

The Cold War Times®

The Newsletter of The Cold War Museum®

Spring 2024



Letter from the Executive Director

Does history repeat itself?

Sometimes it looks that way.

For example, did ANYONE think that we'd ever see WW I-style trench warfare again?

Since Blitzkrieg was tried out in the Spanish Civil War and then refined in Hitler's attacks opening WW II, state-on-state war has been about air domination, clearing the way and supporting a mechanized ground assault, up to and including Shock and Awe.

Yet what we are seeing in Ukraine on both sides is trenches, stalemate, a heavily-mined no-man's-land, and death from artillery and armed drones for mechanized vehicles caught out in the open.

History doesn't repeat itself because conditions and actors change too much for that. But surprising elements from the past can come again when least expected. Defense currently dominates—until one side or the other can produce more effective offense, as swarming attacks of autonomous drones are likely to do in the near future.

Another element from the past suggests an ominous situation for Ukraine in the current stalemate. During the American Civil War, Lee knew that his only chance was to use his excellent generalship to full effect in hit-and-run operations, because given the overwhelming advantage of the North in manufacturing capacity and manpower, any pitched battles would produce casualties and material expenditure that the North could absorb much more easily than the South, slowly but inexorably enhancing the relative position of the North.

By analogy, Russia's advantage is to play the long game and throw away poorly trained and led troops to degrade the much more limited resources of Ukraine. And Russia can also control the news much more effectively than can the open Ukrainian society, which actually values its people as autonomous individuals

The Cold War Museum®

P.O. Box 861526
7172 Lineweaver Road
Vint
Vint Hill, VA 20187
(540) 341-2008

Executive Director

Jason Y. Hall

Jason@coldwar.org

The Cold War Museum®
is a 501(c)(3) charitable
organization

GIVE TODAY!

**Your 2024 gift will make
a big difference!**

[Donate now via this
link:](#)

[Cold War Museum®
Donate](#)

Features

Joe M. Jackson.....	6
Audie Murphy.....	11
Francis Gary Powers, Sr. Recommendation.....	12
Museum Opportunities....	14
Blackbird Reunion 2024...	20

Cont. on page 2

Executive Director, cont. from page 1

rather than units of the state, a concept totally foreign to the autocratic mind, which regards such thinking as a dangerous and threatening illusion.

As I write this, the U. S. dithers on support for Ukraine, despite strong bipartisan consensus of the leadership in both House and Senate for Ukraine support. Americans have once again fallen into our propensity for isolationism, something that has afflicted us periodically since the beginning of the republic. Even the Europeans, too eager in the past to let their Big Uncle protect them and save them money for domestic pleasures, have stepped up in an impressive way well beyond the Americans. Nothing like the wolf at your door to remind you that maybe you need that shotgun after all.

How does this relate to the Cold War? An easy connection. Since ancient times (e.g. the Melian Dialogue in Thucydides), powerful and arrogant states have argued that valid arguments of justice are irrelevant when there is a power imbalance; the powerful get to impose their will. Russia wants to eat Ukraine, it's bigger and more powerful, so forget about sovereignty, just as it imposed its will on Central Europe during the Cold War to provide a buffer zone of protection from the West. For autocratic states, everything except power is an illusion.

History doesn't repeat itself. It provides elements, and it provides tools to those who know where to look. Containment was the answer devised in the Cold War to counter Russian aggression. It still is today.

Jason

Inside this issue

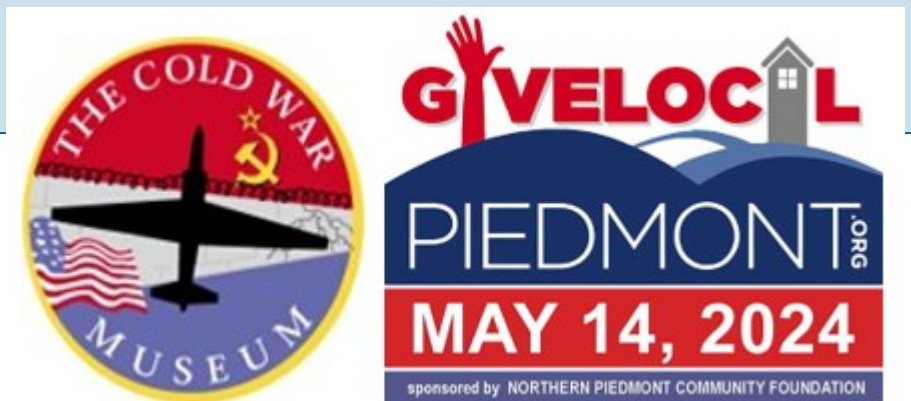
Letter from the Chairman.....	3
Board of Directors.....	4
Lecture Series.....	5
Artifact Donations.....	14
Changes in Museum Staff.....	15
Book Reviews.....	17
In Memoriam.....	21
In The News.....	25
Private Tours.....	26
Carrying the Message.....	28

Preserve Cold War History for Future Generations!

Support Your Cold War Museum®

Each year The Cold War Museum® participates in the Give Local Piedmont (GLP) fundraiser in May hosted by the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation. With incentives and cash awards to win, this is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year! Our goal this year is \$15,000.00. We need your support! Click on this link for more: [The Cold War Museum®](https://www.thecoldwarmuseum.org)

Or rlick this pic





Message from the Chairman

Chuck Wilson

Dear Members and Friends of the Cold War Museum®, as I came to the end of my second term, I realized that it has been a true pleasure to serve as Chairman of the Board for the past four years!

It is hard for me to believe that I have been serving on this board of directors for almost eight years.

I have also enjoyed the people that I have served with on this board over the years and respect the amount of time and dedication that they have shown. Thank you for all your hard work!

As a museum we have so much to be proud of. Despite the financial challenges these past few years, we worked through the Covid-19 epidemic year after year and persevered where many non-profits across the country closed their doors. Over those years we hosted thousands of visitors and tour groups who were excited to see the many artifacts that we have on display on several floors of the museum. We resurrected our Presentation Series through Zoom video teleconferences, with incredibly exciting Cold War speakers. We even acquired, constructed, and built a new state of the art website. And we go on!

But our work is far from done. Looking ahead in 2024, pressure is on to increase our funding, modernize, and expand our space to display all our artifacts. **With your help**, we will take The Cold War Museum® to the next level of success: to modernize and expand!

As I have come to the end of my second term as Chairman of the Board, I must turn my attention to my family who have stood by me. I will remain with the board in an advisory capacity. I cannot THANK YOU enough for all you do, and, for your continued leadership and support of The Cold War Museum®! You literally make what we do possible.

[Charles P. Wilson](#)

[Donate to the Cold War Museum®](#)



Museum Staff

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

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

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

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

[Name withheld], Signals Intelligence
Technology Specialist

Stan Manvell, Chief Fabricator
(construction industry)

[Name withheld], Chief Technology
Officer & Key Tour Guide
(Vint Hill Army veteran & former FBI
electronics engineer)

Doug Harsha,
Collections Chief, Civil Defense Ex-
pert, and Social Media Lead Staffer

Cont. on page 4

Meet Your Board of Directors



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 and
Membership Records

Clayton Vieg, Cold War Veteran

Paul David Smith, Intern

Colin Walker, Intern

The Cold War Museum® Board of Directors is the governing body of our nonprofit organization. This governance is high level: strategy, oversight, and accountability of the overall activities of the museum. Our Board is made up of twelve seasoned senior executives of varying professional backgrounds who work pro bono for the benefit of the museum. Our Board members meet, usually each month, to discuss and vote on the affairs of The Cold War Museum®. Meet our Board of Directors at this link: [BOARD OF DIRECTORS CWM®](#).

Here are some of the recent topics of Board discussion and actions since our last newsletter:

- Election of long-time Board Member Gary Bottorff as Chairman of the Board to replace Chuck Wilson. Congratulations, Gary!
- Providing Ambassadors for the Museum at the events of organizations in the N. VA area.
- Planning for Give Local Piedmont, our most important annual fundraiser.
- Deaccessioning artifacts that are damaged, consolidating our collections in storage to provide more room, and revising and decluttering some of our exhibits.
- Recruiting board candidates and staff for the Cold War Museum®.
- Getting more details on a promising opportunity to store some of our collections on the grounds of a non-profit in Midland, VA.



Click here:

[https://
www.givelocalpiedmont.org/
donate/coldwarmuseum](https://www.givelocalpiedmont.org/donate/coldwarmuseum)

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 these events including the question-and-answer sessions), and a significant source of income for our operations.

As you know, we began this Series well before COVID and originally did all of them in-person. When COVID forced the closing of our doors and suspension of all of our activities, we had to rethink many things. Since people could no longer gather in large groups, we got a Zoom license and converted to 100% online. This has been highly successful for us, since it allows both audience and speaker to be from anywhere in the world, so we will continue with Zoom streaming but eventually also return to the in-person option where the speaker is local; we'll do that when COVID conditions allow, although not in our prior venue of the Old Bust Head production floor since that is no longer available. Because of the popularity and scope of the Zoom format, we've expanded to doing these about every three or four weeks.

Since our Fall 2023 issue appeared, we have presented the following:

1/28/24—Rory Cormac, drawing from his *Disrupt and Deny*, on British intel and covert action in the Cold War in the context of similar activities by others in that period.

2/18/24-- Don Heckert on his two direct encounters with UAPs while flying at high altitude for the military.

3/10/24— Art Downey on the role of lawyers in the Cold War, in negotiating international agreements with Soviets, NATO partners, and others; in espionage cases; and in Presidential war powers. He worked for Henry Kissinger from 1969-72.

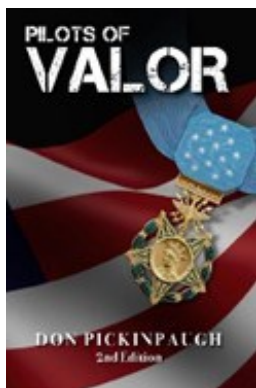
4/7/24— Michael Rich, former CEO of RAND and son of Skunk Works legendary Ben Rich, on the history of RAND and its key role in developing and supporting U.S. Cold War defense strategy.

There are MANY MORE ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR; as I write this, we have them scheduled through late Spring 2024, with more to follow. Please see the Upcoming Events article in this issue for the dates and descriptions of those events.

If you are interested in getting a list of our prior events and/or accessing the digital videos of any of them, please contact Executive Director Jason Hall (jason@coldwar.org); there is a modest charge for accessing the prior ones, all of which were videoed.

If you'd like your email address to be added to our notification list for coming events, please contact Jason for that as well.

Joe M. Jackson

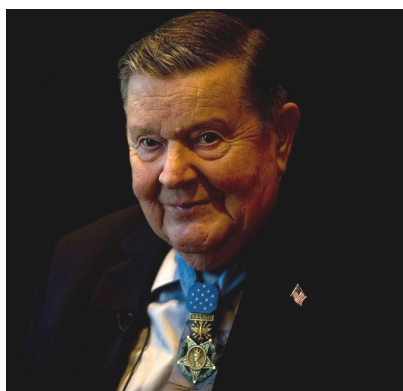


The following is an extract from the book *Pilots of Valor* by Don Pickinpaugh.

Chapter 3

Colonel (then Lt Col) Joe M. Jackson, C-123 Provider Medal of Honor

Air Force pilots that flew cargo aircraft to and from isolated Army and Marine camps came under constant siege by the Vietcong. Often risking their lives by flying through areas of hostile groundfire,



the transport crews delivered the vital supplies that allowed American soldiers to repel enemy attacks. The big cargo birds could land on a short dirt strip and offload with engines running. A few they would take off, carrying the wounded to safety. If groundfire was so intense that landing was impossible, the crew could airdrop supplies by parachute to the embattled outpost. The cargo ships could also drop Army paratroopers into an objective area for a rapid assault on the elusive enemy.

By this time, Joe Jackson had three wars of aviation skill; P-40 war Hawk, F-84 Thunderjet, along with the U-2 Dragon Lady. Imagine being left behind on the ground after a rescue operation. If you're lucky, you'll have Joe Jackson on your side.

"Joe, you ready for your flight check?" the blond-haired Major asked.

I never looked forward to flight evaluations, especially in a combat zone. Flight checks were just something I had to live with as a pilot. Twice a year, the Air Force wanted to be reassured that I still had the skills and knowledge to accomplish the mission effectively and safely, even in Vietnam.

"You bet," I said. "The question is, are you ready?" answering back.

"I'm ready, just let me grab my gear, and I'll meet you at the plane," Major Jesse Campbell, the squadron's flight examiner, responded.

It didn't matter that I was a Lieutenant Colonel and outranked Major Campbell. As an examiner, he had the power to ground me from flying status. I knew he expected a first-rate job from me and would write an objective report on my performance. Checkrides were not really something I ever got sweaty palms over, but I also never took them lightly, either.

Walking out to my plane, I saw my crew chief, Technical Sergeant Ed Trejo, checking the tires of the C-123. Ed always did a great job with the plane. Rarely did we ever have any maintenance issues.

"Good morning, Colonel."

"How are you doing today, Ed?" I responded back cheerfully.

"Great!" Ed chirped. "Did you send your mother a card today?"

Thinking I misunderstood him, I said, "What?"

"Did you send your mother a card?" he said again.

"No, why?" I replied, puzzled.

Cont. on page 7

Joe Jackson, cont. from page 6

"It's Mother's Day. Moms always like cards on Mother's Day," he responded with that smirk of his.

"Crap, I forgot all about it," I said while kicking my shoe. How could I forget about my Mother? My mom would understand since I was in a combat zone, but it was stupid of me to forget. It was too late now and I would have to do it when I returned.

"We're ready to go, sir," Staff Sergeant Manson Grubbs said, coming out from underneath the airplane.

"All right, Major Campbell will be in the right seat today for a check-ride on me. Make sure we look sharp," I said full of pride of my crew.

"Wilco," Ed replied.

Jumping into the left seat, I went through my preflight check, extra careful not to miss anything. Jesse climbed up the crew hatch five minutes later.

Glancing at Jesse while he strapped into his seat, I said, "The preflight's done, and I'm waiting to get taxi clearance now."

"Great, why don't I get the clearance while you start the engines," he replied.

"Roger," I responded back.

Both engines on the Provider started with ease as Ed and Manson

buckled up the back end. Taxiing out, I wondered what kind of card I should get for my mom. Did I get her one last year? I couldn't remember. Oh well, I had a check ride to pass first.

Lining up on the runway, I pushed both throttles to the firewall as Aircraft 542 rolled down the strip at Danang Air Base. Lifting off, I yelled, "Gear up."

Jesse reached over and yanked the handle upward. "Gear up."

"Flaps," I stated in unison.

"Flaps up," he replied.

Both of us eased back into our seats as the Provider hummed along. Today's mission was relatively simple if there were any simple missions in Vietnam. We were scheduled to swing north towards the Demilitarized Zone and then back down the coast near Chu Lai, stopping en route to re-supply several outposts.

The weather along the coast was beautiful. We were just about to descend into Chu Lai when the radio erupted.

"Provider 542, this is Ops," crackling over our headsets.

"Ops, this is Provider 542; go ahead," I replied.

"542, we need you back at Danang on the double."

"What's the problem?" I said inquisitively.

There was a long silence, and a man's voice replied, "We have an emergency mission for you. Return to base as soon as possible."

Shrugging my shoulders, I said, "Provider 542, heading back to base."

"That's odd," Jesse responded.

"Yea, something big must have happened," I said, turning the aircraft towards Danang.

After landing and shutting the engines down, I saw my squadron commander walking toward our airplane. I stepped outside to greet him and said, "Hi, boss; what's up?"

"Joe, we have a massive airlift operation underway at Kham Duc. We have to evacuate a thousand troops, and we don't have enough aircraft," he said. "It's a Special Forces camp and has been under siege for three days. The Army just gave the word a few hours ago to evacuate before they get overrun. I need you guys down there as fast as you can turn your plane."

"Give me an hour, and we'll be airborne again," I responded.

"I appreciate it, Joe," he said and walked away.

"No problem," I said, turning to Ed, "Get the fuel truck out here."

Cont. on page 8

Joe Jackson, cont. from page 7

Roger, sir," he replied.

We were airborne again in exactly an hour. This time we were heading in the opposite direction. Kham Duc lay forty-five miles southwest of Danang, near the Laotian border. As we flew inland, the weather began deteriorating.

"Airborne Command post, this is Provider 542; where do you want us?" I asked.

"542, hold south of Kham Duc at nine thousand feet and await further instructions," replied Airborne.

"Provider 542, roger," I said checking my watch. It was three-thirty in the afternoon.

The evacuation was hectic. The Airborne Command post controlled the flow of cargo planes into Kham Duc. Looking out my side window, I saw the short airstrip lying unprotected on the valley floor. Forward Air Controllers were directing fighter bombers against Vietcong positions surrounding the runway.

Established in a holding pattern, we watched the battle unfold beneath us. Smoke and flames filled the area as exploding ammunition dumps went up in a blaze. Tracers from enemy weapons were visible, even from our altitude.

Listening to the radio, I heard, "Hercules 10, Airborne Command post, understand you have the last guys?"

"Affirmative, there all out," they responded.

"Well, I guess they didn't need us after all," I mentioned to Jesse.

"Nope. Kind of a waste of time," he replied. "Oh well, at least we got your check-ride done."

Curiosity got the best of me as I turned the aircraft toward Danang and asked, "How did I—"

"Command post, there's still three soldiers down there," a high pitched voice on the radio yelled.

"What!" the controller replied in amazement.

"This is FAC 23; I can see three combat controllers in a ditch beside the runway."

"Command post copies," the man replied. "Combat controllers, this is Airborne Command post. Do you copy?"

Everyone listening to the radio waited for a response, but there was none.

"Provider 310, can you attempt a landing and pick them up?" Command post asked.

"Provider 310, Wilco."

Jesse and I watched as Provider 310 made their way to Kham Duc. As 310 approached the runway, flak sprang up from everywhere. The slow-moving cargo ship was like a magnet for gunfire.

"Strike 18, I need you to lay down some cluster bombs west of the runway," Command post ordered.

"Strike 18, rolling in now."

"God, those guys are getting hit from every direction," Jesse stated as machine guns and mortars pounded the airstrip.

"I guess the Vietcong were taking their revenge on them," I replied. "Hell, wouldn't you? We just snatched a thousand men out from under their noses."

I watched our sister ship touch down on the dirt strip. Dust flew up from their propellers as they came to a stop.

"Command post, we don't see them." a shaky voice blared out from 310. "We're under intense fire from the edge of the runway. Can you take them out?"

"Negative, not without hitting you too," they responded.

"We can't stay here any longer," Provider 310 responded as the airplane started to takeoff.

"Damn!" I hollered. "We're going to have to go in," I said as my breathing started to increase.

"I agree," Jesse responded.

As Provider 310 lifted off, the pilot said, "We see 'em. They're in a ditch, crouching two thousand feet down the runway."

Cont. on page 9

Joe Jackson, cont. from page 8

"Provider 310, can you make another attempt?" Airborne asked.

"Negative; we're low on fuel and took some hits."

That was the queue I needed, and I was sure Jesse was reading my mind.

"Provider 542—"

"Roger, we're going in," Jesse said before they could finish their transmission.

There wasn't any question about it; my decision was already made. I couldn't let those three men try and fight their way out; they wouldn't survive.

"I want to come in steep," I said glaring at Jesse. "The last Provider was too low for too long. I don't want Vietcong taking potshots at me all day."

"I concur," Jesse responded.

Calling on my fighter experience from Korea, I threw the flaps down and pointed the nose a quarter mile before the end of the runway. I knew the Vietcong gunners expected me to follow the exact flight path as Provider 310. I had to devise a new tactic to give us the advantage.

"Airspeed 110 and increasing," Jesse hollered out.

The book said we couldn't fly trans-ports this way, but I figured the guy who wrote the book had never been shot at. I had two problems, the second stemming from the first. I had to avoid reaching 'blow up' speed on my flaps; otherwise, they might return to the neutral position and thus increasing our airspeed. Second, if the flaps blew up, I would overshoot the runway. It was basically a no-win situation.

"Airspeed 125," Jesse yelled nervously.

We were on an elevator ride straight down. It was working; the enemy barely had time to react as we approached the runway. I coaxed the nose up, breaking our dizzying descent just above the treetops, one-quarter a mile from the overrun.

"Stabilizing at 130," Jesse stated while taking a deep breath of relief.

I barely had time to set up a landing attitude as we settled onto the dirt. The runway looked like an obstacle course. A burning helicopter blocked the way just 2,200 feet from the touchdown point. I knew we would have to stop in a hurry.

"Manson, open the cargo door," I yelled over the intercom.

"Opening cargo door," he replied.

"Reverse thrust," Jesse hollered.

"No!" I yelled back. "If we do, the engines will automatically shut the

jets off, and I need them for takeoff. Help me get on the brakes."

We stomped on the brakes like no Indianapolis race car driver ever had, skidding the last two hundred feet. The plane came to rest just before reaching the gutted helicopter. I saw three men scrambling towards our aircraft from the side window.

"Smoke from the left," Jesse screamed, "it's coming from a 122 rocket."

Each of us watched in horror as a shell came to rest just twenty-five feet in front of our noses. Luck was on our side as the deadly projectile was a dud stuck in the center of the runway.

Screaming, I said, "We're getting out of here."

"We got 'em aboard. Go! Go! Go!" Ed screamed from the back.

Easing the throttles up, I taxied around the shell and then rammed the throttles to the stops.

Manson yelled at the top of his lungs, "Incoming."

Immediately an explosion tore up the runway where we had been sitting no more than ten seconds ago.

"They're zeroing in on us," Jesse said. "We'll make it."

The mortar shells followed us down the runway as we picked up speed.

Cont. on page 10

Joe Jackson, cont. from page 9

from the far end of the runway. There was nothing I could do but wait and watch. I only wished we could have taken the same elevator ride up as we did coming in.

"Gear!" I yelled.

"Gears coming up," Jesse said with a slight relief in his tone.

After the longest minute of my life, Kham Duc was behind us. We landed at Danang at five-thirty with our four-man crew and three passengers. After checking our aircraft, miraculously we didn't even take one hit.

"Well, did I pass my check-ride, Jesse?" I asked with a big smile.

"With flying colors," he said, shaking my hand. "Until next time."

"I hope there won't be a next time like that," I replied.

"Hi, sir, my name is Mort Freedman."

Spinning around, I could see the ghostly face of one of the combat controllers we had just rescued.

"I can't tell you how much we appreciate you coming to get us," the Technical Sergeant said as his two buddies joined him.

"Glad to be of service," I said, laughing.

"When we saw the other aircraft take off and leave us, I figured no one would come back for us. We thought we would have to fight it out or be taken prisoner.

"Well, I wasn't going to leave you there," I said reassuringly.

"It's a good thing because we only had eleven magazine clips left between the three of us. But at least we were going to take as many of them as possible."

Turning around, I started to walk back to base operations when Ed yelled, "Colonel, Happy Mother's Day."

Joe M. Jackson was born in Newnan, Georgia, on March 14, 1923. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1941 and sought duty as an aircraft mechanic. After serving as a crew chief in a B-25 bomber unit, Sergeant Jackson began pilot training, earning his wings and a commission in 1943. He flew 107 fighter missions in Korea and won the Distinguished Flying Cross. Colonel Jackson was one of the first Air Force pilots to fly the high-altitude U-2 reconnaissance plane with a solo #42. In the early 1960s, he served on the staff at Strategic Air Command Headquarters and drew up the operations plans for aerial reconnaissance of Cuba during the missile crisis.

After 20 years as a fighter pilot, Colonel Jackson was assigned to transport duty. The 45-year-old officer won the Medal of Honor in

Vietnam in 1968 and flew 296 sorties during his combat tour.



**GIVE LOCAL
PIEDMONT**



Click the link:

[https://
www.givelocalpiedmont.org/
donate/coldwarmuseum](https://www.givelocalpiedmont.org/donate/coldwarmuseum)

Audie Murphy

THE MARINES TURNED HIM DOWN. They said he was too small. The Army paratroopers said no too. But Audie Murphy was used to setbacks. The son of Texas sharecroppers, he had helped raise his ten siblings after their father deserted them and their mother died. When the U.S. entered World War II, he was determined to fight. The Army finally accepted him in the infantry a few days after his eighteenth birthday.

He fought in the invasion of Sicily, then in Italy at Salerno, at Anzio, and in the mountains as the Allies pushed to Rome. On January 26, 1945, in eastern France, 250 Germans and six tanks attacked his unit. Ordering his outnumbered men to fall back, Murphy climbed onto a burning tank destroyer and used its machine gun to hold off the enemy. Then, though wounded, he organized a counterattack. For his courage the military awarded him the Medal of Honor.

It wasn't the only time he threw himself in harm's way. Before he turned twenty-one Murphy had become the most decorated American soldier of World War II, earning twenty-four medals from the U.S. government, three from France, and one from Belgium.

After the war, Murphy became an actor, making more than forty movies. He starred in *To Hell and Back*, based on his autobiography, and in *The Red Badge of Courage*. Still, his life wasn't easy. For years he battled post-traumatic stress disorder. He died in a plane crash in 1971 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

"The true meaning of America, you ask?" Murphy once said. "It's in a Texas rodeo, in a policeman's badge, in the sound of laughing children, in a political rally, in a newspaper....In all these things, and many more, you'll find America. In all these things, you'll find freedom. And freedom is what America means to the world."

[Article by Chuck Wilson]



Click here: <https://www.givelocalpiedmont.org/donate/coldwarmuseum>



Francis Gary Powers, Sr. Recommendation



THE COLD WAR MUSEUM®

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PO Box 861526 (7142 Lineweaver Road)
Vint Hill, VA 22038

17 November 2023

Edward L. Burnett
Chair, Awards Committee
Flight Test Museum Foundation

It is with great pleasure that I write this recommendation letter Francis “Frank” Gary Powers Sr., U-2 Pilot extraordinaire (deceased), for the Gen. Robert Cardenas Excellence in Aerospace Award (EIA). As a fellow U-2 pilot, I know of the challenges, difficulties, and accomplishments of Frank Powers to the aerospace community and to the United States of America.

It was at the height of the Cold War and in response to the Soviet Union’s growing military strength along with the perceived danger of the Soviet Union attacking the continental United States, President Dwight D. Eisenhower authorized the construction of a high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft. The aircraft, the U-2, would be designed specifically to fly over the Soviet Union and collect strategic intelligence at unheard of altitudes exceeding 70,000 feet. Even today, with the U-2 still conducting operations around the world, the altitudes are still classified. Back in 1955, not much was known about operating aircraft at such altitudes let alone the dangers in overflying the Soviet Union collecting Strategic intelligence for the US. The U-2 would be piloted by the most highly skilled pilots flying a single-seat aircraft that was purposely not/not built to military specifications. It was a mighty difficult aircraft to pilot, let alone to conduct dangerous intelligence collection overlying the Soviet Union. “Toward the Unknown,” was the motto.

Frank Powers was one of those distinguished U-2 Pilots. Frank Powers left the Air Force in 1956 when he was recruited by the C.I.A. for the ultra-secret U-2 program and was shot down over the Soviet Union on May 1, 1960. He was tried by the Soviets and convicted of espionage and sentenced to 10 years in prison. In 1962 he was released in an exchange that freed Soviet spy Rudolf Abel. After his death in 1977 his records were corrected by the U.S. Air Force to show his continuous military service throughout his tenure with the C.I.A., and he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Prisoner of War Medal. From these missions, we learned vital intelligence on the Soviet strategic bombers and missiles, and how to better operate an aircraft at very high altitudes.

Additionally, Frank was posthumously awarded the Silver Star. Here is the citation to accompany that award:

“The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918 (amended by an act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to Captain Francis Gary Powers, United States Air Force, for gallantry in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States from 1 May 1960 to 10 February 1962. During this period, while assigned to the Joint United States Air Force, Central Intelligence Agency, U-2 Reconnaissance Squadron, Detachment 10-10, Captain Powers was held captive in solitary confinement in the infamous Lubyanka Prison, Moscow, in the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, after his U-2 aircraft had been shot down by a Soviet surface to air missile over enemy territory. For almost 107 days, Captain Powers was interrogated, harassed, and endured unmentionable hardships on a continuous basis by numerous top Soviet Secret Police interrogating teams. Although greatly weakened physically by the lack of food, denial of sleep and the mental rigors of constant interrogation, Captain Powers steadfastly refused all attempts to give sensitive defense information or be exploited for propaganda purposes, resisting all Soviet efforts through cajolery, trickery, and threats of death to obtain the confessions they sought as part of the pretrial investigation. Captain Powers was subjected to an international trial and was sentenced to an additional 542 days of captivity in Vladimir Prison before finally being released to United States control. As a result of his indomitable spirit, exceptional loyalty, and continuous heroic actions, Russian intelligence gained no vital information from him. For his sustained courage in an exceptionally hostile environment, Captain Powers was publicly recognized by the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Senate Armed Services Committee. By his gallantry and devotion to duty in the dedication of his service to his country, Captain Powers has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.”

I have no hesitation in recommending Francis Gary Powers for the Gen. Robert Cardenas Excellence in Aerospace Award. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 571-253-8433 or cpwilson@coldwar.org.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chuck Wilson
Chairman, The Board of Directors

Artifact Donations

As a collecting museum, we depend on our artifacts to anchor our stories about Cold War history and to bring those stories to life. We have many artifacts but also many gaps in the kinds of stories we can tell, so we are always seeking more Cold War artifacts for our collections.

Luckily our members have been wonderful about thinking of us when they have decided to part with artifacts from their own careers. Like many other American museums, we have no budget for artifact purchase, almost our entire collections have come to us from the generosity of donors. Many of these artifacts are rare or even one-of-a-kind.

We will occasionally use our newsletter to let you know about some of our artifact donations.

Since our Spring 2023 Newsletter, here are some of the artifacts donated to the Museum:

- Robert Weinhold – 8/19/2023 – *The Price of Vigilance: Attacks on American Surveillance Flights*
- Judith Koehler 10/21/2023 – An ASA hat and 3 Soviet Army Belts
- Stephan Robinson 11/5/2023 – Uniform caps – German Federal Republic and DDR Border Guards

Cold War Museum® Opportunities DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Attention Certified Accountants, CPAs! Chief Financial Officer for The Cold War Museum® is opening. Are you interested in giving back through service to a worthy cause and non-profit? This Chief Financial Officer position includes membership on The Cold War Museum Board of Directors. Submit your CV or resume to John Welch at john.welch@coldwar.org or Dr Jason Hall at jason@coldwar.org.

Apply to Serve on The Cold War Museum® Board of Directors! The Cold War Museum® Board of Directors is the governing body of our nonprofit organization. This governance is high level: strategy, oversight, and accountability of the overall activities of the museum. Our Board is made up of twelve seasoned senior executives of varying professional backgrounds who work pro bono for the benefit of the museum. We currently have three vacancies. Our Board members meet, usually each month, to discuss and vote on the affairs of The Cold War Museum®. Send your CV or resume to John Welch john.welch@coldwar.org and Dr Jason Hall jason@coldwar.org to be considered.

Changes in the Museum's Key Staff

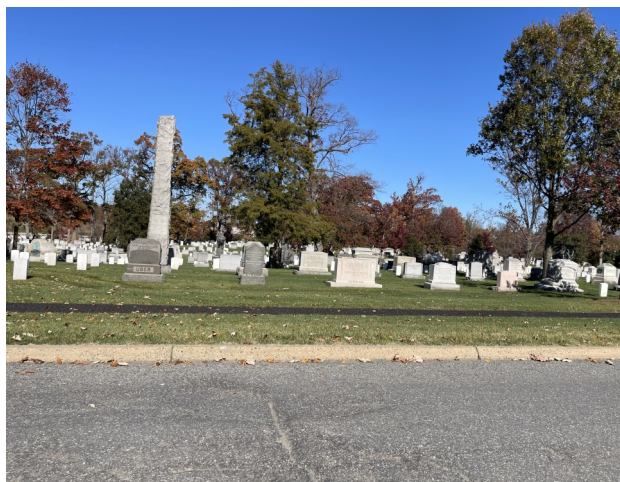
Interment of John Deperro at Arlington National Cemetery (11/14/23.)

We reported with regret and grief in the previous issue of this newsletter on the death of our good friend and valued Key Staff Member John Deperro. John was a combat helicopter pilot in Vietnam and a professor at West Point during his Army career and our longest-serving Key Staff Member. He was also one of our most knowledgeable docents and especially good with using the Museum's exhibits in helping school and Scout groups better understand the Cold War.

The Key Staff and Board Chairman were present for his burial in Arlington National Ceremony. May he rest in peace after a life filled with service to his family, his country, and the Museum he loved.



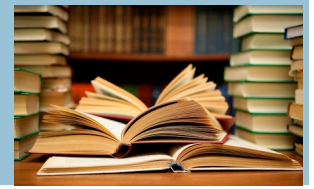
Key Staff Changes, cont. from page 15



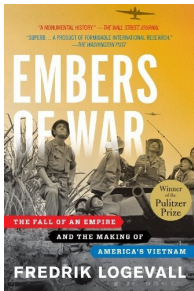
Two new Key Staff Members join the Museum

On a much a happier note, we are delighted to welcome to our Key Staff Jacob Marx and Jeff Proehl. Both are highly qualified, with connections to the intelligence community and strong interests in Cold War history.

Book Reviews



Books reviewed by Chad Manske



Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam by Fredrik Logevall

Fredrik Logevall's book *Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam* is a meticulously researched and thought-provoking exploration of the Vietnam War. With a keen eye for detail and a comprehensive understanding of the historical context, Logevall provides readers with a comprehensive account of the events leading up to America's involvement in Vietnam and the subsequent consequences.

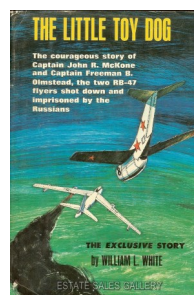
One of the book's greatest strengths lies in Logevall's ability to weave together various narratives and perspectives, presenting a nuanced and multifaceted analysis of the war. He delves into the political, military, and diplomatic aspects, offering insights into the decision-making processes of key figures such as Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson. By examining the motivations and actions of these individuals, Logevall elucidates the complex web of factors that contributed to America's deepening involvement in Vietnam.

Moreover, Logevall challenges conventional narratives surrounding the war, shedding light on the often-overlooked role of the Vietnamese themselves. He highlights the internal dynamics and struggles within Vietnam, giving agency to the Vietnamese people and emphasizing their profound impact on the outcome of the conflict. This perspective adds depth and complexity to the narrative, bringing a fresh understanding to the reader.

Logevall's prose is engaging and accessible, making the dense historical content approachable to both experts and casual readers. His vivid descriptions and vivid storytelling create a compelling narrative that keeps readers engaged throughout. Additionally, the author's use of primary sources, including personal letters and diaries, adds an intimate and human element to the book, allowing readers to connect with the individuals involved on a personal level.

However, one criticism of the book is its length and level of detail (864 pages long). While *Embers of War* is undoubtedly comprehensive, the sheer volume of information can be overwhelming at times. Readers seeking a concise overview of the Vietnam War may find themselves bogged down in the extensive historical analysis.

Overall, Fredrik Logevall's *Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam* is a masterful work that offers a fresh and nuanced perspective on the Vietnam War. Through his exhaustive research and captivating storytelling, Logevall sheds light on the complexities and consequences of America's involvement in Vietnam, making it an essential read for anyone interested in understanding this pivotal period in history.



The Little Toy Dog by William L. White

The Little Toy Dog, published in 1962, is about an incident that occurred during the height of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union exactly two months to the day after Francis Gary Powers was shot down during his U-2 "overflights" of Soviet territory.

Back then, because of what had transpired with the Powers' case, the RB-47's flight paths were being closely followed by the agitated Soviet government/

Cont. on page 18

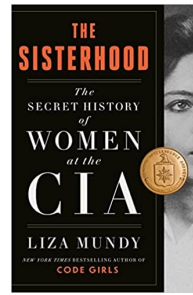
military. This led to the subsequent downing of this aircraft with little to no warning over the international waters over the Barents Sea. Olmstead and McKone were forced to eject and parachute into the Barents Sea (the frigid waters north of the Soviet Union). They were "fished out" of the freezing waters by a Russian fishing trawler and then held captive for several months without contact from their US embassy.

This is the framework upon which William White wrote this book with permission from the US government and USAF. The old photographs included in the book bring back the images of yesteryear. The letters home are sensitive and very personal and one cannot help but get wrapped up in this story from a very personal side beyond the planes, flight paths, Soviet laws and the politics.

The main figures in this novel, Captains Olmstead and McKone, clearly demonstrate the Air Force's core values while being held to the end of their captivity. Unfortunately, the aircraft commander, Major Palm, does not successfully eject. Nor do the three enlisted specialists in the belly of the aircraft.

The title comes from a stuffed Snoopy that was in Major Palm's flight suit pocket. Although his remains were found and returned, the stuffed dog was never found.

This is an impressive read about two men standing up to an oppressive regime I recommend to all. White writes clearly and with great detail about the events, including using the memories of these two USAF officers about their captivity and release. In doing so, he paints images similar to Francis Gary Powers in his autobiography *Operation: Overflight* while he was held in the Soviets' Lubyanka Prison at about the same time as these two captains.



The Sisterhood: The Secret History of Women at the CIA by Liza Mundy

This book is a riveting and eye-opening look into the untold stories of the women who have played pivotal roles in the Central Intelligence Agency. In this meticulously researched book, Mundy sheds light on the challenges, triumphs, and contributions of these women who have operated in the shadows of one of the world's most secretive organizations.

What sets *The Sisterhood* apart is Mundy's ability to weave together personal narratives with historical context, giving readers a comprehensive understanding of the struggles and successes these women have faced in a male-dominated field. From the groundbreaking work of Virginia Hall during World War II to the modern-day intelligence operations of women like Gina Bennett, Mundy highlights the indispensable role that women have played in shaping the CIA's history.

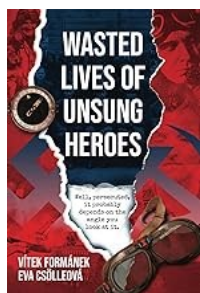
Through interviews with current and former CIA operatives, Mundy paints a vivid portrait of the complexities of female espionage work, from the discrimination faced by women in the early days of the agency to the innovative tactics employed by female agents in the field today. The book is not only a fascinating exploration of the CIA's hidden history but also a powerful testament to the strength and resilience of the women who have dedicated their lives to serving their country in the shadows.

The Sisterhood is a must-read for anyone interested in espionage, women's history, or the inner workings of the CIA. Mundy's compelling storytelling and meticulous research make this book a captivating and enlightening read that will leave readers with a newfound appreciation for the unsung heroines of the intelligence world.

PRESS RELEASE

Sastrugi Press Announces the Release of *Wasted Lives of Unsung Heroes*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Jackson, Wyoming, November 21, 2023



Unveiling Wasted Lives of Unsung Heroes: Czechoslovakian Pilots of World War II

Experience the gripping stories of Czechoslovakian pilots who helped to defeat Nazi Germany in World War II only to be persecuted by Communist Czechoslovakia and Stalinist Russia.

Sastrugi Press is excited to announce *Wasted Lives of Unsung Heroes*, a gripping exploration of overlooked Czechoslovakian pilots in World War II by Vitek Formánek and Eva Csölleová. This captivating book not only honors their heroism against Nazi Germany but delves into their post-war persecution under communist Czechoslovakia and triumphant freedom with the fall of the Soviet empire.

In *Wasted Lives of Unsung Heroes*, Formánek, a seasoned historian, and Csölleová, a skilled historical biographer, collaborate to provide an emotionally resonant account of the pilots' experiences. The book intricately weaves together the untold stories of these war heroes, emphasizing the courage and sacrifice that defined their existence.

Initially celebrated for their contributions to the war effort, the surviving pilots faced persecution as the communist regime in Czechoslovakia took hold. Navigating through the complexities of their lives, the book reveals the challenges they encountered. It brings to light the sacrifices they made and their resilience that carried them through tumultuous times.

These pilots, initially hailed as national heroes, found themselves at odds with a totalitarian regime. *Wasted Lives of Unsung Heroes* offers a fresh perspective on their struggles. It invites readers to contemplate the profound impact of political ideologies on those who fought for freedom.

Sastrugi Press is thrilled to publish *Wasted Lives of Unsung Heroes*. This book celebrates the resilience of the human spirit. It is a timely addition that enriches our understanding of countless individuals whose stories deserve recognition.

About the Authors

Vitek Formánek lives in East Bohemia, Czech Republic. He has a deep interest in the Royal Air Force (RAF) since 1988. He befriended dozens and dozens of English ex-Guinea Pigs and POWs and has written 11 books about them. He also has written books about punk rock, speedway, film, autograph collecting, homelessness, and handicapped people, with 23 titles so far. He works as a social worker. Formánek has had over 1,500 articles published in the Czech and English media.

Eva Csölleová (1964) lives in Eastern Bohemia, Czech Republic. Along with Formánek, she has co-written 13 books about punk rock, film, the Royal Air Force (RAF), autograph collecting, handicapped people, and homelessness. She is a photographer and many of her photos have been used in her books and publications.

Wasted Lives of Unsung Heroes

Trade Paperback: \$17.95USD, ISBN: 978-1-64922-326-5

Ebook: \$7.99USD

252 pages

Published November 17, 2023

Wasted Lives of Unsung Heroes with high-resolution cover images are available on the Sastrugi Press website:

<https://www.sastrugipress.com/books/wasted-lives-of-unsung-heroes/>

For media inquiries, review copies, or interviews, please contact Kelly Gaffney at contact@sastrugipress.com.

About Sastrugi Press: Sastrugi Press is dedicated to the vision of publishing books that will change the course of the world for the better. One single book might save an entire country or enrich a single person.

Learn more at www.sastrugipress.com.

Blackbird Reunion 2024

The Blackbird Association last, Blackbird Reunion. June 20-23, 2024, at the da. According to the Black- now at the end of the have known them. Here smiles during the most en- The Blackbird Reunion lessly putting together this be most memorable.

The Blackbird Association the finest aviation has to ciation membership are SR-71, the U-2, the KC- kept them trained in the T- socation has those who craft, those who kept provided parts, and pres-

professionals and staff workers who kept it all in line and funded. Others planned missions or provided the unique reconnaissance equipment and defensive systems to make the missions successful. “Who can ever forget a night engine run at Beale AFB—beautiful and magical.” There are so many who have contributed. Big thanks to this quite unique community! Inquiries cpwilson@coldwar.org



Challenge coin from the 2007 Blackbird Reunion

sponsors the next, and The location is set for Nugget Hotel, Reno Neva- bird Association, “We are Blackbird Reunions as we we will share stories and joyable reunion ever!” committee has been tire- reunion that promises to

continues to represent offer. Amongst the asso- those who have flown the 135Q, and those who 38. Additionally, the As- designed these fine air- them running, those who sure suits, intelligence

IN MEMORIAM

Here are the stories of a few of the many Cold Warriors who have passed on recently. Some you may have heard of, some not. All are worthy of our remembrance and respect, most because of what they did to protect the rest of us during the Cold War. In many cases they were ordinary people who were called upon to do extraordinary things, and who were then happy to step back from any spotlight, knowing that they'd done their duty. We also include other notable Cold War figures, including some from the East and some who are historically important because of their treachery.



Bonanni, Peter A. passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on Tuesday, December 12, 2023.

Pete Bonanni lived a long and happy life. He was born in Jessup, Pennsylvania on March 1, 1930, to first generation Italian immigrants, Valentino and Anna Marie Bonanni. He moved back to Italy for two years when he was very young but returned to Jessup, Pennsylvania when his father became concerned with the rise of Mussolini's Fascist government.

Pete excelled in football and was an All-State high school player for the Blakely Bears, a high school football powerhouse in Northeastern Pennsylvania. He earned a scholarship to the University of Detroit where he became a football standout, playing both offensive and defensive end. A knee injury took him out of contention for professional football and sent him instead to the United States Air Force, where he earned a commission and excelled in pilot training becoming a fighter pilot in the F-94C.

After the F-94C, he went on to fly over 3500 fighter hours in the F-101F, the F-105D, and the F-4D and F-4E. The highlight of his stellar career was his combat tours in Vietnam, flying out of both Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam and Korat, Thailand. Pete flew over 180 combat missions during the Vietnam War receiving numerous Air Medals and a Distinguished Flying Cross.

After retiring from the Air Force, Pete went on to a 20-year career at SAIC where he excelled in program management, helping the company win several key contracts at a critical time in the company's growth.

Pete loved travel and playing golf with his wife, Outi. Pete had the opportunity to spend a lot of time with the family where he often led sausage and pizza making efforts. He prided himself in growing the world's best tomatoes with special seeds from Italy. Pete also was an excellent cook and his special dishes were white pizza with anchovies and fried zucchini flowers.

Pete is survived by his devoted and beloved wife of 33 years, Outi Keravuori Bonanni. Pete is also survived his daughter, Anna Marie Minogue; his two sons, Pete Bonanni, Jr. and Robert Bonanni. Pete also was blessed with ten grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Castro, Juanita: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/obituaries/2023/12/08/juanita-castro-who-scorned-brother-fidel-and-helped-cia-dies-90/>



Diehl Jr., William "Bill"

Fredrick Lieutenant Colonel (LTC), United States Army (Retired), Cold War Veteran. Bill Diehl passed away peacefully at home, in the quiet early hours, on Christmas morning, 2023, in Woodbridge, Virginia

with his loving wife, Barbara Diehl, by his side and after meaningful visits from all of his children, grandchildren & many of his friends.

During his high school years, Bill seemed to excel at everything whether it was football, basketball, track and field, male acapella choir or the National Honor Society. He was selected by Congressional appointment to attend the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point. As a cadet, he

Cont. on page 22

In Memoriam, cont. from page 21

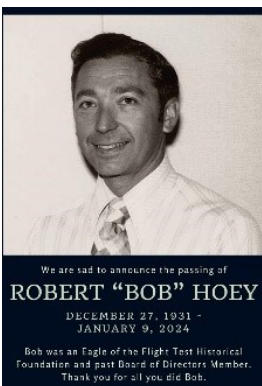
was bright and active, playing football, participating in indoor/outdoor track and singing in the Catholic Chapel choir and Glee Club, which performed on both local and National television (The Ed Sullivan show in '68 as an example). He graduated West Point in 1971.

His education would continue to postgrad earning an MS at both University of Southern California and Stanford University. In 1983 he would again return to West Point. This time, as an Assistant Professor with the Dept of Mathematics ('83-'86) where he would author "Ethics and Leadership: The Pursuit Continues" (1985) in which he advocated fiercely for a Military Code of Ethics to guide its members.

After his teaching tenure at West Point, Bill returned to Germany and then ultimately his last duty station was the Pentagon where he supported the Gulf War efforts. In 1993 after serving his country honorably for over 20 years, retiring as a LTC from the Army. Bill continued to support numerous areas of the Department of Defense as a contractor in various positions and as a government civilian.

He enjoyed volunteering in his community – singing in his church and community choirs and with the Washington DC regional West Point Glee Club, participating in the first ever West Point Glee Club reunion in 2007.

Bill was buried with Full Military Honors at West Point, NY on Tuesday, Feb 13, 2024.



Hoey, Robert (Bob) Gerald passed away peacefully in his sleep at age 92 on January 9, 2024. Bob was a devoted and resilient husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, colleague, and friend to many throughout his lifetime.

Flight was a fascination early on for Bob, starting with hand-

launched gliders before building his first gas-powered

model airplane at age 13. In high school, Bob worked at the Renton Airport where he had the opportunity to take flying lessons and earned his private pilot's license at 17 years old (before completing driver training!). Bob went on to earn his Bachelor's degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Washington and joined the Air Force. He was stationed at Edwards Air Force Base in the Antelope Valley where he continued as a Civilian Flight Test Engineer until retiring in 1987. During this time he also earned his Master's degree in Systems Management from USC.

Throughout his career, Bob's distinguished professional accomplishments include the honor of "Eagle" from the Flight Test Historical Foundation for recognition of his participation in the X-15 program. He was a recipient of the Kelly Johnson Award (2007), displayed in the National Air and Space Museum, which honors outstanding achievement in the field of Flight Test Engineering. He was also part of the Air Force Flight Test Center team that worked to test data and prepare summary briefings that were crucial for the development of NASA's Space Shuttle program.

After retirement, Bob consulted with Burt Rutan on the Spaceship One program. Throughout retirement, Bob researched and built full-scale models of soaring birds (raven, turkey vulture, seagull, and pelican). He continued to enjoy flying model airplanes of every shape and size until his death. Bob left a notable impact in the field of aviation worldwide by contributing his expertise through the authorship of numerous publications and books.

Bob is preceded in death by his wife Carol. He is survived by his son Richard (Tink) Hoey, daughter Teri (Rick) Alvarez, and granddaughters Ashley Alvarez and Michelle Hoey.

Cont. on page 23



Holmes, Christopher M. (Age 82) With sadness, the family of Christopher M. Holmes, announces his death which occurred on November 29, 2023 following a battle with pancreatic cancer. Chris, a long time resident of Northern Virginia, lived seven years in the Vinson Hall Retirement Community of McLean. Chris was born in Hartford, Connecticut on May 1, 1941. He was the middle child of three, between brother David P. Holmes (Ann D. Holmes) and sister, Meredith Holmes (Loretta Feller) to parents Robert W. Holmes and Doris P. Holmes of Moorestown, NJ.

Chris graduated with honors from Moorestown High School, playing on the varsity basketball team that won New Jersey State Championships in 1958 and 1959. Chris graduated from Tufts University in 1963 with a bachelor's degree in Economics. Later, he received a master's degree in Economics from American University and attended the National War College.

Hired as an analyst for the CIA, his career spanned 36 years where he reached the distinction of Senior Intelligence Service Officer and was awarded the Distinguished Intelligence Medal.

Chris married his high school sweetheart, Midge Walton. Recently they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Chris is survived by Midge, their son, Robert Aubrey Holmes (Shella Holmes), their children Tieran, Qiana, and Phineas; son, Allen Walton Holmes (Robin Shin), his son Christopher Allen Holmes (Becca Choy); and daughter, Johanna Holmes Boyers (Tyrone Byrd) and her daughter Faith.

A lover of sports, he was a dedicated coach for his children, and later assisted his daughter, Johanna, coaching girls' basketball. He was a player and also president of Northern Virginia Senior Softball. At

Vinson Hall, Chris and Midge successfully advocated for the construction of a sports park where they enjoyed the game of pickleball. A life long Philadelphia sports fan, Chris cheered for the Phillies, Eagles, and 76ers.

A Celebration of Life Service for Chris will take place Sunday, December 10, at 2 p.m. in the Alford Auditorium at Vinson Hall. In lieu of flowers, charitable contributions in his name may be made to The National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation (www.npcf.us [[npcf.us](http://www.npcf.us)]), or to Mosaic Harmony Choir, 2961A Hunter Mill Road #611, Oakton, VA 22124. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/washingtonpost/name/christopher-holmes-obituary?id=53753897>

Kissinger, Henry <https://www.washingtonpost.com/obituaries/2023/11/29/henry-kissinger-dead-obituary/>

Lajoie, Roland: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/obituaries/2023/11/10/roland-lajoie-army-general-cold-war-obituary/>

Pardo, Bob: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/obituaries/2023/12/22/bob-pardo-pilot-push-dies/>

Rubinstein, Lev: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/01/15/lev-rubinstein-obituaries-poet-russian/>



Trapp, Jr., Col. Charles "Charlie" Col. Charles E. Trapp Jr, USAF retired, 91, after living an out loud life and 46 years with his wife, Susie Trapp, quietly took his final flight on January 8th. He is also survived by his beloved daughters Linda Trapp (and Robert Shook)

and Clare Trapp (and Kevin Klink), his first wife and mother of his 3 children, Georgia Conn, as well as a long list of family, close friends, and alumni of "Charlie School." Charlie was preceded in death by

In Memoriam, cont. from page 23

his son, pilot 1st LT Scott Alan Trapp, USAF, who died in service in 1984.

Charlie followed in his father's (CWO Charles Trapp) distinguished military footsteps by joining ROTC while at Oregon State University. Later, on active duty, he piloted 17 different fixed and rotary wing aircraft and held 7 commands during his 27-year military career, including 5 years assigned to the CIA at Area 51.

Among his many military awards are the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal with 5 oak leaf clusters, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal. All were received for his services in search and rescue operations for the Air Force. During 2 tours of duty in Southeast Asia and as operational commander of air rescue operations in SEA, he was significantly involved in the evacuation of Saigon, Phnom Penh, and the recovery of the SS Mayaguez. In total, Colonel Trapp was credited with (directly or as operations commander) saving 182 lives and evacuating over 14,000 people. He continued his leadership with search and rescue support at Mount St. Helens, Guyana, and other sites around the world until his retirement in 1982.

Colonel Charles Trapp was a force of nature. As his cousin wrote, his big personality matched his stature—and his smile. He will be missed by many, most especially Susie, his cherished wife.

Vesilind, Priit Estonian Cold War Hero: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/obituaries/2023/11/22/priit-vesilind-national-geographic-estonia-obit-died/>

Cont. on page 12

In the News



Recent Cold War articles gathered by *U.S. News*: https://www.usnews.com/topics/subjects/cold_war

Recent Cold War articles gathered by *Politico*: <https://www.politico.com/news/cold-war>

Articles that appeared in *Foreign Affairs* on the Cold War: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/tags/cold-war>

Recent Cold War articles in *Foreign Policy*: <https://foreignpolicy.com/tag/cold-war/>

Recent archival postings on the Cold War from *The Guardian*: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/cold-war>

Recent articles on the Cold War at AP's Cold War hub: <https://apnews.com/hub/cold-war>

Cold War documentaries and media: <https://ccws.history.ucsb.edu/resources/media>



The Cold War Times

The official newsletter of The Cold War Museum

Karen Zwanzig, Lead Newsletter Staffer



Signed articles and photos may not be reprinted or reproduced without written permission from the editor and the museum.

The editorial opinions and reviews expressed in the newsletter are those of the individual writer(s). The museum and its newsletter editor(s) cannot be held responsible for errors of fact or opinion. Proven errors of fact will be corrected.

Deadline for Summer issue: July 15, 2024

To request publication guidelines, please contact the editor (Jason Hall, jason@coldwar.org)



Upcoming Events

New lectures will be added from time to time. Keep up with us on Facebook! All lectures in the Zoom Presentation Series start at 2:00 p.m. Participants arrive in the Zoom room online between 1:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. Tickets to all events are available at Eventbrite; for the specific link to the most near-term of the upcoming events listed below, please click on this link to the Events page on our website: <https://coldwar.org/default.asp?pid=16883>.

- 4/7/24— Michael Rich, former CEO of RAND and son of Skunk Works legendary Ben Rich, on the history of RAND and its key role in developing and supporting U.S. Cold War defense strategy.
- 4/21/24— Liza Mundy on her recent book *The Sisterhood*, on the history of women at the CIA.

(See p. 18 of this issue for a review of this book. Liza has presented to us before on her book *Code Girls*, about the thousands of bright women who served as code breakers at Arlington Hall during WWII. She is the most highly praised presenter by our audience.)

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.

As with every other museum in this country and around the world, our ability to hold such tours was necessarily eliminated for several months by COVID health concerns. With things mostly back to normal we're back to booking tours in the normal way.

Here are some of the private tours conducted by museum staff since the last newsletter (photos on the next page):

10/19/23 – Private tour for 7 former CIA people.

10/25/23 – 20 seniors from Lansdowne Woods.

11/08/23 – 50 defense attachés and their wives from DC embassies. The Museum has two awards from their association.

11/16/23 – Tour for Gerald Wilkinson, co-owner with the Museum of an East German Trabant car.

12/04/23 – A former military intelligence officer and his Russian-born wife.

12/21/23 – CWM Key Staff visit the Defense Intelligence Agency Museum in DC and get a tour from the historians on that museum's staff.

12/28/23 – Tour for a family of 4.

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

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

12/29/23 – Tour for Jeff Rhodes, historian for Lockheed Martin Aerospace.

2/3/24 – 6 historians from the DIA Museum get a private tour of the Cold War Museum.



2/29/24 – 34 visitors from the Virginia Museum of History in Richmond for a private tour.

3/15/24 – Private tour group of 15 people.



Carrying the Message

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 makes many of these presentations to local groups and organizations. 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, such as local Ham radio groups, and on doing STEM presentations for local school groups. Bryan Zwanzig, also a veteran of Army service at Vint Hill, represents us at the Tank Farm and other events. Many others of the staff team help with this outreach to the local community.

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

11/4/23—Key CWM Staffer Mike Washvill does a presentation on Vint Hill Farms Station history for the Manassas, VA OLLI group (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) at the Hylton Center on the Manassas campus of George Mason University.

11/28/23—Mike does a presentation for a school assembly of 3 International Baccalaureate (IB) history classes at Robinson School.

12/7/23—Executive Director Jason Hall does a presentation at the Hylton Center on Cold War espionage for about 40 people from the Manassas OLLI group.

The Museum's Challenge Coin is available for \$15. The coin pays homage to Vint Hill Farms Station as an active listening post from 1942—1997 and features the Cold War Museum® on the reverse side.





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 also fully deductible in accordance with IRS guidelines for contributions to 501c3 organizations.