



www.flyingtigerline.org

Flying Tiger Line Pilots Association

*Pilots and employees of the Flying Tiger Line, dedicated to preserving the memory
of a great airline and those who served in China and in World War II*

Spring 2019

Hello Everyone,

I hope that each of you is making it through these winter months OK. While it seems to be cold almost everywhere, things are starting to heat up for those of us responsible for the success of our **45th Annual Anniversary Reunion** in Long Beach, only eight weeks away now. I'm very excited to announce that the following are going to make their best effort to join us as Guests of Honor.

Ginny Dixon – Administrator – Office of Chairman and President

Joe Healey – Former President, FTL

Fran Drew Whitesides – Stewardess hired in 1951

Registration forms and payments are now required so that we can properly plan for the anticipated attendance. A list of who is coming can be found on our **Who's Coming to Long Beach** page. Please help us out. The deadline for us to **receive** your registration is April 15th. We're not the IRS - this means getting it in the mail a little earlier.

I was honored with a sneak preview of the new 245-page book **Flying Tiger Memories** written by Guy Van Herbruggen and Charles Kennedy. It's a fantastic compilation of history and stories from employees in all positions at Tigers. Attendees in May will be able to buy their own signed copies directly from the authors.

Last month we lost our oldest and most senior member, 97-year old Captain Al Rector. I never had the opportunity to fly with him, but am so glad that I was able to meet him at our **40th Anniversary Reunion** in Seattle (2014). I absolutely relish in the opportunity to hug and shake the hands of those I see each year, and I grieve for those whom I never had a chance to say goodbye.

We have something unique within this Tiger family. I encourage all of you to consider joining us in May to embrace the *Tiger Spirit* we've enjoyed for 45 years now.

John Dickson
(208) 699-5909
President@flyingtigerline.org

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45th Anniversary Logo
designed by Susie Latvala

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History of FTLPA

In the early 70's the original pilots who helped create the Flying Tiger Line were approaching the mandatory retirement age of 60. The concept of a retirement club for these retired pilots was the idea of Captain John "Dick" Rossi, legendary ace of the American Volunteer Group (AVG) and one of the original investors in Bob Prescott's fledgling all cargo airline, National Skyways Freight Corporation, in 1945. Dick and his wife Lydia, a former FTL stewardess, invited a number of retired Tigers over to their home in 1974 for the first meeting and began working on the framework for the association. Rossi was appointed President. Three other legendary flyers, Herb Wall, Bob Conrath and Jim Bledsoe were elected Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary respectively. These were the first officers of the ***Flying Tiger Line Retired Pilots Association***. There has been a reunion to celebrate our heritage every year since then.



Captain Dick Rossi, 1969

In 1978 the "R" was dropped allowing active pilots the opportunity to also become members regardless of age or seat position. Eventually, in one of the wisest decisions in our group's history, all former employees of the Flying Tiger Line were invited to join as Associate Members regardless of their position at Tigers. Former Flight Attendants have since become a valued part of our group, in addition to management, ramp personnel, crew planners, and mechanics.

In 1990 FTLPA President, Lamont "Shad" Shadowens, realized the enormous amount of work that had become involved in planning the yearly events and enlisted the professional services of Mrs. Sandy White. She has been with us ever since, became our *Meeting Planner for Life*, and will be honored in Long Beach for her never ending dedication to our group for the past 30 years.

Captain Rossi flew west in 2008 leaving behind a legacy comparable to other great leaders in aviation history. Lydia remains a dedicated member of FTLPA, regularly attending our reunions, and assisting us with all matters pertaining to the American Volunteer Group.

There is no other association of former legacy carriers that reunite in as large a scale as FTLPA does each year. In addition to yearly reunions, we continue as an informational source for many family members of those who have Flown West, as well as for those interested in the history of FTL.

The Tiger Spirit, the camaraderie that we embrace, the fond memories we share as employees of Flying Tigers live on because of the genius of the original founders and the dedication of the officers of this association that followed. Nothing, however, will surpass the enthusiasm of those who faithfully enjoy our yearly reunions and remain engaged with one another. Our members, never lacking the mutual Tiger Spirit that we all share, are the real reasons for the success of FTLPA whose goal it is to keep us flying high for many years to come.

For a listing of former officers and reunion locations click [HERE](#)

From Our Vice-President – Scott Mergele

Wow, it seems like we just did Palm Springs and here we are rapidly approaching Long Beach. I guess it's just time moving faster as we mature (age).

Time to put my cheerleader hat on. There are many of you who have made hotel reservations and that's good. However, for whatever reason there are approximately 100 of you with hotel reservations who have not sent in their forms. If you haven't registered yet, please do so. We're coming up soon on the time we have to confirm numbers for venues and transportation. Please print

out the registration from our website or use the last page of this newsletter, fill it out and mail it to Peter.

Thank you to all who have renewed your membership, many for multiple years. John has made it easier for you. Instead of renewing online and then sending a check, you can now print out the renewal and mail your check directly to Peter. Easier for you and us.

Sharon Sowell and Bill Libby have been busy trying to recruit the '87 to '89 hires to join our association and come to the reunions. Sharon got the ALPA MEC rep for that seniority block to put a blurb in the Fedex MEC newsletter inviting everyone to check us out. Also, she arranged with Joyce Van Riper to put up flyers on some of the crew room bulletin boards. Thanks Sharon, Bill and Joyce.

Our attendance has been slipping over the past few reunions. I know the costs associated with coming are a consideration, especially hotels. Sandy and John work their tails off researching venues and trying to keep the cost down. The cities we hold our reunions in are getting more expensive and I don't think we want to stay in or try to hold a reunion in a Motel 6. If anyone else has ideas how we can increase attendance, please contact John, Peter or me. We would like to keep this tradition going for several more years.

That's it from the back seat for this newsletter. See you in Long Beach.

Scott
AKA "Tonto"

From Our Historian – George Gewehr

Just A Horse Story

Every spring time, the horse racing world turns first to the Kentucky Derby, followed by the Preakness and the Belmont Stakes. In 2014 there was a great deal of interest with California Chrome winning the first two legs of the triple crown. Needing only one more win in the three races to achieve the triple crown, the Belmont was the last one. California Chrome was the favorite to win it. But he couldn't do it.

Flying Tiger Line has a long history of transporting horses, some famous, some not. On June 29, 1977, Tigers carried one such famous horse more than once. It was Seattle Slew. The following is from a TigerReview article some years back. To embellish this article, Seattle Slew was the great-great-grandfather of California Chrome.

Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew arrived in Los Angeles early this morning aboard a scheduled Flying Tiger Line non-stop jet freighter flight from New York. The unbeaten 3-year old son of Bold Reasoning will run Sunday (July 3) in Hollywood Park's \$300,000 1 ¼ mile sweepstakes. The colt will depart next Wednesday (July 6) on a Flying Tigers charter flight for Seattle, where he will work out for the public at Longacres Race Track. The Slew will be flown back July 10 to New York on a schedule Flying Tigers flight.

In his first nine races Seattle Slew finished first. Three of those nine were the triple crown races. But in his tenth race, he came in fourth. The racing community was stunned. What happened to Seattle Slew? The Swaps Stake's race was supposed to be a shoe in for him. But it wasn't for Seattle Slew, it was for the winning Jockey, Bill Shoemaker on his horse, J.O. Tobin which won by a large margin. What was the reason he lost the Swaps Stake's race. As the story went, before he was shipped to California, Seattle Slew had been sedated repeatedly to be used in a Xerox advertising campaign for a new X-ray machine, then was sedated again during the Tiger flight. The trainer William Turner believed this contributed to Seattle Slew's dull effort. Turner also said he disagreed with shipping him

to California because he felt the colt needed more time to recover from the triple crown. The owners said Tuner never raised objections prior to the shipping and the drinking of the trainer put the horse at risk. The owners fired the trainer at the end of the year.

In May of 1978 after almost a year of rest, Seattle Slew came back to win five more races and two second place. After November of 1978 he was put out to stud. Seattle Slew sired 1,103 named foals, of which 537 were winners and 111 were stakes winners. His winnings were \$1,208,726. On May 7, 2002, Seattle Slew died in his sleep at age 28.

The Flying Tiger Line has a long history of flying not only horses but all kinds of animals. Just to name a few would be, Shamu and Tillamook the killer whales, cattle to all parts of the world, as well as live pigs. Yours truly flew a load of wild animals from Kenya East Africa back to the states. The history of Tigers flying Elsie the cow for the Borden milk company on a DC-3 for a months tour in the 1940's was just the first of many. The motto *Anything, Anytime, Anywhere* was what the Flying Tiger Line was about.

George Gewehr, Historian, FTLPA



From Our F/A Rep – Joyce Danielsen Dalbey

Are you coming?

Only 2 months away till the reunion! And only 6 weeks away until your registration and payment must be received by Peter! So much to do in such a short time.

Pajama Party Brunch

Debbie Paul and Michele Rizza are hosting a Pajama Party Brunch for flight attendants at Debbie's house, located only 8 miles away from our hotel. There are 21 signed up so far so don't procrastinate and let us know that you are interested in attending. Debbie says their caterer is going all out so don't miss this great opportunity to show your Tiger spirit. Even if you didn't mark it on the registration form, just let us know you want to be counted.

Special Guests

Fran Drew Whitesides will be coming to the reunion this year! Don't miss the opportunity to chat with her and to hear all about the early years. We all have stories of our "generation" of flying and that's what makes these reunions so special. And Ginny Dixon, personal secretary to Prescott will also be attending the reunion. Another insight of our history's beginnings and the 'Golden years'.

Hangar

I've been working with Andee Wright for our Hangar order and in addition to our vast merchandise we will be having a few new items in the Hangar this year. Every reunion I am so grateful to have so many step-up and volunteer to help in the Hangar. I would like to encourage more to do so. Every little bit helps and it lets all of us have a little more time to enjoy the reunion. And please, when you're shopping in the Hangar, please let us know what you would like see us offer next year. The Hangar is for you, the members.

And now...Retirement!

It is time for me to give up the reins to the next generations. Those of you who flew for almost 20 years after me have so much to offer to our history. So if you loved being a Tiger and would like to work with the best officers that flew the skies, give me a call. Or see me in the Hangar at the reunion. It is a 1-2 year transition and you will have the full support of past flight attendant reps. There is only one hard set requirement; you must attend every reunion. See you in May!

Joyce Danielsen Dalbey
Joyce_Danielsen@yahoo.com
(509) 899-1731

2019 Long Beach Reunion Updates

Our expected attendance is approximately 280 with 250 attending the Sock Hop and 150 attending the Friday Happy Hour at the Flight Path Museum.

Updated details for our 45th Annual Reunion can be found on the **Next Reunion** page of our website as well as the previous two newsletters found in the **Previous Newsletters** page. Below are some updates and reminders for you to consider.

Upcoming Deadlines

Please keep the following deadlines in mind if waiting until the last minute.

- **April 1st** is the last day for us to receive registration forms with name tag requests. These nice magnetic name tags take approximately three weeks to produce and ship.
- **April 15th** is the last day for us to receive registration forms and payments. After this day we must provide a headcount to the venues.
- **April 16th** is the last day to take advantage of the group hotel rate at the Renaissance Hotel. Any cancellations must be made with the hotel at least 48 hours prior to your first night.
- **April 17th** is the last day to make reservations at the group rate of \$189.
- **April 19th** is the absolute last day for refunds. On this day we send our final deposits to the venues involved and the money is out of our hands.

When Can I Pick My Table? – Coming April 1st

The procedure we initiated last year which enables the selection of a table for Saturday night was a real success and we will offer the same this year. Procedures on submitting your request will be explained next month in the April 1st Bulletin. In the mean time, get your group together and be sure to get all of your registration forms in the mail. Table requests will be restricted to only those who have registered. Requests will be honored in the order that they are received.

Hotel Reservations

Approximately ten rooms are still available at the Renaissance Long Beach during our peak nights at the group rate of \$189 per night. However, you should not delay if you plan to attend and haven't made them yet. Call Renaissance Reservations at 1 (800) 468-3571 or visit our custom reservation site at [FTLPA Online Reservations](#). **The cutoff date to take advantage of this group rate is Wednesday, April 17, 2019.**

Please note the following regarding special requests that you might want to make in advance.

- Their system is defaulted to single King Bed Rooms. Be sure to specify a Double Bed Room if desired.
- There is only one elevator for the 11 floors and it's positioned between rooms ending in 18 and 19. The closer to these numbers, the closer to the elevator.
- Even numbered rooms look to the south and have a view of the harbor and Queen Mary, but might be noisier at night as they overlook Ocean Blvd. Odd numbered rooms look to the north and might be quieter.

Questions?

Contact Sandy White at robsanwhite@gmail.com and she'll do her best to assist you.

Golf Tournament – Thursday @ 9am

From Robert Carona

Hi Golfers,

Things are on schedule for our upcoming Golf classic at the Los Alamitos Navy Golf Course in Cypress. Tom has made several visits to the course and is working closely with the course pro so we expect a smooth running operation. I am sure everyone will enjoy playing at the Navy course, The course play will challenge the best players while still being forgiving enough not to overwhelm the average golfer. For fun we are planning a shotgun start with best ball play. There also is a driving range and practice putting green for those needing a little practice before hand. The Eagles Nest, the on site restaurant and bar, is a great place for breakfast before or lunch afterwards, not to mention a cold drink or two. For those who would rather not drag their clubs to the reunion, the club house has Srixon and Titlest clubs for rent for \$40 per set. The course is conveniently located near the hotel only 17 miles away. We should have several players and their vehicles with extra space so transportation for those without a car shouldn't be a problem. We are looking forward to another great time. For those who haven't played before come on out, even if you only play a couple times a year. I assure you it is a laidback event. We are all out to have a good time, no pressure golf. Don't forget to mark your reunion registration forms if you want to play. There isn't any money required upfront – each player will pay their own green fee at the course. The green fee including a cart is \$44. Unfortunately, I misquoted the green fee at \$34 in the earlier newsletter, \$44 is still is a great rate.

I noticed that several of our regular players have not registered as yet. I would urge everyone who is considering playing to get their reunion registration in right away. Having accurate numbers will help our planning and coordination with the course and I am sure John Dickson would be very appreciative also. There will be more details coming out as the date approaches so please make sure your email address / phone number on the FTLPA member roster is up to date. I would hate to have you miss an update because of a bad email address. If you have any questions you can email Robert Carona at racarona@hotmail.com

FA Brunch – Thursday from 10am to 1pm

From Debbie Paul

Debbie Paul and Michele Rizza are hosting Flight Attendant Pajama Party Brunch starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 2 with an onsite catered brunch by Jean Cordero (www.efcatering.com). The Tiger-themed party starts at 10 a.m. at Debbie's house, located a mere eight miles away, and right across the bridge from the reunion hotel. There will be games with really kicky prizes, adult beverages and a chance to visit with your old Tiger pals. Prizes will be given for most creative/funny Tiger pajama set, most elegant peignoir or most practical flight attendant nightie. If you don't want to come in your pajamas, wear something warm and comfy. Just come!

All who plan to attend will be responsible for their own transportation via carpool, Uber, or taxi. Directions and transportation suggestions will be forthcoming because of current bridge construction and routes from the hotel will need to be updated before the actual reunion.

Please mark your registration forms so we can get a good count for the caterer. We have plenty of room for any number. Donations at the door, but not necessary. For more information, call Debbie at 310-547-9697 or Michele Rizza at 310-403-9835.

Group Bicycle Ride – Friday from 9am to 11am

From Gene Dalbey

A \$30 fee per person has been decided upon for our 2-hour group ride together. The fee will include your bicycle rental, helmet, custom Circle T sling bag, water and a snack. The route is approximately 10 miles long and is level, away from traffic, and along a dedicated bike/pedestrian path in the sand.

I will be mailing a letter to all who indicated that they were interested in the Group Bike Ride on their registration forms (see below). My mailing will include a map of the route and procedures for sending in your fees for this group event. Click on the link at right for more information about our rental company and to explore the equipment that is available.



Wheel Fun Rentals
Shoreline Village

After our ride we will be meeting for brunch on the patio at The Yardhouse in the same Shoreline Village. The following have indicated a desire to join the group ride.



Cycling Sling Bag Included

Robert & Maureen Adams
Stephen Bulka
Con & Kathy Cambell
Robert & Jeanette Carona
Bob and Nancy Cecchi
Tandy & Michelle Coggs
Del & Lynn Delaurentis
Jean-Claude & Katie Demirdjian
John & Jeanne Dickson
Arlin & Jenifer Fratzke

Ed & Christine Henry
Mike & Colleen Johnsen
Ken & Darcy Kulesha
Susie Latvala & Jeff
Parker
Jim More
Reyne O'Shaughnessy
& Frank Goetz
Joel & Patti Osborne

Jim & Deborah Paul
Rory Pendley
Tuni & Robin Pestarino
David & Leslie Pfeifer
Debbi Rickman
Eliot Shulman
John & Anek Smith
Gordon Swanson
Larry & Mary Weeks

**All bicyclists will be required to complete a Waiver of Liability before riding with the group.*

If you're not on the list above and want to join in on this fun ride then contact me with your name and mailing address and I will add you to the informational mailing.

Thank you,

Gene Dalbey
eb_dalbey@yahoo.com

Happy Hour at the Flight Path Museum – Friday Afternoon from 3pm to 6pm

To date only 110 have signed up for this event so there is no longer a concern about the maximum of 200 that we have previously been worried about. Only 85 attendees have requested to ride aboard the bus. Accordingly we have cancelled plans to provide a third 56-passenger bus and are limiting the number to 112. That means there is room for 27 more riders. If you plan to take the bus then please get your form and payment in soon. Riders will be accepted on a first come-first serve basis until the maximum number of 112 seats is filled.

Those riding the bus will depart the hotel at 2:15 and will be returning approximately 6:45, depending on traffic. This should afford everyone a chance to explore the many wonderful establishments on Pine Street or down in the newly renovated Pike Area.

45th Annual Reunion Banquet and Dance – Saturday Night

The theme for our Saturday night dinner and dance is a 1950's Sock Hop with entertainment by The Sweethearts. The suggested dress is 50's casual. Don't know what to wear? Watch the movie *Grease* or *American Graffiti* to get into the mood and then click on the image and link to the right.



We are working on getting a dance instructor to help us out for a 1-hour class on Saturday to help remind us how to dance the swing.

[How to Dress for a Sock Hop](#)

The Catalina Adventure



Avalon Bay – Catalina Island

The following have sent in their payments for this fun post-reunion excursion. For more details visit the [Catalina Adventure](#) page on this site.

Robert and Maureen Adams
Rex and Carole Cotter
John and Jeanne Dickson
Al and Bobbi Evans
Stan and Josie Gibson

Mike and Colleen Johnsen
Susie Latvala and Jeff Parker
Rich and Bonnie Masluk
David and Leslie Pfeifer

Even though the February 15th deadline has passed you are encouraged to contact Susan Waters at customtravelplanning@hotmail.com if you have a last minute opportunity to join us for this fun post-reunion excursion.

Future Reunions



The Westin Riverwalk
San Antonio, TX

2020

46-Year Reunion

Westin Riverwalk Hotel

420 W. Market Street
San Antonio, TX 78205

May 2nd to May 5th, 2020
Group Rate of \$189 per night



National Museum of the Pacific War
Fredericksburg, TX

For those that have the available time, we hope to plan a post-reunion excursion for the 4-hour bus trip up to Fredericksburg, TX for a multi-day visit to experience the National Museum of the Pacific War, wineries, breweries, and other attractions that this charming little city has to offer. More details will be available next year. *Note: the reunion will take place from Sunday to Tuesday as opposed to traditional weekend days.*



Crowne Plaza Hotel
San Diego, CA

2021

47-Year Reunion

Crowne Plaza Hotel

2270 Hotel Circle North
San Diego, CA 92108

May 12th to May 16th, 2021
Group Rate of \$134 per night

(That's right, only \$134. Sandy did good!)



New FTL Book Available Soon

Flying Tiger Memories tells the story of one of the world's most legendary airlines, through the eyewitness stories and memories of its employees, pilots, flight attendants, mechanics and friends.

From its roots as a group of American pilots fighting in China during World War 2, the first scheduled cargo airline in the United States is born: the Flying Tiger Line. The story continues through the golden piston prop days of Commandos and Connies to the Jet Age, aboard the Canadair CL-44, Boeing 707, Douglas DC-8, and Boeing 747 Jumbo, all the way up to the 1989 billion-dollar merger that gave Federal Express global reach.



Daring tales of bravery such as flying thousands of tons of rice into Phnom Penh under fire ahead of the Khmer Rouge. Incredible stories of survival such as the crew who spent two days in the Pacific menaced by sharks after ditching at sea. Charming are also memories of animal charters gone wrong, flight attendants lost in Hong Kong, father-and-son cockpit crews, and the love, professionalism and rebelliousness found in a unique organization with a special mission, and the famous Can-Do Spirit.

Books will be available for sale and signing by the authors at our Long Beach reunion in May. Details for online purchase will be communicated once publication is complete.

Flying Tigers Memories is a collaboration between aviation historian Guy Van Herbruggen, the Flying Tiger Line Pilots Association, the Flying Tigers Club, and author Charles Kennedy. For fans of aviation, history, war stories, adventures, and travel, this is an essential companion to the DC-8 & The Flying Tiger Line and Tiger 747 books.

Flown West

We've lost some wonderful Tigers since the last newsletter. To visit their special pages click on their names. In addition we received late word that former Seaboard pilot, Dominic S. Ciorciari, who flew for Tigers and FedEx has also recently passed.



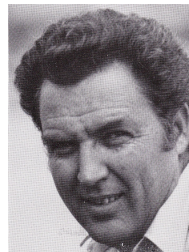
Deborah Sweeley



Dick Crawford



Al Bresee



Ken Crutcher



Al Rector

Flown West (cont'd)



*To fly west, my friend,
is a flight we all must
take for a final check*

Author unknown

The following former Flying Tigers have made their final flight since our last 2018 reunion in Palm Springs. More information can be found in the ***Flown West*** section of our website.

Ted Brondum – July, 2017
John Kuhn – July, 2017
Bill "WP" Smith – May 6, 2018
Becky Day – May 24, 2018
Bill Dukich – May 31, 2018
Phil Jones – June 11, 2018
John Kuhn – June 14, 2018
Phil Tomasky # – September 6, 2018
Ed Loughran – September 16, 2018
Jim Beneli – September 28, 2018

Leon Smock # – September 28, 2018
Amos Blum (scheduling) October 20, 2018
*Deb Sweeley – November 22, 2018
Fred Ferguson – November 5, 2018
*Dick Crawford – December 8, 2018
*Dominic S. Ciorciari # – January 9, 2019
*Al Bresee – January 11, 2019
*Ken Crutcher – January 21, 2019
*Arvel "Al" Rector – January 30, 2019

* – Added since last newsletter

– Former SWA

The Flabob Express Heads to Normandy for D-Day



The 75th Anniversary of D-Day is June 6th, 2019 and the Flabob Express will be flying from California to Europe to be there. Those lucky enough to fly aboard her during the Palm Springs 2018 reunion will recall what a thrill it was. The aircraft continues to serve as a "flying classroom" for the youth programs of the Wathen Center's "Historic Flabob Airport".

Her dedicated crew, to include our own John and Bob Tymczyszyn, are actively readying her for a trans-Atlantic flight to England next year to honor this

historic occasion, joining some two dozen other DC-3 / C-47's in crossing the English Channel, over Normandy and on to Caen, France. This will very likely be the last major anniversary of D-day to honor living WWII veterans. After the festivities in Normandy, the fleet of DC-3's and C-47's go on a three-city tour of Germany, culminating in Berlin for the 70th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift.

The Tymczyszyns would like to sincerely thank all those who have donated so generously to the cause. Those wishing to donate may do so at www.ddaydc3.com

Other Membership News and Announcements

Masao Narita (Narita-san)

We're happy to report that we recently reached out to Mr. Narita, our well respected station agent at RJAA, with an invitation to join us in Long Beach. He was our first Honorary Member before our FTLPA opened it's doors to all employees. Sounds like he's going great.



Hello Dear Captain John,

First, I have no problem with the publication of any photos I sent. I do have more than 100 pictures with pilots and F/As which I took on the aircraft or ramp and FTLPA Reunions. I have attended at least 8 reunions in AZ,CA,NV,WA and became Honorary Member.

I started to work at Haneda Airport (HND) as a limo driver right after discharged Japanese Ground Self Defense Force on 1960. Most my duty was taking Flying Tiger (including Tiger Air Service) and Seaboard crews back and forth from the

hotel in downtown Tokyo to the Tachikawa AFB and Yokota AFBs. Tigers started commercial business at Haneda Airport in 1969 and I moved with many pilots recommended. In 1978, we moved to New Tokyo Airport (NRT) and I decided to buy a house in Chiba City. In 1988, my lovely wife passed away from stomach cancer right after my first son married.

In 1995 I retired from FedEx and drove all over the country enjoying my life. In 1998, I went back to work for Polar Air Cargo as Station Manager at NRT. I was very happy to be back working 747s, especially N806FT. My happiest moments were when many former FTL pilots gave me a call and we went to dinner together at Narita City area. Every October or November, Bear Kramer gave me call to celebrate our birthdays. Also I'm enjoy to drove to the Mt Fuji with Harry Johnson, Picnic with Joe Crecca etc...

I'm 83 years old but still healthy and drive at least 3 times year to visit my home town Hirosaki City near Misawa AFB.

May is very hard to travel for us during a very busy time in Japan. Please extend my best regards to Old Tigers...

Sayonara for now.
Masao

George Miller

George is having a rough go of it. We've been in touch with his eldest son, Aaron, who has asked us to forward the following.

Friends of George Rimmer,

I wanted to send you all an update on George Rimmer's health status and his new contact information. Unfortunately, his address book was misplaced during his last move and as such this distribution is woefully incomplete so feel free to forward as appropriate.

Up until several months ago, George was living at a retirement community in Redmond. His mobility was limited due to joint pain, constant oxygen (due to his COPD), and poor cardiovascular health. Through it all his spirits and "spunk" remained high.

Unfortunately, he suffered several falls which resulted in painful hip dislocations and extended stays in the hospital and physical rehab. Upon his discharge he had to move to a home with a higher level of assisted living as he is now dependent on a wheelchair and daily living assistance. Unfortunately surgery to improve his hip mobility isn't an option given his poor health.

This has been a dramatic change for George and one that has affected his spirits and optimism. He is safe place and being well cared for but I believe he feels a little alone and vulnerable in his current state. If you have a few moments, I know he would love to hear from you either via a phone call (he might be slow to answer or respond), a letter, or a visit if you are in the area. He is not checking emails.

**George Rimmer
1640 148th Ave SE, Unit 141
Bellevue, WA 98007
425-502-7132**

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like me to relay any messages. If you'd care to share your contact info so I can rebuild his address book, that would be great.

Regards,

*Aaron Rimmer
aaronrimmer@hotmail.com*

P40 RC Aircraft

The following comes from former FTL Captain Joe Brenner who has a fun toy for sale.

Hello,

Before I list it on eBay, I wonder if anyone of the retired Flying Tigers might be interested in a P40 Warhawk radio control kit I have. As radio controlled aircraft go, it's big: 64" wingspan. It is new, (unbuilt), in its unopened box. From what I know, they no longer make this kit. It is rare. You can see full particulars at <https://www.top-flite.com/airplanes/topa0120.html>

Otherwise, I will list it on eBay at \$500, (for sale only in the continental U.S.), shipping included. I can be reached at: themighttiger@gmail.com I can also be reached at 602-499-3533 (But I do not answer no-name phone calls).

Cheers,

Joe Brenner

All In The Tiger Family Project

The All in the Tiger Family project is now complete and can be viewed on our website by visiting the following link. It's been very interesting research.

<https://www.flyingtigerline.org/wordpress1/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/The-Tiger-Family.pdf>

Say Again?

There is a kind of principle of the sky, a spirit of flight that calls to certain among mankind as the wilderness calls to some, and the sea to others.

— Richard Bach, *A Gift of Wings*, 2001

Contact Us

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Long Beach Reunion Registration Form

The deadline to receive this form is April 15, 2019

May 1st to May 4th, 2019

The Long Beach Renaissance Hotel

111 E. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802
(562) 437-5900

Group Hotel Reservations

\$189 per night (+15.5% tax)

Book Online

or call

(800) 468-3571

Identify yourself as a Flying Tiger

Reunion Agenda

See Next Reunion for more details and updated agenda times.

Wednesday, May 1st

3pm- Reunion Begins in Hospitality Suite

Thursday, May 2nd

9am- Golf Tournament at Los Alamitos Golf Course

10am- FA Pajama Brunch at Deborah Paul's house

Friday, May 3rd

8am- Group Bicycle Ride along coast (2 hours)

2pm- Buses depart for Flight Path Learning Center

3pm- Happy Hour at the Flight Path

6pm- Buses depart for return to Renaissance Hotel

Saturday, May 4th

9am- Business Meeting

2pm- Open Mic in the Hospitality Suite

6pm- Cocktail Reception

7pm- Dinner & Sock Hop (50's Theme)

Sunday, May 5th

Post Reunion Excursion to Catalina Island

Details, costs, and registration for this post reunion event can be found by clicking HERE

Member Name: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Other Guest(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Membership Dues

Not Required for Guests

My Annual Dues for 2019 are included (\$20) ----- \$ _____

An additional _____ years are included ----- (____ x \$20=) \$ _____

The Membership Roster will reflect the year paid to in advance

Reunion Fees

Registration Fee (\$30 per person required) -- (____ x \$30=) \$ _____

Flight Path Learning Center (\$30 per person) (____ x \$30=) \$ _____

____ Round Trip Bus Tickets (\$20 per person) - (____ x \$20=) \$ _____

Note: Only 112bus tickets available for Flight Path on Friday

____ I will provide for my own transportation to LAX

Plated Dinner Entrée Options *(Click for Additional Descriptions)*

Seared Loch Duart Salmon (\$75 ea) ----- (____ x \$75=) \$ _____

Roasted Chicken Breast (\$70 ea) ----- (____ x \$70=) \$ _____

Risotto with Wild Mushrooms (V) (\$70 ea) - (____ x \$70=) \$ _____

Additional Activities

Check the group activities that you might be interested in joining

You will be contacted later by the event organizer regarding details and costs

____ Golf Tournament on Thursday ____ FA Pajama Brunch on Thursday

____ Group Bike Ride on Friday ____ Catalina Excursion (Post-reunion)

Magnetic Name Tags (\$7 each)

Write your names as you wish them to appear

*Registration Form **must** be received by April 1, 2019 to process name tag orders*

Name: _____

Name: _____

____ Additional names are listed on back --- (____ x \$7=) \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail this completed form and your check made payable to FTLPA to:

FTLPA

**14248 56th Ave. So.
Seattle, WA 98168**

Questions?

Email@flyingtigerline.org