

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

Summer 2019 Newsletter

Hello Everyone,

I want to thank all of you who attended our 45th Annual Reunion in Long Beach and made it so special. My additional gratitude to those who organized the various side events and helped with the setup and breakdown of the Hangar and the Hospitality Suite. Although we experienced a much lower turnout than planned, the event seemed to flow very nicely with no complaints. Some fantastic photos have been uploaded to the <u>Reunion Photos</u> page of our website and are available for viewing and downloading. Thanks to Eliot for being everywhere at once to capture them all!

The low turnout and unprecedented rash of last minute hotel and registration cancelations still has us reeling a bit due to the financial penalties we incurred by not meeting our contract minimums. Our immediate task will be to determine if there was a reason for this that might have been under our control. Please help me by taking the survey explained on the next page.

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For those unaware, I've announced my plans to step down as President of FTLPA after the completion of the San Diego Reunion in 2021. I'm not going anywhere, I just need someone to "take the wheel" for a couple of years so I can take a duty break. I would like to continue in some communication capacity (webmaster, newsletter, emails, etc). New blood is always good for any volunteer association such as ours and I'm confident there are many within our ranks who have the ability to contribute new ideas and concepts to keep our group vibrant and alive for many years to come. With Leigh-lu's fresh and invigorating ideas for streamlining our association's affairs, I have no doubt the position will be extremely easy to step into.

The next reunion will take place in San Antonio, TX at the Westin Riverwalk Hotel, a wonderful venue with a hospitality suite directly off of the famed riverwalk. We're trying out a Sunday through Wednesday schedule of events from May 2nd to May 5th, 2019. There will be a lot more to tell you in September! For now, save the dates, start putting some money aside, and please plan to attend.

Remember the Alamo!

John & Jeanne Dickson (208) 699-5909 president@flyingtigerline.org



Post Reunion Survey

The new Executive Board, John, Scott, and Ray, will be meeting with our newly appointed Secretary, Leigh-lu Prasse, on July 25th in Los Angeles to discuss and enact important changes before registration begins on September 1 for next year's reunion. Our major goal will be the creation of new online forms and procedures which will enable payment of yearly dues and reunion registration fees by credit card. In addition we will begin training on a new "shared file" system to further automate and streamline our yearly duties. Lastly, we'll be discussing what changes might be required to promote membership and encourage better attendance at future reunions.

An online survey has been created to help guide us in this decision process. All members are asked to click on the link below and participate regardless of how active you have been in attending reunions. The cumulative results of this survey and any actions we might be taking to better represent your interests will be posted to our website by September 1st. Your participation and input is absolutely essential to us.

Click To Take The Survey

Annual Dues Now Required

Membership dues (\$20 per year) are now required for Regular, Associate and Honorary Members who didn't attend the reunion or haven't paid for multiple years in advance. Life Members, those who remain members after their spouses have Flown West and are exempt from annual dues.

To check whether your membership needs renewing, visit the online Membership Roster page of our website (password is paws - all lower case) and use the Search Box to find your own record. The year that you are paid up to will be listed in the YR column. If yours shows 2018 or earlier than a dues payment is required for 2019 to bring yourself current.

Annual dues are necessary for the proper planning of future events and to pay administrative and communication costs throughout the year. To renew your membership go to Membership Forms, print and then mail the Membership Renewal Form with your payment. Soon all members will have the option to pay by credit card. Until then we must continue with the old fashioned way of payment by check. Questions about membership should be sent to email@flyingtigerline.org.

VP's View – Scott Mergele



Long Beach, 2019

Another year has passed already. Now I'm starting my 2nd year as your V.P. I'd be totally remiss if I didn't stop to say thank you to Peter Okicich and Gael for their 20+ years of service to our association. Also, to all the previous officers who have kept us going for 45 years.

I think everyone who attended our reunion this year in Long Beach had a great time. Thank you to Joyce and Gene for the bike ride, Debbie and Michele for the P.J. party, Doug and Marie Happ and the volunteers at the Flight Path Museum and my great wife for the Tiger Lilies lunch. Now for a little downside.

Sandy and John go to great lengths to ensure we have an appropriate hotel for our reunions and that we have enough accommodations for everyone attending. It requires a lot of study of past reunions and some pretty good educated guesses to get the proper number of rooms available. Normally this works very well. This year was a bit of a surprise for all of us in that we did not have the turnout we expected both in overall attendance and hotel rooms used. The contract requires us to use 80% of the rooms we ask for. This year we did not do that and it cost the association (all of us) a considerable penalty. We are trying to figure out what we did wrong so we

don't make the same mistake again. It's understandable that things come up and people have to cancel at the last minute. However, 3 weeks before the reunion we were fine and then the cancellations increased dramatically to where we had to pay a penalty for rooms not used. We also had 45+ fewer people that attended the banquet than had registered for the reunion.

We want to fix whatever the problems were. In that light, John has put out a survey about this reunion and what you would like to see at future reunions. Please respond to this important survey and tell us truthfully what you think about how we are doing things and what needs to be done to improve things for the future.

Your executive board and other officers want this to continue as long as possible. To that end we are recruiting heavily for the Last of the Tigers ('87 to '89 hires) to attend. Also, we want everyone who has come in the past to return and have a great time. Please share your thoughts with us so we can ensure that happens.

See you next year in San Antonio.

Scott

From Your New Treasurer - Ray McKenzie

First and foremost I want to thank Peter Okicich for the 22 years as our Secretary-Treasurer. As you know the office has been split into two positions, a secretary and a treasurer. It's taking two people to replace you Peter. 22 years....WOW!



Secondly I want to thank the membership for the honor of confirming me as your new Treasurer. Fortunately, being Scottish, I do enjoy saving money. LOL

I feel both John and Scott covered the conundrum of room cancellations that costed us dearly. It put a real dent in our association funds. That being said, we thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of the Long Beach reunion and feel a great time was had by all who attended. We certainly did. Thanks to all who organized and work so hard at making it happen.

I look forward to helping John, Scott and Leigh-lu guide this wonderful association on it's future path. Any and all suggestions will be much appreciated.

Thank You,

Ray McKenzie

From Your New Secretary - Leigh-lu Prasse



Ray & Judi McKenzie

A Big Hello Everyone,

I hope this finds you all fully recovered from the very fun Long Beach Reunion and heading into an action-packed summer! I'm honored for the opportunity to be of assistance in our historic Flying Tiger Line Pilots Association. John, Scott, Ray and I have great plans for upgrading the FTLPA operations and website and have been working diligently since the reunion in order to do so.

John has done such an incredible job with the FTLPA website and it has impressively evolved under his leadership. Currently, with the help of our web designer, he is implementing Forms that can be completed from the FTLPA website, such as for the next San Antonio reunion. Hand-in-hand with this will be the ability to make online payments – just as you do

with purchasing airline tickets online. Eventually each payment will update the Treasurer's ledger in Quicken automatically.

As well, we have been testing several options to simulate a "virtual office" with the ability to sync with the other FTLPA Officers online in real time, as is currently the norm in business applications. This will enable each of us to utilize and edit the same document from our separate locations (or anywhere in the world) and share all reports, such as updating the Membership Roster. The ultimate intention is for all FTLPA files to be archived in one central place, enabling the Association to streamline operations and eventually continue forward with the next Officers who will follow in our footsteps. In other words – we are taking the steps to move from Analog to a Glass Cockpit!

I am excited at the prospect of working with you all, and feel just as enthusiastic as I did the day I joined Flying Tigers. I am always available and here for anyone that may need help with any function of the Flying Tiger Line Pilots Association and I will ensure that your concern is addressed. I greatly look forward to getting to know you all better at our future reunions! If you're in the Bay Area, give a call, it's always Five O'clock somewhere!

Cheers and kind regards,

Leigh-lu, a.k.a. "Madam Secretary"

From Your Historian – George Gewehr

The Flying Tiger Line And The People It Touched

Tiger's saw great growth in the 1950s in many diverse operations. They were flying the C-46, DC-4, DC-6 and the introduction of the Lockheed Super H Constellation. They were engaged in many International Charter and special operations including the Korean War. On the other side of the world on the European Continent it was the Hungarian refugee airlift. But not only Hungarians but other ethnic groups as well. This is a story of one of them, a very young Greek boy named Steve. The program was handled through the, "Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration"

The story came to my attention in September, 1998. It started with a letter from a lady named Karen Karey. She lived in Tulsa, Oklahoma with her husband. She told me her husband had contacted me via email earlier in the year, but to my embarrassment I didn't remember it. In her letter she enclosed a picture (right) of her husband arriving in the United States, a very young child. Also in the picture is a young woman holding her husband on her lap. The young woman is the object of the request for any information I might have about her. The young woman's name was



Young Steve on the lap of Ms. Ricky Bryant

Ricky Bryant and she was a ground hostess for the Tigers.

The object of the search was her husband wanted to thank Ricky for being so warm and kind to him. He wanted to let her know how well his life had turned out due to her and the kindness of the other Flying Tiger employees. Mrs. Karey asked me to pass on the information to Vern Moldrem and Terry McKay, because she had read our web page information about them and the books that Vern had written about the Tigers. I did this but neither of them could help me. I wrote back to Mrs. Karey and told her I was sorry I couldn't help her, nor could Vern Moldrem.

Subsequently I have put a Facebook message on my Facebook page about a month ago, trying again to locate Ricky Bryant. So far I haven't heard any thing. In 1956 Ms. Bryant wrote a letter to the adopting parents of little Steve saying how much she had been impressed by him and knew he would grow up to be a fine person. The letter included with a picture of Ricky holding little Steve on her lap can be read by clicking HERE. I think there was then and there is now a miss understanding of the position of the ground hostess who met the airplanes arriving with refugees from Europe. As Ms. Bryant says in her letter she was a ground hostess for the Flying Tiger Line, but I can't find any information about who hired them or where they were based, etc. I didn't see any of them when I was flying the North Atlantic in 1962 but then again I could be wrong for sure. It is a bit of a mysterious conundrum when people write and ask about such people and you can't give them an answer. Nevertheless, the story had a happy ending and Tigers kept doing what it did best, making history on the way.

George Gewehr FTLPA Historian

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From Your Flight Attendant Rep – Joyce Danielsen Dalbey

My thanks to all former flight attendants who came to Long Beach and helped celebrate the Association's 45th Annual Reunion. Special thanks to Robin Pestarino and Marsha Hay Merz for their help in the Hangar this year. And, of course, Jeanne Dickson, who was ever present and willing to assist in any way possible.

The FA Pajama Party Brunch, hosted at the home of Jim and Deborah Paul, came off spectacularly and was every bit as zany as it was designed to be. There are some wonderful pictures posted in the <u>Reunion Photos</u>



Gene and Joyce Danielsen Dalbey on Sock Hop night.

section of our website. In addition, Deb wrote a wonderful article that appeared in a local paper, The Daily Breeze. A link to the online edition can be read by clicking <u>HERE</u>. Great job Deb!

Marilyn Breen, who is extremely dedicated to the memory of Vietnam troop operations in the 60's, is organizing another memorial gathering in Sacramento this year. I, along with many others from our era, will be attending the event and I encourage all of you to make it also.

Join the Viet Nam "vets" in a reunion at the Sacramento Viet Nam Memorial on September 25, 2019. Five years ago several Flight Attendants gathered at the Viet Nam Memorial in Sacramento to honor the true Vets of that war. Several of us had flown the troops over and, hopefully, back from Nam and it was just our way of saying "we remember you" even though the country has largely forgotten you. It was memorable, fun and we got some nice press. It is going to happen again, and we would love to see all Flying Tiger Flight Attendants there whether you flew in Viet Nam or not. A day to celebrate our service to their service. Please email: mailtynbreen@me.com for further details and to rsvp. It will include a gathering at the Memorial followed by a luncheon at a wonderful restaurant in Old Town.



Pat Parlette in a beautiful 1953 Packard convertible a chariot fit for a queen.

I'm very happy to report that I received a call from Pat Parlette the Monday following our reunion. She told me that she was "really getting stronger" and wanted me to relay her sincere thanks to all who sent their thoughts and prayers during a recent and very scary decline in her health. Yesterday I received notification from Ken Kahn that she was chosen to be the Grand Marshall of the Memorial Day parade in her home town of Darien, CT. To see more click on the link below. You look great Pat!

http://www.seaboardairlines.org/spar/activities/parlette 2019.htm

As I've announced previously, I would also like the ability to step down as your Flight Attendant Representative after the 2021 reunion in San Diego. Please contact me if you are interested in filling this very important position within FTLPA, one which represents all of the cabin crews who contributed to the success and legacy of our great airline. There is a real probability that duties related to the yearly Hangar Store will not by a responsibility of the FA Rep once I step down. Please contact me and let's talk.

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

🔌 From Your New AVG Representative – Lydia Rossi

John Richard "Dick" Rossi was one of the AVG members who joined with Bob Prescott in founding the Flying Tiger Line. Dick stayed with the airline as a Captain for the rest of his flying career. I met Dick Rossi through the airline when I was a Flight Attendant. We were married in 1966.

Dick was the President of the American Volunteer Group Flying Tigers Association for over sixty years, and I became immersed in the history and organization of it. I helped out for many years with FTA and I continue to do so today, having served as an officer of An official position was created for a beautiful the Board of Directors for more than 15 years.



woman who has actually been representing Flying Tigers since 1966. Congrats Lydia!

I am thrilled and honored to be asked to be an officer of the FTLPA. I hope to bring my knowledge of the history of the AVG to help answer questions that arise and to help this great organization in any other way that I can.

I have enjoyed coming to the FTLPA reunions, getting to know everyone better, and love how everyone has made me feel so welcome.

Lydia Rossi avgeditor2016@gmail.com

From Your Meeting Planner - Sandy White



30-year dedication to FTLPA was presented to her at her home after the reunion by John, Jeanne, Lydia and Jerry

Thank you for your support and thoughtful recognition of my thirty years as your FTLPA Reunion Planner. My journey with FTLPA started when Lydia and Dick Rossi asked me to assist Lamont Shadowens, then President, with the 1990 Washington D.C. Reunion. I learned very quickly Mr. Shadowens still had his first nickel and I was expected to shop for FTLPA the same way.

You know the old saying, "Time flies when your having a good time", I have loved every moment of my thirty years with FTLPA. So many memories – becoming an Honorary FTL Flight Attendant, New Orleans, dancing in the streets with the Grand Puba....

Thank you John and Jeanne Dickson for being "Above and Beyond"

Most of all I love being part of the "Tiger Family"

Sandy White Meeting Planner for Life

From Your Life Member Rep - Donna Mergele

What a pleasure it has been to meet a group of ladies that still desire to be included with Flying Tiger Line activities after losing their husbands. At the last reunion in Long Beach, several proudly wore their poodle skirts and cut a mean rug as the 50's music played on.

The next reunion (2020) will be held in San Antonio, Tx and hopefully there will be opportunities to get together with our cowgirl hats and boots to check out San Antonio.

Should you have any ideas or suggestions on what might be interesting to do, please let me know. Until then, stay healthy and happy.



Donna Mergele

2019 Long Beach Reunion Recap

The Southern California weather was wonderful and the reunion kicked off on schedule at 3PM on Wednesday, May 1st. Our total attendance was approximately 260 with 150 attending the Friday Happy Hour at the Flight Path Museum and 210 attending the Sock Hop on Saturday night. Special guests included Bob Prescott's daughter, Kirchy, Ginny Dixon who served as executive secretary to both Prescott and Hoffman for many years, and Vincent Timmermans, owner of the Jet Lag in Narita.

There were so many fantastic photos taken by Eliot Shulman, Rudi Kohlbacher, and others that it's impossible to pick out which ones should appear in this newsletter. To enjoy them all visit the Reunion Photos section of our website and click on 2019 Long Beach.

Below is a breakdown of the different events that all came off without a hitch.

Golf (Thu) – Robert Carona and Tom Constable did another fantastic job of organizing the golf tournament at the Los Alamitos Naval Golf Course.

PF Pajama Party (Fri) – Deb and Jim Paul were extremely gracious in opening up their home and organizing this fun and zany party. The local cable channel showed up and two news articles were written which can be viewed by clicking on the following links:

<u>Daily Breeze article</u> <u>Scanned paper edition</u>

Group Bike Ride (Fri) – Gene Dalbey organized a very successful ride involving a total of 39 bicyclists who rode for two hours along a well designed bike path and a total distance of 8.5 miles. Most got together afterwards at the Yard House for breakfast and much needed hydration.

Flight Path Museum (Fri) – Approximately 150 people made it to this event, either via the bus or on their own. Doug Happ, John Tymczyszyn, and Rory Pendley did a great job getting as many people flying the simulators as possible. And the whole event would not have come off nearly as well without the help of Marie Happ who purchased the snacks and worked with Flight Path personnel.

Business Meeting (Sat) – Of significance during the business meeting are the following:

- Introduction of special guests Ginny Dixon, Vincent Timmermans, and Kirchy Prescott (who attended later that night).
- Recognition of senior crewmembers in attendance, Elgen Long, Hank Germain, Al Silver, Starr Thompson and Flight Attendants Ann Royal, Jan Carerre, Carol Hansen, and Toni Brunton.

- Recognition and update regarding Sandy White as our Meeting Planner for the past 30 years and a reading of the special plaque which was presented to her by John, Jeanne, Lydia, and Jerry after the reunion.
- Proposed Bylaw changes were explained and then all unanimously approved which included:
 - Establishing two officer positions to replace Peter Okicich, that being Treasurer and Secretary. The Treasurer would remain an Executive Board member and be voted in by members present. Ray McKenzie was subsequently confirmed as our new Treasurer. The Secretary, in which both Regular and Associate members would be qualified to fill, would be appointed by the new Executive Board once the position was established. Subsequently, by prior discussion and arrangement, former Flight Planner/Aircraft Dispatcher Leigh-lu Prasse was appointed as our new Secretary.
 - Establishing a new officer position called AVG Representative which was quickly filled by Lydia Rossi.
- The following Honorary Membership candidates were introduced by their sponsors and approved by the membership: Phil Hannah (current FedEx pilot), Guy Van Herbruggen and Charles Kennedy (authors of multiple books on FTL)
- Future reunion plans and research were explained. The next reunion is to be held in San Antonio at the Westin Riverwalk from May 2 -5, 2020. The reunion for 2021 will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego from May 12-16. John will be joining Sandy in Dayton, OH in June to determine it's viability as a reunion city.
- John Dickson made his announcement that he will be stepping down in two years after the San Diego 2021. Both VP, Scott Mergele, and FA Rep, Joyce Danielsen Dalbey have also signaled their intentions to do the same.

After a break guest speakers Van Herbruggen and Kennedy presented their new book, *Flying Tiger Memories*, which positively belongs in the collection of anyone interested in the history of FTL

Open Mic (Sat) – With George Gewehr as moderator this year to keep the stories short and on course, the time together was full of laughter and good times remembered.

Tiger Lily Lunch (Sat) – Donna Mergele organized an enjoyable lunch to recognize the Life Members whose spouses have Flown West but still carry the torch and attend our reunions.

Dinner and Sock Hop (Sat) – The high points of the main event were, of course, the costumes donned by our more spirited members who seemed to really enjoy the chance to dress and think young again.

Guests of Honor, Kirchy Prescott and Ginny Dixon were introduced and legacy members Hank Germain, Al Silver, Starr Thompson, Carol Hansen, Ann Royal, and Jan Carerre were once again recognized.

A plaque was presented to outgoing Secretary-Treasurer, Peter Okicich, the backbone of this group for over twenty years. A tribute was paid by all members through the words below honoring his service.

In recognition of 20 years of dedicated and invaluable service to our membership as Secretary/Treasurer of the Flying Tiger Line Pilots Association. Without your leadership and idea contributions, this association would not be as great as it is today and continuing into the future.

Thank you Peter, from all of the membership past and future.

Later in the evening Scott and Donna Mergele presented prizes the winners of the raffle. John Dixon (Ginny's husband) won the 50/50 contest and received \$410. Rudi Kohlbacher won the door prize, a lithograph of a DC8 in cruise at sunset created by Joe Wight. Funds raised through participation in the new silent auction this year are appreciated by those who were involved.





lim Theobald, Mike Sweeley and leff Seideman



Phil Hannah, with Leslie looking on, presented Honorary Membership by

Eliot Shulman and Bear Kramer



Junior Tigers, Bill Libby, Sharon Sowell, Bob and Maureen Adams



inny Dixon, Kirchy Prescott, and Lydia Rossi



In the Tiger Room at the Flight Path Museum on Friday



JoNell Kocisko with twin sons, Mark and Todd



Shan and John Englehards



It's good to be the photographer!





Robin Pestarino, Marsha Hay Merz, Jan Carerre and Pam Hunter at the Flight Attendant PJ Party



Group Bike Ride was enjoyed by all who participated

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



The Pearl Brewery District

Note that the reunion will take place from Sunday to Tuesday as opposed to traditional weekend days. For those that have the available time, we hope to plan a multi-day post-reunion excursion trip up to Fredericksburg, TX to experience the National Museum of the Pacific War, wineries, breweries, and other attractions that this charming little city has to offer. More to come in September we hope.



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!)



Flying Tiger Memories Now Available Online

Everyone attending the last reunion had the opportunity to purchase their signed copy from the authors, Guy Van Herbruggen and Charles Kennedy, now both Honorary Members of FTLPA.

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 a group of American pilots fighting in China during World War 2, the Flying Tiger Line is born, the airline who can do anything, through the golden piston prop days of Commandos and Connies to the Jet Age with the Boeing 707, Douglas DC-8, Boeing 747 Jumbo, all the way up to the 1989 billion-dollar merger that made FedEx a global brand.

Daring tales of bravery, incredible stories of survival, and a lot of laughs along the way; Flying Tiger Memories is a collaboration between aviation historian Guy Van Herbruggen and author Charles Kennedy. It is an essential companion to the DC-8 & The Flying Tiger Line and Tiger 747 books. A lavish gift for fans of aviation, airlines, history, war stories, adventures, and travel.

Use one of the links below to purchase your own copy, a must-have for anyone who flew for Tigers.

https://the-airline-boutique.myshopify.com/products/flying-tiger-memories-pre-order-ships-may-10

https://www.autobooks-aerobooks.com/product/flying-tiger-memories/

Flown West



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

Author unknown

We received the unfortunate news that Jay Cotting took his final flight the day after our reunion was over, and Gene Snow passed away not too many days afterwards. More information about each of them, as well as others, can be found in the *Flown West* section of our website.



Jay Cotting 7/13/1930 – 5/6/2019



Eugene Snow 8/29/1938 – 5/9/2019

Jay was interned at the Miramar National Cemetery in San Diego on May 30th. A Celebration of Life will be held on either July 13th or July 14th at 1pm. For more details and to RSVP contact Wilma at (714) 968-4385 or (714) 222-2979. You can also try to contact Jay's son, Craig, at (949) 735-4043.

The Flabob Express Makes it to Duxford for D-Day Celebration



Bob Tymczyszyn with fellow crewmembers at Prestwick Airport in Scotland.

Bob Tymczyszyn and his fellow mission crewmembers aboard the Flabob Express successfully made the 4-day crossing from Goose Bay to Duxford in order to participate in <u>Daks Over Normandy</u> for the 75th Commemoration of D-Day on June 6th.

The American airborne landings in Normandy were the first American combat operations during Operation Overlord, the invasion of Normandy by the Western Allies on June 6, 1944, during World War II. Around 13,100 American paratroopers of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions made night parachute drops early on D-Day, June 6, followed by 3,937 glider troops flown in by day. As the opening maneuver of Operation Neptune (the assault operation for Overlord)

the two American airborne divisions were delivered to the continent in two parachute and six glider missions. Both divisions were part of the U.S. VII Corps and provided it support in its mission of capturing Cherbourg as soon as possible to provide the Allies with a port of supply. The specific missions of the two airborne divisions were to block approaches into the vicinity of the amphibious

landing at Utah Beach, to capture causeway exits off the beaches, and to establish crossings over the Douve River at Carentan to assist the U.S. V Corps in merging the two American beachheads. The assault did not succeed in blocking the approaches to Utah for three days. Numerous factors played a part, most of which dealt with excessive scattering of the drops. Despite this, German forces were unable to exploit the chaos. Many German units made a tenacious defense of their strongpoints, but all were systematically defeated within the week. The paratrooper drop still stands as the largest in history. An excellent You Tube link about the most important military operation in modern history can be viewed at https://youtu.be/hrp--nJmfKg

We're proud of you Bob and thank you for your dedication to commemorating this most important day! Godspeed and Safe Skies on your way back home.

Say Again?

Never quit. Never give up. Fly it to the end.

-Chuck Aaron, the only pilot licensed by the FAA to perform aerobatics in a helicopter in the United States, and one of only three such pilots in the world.

Contact Us

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The Four Tops – not! But definitely the Top Four now.

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