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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

Fall 2020 Newsletter

Hello Tigers,

We are so sorry to report that procedures to make your hotel reservations and to register for our 47th Anniversary Reunion continue to be delayed due to uncertainty's that still exist regarding the COVID-19 situation, recommendations from the CDC and, of course, the mood of our all-mighty state and local governments. Coordinating with the various vendors and our ability to properly plan for this future reunion has been very problematic to say the least. Still, we are plodding ahead and spring-loaded to start accepting registration payments the moment we are sure that there is some degree of confidence for all involved.

Our welcome to new member Patty Ryskamp (formerly Zeman.) Patty was a flight attendant for FTL from 1963 to 1969 and currently lives in Gilbert, AZ. If you knew her then please join us in welcoming Patty aboard by emailing pattyriskamp@yahoo.com

With fires out west, hurricanes hitting from the south, rioting in the streets of our major cities, and the annual flu season approaching, our hearts go out to those of you who may be affected by recent disasters. We hope that you remain healthy and safe during these very unusual and complex times.

Your FTLPA Officers and Representatives

2021 San Antonio Reunion

To view all that we hope to plan click on the [2021 San Antonio Reunion Page](#). The reunion officially begins on Monday, May 3rd and ends the morning of Friday, May 7th. The main event, a Tex-Mex buffet dinner will be followed by dancing on Thursday night, May 6th. More details will be communicated to you and posted to this page as they develop.

With Sandy White's assistance we are giving it all that we can to properly plan for our upcoming event. The hotel, buffet dinner, and entertainment are all set to go. However, we are still unable to properly secure a contract for such vendors as Go Rio River Shuttle due to apprehension and continued uncertainties about the future. For the former pilots in our group, this has been like heading to the alternate with no idea of what the forecasted weather will be. This has forced us to delay the opening of the registration process until December 1st. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we all standby to see what the future holds for group events next year.

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Cockpit Crew Members of the Flying Tiger Line



An new online compilation of names and data of over 1,700 pilots, co-pilots, flight engineers, navigators, and radio operators from 1946 to 1989

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

Wayne's World

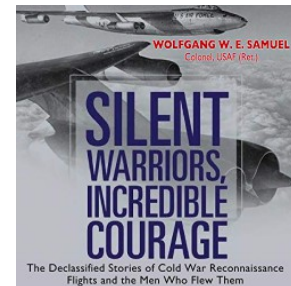
Our Vice-President, Wayne Lane, has been very busy these last three months authoring an article for Air Line Pilot magazine and narrating books for Audible.

In the August 2020 edition of Air Line Pilot he submitted an article for the My Final Flight section of the magazine. It can be viewed by clicking on the link below.

[The Final World](#) by Capt. Wayne Lane (FedEx Express, Ret.)

He is also the reader for a newly release book available through Audible Audiobooks called Silent Warriors, Incredible Courage: The Declassified Stories of Cold War Reconnaissance Flights and the Men Who Flew Them. To listen to Wayne's best FTL Captain's voice click on the link below and then click on the Audible Sample play button on the left side of the screen below the book cover.

[Silent Warriors, Incredible Courage](#)



Board of Recognition at the Flight Path Museum

The Flying Tigers Club Board of Recognition, more formally known as *The 500 Club*, is a center piece in the Flying Tiger room at [Flight Path Museum and Learning Center](#) at the Los Angeles International Airport.

It was established to provide funds for the preservation and display of the Clubs' extensive collection of historical material, documents, photos and other memorabilia. A donation of \$500, or more, provides a permanent plaque on the Board of Recognition. The plaque may be requested by a former Tiger in his or her name to support the Museum; or by family or friends in recognition or remembrance of their dedication to Flying Tigers.



There are currently over 60 names on the Board that acknowledge and honor members of our Tiger family. To see a list of those currently honored click [HERE](#). To request a plaque and make a tax deductible donation to the Club, send an email to Margi Falk, TRC Secretary at traveler@strangeworld.com, or call Margi at 310 694-4654 to request an application form.

A Great Story from Doug Shaw

The following Tiger tale comes to us from Doug Shaw, former ANC General Manager, about the Tigers B707 N324FT the true star in the iconic 1970 movie Airport.

I came across these old photos of the FTL N324FT B707 painted in "Trans Global Airlines" livery for the movie Airport that might be of interest. I was Supervisor of Catering at Tigers at the time and had gone to MSP to work with Northwest Airlines Flight Kitchen to set up catering for the MSP/LAX return meals (shown in the photos.) Tigers had flown the airplane with the film crew to MSP and left it there with the aircraft mechanic (may be the guy in the

photos) for two-three weeks while working on the movie. For the landing sequence the movie studio flew the Tiger crew back to MSP and when filming wrapped, Tigers then flew the entire film crew on N324FT back to LAX.



A story that you may not have heard had to do with filming the landing that shows a rooster tail of slush being thrown up behind the nose gear. As I recall, George Bock was the Captain (I have forgotten names of the Copilot and FE...F/E May Have been Ray Maxey...and it was he who told me the story.) The scene was to simulate a landing by doing a high speed taxi and then a turn off to the taxiway. A film crew had been placed in a tower at the end of the runway to film a "heads on" shot. The weather was typical for MSP winter and the runway had been plowed but there was a light snow turning to slush by the time they were ready for the filming.

The camera crew were in the tower and the high speed taxi started with the plan to slow and make a right turn onto the second taxiway. When George tried to slow, there was enough slush that the N324FT slid past the turn off with the nose wheel cocked for the turn, which created a huge "rooster tail" of slush. The airplane continued to slide with the last chance for a turn off coming up before it would go through the fence and into the camera tower! The camera crew decided they had no where to go so they continued to film.

At the last minute George felt the right brake start to grab and quickly applied power to the left engines to make the turn onto the dry taxiway where he could maintain control. The film director was so excited about the unplanned scene he decided that one take was all they needed and used it in the final production of the movie!

This just maybe another of the untold Tiger stories.

Doug Shaw

To watch a clip of the rooster tail at the end of the movie click on the link below. The slipping and skidding begin around 4 minutes into the You Tube video, but you don't want to miss the dramatic buildup. Those who have been at the end of an icy runway will readily see that our FTL crew's movie shot came close to a runway overshoot. Thanks for the story Doug!

Clip of Capt George Bock's Rooster tail.

[Airport 1970 Climax](#)

For more action by N324FT and cigar-smoking Joe Patroni (George Kennedy), click below. The highlight is Petroni tossing his cigar behind him onto the cockpit floor once he saves the day!

[Joe Patroni Saves The Day](#)

A Request for Dizzy

The following comes from Dizzy's son, Toby. If you knew Dizzy, and what a wonderful person he was, please follow through on Toby's request and honor your fellow Tiger.

Hello Tigers!

I hope this finds you all well. I'm putting together a memorial video for Diz, and I wanted to see if any of you wanted to contribute something. It can be anything you want; a story, a funny memory, a joke of his, or just words you'd like to share... anything. To make things easy on you guys, you can email me at tobydz@captaindizzy.com and we can set up a time to do a video chat, which I will record on my end. If anyone is a bit more A/V savvy and they wanted to record it themselves and upload it to me, I'll have a folder on Google Drive standing by. I'm happy to report the family is doing well, and the business up in Seattle continues to thrive despite the virus – I think my dad would approve of how I've been doing in the left seat.... Still, never a day that goes by where I don't miss him. I just remind myself that after the one helluva 80-year run he had, and the peaceful means by which it concluded... He couldn't have flown west with any better merits than he already had. Hopefully, I'll see him again one day You all were family to him – every bit as much as his own blood. Anyway, I really hope to hear from you guys. I'd like to wrap up this video by end of next week. Should anyone want to contribute, but needs some technical assistance, I'm available to help.

Best Regards,

Toby

Veteran Air Warriors Project

We want to bring to your attention a very worthwhile non-profit organization which provides U.S. military veterans with the necessary resources to train, certify and excel within America's aviation industry. We were recently contacted by the Executive Director for this cause, Mr. Cade Overstreet. He explained that the modern veteran, the warriors that our military produce, have no where to go once off active duty when it comes to continuing their passion for flying. For those who went through the process, it remains the same. The GI Bill will not kick in for a future civilian pilot until the private pilots license is obtained.

Their website states - *They Sacrificed For Our Future, Let's Invest In Theirs*. If you would like to know more about this worthwhile cause then please visit www.veteranairwarriors.org where you can find all information regarding them including ways to donate.

Flown West



*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 cancelled 2020 in May. More information about each member can be found in the ***Flown West Memoriam*** section of our website.

*Bob Gilbert – 5/6/2020
*Hank Germain – 5/7/2020
*Dennis Ferrero – 5/11/2020
*Anna Lou Spino – 5/20/2020
*# Ed Acree – 5/31/2020

*Dizzy Dziubala – 6/9/2020
*Kathy Cass – 7/20/2020
*Paul Phillips – 8/5/2020

*Added since last newsletter # Former SWA

Say Again?

When in doubt hold your altitude. Nobody every collided with the sky

Author Unknown

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