

The Cold War Times®

The Newsletter of The Cold War Museum®

Summer 2024



Letter from the Executive Director

THE ELECTED TSAR, THE NEW MAO, AND THE REVERSAL

As I write this, Russia's war of conquest in Ukraine grinds on, with not even a pretense of trying to spare civilians; on the contrary, with a very obvious priority on overtly targeting of civilians in their homes. (Before we see ourselves as blameless with targeting civilians, we should remember that it was the Western Allies in WWII who repeatedly carpet-bombed German cities like Dresden, often using phosphorus bombs, which stick to anything in their paths and produce an intense fire which could not be put out. And we dropped those bombs in a systematic pattern designed to create a firestorm.)

In theory, deliberate targeting of civilians is banned in the modern (1949) version of the Geneva Conventions. In practice, like all autocracies Russia will do whatever it thinks necessary to gain even a slight military advantage, trusting that no one can hold it accountable. Disregard for your own citizens except as units of the State makes it easy to treat them as expendable in the same way as tanks and rockets, so of course you're not concerned with the rules of war protecting enemy civilians.

Stalin famously murdered more of his own people (at least 7 million via execution and deliberate famine) than the Russian Army killed German soldiers either directly or while in Russian custody (c. 2.5 million).

So is Putin the new Stalin in the way he operates? No, I think not. As a number of professional historians have pointed out, with the Communist ideology of the Cold War long gone, and replaced by traditional Russian concerns like nationalism and the Russian Orthodox Church, a better comparison is a reversion to the tsarism of the late 19th centuries, including the ruthless and highly effective tsarist secret police of that period, the Okhrana, who had predecessors going back to the 17th century. Putin is a KGB creation, a Communist outgrowth of the Okhrana, but without the Communist ideology. His appeal to his people is that he talks the talk of late tsarism—Russia as a Great Power, minion states on its borders as buffers, the moral corruption of the West (some truth to that as Solzhenitsyn pointed out), and paranoia.

He's the Elected Tsar. But, to his chagrin, he's the junior partner on the Autocrats Team.

Big Brother Xi obviously deplores the use of external conquest; he'd rather slowly and incrementally OWN the world through such devices as his Belt and Road Initiative. The anaconda, not the tiger. And currently overt mass murder does not seem to be his way; his massive oppression of the Uyghurs is via *Cont. on page 2*

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imprisonment, slave labor, and incremental destruction of their culture and language—plus his social credit system to keep constant watch on ALL his citizens.

So why would I call Xi the New Mao, when one of the most distinguishing things about Mao was that he wins the prize for killing the largest number of his own people, at an estimated 42.5 million, if you include the Great Leap Forward Famine, the Cultural Revolution, and other campaigns?

Because just as there was the Little Red Book of Mao's thought that everyone was supposed to read, there is a new Cult of Personality around Xi, where Xi Jinping Thought is everywhere and built into the Party's ideology and the constitution.

And the reversal in the title of this letter? That's the Cold War link. During the Cold War, Mao was a huge fan of Stalin, and Russia was the clear leader of the Communist world—at least until China asserted itself and began to cut its own deals with the US, following Nixon and Kissinger's Opening to China.

And once Deng Xiaoping's transformation of the Chinese economy took hold, while the Russian economy remained in relative stagnation, the Chinese economic powerhouse made it by the far the most formidable autocracy in the history of the world.

Once again, the roots of our modern world appear to be deep in the Cold War period.

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The Cold War Times

The Newsletter of The Cold War Museum

**Deadline for Fall/Winter issue:
October 15, 2024**

To discuss article submission, please contact :

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Meet Your 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 eleven 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: <https://coldwar.org/default.asp?pid=15593>

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

- ◆ Visit by key DIA Museum staff to the Cold War Museum.
- ◆ Providing Ambassadors for the Museum at the events of organizations in the N. VA area.
- ◆ The Museum's success with Give Local Piedmont, our most important annual fundraiser.
- ◆ Exploring grant opportunities at the state government level and with Virginia Humanities.
- ◆ Action on Board-approved deaccessioning of 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®.
- ◆ Beginning and completing action on storing some of our collections on the grounds of a non-profit in Midland, VA.
- ◆ Increase in the number of our private tours and the continuing success of our Presentation Series events.
- ◆ Discussion on whether the Museum should stay at the same size it is, raise funds for planning and executing a major fundraising campaign to expand into a larger space, or explore a merger with another related institution. A motion to explore a merger was approved.

Museum Staff



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

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

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

Gene Eisman,
Director of Public Relations &
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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 Expert,
and Social Media Lead Staffer

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

Karen Zwanzig,
Cold War Times
Lead Staffer

Clayton Vieg,
Cold War Veteran

Paul David Smith,
Intern

Colin Walker,
Intern

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 Spring 2024 issue appeared, we have presented the following:

- ◆ 04/21/24 – Liza Mundy on her recent book *The Sisterhood*, on the history of women at the CIA.
- ◆ 06/02/24 – Gordon Jefferson on the development of the early U-2 cameras—all the tech problems they had to resolve to make it work and do so reliably in these unusual conditions. He was part of the team that built them.

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.

1-150th Air Assault Helicopter Battalion Visits NASM Receives Briefings on Cold War Artifacts

Over 30 members of the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion of the New Jersey Army National Guard flew their Blackhawk helicopters down



Group in front of the SR-71 Blackbird



to the National Capital Region for an MWR/Professional Development Mission on April 22 .

Part of their mission was to simulate forward deployment at Fort Indiantown Gap's Muir Army Airfield to train Air Assault operations. Another part of their mission featured a two-hour visit to the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) at Dulles.

At NASM they were met by Chuck Wilson, a pro-bono NASM Docent, Past Chairman of the Board for The Cold War Museum®, and a retired Air Force Colonel, who was a Cold War U-2 Pilot.



Wilson briefing soldiers on the 1955 Boeing 367-80, the prototype for the Cold War Boeing-707 and USAF KC-135

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Also meeting them was Bill Hamilton, a volunteer NASM Docent, retired US Navy Cold War Veteran, and past President AFCEA Virginia. The US Army group briefed and viewed aircraft artifacts featured in the NASM areas of Early Flight, Commercial Flight, World War II, the Space Hanger, and the Cold War.



Hamilton engaging with one of the soldiers next to the SR-71 Blackbird.



Wilson briefs part of the group of soldiers on the Space Shuttle Discovery



Wilson here is briefing on the wearing of a pressure suit worn by both SR-71 crews and U-2 Pilots.

The visit lasted for 2.5 hours and the members of the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion all were excited about seeing and hearing presentations on the aviation artifacts and learned a bit about Cold War history.

The Last Blackbird Reunion An Historic Reunion



Hosted by the Blackbird Association, the 25th and last Blackbird Reunion was held at the Nugget Hotel Casino Resort near Reno, Nevada June 20-23, 2024. Held every two years (except during Covid-19 period), this gathering of Blackbird Association members has taken place for over 50 years. Almost 500 people, including SR-71 crews, a few U-2 pilots, some KC-135Q crews, and many associated mission planners, maintenance, avionics, and PSD technicians who worked critical aspects of the programs, plus representatives of defense contractors Lockheed and David Clark, attended. Almost all made Cold War History! We also cannot forget all the families who lived through the Cold War with them! Many were there! Even Paul Crickmore, the renowned historian of the A-12/SR71 Blackbird, and Chris Pocock, his opposite number for the U-2 Dragon Lady, were there.

At the banquet, awards were presented to recognize several of the distinguished guests:

- ◆ The Blackbird Association Award Joe Kinego – -71 Pilot retired
- ◆ The Kelly Johnson Award – Rob Wehner – U-2 pilot retired

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This event also had several displays. Here are two. Lance Campbell's RC SR-71, which is about 1/8 scale and can fly for about eight minutes. Remarkable craftsmanship, remarkable detail, and amazing performance. It took Lance nine years to build from scratch. The 85-pound SR-71 is 13 feet long and powered by a pair of JetCat 140-RXi Turbines. Check out

this video of this remarkable RC SR-71 flying: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-8DV_vNH-w

Dennis Gilliam, a pressure suit historian, brought his historic collection of David Clark Company's pressure suits and put them on display. A most interesting collection including partial pressure suits suits from the early U-2 days, full pressure suits worn by the A-12 SR-71 and U-2 pilots to the s1034 suit that the U-2 pilots are flying with today.



Each attendee at the Reunion received a commemorative Challenge Coin.

This final Blackbird Reunion was a most exciting and memorable event whose legacy will be carried on through many museum symposiums and seminars planned around the country in the coming years.

2025 Cold War Espionage Tour

A Great Travel Opportunity

Gary Powers' 2025 Cold War Espionage Tour of England, Holland & Germany

Travel Dates: April 22 to May 3, 2025

12 days/10 nights



Join author, historian and lecturer Gary Powers Jr. on this exciting, 12-day tour of Cold War and espionage related sites in England, Holland and Germany with included overnights in London, Amsterdam, the Rhineland, Leipzig and Berlin

What's Included:

- Round-trip air transportation from Washington, DC
- 10 nights in centrally-located, four-star hotels
- Full-time CHA Tour Director
- Valuable insight and informative commentary by Gary Powers Jr.
- On-tour transportation by private motorcoach & high-speed train
- Breakfast & dinner (or lunch) daily
- Sightseeing tours & visits shown in itinerary (subject to change)

Prices & Deadlines:

Full Tour Price: \$6,295 per person

Land Tour Price: \$5,195 per person (does not include round-trip airfare or airport transfers)

Repeat Gary Powers travelers will receive a \$200 discount!

Prices are based on double occupancy. A \$600 single room fee will apply for travelers without roommates.

Enroll with a required tour deposit of \$495 by December 15, 2024. Final payment is due by January 15, 2025.

Have Questions?

For complete details, contact CHA toll-free at 1-800-323-4466 or visit cha-tours.com/garypowers/2025

Day 1: Departure from the USA

Day 2: Arrival London Welcome to London! Your CHA Tour Director greets you at the airport and escorts you to your hotel. Later, begin your exploration of England's historic capital on a walking tour to Trafalgar Square to see Admiral Nelson's Monument, the Lion Statues and the National Gallery. Later, check into your hotel to relax and unpack from your journey. Tonight, enjoy our Introductory Dinner.

Day 3: London-Guildford-London The morning begins with a themed guided sightseeing tour of London highlighting Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Whitehall, Downing Street, New Scotland Yard, and the MI5 and MI6 buildings. Included is a visit to the Churchill War Rooms, the secret underground headquarters of Prime Minister Winston Churchill during World War II. After some free time for lunch, take an excursion to visit the Iron Curtain Museum in Guildford to explore its interesting collection of Cold War military vehicles and artifacts. Return to London where dinner is included this evening.

Day 4: London-Duxford-Cambridge-London The day begins with an excursion to visit the Imperial War Museum in Duxford, Britain's largest aviation museum, to marvel at its extensive collection of military aircraft. Afterwards, drive to nearby Cambridge where lunch is included. Learn more about the renowned university town's history of spies including the infamous "Cambridge Five" Spy Ring during a walking tour. Return to London where you're on your own for dinner.

Day 5: London-Eurostar to Amsterdam Transfer to London's St. Pancras Station to board your time-saving Eurostar train that will whisk you from London to Amsterdam in under four hours. Upon arrival, get acquainted with Holland's picturesque capital on a leisurely canal cruise through the city's waterways followed by a visit to Vondelpark, a Cold War era bunker located under Vondelpark that now functions as a local community space. Dinner is included tonight.

Day 6: Amsterdam-The Hague-Lelystad-Amsterdam Enjoy an excursion to the Hague, seat of the Dutch government and home to the United Nations' International Court of Justice, for a walking tour revealing its deep-rooted spy history dating back to the days of Mata Hari. Enjoy an included lunch in the Hague before proceeding to Lelystad Airport to visit the Avidrome Aviation Museum to discover the history of Dutch civil aviation where more than 100 unique aircrafts are on display. Return to Amsterdam. You are on your own for dinner tonight.

Day 7: Amsterdam-Soest-Cologne-Bonn-Rhineland Drive to Soest to visit the Military History Museum Soesterberg, Holland's largest, located on the former Soesterberg Airfield. Cross the Dutch border as you journey to Germany's Rhineland. Stop in Cologne spanning the Rhine River to see its twin-spired cathedral and to visit a hidden Cold War-era nuclear bunker built into a subway station. Drive via Bonn, the capital of West Germany from 1949 to 1990, en route to your Rhineland area hotel. Dinner is included tonight.

Day 8: Rhineland-Ahrweiler-Unkel-Rhine Cruise-Rhineland The day begins with a drive to Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler in the Ahr Valley to visit the Regierungsbunker (also known as the Government Bunker Documentation Site), the once top-secret underground complex built during the Cold War inside two abandoned railway tunnels to house the German government, parliament and federal personnel in the event of the breakout of war. Later, travel to Unkel to visit the Willy Brandt Museum to learn more about the legacy of former West Berlin mayor and West German Chancellor. Later, savor the Rhine Valley on a leisurely Rhine River Cruise past fairytale castles, vineyards and the Lorelei. Return to Rhineland area hotel. Dinner is included this evening.

Day 9: Rhineland-Geisa-Leipzig Journey to Geisa to visit Point Alpha Memorial, a Cold War observation post overlooking part of the Fulda Gap, the prime invasion route for Warsaw Pact forces if the Cold War would have erupted into actual combat. The memorial is serves as a moving reminder of Germany's division and the confrontation between NATO and the Warsaw Pact during the Cold War. Continue to Leipzig to see the Museum in Der Runde Ecke, the city's former Stasi headquarters, before proceeding to your hotel. Dinner is included tonight.

Day 10: Leipzig-Potsdam-Berlin Drive through Potsdam to Glienicke Bridge (the "Bridge of Spies") where Gary Powers Jr. will provide commentary about the exchange of his father, American pilot Francis Gary Powers, and Soviet KGB Colonel William Fisher that took place there on February 10, 1962. Later, stop in Steinrück Village, a small enclave of Berlin where the U.S. military built a secure post, a wall and helicopter landing pad during the height of the Cold War, sealing it off from the western sector. Lunch will be provided today. Upon arrival in Berlin, stop at Checkpoint Charlie, the most famous border crossing point along the Berlin Wall, to visit the Checkpoint Charlie Museum (also known as the Mauer Museum) documenting the history of the Berlin Wall that once divided the city from 1961 to 1989. You are on your own for dinner.

Day 11: Berlin Morning sightseeing of Germany's reunified capital includes a visit to the Stasi Museum located in the former headquarters of the GDR and the East German secret police, where you see surveillance and observation technology and tour the office of the Minister for State Security, General Eric Mielke. Later, visit the Wall Museum East Side Gallery chronicling the wall's construction and its impact on the people of Berlin. After free time for lunch, sightseeing continues as you visit the DDR Museum where you will get a glimpse of what life was like in the former East Germany by exploring the museum's hands-on, interactive exhibits filled with memorabilia and artifacts. Sightseeing ends with a visit to the Reichstag, a historic legislative government building and seat of the German Bundestag, topped by an extraordinary glass dome offering incredible views of the city skyline. Tonight, celebrate your final evening in Germany at our Farewell Dinner.

Day 12: Departure for the USA Transfer to Berlin's Brandenburg Airport for your return flight arrangements.

To Enroll Online: visit www.cha-tours.com/garypowers/2025



A Masters' Class in Cold War History All While on Vacation!

After receiving information about the 2023 Gary Power's Cold War Espionage/Spy Tour of Europe – an adventure that would be both a great way to learn about Cold War history and a chance to visit Germany and the Czech Republic – I contacted CHA, the tour operator who primarily runs tours for college or high school students, to find out more about the level of accommodations. Not being college-age, the thought of backpacking and hosteling around Europe was not high on my list. CHA assured me that they do a lot of trips like this and that the hotels they used would be to my liking.

When the departure date arrived, the group arrived at Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) to meet up with Gary Powers Jr., the tour leader. Everyone quickly connected and became friends at the Lufthansa gate. It was here at the gate that we all learned that a Gary Powers Jr. Tour is as much about the people on the tour as it is about the places you visit. Something that makes these tours unique is the guides, many of who are personally connected to Gary. Each has a firsthand connection to the subject, offering great stories you would not learn from textbooks or the big tour operators.



Flying to Europe from the USA is an overnight experience. We landed in Frankfurt and then flew to Berlin, where we met our tour guide, Lance, a Brit who has been in the tourism and travel world his entire life. He often made witty comments that I called Lanceisms. He provided colorful commentary with stories about historical figures and their personal life, giving some depth and inserting some drama into an otherwise dry historical figure.

The tour provided unique experiences and visits, such as our first stop, the Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial, a cold and unfriendly Stasi Prison.



Later, a Luftwaffe airfield and military history museum with a unique aircraft collection from early lighter-than-air balloons and Wright Brothers-inspired aircraft to more modern propeller-driven airplanes and jets. Throughout the tour we visited museums displaying classic old-school artifacts and others with more interactive exhibits, like holograms of tanks in operation.

My favorites were many, like the bunkers, one under a city, one in the middle of nowhere, and a prison that looked like a regular house surrounded by an upper-middle-class community. Today, there is an elementary school attached to it.

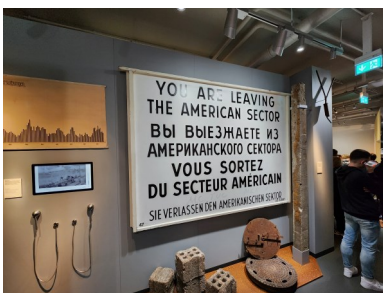
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The Atom Museum offered a view into what the 1980s would have been like. It is located on a long, unpaved road in a remote area of the Czech Republic. Dis-

plays have been set up in several Quonset huts and underground in a remarkably well-preserved bunker where the Soviets stored their nuclear armaments up until the 1980s. It is radiation-free today,



The Allied Museum on the original grounds of a WWII American base in Berlin, West Germany continued to be used throughout the Cold

War. Here, the curator guided us through their collection of artifacts, including walking around and through one of the planes that participated in the Berlin airlift and later Checkpoint Charlie sta-



tion. This helped everyone better understand how Berlin was broken up into four sectors and operated to support the population. One par-

ticipant grew up on that same base when his Father, who was in Army Intelligence, was stationed there in the 1960s and 70s, another worked in the building when it was the Army library in the 1980s. https://youtu.be/LY37uHEaHmE?si=wiHoAEO_0i3H2hly

The Glienicke Bridge <https://maps.app.goo.gl/WKxQcKPcRM1RwRig9>

was made famous in the movie Bridge of Spies, which portrays the 1960 capture and eventual release of Francis Gary Powers, Sr., our Tour leaders' father. A stop to walk across what is now just a regular river crossing, ensuring our tour participants did not get run over by cars traveling across the bridge.



This was an excellent opportunity to hear firsthand about the prisoner exchange from Powers' son, Gary Jr., and also to catch some of the behind-the-scenes moments from the Tom Hanks movie that Gary consulted on and had a walk-on role. <https://youtu.be/fc8aKhJSLZk?si=w0osiRKnAlhmxVhH>



Vitkov Hill Bunker in Prague was another exciting experience – seeing what a possible civilian Cold War evacuation spot had been like. The bunker was complete

with protective gear and furnishings that people would have used while staying in the bunker. More recently it has served as a nightclub and is now an interpretive historic experience. The entrance is off a child's playground and basketball court. Interesting that so many of these places today have child-friendly activities attached.



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The Iron Curtain Museum is run by the Iron Man of the Czech Republic. It is hidden away behind a gasoline station and mini-mart on the Czech border, filled to the brim with artifacts to look at, a display on Francis Gary Powers, as well as a treaty room where visitors can sign a book of peace.



Our accommodations throughout the trip were classically European, pleasant, comfortable, and safe. Not all were fancy hotels, and one or two were a bit awkward,

but they were as much a part of the character of the tour as they were of the region we were staying in. Each presented either the history of the location or that of the hotel. One hotel was known for the listening devices hidden in the rooms of Western travelers throughout the Cold War era. Meals are an essential part of any trip. The hotels offered an extensive and delicious breakfast buffet. While lunch was on our own, it was often in an interesting location that allowed us to interact with the locals and the culture. Our dinners were as a group at an attractive local restaurant.

One meal was served at the Míšov Grill, located near the Atom Museum in Míšov, Czech Republic. This little restaurant, housed in a roadside shack, served home-cooked Czech food. It



appears to be a regular stop for local motorcycle enthusiasts who road trip through the countryside, with fantastic food and drink. I doubt any other tour group would get the opportunity for this experience.

We spent an afternoon touring the Pilsen Brewery, tasting beer. This provided a chance for everyone to understand how beer and ale was made in the olden days, using caverns underneath the city to keep the brew cold. Those caverns also served as a secure evacuation area in the event of a bombing or nuclear emergency.



We ended the 2023 Trip visiting two Technik Museums <https://speyer.technik-museum.de/en/> that offered terrific displays of cars, tanks, and air-



craft, many of which you could go up into, and if you were a kid or a kid-at-heart, you could use the slide to exit which of course a few of our group enjoyed.

And thus, we slid out of Germany, flying from Frankfurt back to IAD. We were exhausted as much as we were excited about all that we had experienced on the Gary Powers Cold War Espionage/Spy Tour 2023. This one-of-a-kind tour provided an amazing opportunity for an up-close-and personal education on Cold War history, with one-on-one interpretation and stories from the guides and our fellow tour participants.

Article written by William West Hopper

It's As Much About the People As it Is the Tour

"Bring over back up; we are outnumbered two to one over here," was my text to Gary Powers on day two of the advance trip for 2024. Unlike the 2023 trip where everyone met up at Washington Dulles International Airport, nine of us started our adventure in Berlin three days early to beat the jetlag before joining the rest of the tour group in Vienna. Guys were outnumbered two to one, which was not a bad problem and was balanced out once the entire tour group came together.



This year's tour was different from last year's tour due to the makeup of the tour participants as well as the more expanded schedule. While the 2023 tour was like that tough first year of a master's program, 2024's tour was equally packed with education just with more extracurricular activities, such as a Danube River dinner cruise in Budapest or a movie night with

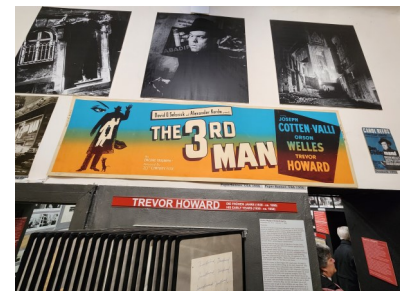


a prerequisite visit to a museum dedicated to the movie. There were also nightly impromptu guided walking tours with one of our participants/guides, Rainer, an Austrian historian, who, along with his father, gave us insightful tours throughout the trip. We all signed a picture to commemorate the event.

Personal guided tours interpreting the sites are a hallmark of Gary Power's Cold War Tours. These are Gary's personal friends, who have in-depth knowledge and provided an interesting perspective on the location's history and what happened there, not only during the 20th century and the Cold War, but also before that which brought to life much of what that exact location meant for so many and how its history is now important. These one-on-one personal interactions are the types of experiences you would not get on any other tour. For sure, not with the big tour operators. The guides would often join us for lunch or dinner or sit down with the group, and answer questions. They would show us artifacts that are part of their personal or family collections so that we can touch, feel, and understand the history we saw and experienced.



The tour did have several hired local guides who were exceptionally knowledgeable and provided us with one-on-one first-hand accounts of what went on and when. One such experience was during dinner in Bratislava. A father and daughter team joined us to talk about our tour the following day of a historic Slovakian bunker site. While the father was the expert, his English was very limited, so his daughter, a trained physician, provided a clear interpretation. The initial exposure was something that we had on several oc



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casions. We saw the Third Man Museum in Vienna, an out-of-the-way small museum, and then saw the related film later that evening.

During our visit to Brno, the Czech Republic's second-largest city, we toured the 10-Z bunker in the heart of town. This communist-era nuclear fallout shelter was built during the Nazi occupation in World War II. Today, it operates as both a historic site and a hostel where you can experience overnight what it would have been like in this dark underground bunker. Don't worry, our accommodation throughout the trip were four-



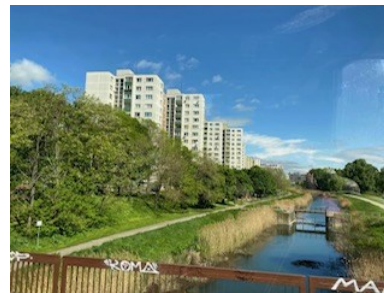
and five-star properties, complete with windows out on amazing sights and private bathrooms. Seeing a variety of countries under Soviet

rule for much of the late twentieth century provided each of us with a better understanding of borders and the difficulty of crossing them back in the day. In the United States we cross state boundaries without even thinking about it. In Budapest we had an interesting walking tour of the city and a private museum tour. After a short bus ride into a non-descript suburb, the group was taken to Memento Park, which houses a striking collection of



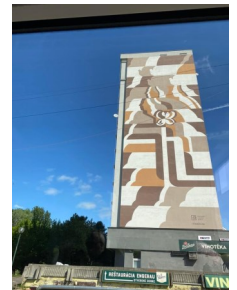
statues prominently displayed elsewhere during the Soviet era. They are now housed and displayed together. Odd enough, you would imagine them as prominent displays of the era elsewhere in the country.

We spent a lot of time on the bus and saw an enormous amount of countryside. At one stop, right before an Austrian Hungarian border crossing, we could experience the Pan-European Picnic site where a peaceful meeting of Hungarians and Austrians took place on August 19, 1989. Here a history-making demonstration of the citizens of the two nations caused a chain reaction leading to the collapse of the Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall and the eventual reunification of Germany.



One of the more interesting experiences was when we got on the bus and drove out to the city's

suburbs to see the sprawling soviet housing complexes that were hard to tell from one another, except for the art installed around each to differentiate them.



There often were experiences that led us down dirt



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roads or through what appeared to be an overgrown field. Such as our visit to Doellersheim in Austria, <https://youtu.be/6BHluUtAmpM> – a bombed-out village in the center of military training grounds that has been made into a memorial. Or a bunker on the outskirts of a freshly built residential area that less than a century ago was a key listening post. These are just a few of the off the grid places that were a part of the Cold War and World War II story.

Only a few spots were more theatrically interpreted, such as the Bezovka Nuclear Bunker, one of Prague's largest fallout shelters hidden beneath Parukara Hill. This is another odd location



where the entrance was beside a children's play yard and basketball court. Today while it is a historical tour stop, at one time it was a well

-known nightclub, a productive reuse of this large many-level bunker. A young Hungarian gentleman gave us a fantastic walking tour of Budapest and then took us into the Museum of Communism, housed in an old government intelligence Office building. He led us around as if we were VIPs on a special tour.

The Europeans take every aspect of their storytelling seriously. Everywhere we visited we had English-speaking guides. When they struggled with the wording, one of our multilingual fellow tour participants would help them



explain. It was common for our guides to wear World War II uniforms. At first, it felt like a bit of cosplay.

At the Atom Museum, we were greeted by a large contingent of Czechs, all dressed in historical attire. It's a little like arriving at Disneyland and experiencing all the characters from the various movies. While very few of them spoke English, they all welcomed us warmly and brought us delicious homemade treats.

While the 2024 trip consisted of friends who had traveled together before, along with a handful of

those who had been on the 2023 trip, several new folks joined for the first time this year. The group mingled, quickly became friends, found similar



interests, and shared their own Cold War experiences. From the woman whose late husband had been part of the Reagan team that was at the fall of the Berlin Wall to others who had served in either a civilian or military position during the late 1970s and 80s. By the end of the trip as we boarded our flight back to Washington DC, we knew each other's hobbies and interests.

If this type of educational tour interests you, Gary will be guiding several European Tours in 2025 including one much like the 2023 tour, hosted by the New England Air Museum. <https://www.cha-tours.com/GaryPowers/NEAM/Default.aspx> There is no doubt each tour will be beyond amazing.

Article written by William West Hopper

The Cold War Museum® Opportunities Don't Miss the Opportunity to Make a Difference

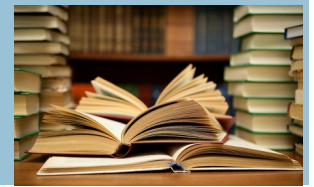
Attention Certified Accountants, CPAs!

The 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 Dr. Jason Hall at jason@coldwar.org.

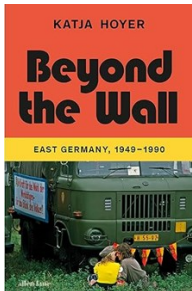
Apply to Serve on The Cold War Museum® Board of Directors

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 fourteen 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 on Zoom, usually each month, to discuss and vote on the affairs of The Cold War Museum®. Send your CV to Dr. Jason Hall at jason@coldwar.org to be considered.

Book Reviews



Books reviewed by Chad Manske



Beyond the Wall: East Germany, 1949—1990, by Katja Hoyer

Hoyer's book takes readers on a fascinating journey through the tumultuous history of East Germany. Her meticulous research and engaging writing style make this book a must-read for anyone interested in understanding the complexities of life behind the Iron Curtain.

Hoyer peels back the layers of propaganda and censorship that characterized the East German regime, offering readers a glimpse into the everyday lives of its citizens. From the Stasi's pervasive surveillance to the shortages of consumer goods, she paints a vivid picture of the challenges faced by those living under communist rule. But what sets *Beyond the Wall* apart from other historical accounts is Hoyer's ability to inject humor and humanity into her storytelling. Through anecdotes and personal stories, she brings to life the resilience and resourcefulness of the East German people, showing that even in the face of oppression, there was still room for love, laughter, and defiance. Hoyer's book is a reminder that history is not just a series of dry facts and figures but a living, breathing tapestry of human experiences. Whether you're a history buff or

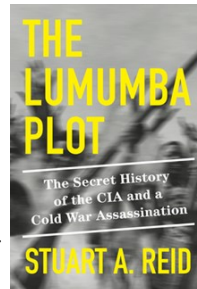
simply curious about life in East Germany, "Beyond the Wall" is sure to entertain, educate, and inspire. So grab a copy, pour yourself a glass of schnapps, and prepare to be transported back in time to a world that is both familiar and utterly foreign.

The Lumumba Pilot, by Stuart A. Reid

Reid's book is a riveting exploration of one of the most controversial and mysterious chapters in Cold War history.

The assassination of Patrice Lumumba, the first democratically elected Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo, has long been shrouded in secrecy and intrigue. Reid's meticulous research and compelling storytelling bring to light the hidden machinations of the CIA and other Western intelligence agencies in orchestrating Lumumba's downfall.

From the outset, Reid sets the stage for the reader by providing a detailed background on Lumumba's rise to power and his vision for a united and independent Africa. As a charismatic and dynamic leader, Lumumba posed a threat to Western interests in the region, particularly in the context of the Cold War rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. Reid delves into the complex web of political alliances and rivalries that ultimately led to Lumumba's assassination, shedding light on the role of Western powers in destabilizing the newly independent Congo. One of the most compelling aspects of Reid's book is his exploration of the

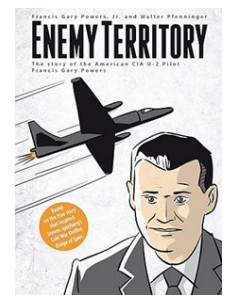


clandestine operations of the CIA and its involvement in the assassination plot. Drawing on declassified documents and interviews with key players, Reid uncovers the extent to which the United States and its allies were willing to go to eliminate Lumumba as a threat to their interests, from covert operations to propaganda campaigns aimed at discrediting him in the eyes of the Congolese people.

Through careful research and engaging prose, Reid brings to life the key players in the Lumumba plot, from CIA operatives to Congolese politicians and Belgian colonial officials. The book reads like a spy thriller, with twists and turns that keep the reader on the edge of their seat. Reid's ability to weave together multiple narratives and perspectives creates a rich and nuanced portrait of the events leading up to Lumumba's assassination. His compelling narrative and thorough research make this book a valuable contribution to our understanding of a pivotal moment in 20th-century history. Whether you are a history buff or simply looking for a gripping read, *The Lumumba Plot* is sure to captivate and intrigue.

Enemy Territory, by Francis Gary Powers, Jr. and Walter Pfenninger

Enemy Territory isn't your typical war story. It's a heart-pounding plunge into the real-life Cold War capture of Francis Gary Powers Sr., a U-2 pilot



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on a reconnaissance mission over the Soviet Union. Buckle up for a meticulously researched graphic novel that reads like a pulse-racing spy thriller.

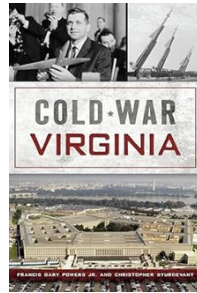
We enter the cockpit with Powers Jr., inheriting a heavy legacy. His father's ill-fated flight in 1960 becomes a visceral experience, rendered in stark black and white panels that crackle with tension. The meticulous pre-flight procedures, the ominous silence as Soviet radar locks onto the U-2, and the bone-jarring impact of the plane's destruction are depicted with a harrowing realism.

The narrative then shifts, introducing us to the grueling realities of Powers Sr.'s captivity and interrogation. The KGB's tactics are chillingly portrayed, the isolation and psychological pressure palpable. Pfeninger's art excels here, using stark contrasts and close-ups to convey Powers' desperation and resilience.

But *Enemy Territory* isn't just about one man's ordeal. It weaves in the international fallout, the political maneuvering, and the human cost of Cold War tensions. We see the anxious faces of Powers Jr.'s family, the frustration of American officials, and glimpses of the ordinary Soviet citizens caught in the geopolitical crossfire.

This work, illustrated by the co-author's wife Monika, was the winner in the 2022 New England Book Festival, and for good reason. This graphic novel is more than just a historical record; it's a human story. We connect with Powers Jr.'s struggle to understand his father's legacy

and the weight of history. The ending is bittersweet, a reminder of the Cold War's enduring impact and the sacrifices made in its shadow. It's a powerful testament to the human spirit in the face of overwhelming odds, masterfully rendered in graphic form.



Cold War Virginia, by Francis Gary Powers, Jr. and Chris Sturdevant

Virginia: A Cold War Crucible?! *Cold-War Virginia* isn't your typical state history book. Sure, it explores the usual – military bases, government agencies, and the role Virginia played in the Space Race. But the real intrigue lies in the transformation of a seemingly ordinary state into a ground zero for global tensions.

The authors, one the son of the famed U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, have a knack for weaving personal stories into the historical tapestry. We witness the Powers' family drama unfold alongside the international crisis sparked by the U-2's downing. This personal touch breathes life into the narrative, reminding us of the human cost behind the political chess game.

Cold-War Virginia doesn't shy away from the darker aspects. Tales of espionage and potential doomsday planning cast a shadow over the state's patriotic fervor. Readers are reminded that beneath the veneer of normalcy, Virginia was a hotbed of Cold War anxieties. But the book isn't all gloom and doom. The authors also highlight the heroism of

everyday Virginians – the scientists toiling away in research facilities, the military personnel on constant alert, and the citizens living under the ever-present threat of nuclear war. Their quiet resilience adds a layer of depth to the narrative. *Cold-War Virginia* is more than just a history book; it's a reminder of a bygone era. It sheds light on a time when the fate of the world seemed to hinge on a single state, and the ordinary lives caught in the crossfire.

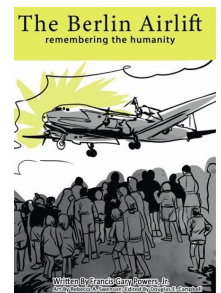
Whether you're a history buff or simply curious about Virginia's unique role in the Cold War, this book offers a compelling and thought-provoking read, and I guarantee you will learn something new about the Cold War and its rich history that you didn't know!

Books reviewed by
Chuck Wilson



The Berlin Airlift: remembering the humanity, by Francis Gary Powers, Jr.

This graphic novel is a poignant and insightful reflection on the historic event that took place during the Cold War. Powers Jr, the son of the famous U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, brings a personal touch to the story as he explores the impact of the Berlin Airlift on the people involved.



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This book delves into the humanitarian efforts of the Western Allies to supply the isolated city of West Berlin with essential supplies, such as food and fuel, during the Soviet blockade in 1948. Powers Jr. highlights the selfless acts of the pilots and civilians who came together to help their fellow citizens, showcasing the power of human compassion and resilience in times of crisis.

Throughout the book, Powers Jr. emphasizes the importance of remembering the humanity behind the Berlin Airlift, arguing that it serves as a powerful reminder of the potential for unity and cooperation in the face of adversity. He also discusses the legacy of the airlift and its lasting impact on international relations, emphasizing the lessons that can be learned from this historic event.

Overall, *The Berlin Airlift: Remembering the Humanity* is a compelling read that sheds light on a pivotal moment in history and celebrates the spirit of solidarity that prevailed during a challenging time. Powers Jr.'s perspective as the son of a renowned Cold War figure adds a unique dimension to the storytelling, making this book a must-read for anyone interested in the Berlin Airlift and its enduring significance.



U-2 DRAGON LADY UNITS 1955-90 (Combat Aircraft 152) by Peter E. Davies

Peter Davies has written more than

50 books specializing in aircraft of the Cold War and Vietnam periods. In his works Peter Davies analyzes tactics, techniques, procedures, along with the politics behind the use of the military aircraft involved, and this book is no exception.

His book *U-2 Dragon Lady Units 1955-90* is part of the Osprey Combat Aircraft series, that focuses on the history, development, and operational use of the U-2 spy plane from its inception in 1955 through to 1990 and its use during the Cold War. It explores the geopolitical backdrop against which the U-2 was developed and operated, particularly during the tense Cold War era and includes detailed insights into the design, evolution, and technical specifications of the U-2 aircraft, including its capabilities and limitations

The book covers the various operational deployments of the U-2, including its use by the CIA and later by the United States Air Force (USAF) and other international operators. It delves into the reconnaissance missions undertaken by the U-2, highlighting its crucial role in gathering intelligence during critical moments such as the Cuban Missile Crisis and other significant events.

Specific units and squadrons that operated the U-2 are detailed, providing profiles of key personnel and their contributions to reconnaissance missions along with an analysis of the U-2's impact on aerial reconnaissance, its enduring legacy in military aviation, and its adaptation over the decades.

The book includes numerous photographs, illustrations, and detailed color profiles of U-2 aircraft in different operational configurations and markings

Overall, *U-2 Dragon Lady Units 1955-90* is a comprehensive resource for enthusiasts of military aviation history, offering both technical detail and historical narrative about one of the most iconic and enduring spy planes of the 20th century and beyond.

Charles P "Chuck" Wilson, PAST Chairman of the Board- The Cold War Museum®; Cold War KC-135Q Pilot; Cold War U-2 Pilot, 2X U-2 Sq Commander; also, AF Group and C2 Center (became 505 C2 Wing) Commander; NASM DOCENT

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.

Barry, Robert, major Cold War military agreement: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/obituaries/2024/03/22/robert-barry-diplomat-cold-war-dies/>

Collins, Alan "AC"

Cold War Stratotanker Pilot, Alan Brent Collins was born on May 21, 1958, in Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, to 1st Lieutenant



Earnest S. Collins and Margaret Sue Collins. He attended Beaufort Academy High School. He enjoyed golf but excelled at soccer on some very talented teams. Alan briefly attended Wofford College before discovering his passion for flying, which took him to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida, where he graduated ahead of schedule. Upon graduation, he eagerly pursued service to the country, joining the United States Air Force, flying KC-135 Q and KC-10 refueling planes, and ultimately, as commander. After seven years in the Air Force, he was honorably discharged. Alan spent his 20-year civilian career as a pilot and Captain for American Airlines. Based out of Miami, he primarily flew wide-body planes, including the Boeing 777, to international destinations such as South America and Europe.

Following retirement, he moved back full-time to his home in Beaufort on Battery Creek, where he could be found boating, working tirelessly in his yard and camel-

lia gardens. He owned professional property in the hospital district that was originally built by his father. Alan died on September 7, 2023, at the age of 65. He was a very much-loved son, brother, and uncle.

He was predeceased by his father, Earnest S. Collins, MD. He is survived by his mother, Margaret Sue Collins; sister, Susan Ellen Collins; brother, Bradford S. Collins MD, sister-in-law Cynthia Collins; 3 nieces, Allison Coppage, Catherine Collins, Emily Kulze; and nephew, Ford Collins; and a growing number of great nieces and nephews. A private ceremony will be held at the National Cemetery at 11 a.m. on September 22, 2023. A service celebrating Alan's life will be held at 12 p.m. at St. Helena's Anglican Church, with a reception to follow in the Parish Hall. Memorials may be made to the Collins Birthing Center through Beaufort Memorial Hospital Foundation (990 Ribaut Road, Fourth Floor, Suite 300, Beaufort, SC 29902) or to the charity of your choice.



Comer, Jr., John Edward ("Jack"), Cold War Veteran, June 17, 1947 – January 18, 2024, age 76, of Fair Oaks, California

passed away on Thursday, January 18, 2024. Jack was a beloved husband, father and grandfather who was a retired USAF Command Pilot. During the Cold

War, Jack flew KC-135As out of U-Tapao Thailand, EC-135K Head Dancer out of Tinker AFB OK, and the specialized KC-135Q flying many sensitive missions refueling the SR-71 Blackbird over many "hot spots" around the world. Jack loved flying! Jack, may you have clear skies and strong tailwinds on your final flight West!

In 2023 Jack celebrated 50 years of flying and this is a picture of his return



from his last flight:



D'Ambra, Joseph, 80, passed away this past Memorial Day in Monument, CO.

Son of Joseph and Mary D'Ambra, he was born on November 8, 1943 in Provi-

dence, Rhode Island. After graduating from Classical HS in 1962, Joe studied civil engineering at University of Rhode Island and was a member of Sigma Pi, American Society of Civil Engineers, URI alumni Association, Air Force Association, Daedalians Society, Gray Eagles (retired American Airlines pilots) and the URI ROTC Hall of Fame.

Joe was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant into the US Air Force as a civil engineer. He

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In Memoriam, Cont. from page 21

was then assigned as a KC-135 pilot in the Pacific and flew 199 missions in direct support of air combat operations in Southeast Asia. For his extraordinary achievements in Air Refueling, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on September 14, 1971. He was a Flight Commander, Instructor Pilot and Developmental Engineer. He flew Air Force 2 for Vice President George Bush. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 22 years of service.

Joe went on to serve as a First Officer and Captain for American Airlines for 14 years flying the 727 and MD-80 where he fully enjoyed life and often stated it didn't feel like work.

Joe married the love of his life, Patricia A. Pignatelli of Troy, NY, in 1968. He is survived by her and their 2 children, Jeffrey D'Ambra (Heidi D'Ambra) of Monument, CO and Jennifer D'Ambra (Eric Roesch) of Lake Tahoe, CA. He is also survived by five grandchildren: Lauren D'Ambra, Caroline D'Ambra, Isabella D'Ambra, Jack D'Ambra and Chloe Roesch as well as his cherished sister Constance Cota of Cranston, RI, many nieces, a nephew and extended family throughout the East Coast.

Joe was loved and admired by all who knew him and knew of his achievements, which he kept to a humble few. He had many pets and a soft spot for animals in need. He would always stop to help motorists with car trouble or give professional advice to those just starting out. He was a rock to many, a master of sarcastic humor, and a beloved father, husband, and brother.

Goines, William, first Black member of modern-era Navy SEALs; three tours in Vietnam and deployed for an invasion of Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/obituaries/2024/06/21/william-goines-navy-seal-black-dies/>

Halloran, Patrick, a retired Major General of the United States Air Force and a long-time resident of Colorado Springs, passed away May 31, 2024.

He was born in Chatfield, Minnesota on June 30, 1928. He entered the Air Force as an Aviation Cadet and graduated as a Second Lieutenant fighter pilot in September of 1950. He flew 100 combat missions over North Korea in the F-84 fighter. He was later selected to fly the top-secret high-altitude U-2 and then the SR-71 reconnaissance planes, which he flew on worldwide missions for over 15 years. Staff assignments followed his operational flying, with a final assignment in the Pentagon on the staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

He retired in 1983 with 34 years of service and over 8000 hours of military flying time. He was inducted into the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame in 2005. He donated his body to the University of Colorado Medical School. Following the return of his remains to the family and in accordance with his wishes, his services will be held in his final resting place, Chatfield, Minnesota.



Ralston, Dave, Sad News! Dave Ralston, Veterans of Foreign Wars Life Member of VFW Post 7916 in Occoquan, recently passed

away. Dave was the heart and soul of VFW Post 7916 and helped with many of our charitable events. He was also an Occoquan Police Officer. Dave leaves a big gap in our community and is sorely missed. Our deepest condolences go to his wife Tanya along with his family and friends. Dave was a 1st Sergeant US Army Retired, Cold War Veteran, Desert Storm Veteran, Paratrooper, wore the Combat



Infantryman Badge and has two Bronze Stars. Dave Ralston was 56.

Shen, Johnny, Colonel CAF U-2 Pilot 1968, passed away last Thursday



April 18, 2024. He was a U-2 pilot with The Black Cat Squadron on Taiwan from 1968 to 1973. He came to a couple of reunions, so some drivers may remember him. Johnny was 92 and left a son and a daughter. His family respects his wishes not to have any funeral ceremonies.

He was admitted to the CAF Academy in January 1952. He was trained in the PT-17 and then the T-6. After his graduation in December 1955, he was assigned to the 4th Tactical Fighter Group in Chiayi. He was first sent to Tainan to be trained on the T-33. He returned to Chiayi to fly the F-84 in 1956. Later he converted to the F-100.

He left the 35th Sq in 1973 and became the vice-military attaché in Vietnam. After the loss of Vietnam, he returned to Taiwan to serve on several desk jobs. He retired from the CAF as a Colonel in 1977 and joined China Airlines. He flew the Boeing 707, 727, 767, and 747, and Airbus A-300. He transferred to EVA Airlines in 1992. Then he returned served in Taiwan's Civil Aviation Administration until 1998.



After retirement, he emigrated to Canada and lived in Vancouver.

Smith, Haviland, Cold War spy evasion innovator: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/obituaries/2024/06/25/haviland-smith-dead-cia/>

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



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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 Fall/Winter issue: October 15, 2024

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



Upcoming Events

NOTE: 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>.

There currently are no lectures scheduled.

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 is 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 are back to booking tours in the normal way.

Here are some of the private tours and outreach via off-site presentations conducted by museum staff since the last newsletter:

- ◆ 04/08/24 – Home school group of 10 kids, plus parents.
- ◆ 04/10/24 – 12 FBI staffers.
- ◆ 04/16/24 – approximately 18 seniors from the Fairfax at Ft. Belvoir.
- ◆ 06/19/24 – approximately 10 people from VA Heritage veterans group.
- ◆ 06/21/24 – approximately 30 people from American Legion Post 20 and the National Press Club.
- ◆ 06/28/24 – Family group of 3.
- ◆ 07/02/24 – 3-member family group

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

No cost for active duty military personnel ever!

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 makes some 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 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. And 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:

- ◆ 06/02/24 – Key CWM Staffer Mike Washvill does a presentation on Vint Hill Farms Station history for 70-80 people at the Heritage Hunt Community Center in Gainesville, VA.
- ◆ 06/27/24 – Mike does a presentation on the Cold War at the Loudon Cascades Library in Loudon County, VA.

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

LINK TO MEMBERSHIP FORM: <https://coldwar.org/uploads/Documents/membershipform.pdf>

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.