are other foreign policy hardliners, who foster the current wave of change.

An August 23 Nicholas Lemann *New Yorker* piece described the resurrection of the Committee on the Present Danger. Established in the early 1950s, its founders took it upon themselves to alert the nation on the dangers of Soviet Communism. It resurfaced in 1976 and is undergoing a 2004 renaissance. When taken in conjunction with the Swift Boat Vets, and the ever ubiquitous neo-cons, this group’s resurrection is one more reminder made by prominent diplomatic historians that US foreign policy is undergoing its biggest transition since 1945. The new emphasis is not on containment, but something more aggressive.

While the political left wants Bush out, Michael Moore, MoveOn and others haven’t spoken about reinventing containment. Twenty months ago a teach-in at Florida Atlantic University did, with several peace advocacy groups in Boca Raton taking part. They deserve to be commended. The others like MoveOn should try this instead of engaging in their over the top disparagement comparing Bush to Adolf Hitler. Kerry’s campaign denounced these tactics.

John Kerry’s tall angular physical presence and East Coast gentility bears a resemblance to the aristocratic Acheson. With the new reality of a post-Saddam Iraq, Kerry should talk about an alternative policy in the Mideast. He should do this in the spirit of containment. After all he was the Vietnam veteran whose outlook was different from a rival pro-Nixon group. Thanks to the Swift Boat veterans, and their pursuit of Kerry, Vietnam unfortunately is now tied to Iraq and the tectonic changes US foreign policy is undergoing. Kerry needs to do something about it.



“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.”

–George Washington –

A Soldier's Story:

299th Engineer Battalion (Combat) – 1959 to 1961

I was assigned to the 299th Combat Engineer Battalion from 1959 to 1961. The 299th Engineer Battalion (Combat) was stationed at McNair Kaserne in Hoechst, Germany, from 1954 to 1963. The town of Hoechst is located west of Frankfurt on the Main River. In 1960, the Battalion Commander was Lt. Col. Charles V. Pregaldin, Jr. In an Organizational Day message in July 1960, Lt. Col. Pregaldin stated that “the present members of the Battalion have a proud heritage to carry on. We are here in Europe prepared to defend the peace and preserve the democratic way of life for our nation and our allies.”



Picture of myself at the 37th Engineer Group panel bridge competition, August 1960.

The 299th provided direct combat engineer support to the Fifth (V) U.S. Army Corps and Seventh U.S. Army defensive plan. For the most part, the defensive plan protected West Germany from Communist controlled East Germany. This was the peak of the Cold War era. The relationship between the U.S. and Russia were often tense as reflected by the Russian demands in November 1958 to have US troops leave Berlin by May 1959 and the shooting down of the American U2 spy plane over Soviet territory in May 1960.

The specific missions of the 299th were primarily squad size, consisting of bridge demolition, road cratering, and small-scale minefields. The 299th Engineers Battalion had four line companies – A through D – and under NATO standardization of the phonetic alphabet, they were known as Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta. The battalion also had a Headquarters Company. The line companies each had four platoons and a company headquarters. Each squad had an authorized strength of twelve, but seldom exceeded eight or nine. Each squad had its own dump truck – initially 2 1/2-ton, but by 1961 they were 5-ton dump trucks. Each pulled a cargo trailer or pole trailer loaded with explosives and ammunition. Company commanders rode in jeeps with trailers and platoon leaders/platoon sergeants rode in ¾-ton utility trucks with trailers.

The basic weapon was the M-1 .30 caliber rifle. The M-1 was replaced in 1960 by the M-14, which was similar but fired the standard NATO round of 7.62mm, used magazines of 20 rounds rather than the 8 round clip of the M-1, and could be fired on full or semi-automatic.

Each squad was equipped with a 3.5-inch rocket launcher (bazooka). Two of the squads had .30 caliber machine guns and the third had a .50 caliber, all with tripod ground mounts.

At that time, the line company headquarters had two D-6 bulldozers and two front-end loaders. The battalion's heavy equipment platoon had three additional dozers, several front-end loaders, three road graders, and three truck mounted 20-ton cranes.

In addition to minefield and demolition training directly related to its wartime mission, the battalion trained continuously on combat engineer missions to include bridging of all types, but particularly floating bridges. It also trained for its secondary mission to fight as infantry when required. This training occurred in the classrooms at McNair Kaserne and in the field.

Each month, the army underwent military “alerts”. For the most part, these alerts often occurred in the middle of the night. It required loading trucks and trailers with explosives and ammunition and traveling to a designated combat fighting location in the field until the alert was over. In May 1959, an actual alert was called where the 299th went into the field near the East German border. This marked the end of a six-month Soviet ultimatum to remove U.S. troops from Berlin and to close Western military access routes to Berlin. The Soviet threat ended without an attempt to force U.S. troops from Berlin or to close military access routes.

Company-size bridge training typically took place on the Main River near Hanau, Germany. Panel bridges and floating bridges were built.

In August 1960, the 299th participated in the panel bridge competition on the Main River. The battalion constructed 280 feet of triple-single panel bridge in 13 ½ hours. It did not beat the record of 10 ½ hours. These bridges spanned a 280-foot distance from the shore to an existing bridge pier in the Main River.

Construction of the panel bridge required six men to carry panels weighing 577 lbs. each to the bridge site. All together, about 160 tons of construction material was handled by hand. The panels were connected at the bridge site to other panels. Once the panels were connected, a D-6 bulldozer would push the structure to make the crossing. The panel M-2 Bailey bridges were built and taken down.



Construction of Bailey M-2 (triple/single) bridge during 37th Engineer Group panel bridge competition on Main River near Hanau, Germany, August 1960.

In the case of the floating bridge, the Class 60 steel treadway bridges were used, which required the use of cranes to place its 15-ft-long sections. Companies of the battalion also trained on the M4T6 aluminum bulk bridge, which required that bulk to be hand carried onto the bridge.

Each year, the entire battalion spent an entire week training together to bridge the Rhine River using Class 60-treadway bridge. The bridge sites used were just south of Oppenheim, Germany. The spans there are 1,020 feet. The Rhine River bridging week was in July 1959. The weather was nice and the bivouacs were generally dry. It generally took less than four (4) hours to construct the bridge at this location.

The German government permitted full closure of the Rhine River for brief periods for military training. The battalion tried each year to outdo its previous record, as well as that of its rival battalion the 317th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (also located in McNair Kaserne) and other combat engineering battalions in completing the bridge.



Crossing the Rhine River near Oppenheim, Germany with a Class 60 floating bridge, June 1960.

All units, including the float bridge companies, stayed in their bivouac areas. At a time given, a carefully coordinated convoy moved toward the river. Timing began when the first powered bridge construction boats hit the water and bridge assembly began. A few vehicles would make a ceremonial crossing, then the bridge had to be taken apart, the huge rubber pontoons deflated, and all equipment reloaded on to bridge trucks.

In August and September 1959, the 299th built more than three miles of the General Paul D. Adams Perimeter Road at Wildflecken, Germany.

In February 1960, the 299th played important support roles during large-scale field training winter exercises in “Winter Shield I” near Grafenwoehr, Germany. It was the high point of winter training V and

VII Corps and the Bundeswehr. It marked the first time that major units of the new German Army participated with the United States ground forces in a field exercise. "Winter Shield" was a test of combat readiness and provided realistic training under simulated combat conditions with emphasis on the role of the individual soldier and small-unit leader. These were NATO exercises under harsh winter conditions lasting thirty days. Temperatures were often below zero. The 299th built a panel, M-2, Bailey bridge near Amberg, Germany to bypass German bridges that were not strong enough to carry tanks during the Winter Shield I.

In May 1960, the 299th participated in Operation "Golden Arrow". The battalion flew in C-130s cargo planes in a training exercise from Frankfurt, Germany, to France.

In January 1961, the 299th again participated in winter exercises in Winter Shield II near Grafenwoehr, Germany. In March 1961, I was honorably discharged from active duty with the U.S. Army.

William J. Sobolewski, RA 19612067
Specialist 5th Class
299th Combat Engineer Battalion
1959 to 1961

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The History Channel and A&E Travel sponsors our 60th Anniversary of V-E Day Commemorative Tour and our Let Freedom Ring! WWII and Cold War Commemorative Tours:

In addition to AAA Signatours, *Historic Tours* is honored to now be operating tours on behalf of *The History Channel* and *The A&E Travel*. They are sponsoring two of our 2005 tours.

TOUR #1:

Our *60th Anniversary of V-E Day Commemorative Tour* will participate in the last great commemoration of World War II. If you missed the 60th anniversary of D-Day or went on a tour with another company and weren't satisfied with your tour, you may want to consider joining us on this history-making experience. France is the only nation which commemorates the Allied victory over Germany by making May 8 a national holiday. For many years now, *Historic Tours* has been attending the grand commemorative events at the Arc d'Triomphe. Our tour members witness a spectacle, which includes a great parade up the Champs Elysses, and various ceremonies under the Arc. The President of France and Allied leaders lay wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknowns and later greet those attending the events.

We expect May 8, 2005, to be the last great commemoration of WWII in Europe, due to the advancing age of the veterans. Our tour will visit Paris, Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge areas of Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. An optional extension tour to Berchtesgaden to visit Hitler's Eagles Nest is available.

60th Anniversary of V-E Day Commemorative Tour: May 5 – 17, 2005 and optional extension tour May 17 –21, 2005.

Click to go to the following link to view the itinerary and to book the tour:

http://www.aetntravel.com/tours/tours_details.asp?Tour_ID=677&special=1

TOUR # 2:

Our *Let Freedom Ring! WWII and Cold War Commemorative Tour* is one of our newest and yet most popular itineraries. We'll begin at Berchtesgaden and visit Hitler's Eagles Nest and cross into Austria where we'll visit Linz and Mauthausen Concentration Camp. We'll cross into the Czech Republic and explore historic Prague. We'll see the "Paradise Ghetto" at Theresienstadt or Terezin before we cross back into Germany. We'll enjoy Berlin exploring the many WWII and Cold War sites.

***Let Freedom Ring!:* September 21- October 1, 2005.**

Click to go to the following link to view the itinerary and to book the tour:

http://www.aetntravel.com/tours/tours_details.asp?Tour_ID=17

TOUR # 3:

From June 5-9, 2005, we'll be operating our **"D-Day Commemorative Tour for Independent Travelers"** – If you are an independent traveler and are visiting Normandy for the first time, or if you have been on one of our tours before and wish to attend the 61st Anniversary of D-Day Commemorations, you should consider joining this four-night tour. We'll stay at the newly renovated Novotel Bayeux Centre. All the rooms now are air-conditioned and have all new furnishings. We'll attend the official ceremonies at the Normandy American Cemetery and Ray will guide our tour members on detailed tours of the invasion area. We'll have a private reception at the town of Ste. Marie-du-mont and we'll view Brecourt Manor where Easy Company, 506th P.I.R, 101st Airborne Division (*Band of Brothers*) made their heroic first attack of the war. We'll visit the various "draws" on Omaha Beach as Ray explains the details. We'll view the famous "Iron Mike" monument to our airborne troops at the battle site at la Fiere. We'll have lunch in quaint restaurants and still have time to explore beautiful, medieval Bayeux. We'll also visit the "artificial harbor" at Arromanches and explore the best museums in the invasion area.

D-Day Commemorative Tour for Independent Travelers: June 5- 9, 2005: e-mail Cristy at ww2tour@aol.com

TOUR #4:

Historic Tours is proud that **AAA Signatours** is sponsoring its third tour with us. AAA Signatours is sponsoring a ***Let Freedom Ring!*** WWII and Cold War Commemorative from June 15-25, 2005. The tour is one of our newest and yet most popular itineraries. We'll begin at Berchtesgaden and visit Hitler's Eagles Nest and cross into Austria where we'll visit Linz and Mauthausen Concentration Camp. We'll cross into the Czech Republic and explore historic Prague. We'll see the "Paradise Ghetto" at Theresienstadt or Terezin before we cross back into Germany. We'll enjoy Berlin exploring the many WWII and Cold War sites. Click here to go to the link for AAA Signatours: **June 15-25, 2005**

Click to go to the following link to view the itinerary and to book the tour:
https://www.aaasouth.com/overview.asp?product_id=3579&product_type='t'

RESULTS OF 2004 TOURS

In the spring of 2004 Cristy and Ray were very busy operating tours for the Appalachian College Association, a *Let Freedom Ring!* tour and the 60th Anniversary of D-Day. In addition Ray operated his private day tours in Normandy.

Appalachian College Association: The Appalachian College Association is a group of small colleges in the Appalachian region. This was the second tour we operated for the Association and Dr. Fred Mullinax once again coordinated it. We had a group of 20 including 15 honors students and 5 professors. We visited Normandy, Paris, and the Battle of the Bulge areas of Belgium and Luxembourg and Germany. In Normandy we arranged for a meeting with students at the University of Caen. Our students and professors exchanged views on history and current events with university students who were studying English. It was the second time we had done this and the exchanges were wonderful. The students learned much about the world and we look forward to operating another tour for the association possibly in 2006.



Students and professors of the Appalachian College Association in Boppard, Germany.

Private *Let Freedom Ring!* We operated our third tour for Ms. Dorothy Williams of Millersburg, PA. Our *Let Freedom Ring!* Tour visited Berchtesgaden, Munich, Prague, Terezin and Berlin. The tour was a great success as we explored the sheer beauty of these areas and the WWII and Cold War history. Berlin resident Col. Steve Bowman guided us to the Reichstag, Checkpoint Charlie and other famous sites. Steve was the final Deputy Commander of the Berlin Brigade before his retirement. He personally took down the Soviet checkpoint Alpha on the west side of the city at the end of the Cold War. He is retired and married a German citizen and now lives in Berlin.



Col. Steve Bowman explains the battle for the Reichstag in Berlin.

60th Anniversary of D-Day Commemorative Tours: *Historic Tours* is proud to have operated three well-executed tours for three groups consisting of a total 225 tour members. The 60th anniversary commemorations were the second largest program *Historic Tours* had operated in 21 years. Cristy and Ray founded *Historic Tours* in 1983 in order to prepare for the following years' 40 anniversary of D-Day commemorations, which would be attended by President Reagan. In 1994 *Historic Tours* operated tours with a total of 1,000 tour members to attend the events presided over by President Clinton. Now President Bush and President Chirac would lead the 60th anniversary of D-Day.



Tour members welcomed by French students at the Ecole Jeanne D'Arc, Bayeux France.

Normally our tours are directed by Cristy and Ray personally, but for these major events, Cristy and Ray directed a team which was hand-picked to offer our tour members the best guiding services of any tour company. Our Tour Directors included Col. Steve Bowman, PhD (USA Ret.) and Dr. Sue Erickson. Our main group stayed at the Novotel Centre Bayeux and our other two groups stayed in Deauville. The *Historic Tours* team in Luxembourg, New Jersey, Florida and Oregon worked for well over a year to be certain that all would go smoothly.

Beginning in 2003, veterans in our main group had been writing to students at the Ecole Jeanne d'Arc (Joan of Arc School) in Bayeux. The French students wanted to get to know our veterans and they became good friends even before the tour. Cristy and Ray had made appearances at the school as part of our **“Transatlantic Educational Outreach Program”** to have person-to-person communication between our nations. Upon our arrival in Bayeux our tour members were overwhelmed with the grand and very warm welcome for them at the school. Gifts were exchanged and many tears flowed. Later that week our tour members were the guests of honor at the official 60th anniversary of the liberation of Bayeux ceremonies. Our veterans were seated on stage as the mayor and the students thanked them and honored them with songs and praise for their sacrifices. Our tour members consisted of veterans, families and other interested Americans.

Our tour members were among the first to arrive at the Normandy American Cemetery. Our team had assured that all tour members had the proper security credentials, which were issued by the Department of Defense. Our tour members received the absolute best seating in the entire cemetery. Thousands of Americans and French people attended the events and our tour members were the envy of all as they were seated right up front to attend the historic events on a bright and sunny day. President Bush spoke of the sacrifices made 60 years before and of the passing of President Reagan who died that morning. Many of our tour members got to shake the hands of President Bush and Chirac.



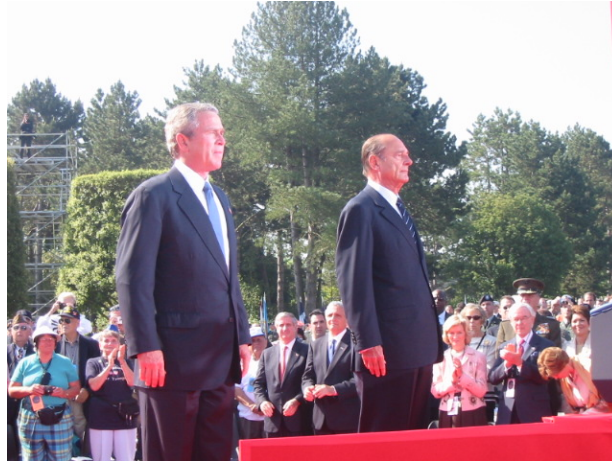
US Army Veteran May Alm is presented with the 60th Anniversary Commemorative Medal by Mayor Milet, Ste. Marie-du-mont, France (Utah Beach)

All of our tour members attended a private reception at Ste. Marie-du-mont (Utah Beach) and they were the first to be hosted at the town's new reception building. Mayor Milet awarded the official 60th anniversary of D-Day commemorative medals, which were given by the Normandy authorities. The *Historic Tours* team had arranged this through many hours of detailed work. The reception was large and the French people gave heartfelt thanks to all Americans.



Helen Patton sings for tour members at the Luxembourg American Cemetery.

After a thorough tour of Normandy we visited the Battle of the Bulge areas. In Luxembourg we arranged for the American ambassador and for our close friend Ms. Helen Patton (granddaughter of General George S. Patton) to participate in our commemorative service. Helen sang "I'll Be Seeing You" and there was barely a dry eye in the group. In Clervaux, Luxembourg, we attended the dedication of a plaque and a Sherman tank to the 9th Armored Division. Veterans who fought in the Grand Duchy were awarded a beautiful commemorative medal from our friends of the C.E.B.A organization.



President Bush and President Chirac at the Normandy American Cemetery June 6, 2004

We explored the Bulge and many tour members continued on with Cristy and Ray on an optional extension tour to Berchtesgaden and Munich. We visited Hitler's Eagles Nest and Munich with Ray personally doing the guiding.

If you were among the Americans who went on 60th anniversary of D-Day tours with other companies or with some of the cruise lines and were not satisfied with your tour, please consider joining our 60th Anniversary of V-E Day Commemorative Tour in May 2005.

RAY PFEIFFER – GUIDE FOR U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS



Speaker Hastert, Superintendent Gene Dellinger and Ray Pfeiffer at Pointe du Hoc

Since the summer of 2002, Cristy and Ray have been living on Omaha Beach during the tour season and in Florida during the winters. Ray operates his private tours between the group tours, which he and Cristy guide during the spring and fall. In September 2003 Ray was chosen to be the guide for Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (R IL) and his party. Ray guided the Speaker on Omaha Beach, the Normandy American Cemetery and at Pointe du Hoc. The Speaker was very pleased with Ray's services and promised to recommend him to other visiting delegations.

In the fall of 2004 Ray was once again chosen by the American Embassy in Paris to guide a delegation of the House Appropriations Committee. The delegation was led by Representative Murtha (D PA) and

Representative Obey (D WI) and Representative Hobson (R OH). Ray had time to also guide the group through the Gold Beach and Juno Beach sectors and explained the battle for Caen.



“Wild Bill” Guarnere and “Babe” Heffron inspect troops (re-enactors) at Aldbourne, England.

Easy Company, 506th P.I.R., 101st Airborne Division 60th Anniversary Commemorative Tour Featuring “Wild Bill” Guarnere and “Babe” Heffron: In December, 2003 *Historic Tours* was asked to operate a tour which would take place in September 2004 and would trace the route Easy Company made famous in the book and HBO mini-series **“Band of Brothers”**. Cristy and Ray went to South Philly to meet with Bill and Babe and their friend Jack Cianfrani. Jack is the son of a deceased veteran of the 82nd Airborne and a lifelong friend of Bill and Babe. Bill and Babe had been on tours with other tour operators and were had been very unhappy with the results. Cristy and Ray were honored to be selected for what may be these two famous veterans’ last trip to Europe.

The tour followed the route of Easy Company from London to Adlbourne. We crossed the Channel to Normandy, went to Bastogne and the Operation Market-Garden areas of Holland. We visited Luxembourg and Germany and went all the way to Zell-am-see, Austria. The tour was a terrific success.

Here are the comments of Bill and Babe:

October 8, 2004

South Philly, PA Dear Cristy and Ray,

I want to thank you both and Sue, Steve and Alain. The trip we just came back from was the best! It took me back to the 40’s. Enjoyed all and want to thank you both for the nice things you did for Babe and me. I also want to thank all who were in the background. There was a lot of homework done behind the scenes. Thank them too! Just remember this – your tour – the Easy Company 60th Anniversary Commemorative Tour was the best! Thanks a million for all of the memories.

Love to all,

“Wild Bill” Guarnere

*Co. e. 506th P.I.R. 101st Airborne Division
Band of Brothers*

September 30, 2004

South Philly, PA

Dear Cristy and Ray,

I had told you I would write, and so I shall. But first I want to thank you both for the finest trip to Europe that I ever been on. I must tell you two people what a wonderful job you did as the leaders of this tour group.

I'm getting phone calls from some of the people who were on the tour and they would like to spend a few hours lifting a few beers with us and we always say "Sure, what the heck"! They speak so highly of you two that I reminded them that "Wild Bill" and I were also on the tour! You both should be proud of yourselves not only about how great the tour was, but your show of Americanism, which I felt very proud to be a part of. I guess there aren't many people in the tour end of things that know and speak of love of America that you two do. I know that Cristy had me in tears (happy tears) when she said how much she enjoyed our group of people, and I thank her for that. Ray your wife is quite a gal, a great American and she knows what's going on at all times and Ray I must say I've heard lots of guys talk about this battle or that battle, but you top them all and I'm not just blowing smoke, and I think you know that you had my attention every time you spoke and I don't say that about everybody.

May you prosper in your future endeavors, and live a long and healthy life for future Americans who may join your groups. What can I say? When people ask you how will the trip that they are going on, just say call this number and ask this guy from the Band of Brothers who has been on previous tours and I'll be glad to tell them. God love you both, stay well and get lucky!

*Edward "Babe" Heffron
Easy Company, 506th P.I.R. 101st Airborne
Band of Brothers
From South Philly*



"Wild Bill" and "Babe" at the Iron Mike Monument, La Fiere, France



Sue Erickson and Bill Guarnere at the Bois Jacques, Foy, Belgium, where Bill was wounded and lost his leg

Dr. Sue Erickson, who was instrumental in making the tour a success, joined us and played an important part in the tour. She is a great admirer of Bill and Babe. We arranged for many private welcomes including a terrific event in Aldbourne, England where WWII re-enactors came out to be inspected by Bill and Babe. In Normandy we visited Brecourt Manor where Bill earned the Silver Star. In Bastogne, we visited Foy and the Bois Jacques where Easy took a tremendous pounding by German 88's and where Bill lost his leg. In Holland we attended the 60th anniversary commemorative events in Eindhoven and participated in the dedication of plaque to the 101st. Col. Steve Bowman (USA Ret.) guided us in Holland and he did an outstanding job. We continued on to the Eagles Nest where Bill and Babe finally got to the top where Easy had been the first unit to conquer it. We were greeted warmly in Zell-am-see, Austria where Easy had its occupation duties. We continued on and Ray guided the group through Dachau Concentration Camp.

Cristy and Ray will be visiting Bill, Babe and Jack in South Philly again in December 2004. This tour was one of the most memorable tours in the 22-year history of Historic Tours and it marked an important milestone for Historic Toursit was our 100th tour and every tour was a success!

TRANSATLANTIC EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

We briefly mentioned this program in the above paragraphs and would like to explain a little bit more about it. Madam Karen Dupont who is a teacher at the Ecole Jean d'Arc in Bayeux approached us. Karen is a good friend of Cristy and Ray's and she is half American and half French and she teaches English at the school. Karen wanted to work with us to extend a very warm greeting for our WWII veterans over the 60th anniversary of D-Day commemorations. Cristy and Ray were invited to speak with the students twice at the school. We asked them what had happened to their families during the terrible fighting, which raged in Normandy during the summer of 1944. Many of the students had never asked their families before and they reported back on the sometimes-tragic history of their families. Cristy and Ray answered many questions about America for them and took them on a day-tour of the American sector of the invasion beaches. All of the students had visited the beaches before and had visited the Normandy American Cemetery, yet few really understood what had happened. We began our day at the Normandy American Cemetery where we had a wreath laying ceremony and the students hoisted the American flags at the cemetery. Ray carefully explained the American role in the war and we visited Omaha Beach, Utah Beach and Ste. Mere Eglise.



Cristy Pfeiffer addressing the students at the Ecole Jeanne D'Arc, Bayeux.

The students began writing to our veterans and a year long correspondence began. The veterans and the students forged a very close bond, which continues today. Upon arrival in Normandy, our veterans and other tour members were warmly greeted at the school. A gauntlet of students greeted them with cheers and waving American flags. Gifts were given to each veteran and a vin d'honneur or toast of honor was made. On June 7 the veterans were featured at the official 60th anniversary commemorations of Bayeux. Our veterans were on the stage and were the center of the large public celebrations.

PROPOSED NEW U.S. NAVY MONUMENT ON UTAH BEACH

On December 7, 2003 Ray was asked to be the guest speaker for the annual Pearl Harbor Day Commemorative Dinner for the Naval Order of the United States <http://www.navalorder.org> for the Jacksonville, Florida area. Being a Navy veteran himself, Ray was honored to have been chosen to speak and Ray made a slide presentation and of course concentrated on the Navy's role in the battle and its aftermath. For many years Ray and Cristy have been trying to get a Navy organization to build a proper US Navy monument in Normandy. The authorities in Normandy will donate the land and maintain the monument if some organization would only build it. As a result of his presentation, The Naval Order is seriously considering the funding for such a monument. The people of Normandy are thrilled and it is hoped that a tour will be built around the dedication of a monument in 2007. Ray is acting as a point of contact between the Naval Order and the French authorities.

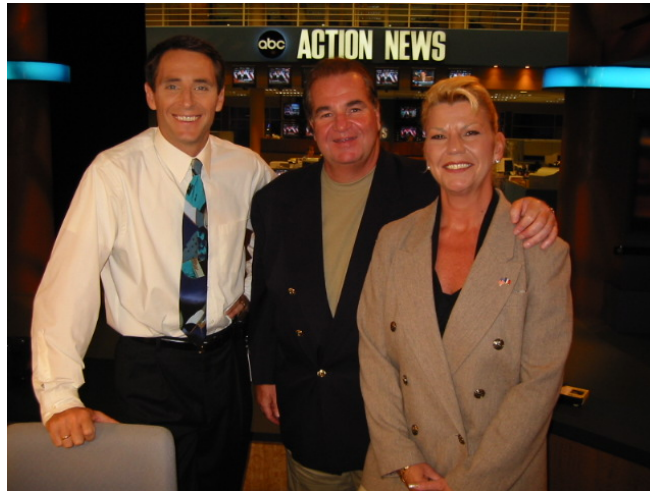
TWO IMPORTANT PROJECTS IN NORMANDY

Though Pointe du Hoc was given by the French to America in 1979, the American government did not allocate enough funding to properly take care of this important site where U.S. Rangers scaled the cliffs to knock out the German guns. Therefore the European Union and the Normandy authorities committed millions of Euros for the preservation and improvement of the site. Proper rest rooms, a Visitors' Building and a greatly expanded parking area have been added. In addition the battlefield itself was made much safer with the establishment of walking paths, and viewing platforms with safety bars on top of some of the casements. The work is still going on and the Europeans are committing more money. No American funds are being used in this project.

Cristy and Ray attended the Official Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Interpretive Center at the Normandy American Cemetery. This much needed project needs to be credited to the efforts of Mr. Gene Dellinger, the Superintendent of the cemetery. The current office at the cemetery is far too small for the nearly 2,000,000 visitors the cemetery receives annually. Congress has allocated \$30 million for the project, which will include a welcome center for veterans. The project is due to be completed in 2007.

CRISTY AND RAY INTERVIEWED BY ABC-TV ACTION NEWS

In the spring of 2003, Cristy and Ray were asked to come to the studios of ABC-TV Action News in Tampa, Florida to discuss French-American relations. They explained that regardless of the political situation between our nations, the French people have a boundless sense of gratitude for what America did for France in both world wars. The interview was shown three times in the Tampa region.



Cristy and Ray with reporter Bob Kendrick at ABC-Action News, Tampa, Florida

***SUE ERICKSON AND PETER FLAHAVIN VISIT GUADALCANAL, SOLOMON ISLANDS—
A 2006 WWII STUDY-GROUP TOUR IS PLANNED***

Sue toured Guadalcanal in August 2004 with military historian and “After the Battle” Magazine contributor Peter Flahavin and local guide/Guadacanal historian John Innes. Edson’s “Bloody” Ridge, Henderson Field, the Matanikau River, the Ilu River, Mount Austen, the Tulagi, Gavutu and Tanambogo Islands, Kyushu Maru and Kinugawa Maru troopship wrecks, among other historic sites, were explored in detail. A tour of Guadalcanal and its neighboring islands is being considered by Historic Tours for 2006. ***IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING SUCH A TOUR PLEASE CONTACT SUE ERICKSON AT vethonor@aol.com***



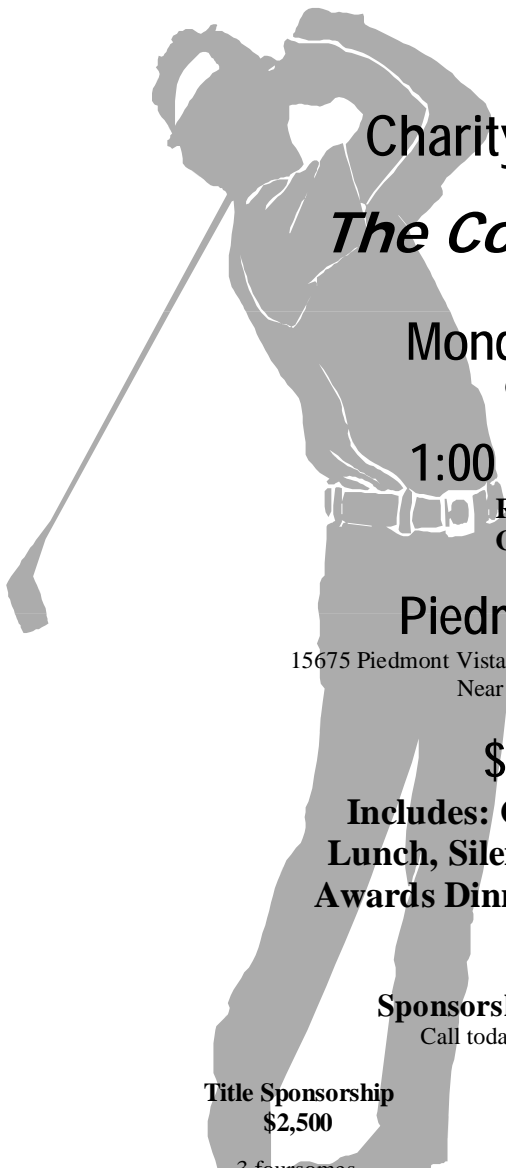
Peter Flahavin hikes up Hill 27, Gifu



Sue Erickson on Edson's Ridge

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1:00 PM Shotgun Start

Registration: 11:00 AM

Golf Clinic: 12:00 Noon

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