

# The Cold War Times®

*The Newsletter of The Cold War Museum®*

Summer 2020



## Letter from the Executive Director

Like everyone, the Museum went through some hard times this spring and summer.

We weren't sure we'd be able to reopen our doors when we had to close. Thanks in large part to many of you, we're back. We've been open to the public as of about two months ago, and while we're still operating on Virginia's Phase III COVID rules (basically 100% masks, social distancing, and up to 50% of visitor capacity—what I call “grocery store rules”), we've actually done quite well in terms of renewed visitation.

What made this possible was some extreme efforts by our Board and staff, and particularly our Board Chairman, to expand our normal spring fundraising efforts.

We rely on many income streams but among the most important is the annual Give Local Piedmont (GLP) one-day online campaign run by our friends and supporters, the people of the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation, which spends much time and effort helping all the nonprofits in its four-county service area.

This spring we made an extra, intensive effort to supplement GLP fundraising with an unusual effort to secure grants, both Federal and state, and to reach as many of our personal and professional networks as possible. Since our Chairman has been involved at a senior level in many veterans organizations, his efforts here were particularly useful.

So between the GLP work and these extra efforts in roughly the same time period, we were able to raise about \$30,000, which is by far a new record for us.

In a time when politics has created higher levels of division among many parts of our society, it's heartening to those of us involved in keeping the Museum running that when it comes to preserving small cultural institutions like ours, which seek to keep our common heritage alive for coming generations, Americans can still come together. Thanks for being one of those people.



**The Cold War Museum®**

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**Executive Director**

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# Our Lecture Series

The Cold War Museum’s® Presentation Series, where we present eyewitnesses to, and expert accounts of, key Cold War events, has been a key method by which the Museum educates about the Cold War for our audience (which normally averages about 40-50 people), a resource for future scholars (since we film all of these events including the question-and-answer sessions), and a significant source of income for our operations. With the support of Museum Members, we were able to present following four Presentation Series events in 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of our venue, Old Bust Head Brewery:

- ◆ 1/12/20—FBI Historian John Fox surveyed Cold War counterintelligence activities by the US, including mistakes we made, with lessons learned, as well as successes we had.
- ◆ 1/26/20—Buz Carpenter repeated his Flying the SR-71 presentation, which we had had originally about two years previous. This extremely popular event drew more than 100 people, allowing the Museum to net more than \$2,000.
- ◆ 2/9/20—Greg Nedved and Laura Murray, NSA China Experts and Historians, presented with Ken Allen, former USAF attaché in Beijing during Tiananmen, on Tiananmen Square events (30th anniversary) and their relationship to recent Hong Kong events.
- ◆ 2/23/20—Steve Vogel gave highlights of his recent book *Betrayal in Berlin*, about the Berlin Tunnel under the Soviet Embassy that tapped into Embassy communications and how it was betrayed even before its use by a mole in MI6.

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## The Cold War Times

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*To request publication guidelines, please contact the editor:*

***Joseph Felice***

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## Message from the Chairman *Chuck Wilson*

Greetings Cold War Veterans, and friends of the Cold War Museum! We hope that you and yours are safe and well. Our wonderful museum is fine, but 2020 has so far brought with it some challenges. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck we had to close our doors and all our events and presentations postponed. The result was the revenue flows stopped and our operating expenses continued for the ensuing months. That really caused us to fall on our back. Confucius, the ancient Chinese philosopher once said, "Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

We are in recovery and on the rise! This past June, we reopened in line with the Virginia Guidelines for COVID-19. Restarting the Cold War presentation series has begun with past Cold Warrior and U.S. Ambassador Charlie Ray who informed us about "Ambassadors & Spies: How U. S. Ambassadors Deal with Intelligence Agencies." This was an exciting and informative presentation that everyone enjoyed!

Additionally, our Spring and Summer have been quite engaging and productive! Our Give Local Piedmont fundraiser was a record-breaking success. A BIG Thank-you goes to AFA Gabriel Chapter for their tremendous support with our fundraising! Although COVID-19 pandemic put us on our heels, we are on the path to recovery. And yes, we were able to open our doors back up to visitors (50%) while following the Virginia guidelines. Our volunteers have been quite productive during our opening. Our presentation series has begun and is a prime source of revenue for us. We do appreciate, and need, your continued support! It has been fantastic!

Our future is bright with plans to potentially expand. A developer, Laurel Hill Sports, has plans for a national sports facility on 35 acres near Lorton, VA, and has asked the Cold War Museum to establish a presence in the 1950s era NIKE Missile complex there when and if they build. The site itself has been sealed off for many years and needs significant renovation. This opportunity both exciting and intriguing!

We plan to continue with our vision for the Cold War Museum to "...inform the present and influence the future through an understanding the past, with exhibitions of artifacts, documents and events related to the Cold War Era." In doing so we will need your continued support. Do visit our wonderful museum frequently, do attend our presentation series of Cold War speakers, and do continue to donate to this worthy endeavor to preserve the history of the Cold War!

Thank you so much for all that you do for us!



## Museum Staff

Jason Hall, Ph.D., CAE  
Executive Director (Historian)

John DePerro, Chief Curator & Key  
Tour Guide  
(Army veteran)

Bill Rinehart, Collections Chief &  
Chief Exhibit Builder  
(Air Force veteran)

Paul Schaya, Imagery Intelligence  
Collections/Exhibits  
(Marine veteran and former CIA im-  
agery veteran)

John Suter, Imagery Intelligence  
Collections/Exhibits & Museum  
Photographer  
(NRO imagery veteran)

Gene Eisman, Director of  
Public Relations &  
*Cold War Times* contributor

Chris Sturdevant, Chairman  
Midwest Chapter of CWM & *Cold  
War Times* contributor  
(Air Force veteran)

Kevin Knapp, Special Events Support  
(Army Special Forces veteran)

[Name withheld], Signals Intelligence  
Technology Specialist

Stan Manvell, Chief Fabricator  
(construction industry)

Mike Washvill, Chief Technology  
Officer & Key Tour Guide  
(Vint Hill Army veteran & former  
FBI electronics engineer)

Doug Harsha,  
Civil Defense Expert &  
Social Media Lead Staffer

Birgitte Tessier, Registrar/Archivist

Bryan Zwanzig, Lead Staffer  
Private Tour Arrangements &  
Presentation Series staffing  
(Vint Hill Army veteran)

Karen Zwanzig, *Cold War Times*  
Lead Staffer

John Welch, CWM Co-Founder &  
Vice-Chair Board of Directors,  
Membership Records, Website

Joseph Felice, *Cold War Times*  
Editor

Clayton Vieg, Imagery (Intelligence  
Community)

## CWM Board Activity

**The COVID-19 pandemic put the Cold War Museum on its back.** Fundraising efforts by the Chairman, The AFA Gabriel Chapter-VA433, the CWM Board sending member notifications, and Give Local Piedmont brought in sufficient funds to keep us in the black. Special thanks to the AFA Gabriel Chapter for their constant CWM support and to all of our members who chipped in! For more details on this topic, see the related article in this edition of the *Cold War Times*.

**The CWM Board has focus areas for improvements/suggestions that build on the Chairman's letter from 2015.** These are: 1) Board Development, 2) Museum Development, 3) Public Engagement/Outreach, 4) Membership, 5) Finance, 6) Secretary/Legal, and 7) Cold War Historical Advisor.

**Lorton NIKE Missile site opportunity.** Last year a Laurel Hills developer informed us of their plan to develop 35 acres near the former Lorton prison into a national sports complex and asked if the CWM could establish a presence in the 1950s era NIKE missile site on that property. The developer would open the site up and renovate. Our CWM Board has been engaged with both the developer and Fairfax County in pursuit of this opportunity. The COVID-19 pandemic has delayed this effort.

**The Cold War Museum® trademark infringement.** Earlier this year it was brought to the Board's attention that a new museum in the Midwest was using our Cold War name. Our attorney team of Don Workman (board member) and Mark Tidman engaged with a letter informing them of the trademark infringement and set up negotiations between the chairman of each museum. The negotiations continued for several months with the other museum agreeing to change their name. The Cold War Museum® has been a registered trademark for over twenty years.

**Board of Directors new members.** We received resumes, interviewed each candidate, and selected four new members for the CWM Board of Directors: Stu Archer, Adelbert "Buz" Carpenter, Brig. Gen Chad Manske, and Dean Yount.

**Cold War Museum By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation.** These basic documents governing the museum's operations went through a complete revision in recent months with the final version to be distributed to CWM paid-up members.

**Additional fundraising efforts.** With our doors closed and the Presentation Series necessarily stopped as a mass gathering, we 1) brought in additional donations via PayPal, Network for Good, and the Amazon Smile mechanism at Amazon.com (please see the box on page 14 showing you how you can trigger matching funds for the Museum from Amazon WITHOUT ANY ADDITIONAL COST OR WORK FOR YOU simply via accessing Amazon via the Amazon Smile portal simple set-up); 2) successfully worked the Facebook pages for both the Museum itself and individuals' own Facebook pages to bring in more money and 3) re-started the Presentation Series as 100% virtual events for the moment using a Zoom room, leading off with an excellent turn-out online on Sept. 30 for Ambassador Charles Ray's previously-scheduled presentation on how ambassadors get along with the intelligence people at their embassies. The audience included people in Arkansas and Florida, so the potential for a world-wide audience for these events is clear. We expect to have about four more re-scheduled events this fall.

## Talented New Board Members

The Museum's Board of Directors and staff members are delighted to have welcome three new Board members this summer, each of whom brings Cold War experience and additional skills to aid the Board in its primary duties of setting our strategic direction and overseeing our budget.



◆ **Stuart Archer** is the Director of Executive Travel for the Department of the Army, operating out of Fort Belvoir. He has held many senior positions for the State Dept., the Air Force, and the Army. Stu has Commercial Pilot and Air Force Command Pilot Ratings, and a B.S. from The Citadel, an MBA from Louisiana Technical University, a Masters in Military Arts and Science from the Army Command and General Staff College, and a Masters in Strategic Studies from the Air War College.



◆ **Adelbert "Buz" Carpenter** is a retired Air Force Colonel and USAF Command Pilot who piloted many airplanes including the SR-71 Blackbird, a prime strategic reconnaissance system used during the Cold War. He has held many Air Force Command and Staff positions and various levels. Upon retirement from the Air Force, he went into the corporate world where his most recent position was the Vice President Business Development of L-3 Communications. He served on the Board of Directors of the Cosmosphere Space Museum, Hutchinson KS, for the last eight years. Currently he is an active Docent with the National Air and Space Museum and was inducted into the Virginia Aviation

Hall of Fame in 2019.



◆ **Brig. General Chad Manske (USAF, Ret.)** was until recently the Commandant of the National War College, whose mission is to prepare future leaders of the military services, the State Dept, foreign military forces, and U.S. civilian agencies for high-level command and staff positions dealing with national security policy and strategy. He was previously the Deputy Commander of the Canadian North American Aerospace Defense Region. Chad has commanded at the squadron, group, and wing commander levels. He has a B.A. in Political Science from Michigan State University, a Masters in Aeronautical Sciences from Emory Riddle Aeronautical University, and an M.S. in National Security Strategy, from the National War College, and he was a National Defense Fellow at Harvard. He has earned a Distinguished Service Medal, a Legion of Merit, and many other awards.



◆ **Joseph "Dean" Yount** was, until his retirement in 2019, the Director for Special Project Integration, and Intelligence Support for Information Operations (IO) and Intelligence Operations, at Air Force Headquarters. His position and organization supported the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance on formulating policy and intelligence support to Information Operations. Dean coordinated management of intelligence support for intelligence operations within DoD and other governmental agencies. A former Air Force Squadron Commander and Vice Wing Commander, he has held many senior defense strategy and intelligence positions. He earned a B.S. in Mathematics from The Citadel, an M.S. in Operations Research from Air Force Institute of Technology, and has many other forms of advanced national security training. His many awards include a Legion of Merit, a Distinguished Flying Cross, and three Director of Central Intelligence Agency Meritorious Unit Citations.

Stu, Buz, Chad, and Dean have already added valuable new advice and perspectives to Board discussions.

## This Day in History—August 1, 1955

### Lockheed U-2 Made First Flight

On August 1, 1955, a prototype of the U-2 spy plane sped down a runway at Groom Lake in Nevada, and its massive wings quickly lifted it into the sky. But that wasn't exactly how it was supposed to go. No, it was planned for a high-speed taxi test, but Article 341's highly efficient wings pulled it into the air unexpectedly. The plane's first flight was not scheduled until August 4th.



Lockheed's test pilot, Tony Levier, was conducting taxi tests in preparation for the planned first flight a few days away, when at 70 knots the U-2 unexpectedly became airborne. Upon touchdown on the hard-dry lakebed, the U-2's tires blew out with the brakes catching fire. A strut was leaking. The damage was minor, and Tony Levier was back in the air on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

LeVier said, "I had no intentions whatsoever of flying. I immediately started back toward the ground, but had difficulty determining my height because the lakebed had no markings to judge distance or height. I made contact with the ground in a left bank of approximately 10 degrees."

Lockheed's designation for the proposed aircraft was CL-282. Its fuselage essentially came from the XF-104 Starfighter and could be built using the same tooling. The reconnaissance airplane was produced under the code name Operation AQUATONE. The U-2 name came later with the "U" standing for "utility" to mislead this Top-Secret project from prying eyes.



The Lockheed U-2 is a single-seat, single-jet engine aircraft, used for high-altitude intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. Over the last 65 years, the U-2 has been modified, redesigned, and rebuilt. Today's U-2 is operational worldwide with GE F118 engine, state of the art sensors, glass cockpits, and a service life that could reach into the 2040's or more. Since the U-2 is still flying, the exact altitude is classified. The U-2 flies so high that the pilot must wear a full pressure suit (space suit). Today's U-2 pilot can only admit to 70,000 feet.

## Happy 230th Birthday US Coast Guard

**During the Cold War:** The US Coast Guard was "dedicated to saving life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws." A brief history:

4 August 1790 – President George Washington signs the Tariff Act that authorizes the construction of ten vessels, referred to as "cutters," to enforce federal tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. The Revenue Cutter Service expanded in size and responsibilities as the nation grew.

1915 – The Revenue Cutter Service merges with the U.S. Life-Saving Service, and is officially renamed the Coast Guard, making it the only maritime service dedicated to saving life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws.

1939 – President Franklin Roosevelt orders the transfer of the Lighthouse Service to the Coast Guard, putting it in charge of maritime navigation. 1946 – Congress permanently transfers the Commerce Department's Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation to the Coast Guard, putting merchant marine licensing and merchant vessel safety in its control.

1967 – The Coast Guard is transferred to Department of Transportation.

2003 – The Coast Guard is again transferred, this time to the Department of Homeland Security, where it currently serves.

4 AUG 1790

Semper Paratus





## Postponed Events

The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to interrupt the series, since our venue had to close to the public. At that point we already had five additional events on the schedule for the dates noted below. All have been postponed. We are currently exploring means by which to mount these events on a virtual platform such as Zoom in the coming weeks and months:

03/29/2020—**Ambassadors & Spies:**

**How U.S. Ambassadors Deal with Intelligence Agencies.** Presentation by former CWM Chairman Charles Ray, who joined the diplomatic service in 1982 after retiring from a 20-year career in the U.S. Army.

04/26/2020—**Robert Hanssen.** Presentation by FBI historian John Fox on the discovery and capture of one of the most damaging Soviet spies in U.S. history and the lessons learned.

5/3/20—**CIA Chief Historian David Robarge** on CIA covert actions during the Cold War.

5/17/20-- **Col. Hork Dimon (USAF, ret.)** on the preparations for a secret 2<sup>nd</sup> Berlin Airlift during the 1961 Berlin Crisis.

6/21/20—**Prof. Volker Benkert** on Youth Behind the Wall: Socialization of East German Youth During the Cold War.

If you are interested in accessing the digital videos of any of our prior events, please contact Exec. Director Jason Hall ([jason@coldwar.org](mailto:jason@coldwar.org)); there is a modest charge for that. If you'd like your email address to be added to our notification list of coming events, please contact Jason for that as well.

## Private Tours – An Important Source of Museum Income

The increasing number of private tours we arrange provides a significant percentage of the Museum's operating income, so it's an important part of our many income streams, helping to stabilize our operating income from month to month. Here are some examples of the tours conducted by museum docents since the last newsletter:

- ◆ 12/8/2019—Tour for c. 30 people from Potomac Green, a retirement home.
- ◆ 1/18/20—15 cadets from the Civil Air Patrol, and their leader.
- ◆ 2/11/20—Private tour for 14 people.
- ◆ 2/21/20—Margaret Whitfield's private group of 12 seniors.
- ◆ 3/12/20—Teacher Kayla Brazee brings 6 students from the Howard Gardner School, a local alternative high school.
- ◆ 3/15/20—Private tour for Josh.

At this point, CWM had to close its doors to the general public by order of the Governor due to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency. We re-opened with special rules (100% masks, social distancing, max at 50% visitor capacity) in early July, with the institution of Phase III COVID rules.

During the general shutdown period, we did an additional private tour, on 6/26/20, for one person only and using masks and social distancing, given his book-writing schedule and the distance he had to travel (from Lexington, VA). Mark is an international law professor at Washington & Lee writing a book on Cold War international law, especially as it related to treaties.

100 challenge coins were donated to the museum as a fundraiser. The coin is available for \$15. The coin pays homage to Vint Hill as an active listening post from 1942—1997 and features the Cold War Museum on the reverse side.



### Private Tours

To arrange a private tour led by one of the museum docents, please contact

**Bryan A. Zwanzig**

703-408-2039 || [bryan.z@coldwar.org](mailto:bryan.z@coldwar.org)

Cost: \$20/person for groups of 10 or fewer  
\$15/person for larger groups

No cost for active duty military personnel ever!

## Media Coverage In Recent Months



Since the Museum currently has very limited funds for any form of paid advertising, we need to lean heavily on free publicity channels of various kinds. Our Facebook and Instagram presences have been a big help here, especially since they have been regularly refreshed by our chief social media staffer, Doug Harsha, and as our Chairman Chuck Wilson has posted on our Facebook site as well as his own social media channels. We also rely, for the Presentation Series, on visibility and ticket sales via Eventbrite and on coverage on a variety of digital channels that Exec. Director Jason Hall taps for promoting every Presentation Series event.

But we also are getting some interesting increases in visibility both in published print media and television. Here are some examples since the last newsletter:

- ◆ 1/10/20—Laura Geller, a reporter for WUSA-TV in Washington, DC, came with her camera person and we gave them an orientation tour of the Museum, so they could view the possible visuals. Then Exec. Director Jason Hall gave her an interview focusing on Vint Hill during WWII, and Mike Washvill commented on his Cold War service at Vint Hill. Both of these appeared in her TV piece a few weeks later. Here's a link to the TV segment: <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/history/northern-virginia-secret-code-monitoring-facility-now-a-winery-vint-hill/65-807ccebe-d673-4bbd-b488-1e7d0fbc1912>.
- ◆ 2/25/20—Jason did an interview and photo shoot at CWM for an article for NOVEC Cooperative Living Magazine, and this resulted in a favorable print piece for CWM: <https://lsc-pagepro.mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?m=21572&i=647171&p=34&ver=html5>.
- ◆ 7/2020—There was good coverage of Vint Hill, including the Winery and CWM, in July issue of Military Officer magazine.



# Carrying The Message

*CWM Staff Talk about the Museum and the Cold War in the Local Community*

One of the ways the Cold War Museum fulfills its key mission of educating about the Cold War is via presentations to local community groups. We are receiving more and more of these invitations as the museum gets better known locally. The purpose of such events is of course to attract people to the museum, encouraging them to visit either during public hours on the weekend when admission is free, or to arrange for private group tours during the week, for which there is a per-person fee, depending on the size of the group.

Executive Director Jason Hall carries out many of these presentations to local groups and organizations. But many others of our key staff also do this work. For example, Mike Washvill, our lead staffer for current and historical Cold War technology, is an electronics engineer who served at Vint Hill when it was an operational Top-Secret Army SIGINT base. Mike tends to take the lead on our presentations to technically-qualified groups, since as local Ham radio groups, and on doing STEM presentations for local school groups. John Deperro, our Chief Curator, and a consultant on children's book on the Berlin Wall, has been especially good at outreach for CWM to the local Scouts and other youth groups. Bryan Zwanzig, also a veteran of Army service at Vint Hill, represents us at the Tank Farm and other events. And many others of the staff team help with this outreach to the local community.

*Executive Director Jason Hall works continually to connect with other local museums, institutions, and organizations to improve cooperation and exchange of ideas.*

Here are some examples of this outreach since the previous newsletter:

- 2/5/20—Jason did his PowerPoint presentation on CWM for the Manassas, VA Rotary, to an audience of about 70 people.
- 2/19/20—Mike manned CWM's travel booth and represented us at a presentation by former CIA disguise expert Jonna Mendez that she made for a meeting of the National Cryptologic Museum Foundation. This connection led us to approach Jonna successfully to put on a presentation for us at part of the CWM Presentation Series—a event that was scheduled but will have to be re-scheduled due to COVID-19.
- 3/7-10/20--Jason represented CWM at the Virginia Association of Museums Annual Meeting, which took place in Chantilly, VA. There he met and talked to someone from the intelligence community who expressed enthusiasm about volunteering for the Museum, to help us with an increased presence at that agency and elsewhere in the community.

# Recent Artifact Donations to the Museum

Like almost all U.S. museums, CWM has no funds for acquiring new artifacts for its collections, so we rely on artifact donations, often from the private collections of former Cold War professionals who served in the military, the intelligence community, or both. Some of these are what you might expect, such as additions to our excellent collections of Soviet and East Bloc military uniforms. Others are literally one-of-a-kind artifacts, such as Mao's Ear, made by the CIA's technical staff for the Agency's image analyst staff to solve some difficult photo interpretation problems.



And others are simply very rare, such as our U-2 camera that was adapted for use in the SKYLAB satellite. People around the world, including from Russia and other countries, who are interested in, and often veterans of, Cold War activities contact us frequently to see if we might be interested in the often-remarkable artifacts they've acquired over the years, often related to former official duties. Here is a sampling of some of the most unusual and noteworthy of the artifacts we've acquired recently to add to our growing collections:

- ◆ Metal sign from the Parche crew's lounge. The Parche is the most decorated vessel in the history of the U.S. Navy. It played a key role in some of the most important and dangerous of our undersea signals intelligence activities during the Cold War, so this artifact is a very important one. For more information on the Parche, see this entry in Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Parche\\_\(SSN-683\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Parche_(SSN-683)); see also the book *Blind Man's Bluff*.
- ◆ A cigarette lighter from the USS Thresher--marked USS Thresher, with artwork. The Thresher sank in a major disaster in 1963, creating the second worst loss of life in international submarine history [129 people], the first loss of a U.S. nuclear submarine, and a new Navy program called SUBSAFE which revolutionized how U.S. nuclear submarines were built. For more information on the Thresher, see this entry in Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Thresher\\_\(SSN-593\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Thresher_(SSN-593)).
- ◆ A Cold War Navy SOSUS /IUSS Display with 2 uniforms (1 male, 1 female), electronic actuator & associated display. This is the donation of an entire exhibit, including SOSUS hardware, by people who were SOSUS professionals. Please see the previous issue of Cold War Times for more details.
- ◆ A Canadian Military Remote Monitoring Radimeter, Cold War era. These were used with the sensors mounted outside a survival bunker, attached to a long cable to the measurement device inside, so occupants of the bunker could tell when it would be safe from a radiation standpoint to leave the bunker.
- ◆ An eyewitness account by the donor's husband, Capt. K. C. Reynolds, of the boarding of the merchant ship Marucla when it penetrated the U.S. blockade of Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis. This was an important incident in the early part of the blockade that could have provoked nuclear war.



If readers of the Cold War Times have artifacts you might consider donating to the Museum, we would welcome contact about that, to Executive Director Jason Hall ([jason@coldwar.org](mailto:jason@coldwar.org)). Museums normally need historic artifacts—the real thing, artifacts from the time that exemplify some event or activity—in order to anchor the stories of those events or activities, so your artifact donation could literally make it possible for the first time for us to educate visitors about that aspect of the Cold War.

# The Cold War and 'Area 51'



**Area 51 overview**

In the early 1950's Cold War tensions increased between the United States and the then Soviet Union. Concern over a potential "Bomber and Missile" gap between the US and USSR intensified. How could the US learn about the perceived bomber and missile gap? There were no satellites that could overfly nor human assets inside the Soviet Union that could help determine this. A plane that could fly so high that it might evade enemy radar and be difficult to shoot down was required. A Top-Secret Project "Aquatone" was created.

Aquatone" was the project codename for the development of the U-2 aircraft. Funded by the CIA, this aircraft was so unconventional in design, it was not built to military specification. Instead, performance specifications were used. At that time, it was nicknamed "Angel" because of flight at high altitude. Kelly Johnson, head of Lockheed's Skunkworks, and his team of extraordinary aeronautical engineers were tasked with building the aircraft since they had had such success with designing and building the P-80 Shooting Star in secrecy.

But where could this Top-Secret project be developed and tested? As work progressed by Skunkworks on the airframe, on April 12, 1955, CIA's Richard Bissell, AF Colonel Osmund Rickland, and Lockheed's Kelly Johnson flew over Nevada in a Beechcraft plane piloted by Lockheed Test Pilot Tony Levier. They were in search of a remote and isolated location to flight test the "Angel" and spotted one in a salt flat area known as Groom Lake. This area was near the NE corner of the Atomic Energy Commission's (AEC) Nevada Proving Ground. Levier put the plane down on the lakebed near what appeared to be an old landing strip. The area was at one time used by the Army Air Corps as an aerial gunnery range. The team egressed the plane and walked over to the old landing strip. They took a closer look and found that it was made of compacted earth and had turned into dust that was several inches deep after years of unused. They could not have made a safe landing on that strip.



**U-2 on Dry Lakebed**  
TD Barnes

The team all agreed that this isolated location would be an ideal site for testing the "angel" and training its pilots (often called Drivers by the CIA). President Eisenhower approved the use of the strip of wasteland (AEC had to annex it), which was known by its map designation as **Area 51**, to be the Nevada test Site.



**Trailer park at Area 51, TD Barnes**

This location acquired various names. First it was known by the Area 51 map designation. But for the pilots and workers who would reside there, Kelly Johnson called it "Paradise Ranch," with that being shortened to "The ranch." Many of the workers referred to themselves as "ranch hands."

Area 51 was also known "Watertown" which was rumored to be the birthplace of CIA Director Allen Dulles, Watertown, NY. But records show that the name often was a reference when runoff of rainwater from the mountains nearby would flood the dry lakebed. When that happened, the "ranch hands" referred to it as the "Watertown strip."

Groom Lake was also associated with the name "Dreamland." According to TD Barnes, President of Roadrunners International (an association of former Air Force, CIA, and contract personnel serving at Area 51 during the Cold War), Dreamland was a radio call sign for the base that surfaced in the 1960's.

The primary access to Area 51 was by aircraft. This was for security reasons. A C-124 would transport the parts and aircraft components of the U-2 from Skunkworks at Burbank to "Watertown" for reassembly and testing. A daily air shuttle would transport the workers and other cargo between Skunk Works and Watertown.



**Flight Line Area 51,**  
TD Barnes

However, the U-2 was not the only CIA aircraft that was transported, tested, and flown out of Dreamland. In 1962 the CIA's A-12 OXCART flight test took place there.

According to the CIA News and information page, "CIA, Air Force, and private industry personnel from many specialties helped make the U-2 a reality and several lost their lives in the process (while at Area 51). Four of those were pilots who had known the risks of handling an aircraft that was difficult to fly, even in the best of circumstances. Fourteen members involved in the U-2 project also lost their lives when their transport plane en route from Burbank to Watertown crashed during bad weather into Mount Charleston, a few miles outside of Las Vegas."

The CIA News and Information webpage also states:

*Cont. p. 12*

The CIA News and Information webpage also states:

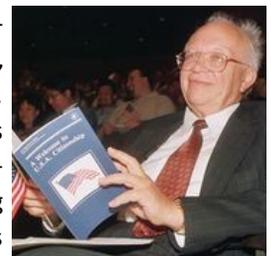
“It was the sacrifices these pilots and U-2 project personnel made for the United States, helped win the Cold War. Along with thousands of Americans who worked at Area 51, their patriotism, ingenuity, and willingness to take on a project critics believed to be impossible at the time—the creation of the U-2—allowed the US to penetrate the Iron Curtain and gain an unparalleled advantage over the Soviets in intelligence gathering.”

Sources:

- ◆ “The CIA and the U-2 Program” Pedlow & Walzenbach, pp 49-58.
- ◆ “Area 51, U-2, and Accidental Test Flight, CIA web page, News & Information.
- ◆ The International Road Runners Assn, TD Barnes President.

## Friends of the Museum

**SERGEI KHRUSHCHEV**, son of former Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev and himself a key Soviet missile scientist, died on June 18<sup>th</sup> in Cranston, RI. He was a good friend of Gary Powers, one of the co-founders of CWM, and a good friend of and advisor to the Museum for many years. Sergei was 84. Dr. Khrushchev, a physicist, came to the US for a one-year term as a visiting scholar at Brown University in 1991, as the Soviet Union was dissolving, and applied for permanent U.S. residency; he and his wife, Valentina Golenko, became naturalized U.S. citizens in 1999. He devoted much time to giving first-hand accounts of his father, and of growing up in the Soviet Union, in many forums in the U.S., and provided considerable help to students and others who contacted the Museum to learn more about his father and Soviet life. CWM Executive Director Jason Hall remarked that “I referred many young people via Gary to Sergei for comments for their History Day projects, and he was unfailingly kind and helpful to them, taking time from his life as a scholar to help them learn.” We will miss him.



**IKE BROADDUS**, our dear friend and owner of Old Bust Head Brewery and of the historic core area of Vint Hill where the Museum is located, has recently been dealing with a significant non-COVID medical situation. We understand that he’s doing well in recovery and we wish him the best!



### The Cold War Times

*The official newsletter of The Cold War Museum*

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**Deadline for Winter 2020 issue submissions: November 1, 2020**

*To request publication guidelines, please contact the editor.*

# How the COVID-19 Pandemic Has Affected CWM

Like every other private and public entity in the U.S., CWM has been strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic this spring and summer. The good news is that with the help of the Museum's Members, and others in the community and nationally who stepped up to help us weather this situation, we have survived intact. Since early July, we have been allowed to open our doors again and resume serving Museum visitors, although on altered terms for the moment (normal weekend hours and resumption of private tours, but with 100% masks, social distancing, and visitation at no more than 50% capacity.) Our Key Public Contact staff, who come to the Museum every Saturday and Sunday and make it possible to open our doors to educate the public on the Cold War, report that visitation has been surprisingly strong since we were able to reopen to the public. Here's how COVID affected CWM operations:

- ◆ **Postponement and Anticipated Resumption of Presentation Series Events.** One of the most important of the Museum's activities is to sponsor a series of presentations by eyewitnesses to, and other experts on, key Cold War events and activities. Once our partner in presenting those events, our next-door neighbor Old Bust Head Brewery, had to shut its doors, we no longer had a venue for these, and of course everyone was being encouraged to stay home in any case. We are in current discussions with OBH on when, and under what conditions, their production floor, which is where our events are held, can be open to the public again for events like ours. In the meantime, we are proceeding with arrangements to try out a 100% virtual format, such as using Zoom or a related platform, for those events that had been scheduled but had to be postponed. Since the Presentation Series is both a key way we accomplish our education mission AND one of our most important income sources to support our general operations, this is an important current priority for the Board and staff. Our first virtual Presentation Series event, a re-scheduled talk by Ambassador Ray on Ambassadors & Spies, took place in a Zoom room on August 30th, and we expect to have additional ones through the fall. If you not currently our notification list for these and other Museum-sponsored events and you would like to be, please email Executive Director Hall at [jason@coldwar.org](mailto:jason@coldwar.org) and he will add your email address. Among those will be a new presentation by a professor at the National Intelligence University, which is only open to people inside the intelligence community, on Soviet defectors during the early Cold War and what they were able to provide us.
- ◆ **Curtailment of All Visitor Donations, and Resumption of Such Giving.** The recent influx of weekend visitors has led to resumption of their giving into our donation jar. They have also been buying an unusual amount of our logo merchandise, which we take as a sign of approval of what we are trying to do.
- ◆ **Continuing Reduced Private Tour Booking for the moment.** But that is showing signs of picking up, which is important, because private tours are another key source of income for our general operations. Our private tour fees are modest (\$20/person for groups of 10 or fewer; \$15/person for larger groups) but we normally get enough of them to make a noticeable difference in supporting our operations. Giving private tour groups exclusive access to the Museum during non-public hours, on the date and at the time they wish, and with their own special tour guides, has made those visitors sufficiently happy that we normally do a good business in repeat visits by a given group.



## Mission Statement

The Cold War Museum is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to education, preservation, and research on the global, ideological, and political confrontations between East and West from the end of World War II to the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

## The Three Main Goals of the Museum:

- ◆ To keep knowledge of the Cold War and its significance alive for coming generations.
- ◆ To honor the service of those who had professional Cold War roles.
- ◆ To use the Museum's extensive collection of rare and in some cases unique artifacts in Cold War signals intelligence (SIGINT) and image intelligence (IMINT) to show how intelligence collection and analysis supports our policy, diplomacy, and military action.

## Museum Membership

### Individual Membership

\$25/year

### Member Benefits

- Access to The Cold War Times  
*(including all prior issues)*
- Listed as a "Founding Member"
- Priority access to the executive director

### Sponsorship Circles

|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| Friend:     | \$75/year  |
| Patron:     | \$150/year |
| Benefactor: | \$300/year |
| Guardian:   | \$600/year |

The Cold War Museum is an all-volunteer operation. 100 percent of your contributions are applied to fulfilling the museum's mission. Contributions to the museum *above and beyond membership* are fully deductible in accordance with IRS guidelines for contributions to 501c3 organizations.

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