

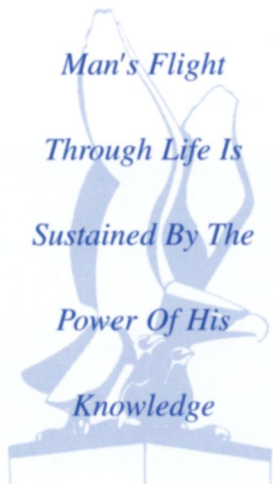
NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library

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Man's Flight

Through Life Is

Sustained By The

Power Of His

Knowledge

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REVIEWS

A number of journals have published reviews of *The Genesis of Flight*. Here are some quotes from the editor of *Ballooning Magazine*:

Opening this book for the first time I was immediately transported back in time to my childhood. For this is what it must be to live the adage "like a kid in a candy store." As you turn each page another tantalizing morsel presents itself to you, each sweeter, more satisfying than the one before it. In plain language, immediately upon receipt, this book will become the most important volume in any aeronaut's library!

Yes, that is high praise but deserving so, I've been collecting books on ballooning throughout my two decades in the sport but nothing I've found so far can compare with the beauty, the history, the incredible wealth of information found in this single volume.

...That such a book has not existed until now is nearly incomprehensible. For scholars and historians it will no doubt prove invaluable. But it's true value is greater than that of a simple tool for research. It is a volume that should be added to every aeronaut's library and then be cherished for generations to come. For though we may not own or possess the amazing treasures found in the Gimbel Collection, a moment shared with this book can set one's own mind adrift, free to dream as those first pioneers did, not just of man's conquest of the sky above, but the stars beyond.

LUNCHEON SPEAKER THE 2002 ANNUAL LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 9

Colonel James A. Shaw, USAF (Ret.) is the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Association of Graduates of the United States Air Force Academy. As such, he leads an organization whose mission is to provide service to a graduate community of over 30,000; to support the needs of the Air Force Academy and its current and future cadets; and work to preserve the heritage and traditions of the Academy and the Air Force. Colonel Shaw entered The United States Air Force Academy in 1963, graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering Science in 1967. He spent the next 26 years in operational, training and staff assignments including tours of duty as a combat controller, rescue pilot, instructor, staff officer and aide de camp. He commanded the soaring and parachuting squadron at the Academy, and was responsible for counter narcotics planning for the North American Aerospace Defense Command. Colonel Shaw retired from active duty after serving as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs at the Air Force Academy. He then joined the Association of Graduates staff as the Vice President of Development where he was responsible for developing and implementing programs to support the growing needs of the association, the graduate community, the Academy and its cadets.



Colonel Shaw is a Command Pilot with over 3,000 hours of flying time, a Master Parachutist, and a Certified Air Traffic Controller. He attended Air Command and Staff College and was a research associate at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. He also holds masters degrees from the University of Arizona and Auburn University.

Colonel Shaw's wife, Cindy, teaches first grade in a local school district. The Shaws have three daughters, Genie, Kali and Erin. Colonel Shaw and Cindy enjoy theater, music, most outdoor activities and sports. The family resides in Monument, Colorado.

The annual luncheon of The Friends will be held on Thursday, May 9, in the Sunrise Room of the Academy Officers Club. The social hour will begin as 11:30 A.M. Luncheon will be served at 12:15 P.M. and will cost \$14 per person. For reservations, please send your check along with the tear sheet included in this mailing of the Newsletter.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Friends have been working with a very full plate of projects during the past several months. They have been described in some detail in our Newsletters.

All of them will directly benefit cadet education and their appreciation of their heritage, provide a significant resource for research by scholars, and provide a rich source of information for the diverse Academy constituency.

Also of importance is the fact that all of these projects directly or indirectly will contribute to the forthcoming celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Academy. To this end The Friends have worked closely with the Superintendent and his staff to ensure that our efforts will fit into the Academy's master plan for this important event. We have enjoyed this work immensely.

We are excited about the work being done by Board member, Brig. General Erlind Royer, in creating a Friends web site. We will have more information regarding this project in the next newsletter.

Since security at the Academy has continued to be quite tight, The Friends still operate without the benefit of our nice office on the 5th floor of the Library. We meet in the Officer's Club and the office functions have been accomplished through the generous individual efforts of Colonel Jock Schwank (computing networking) and by Ms. Rae Hellen (administrative and clerical) — both from out of their homes.

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 10 A.M. on Thursday, May 9, in the AOG Conference Room in Doolittle Hall. Election of officers and several other important items are on the agenda.

SOUTHEAST ASIA POW EXHIBIT



As noted in the last Newsletter, The Friends sponsored an extensive exhibit of the documents, photographs and artifacts that depicted the American prisoner of war experience in Southeast Asia. The exhibit, which was on display from September through November in the Academy Library, was developed from a collection of artifacts donated to the Academy by Mr. Lee Humiston and the Southeast Asia Prisoner of War Archive that was obtained for the Academy Library by The Friends from the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The archive was gathered in support of the publication of the award-winning book, *Honor Bound: American Prisoners of War in Southeast Asia, 1961-1973*. The collection is the largest and most definitive of its kind in the United States.



Brig. General
Robinson Risner

On 16 November, the exhibit was moved from the Academy Library and placed on display in Arnold Hall in conjunction with a ceremony for the unveiling of a statue honoring Brig. General Robinson Risner, USAF, (Ret.). General Risner was a prisoner of war in North Vietnam from 1965 to 1973. As a senior ranking officer in the "Hanoi Hilton," General Risner became an inspiration to all for his leadership and dedication to his country. Over 100 former prisoners of war who had served in North Vietnam attended the ceremony. Mr. H. Ross Perot donated the statue to the Academy and attended the ceremony. Mr. H. Ross Perot and General Risner reviewed the exhibit and each was presented with an edition of a copy of *The Genesis of Flight* by the Secretary of The Friends, Brig. General Philip Caine.



Mr. H. Ross Perot



This rare 18th Century print depicts the first hot air balloon ascension in Great Britain. Vincent Lonardi accomplished this feat over London in 1784. This superb print, published in Paris in 1790, was donated to The Friends of the Academy Library by Mr. Dean A. Phelps, one of the original members of the USAFA Class of 1960. The print constitutes a significant addition to the holdings in the Gimbel Collection of the Academy Library.

ANNUAL MEETING



The Board of Directors of The Friends gathered in Doolittle Hall at the Air Force Academy for its annual meeting on December 7, 2001. General Clark convened the meeting. New Board members, Colonel Jock Schwank, Dr. Don White and Colonel Jim Gaston, were introduced. Also introduced, but unable to be present, were Brig. General Erlind Royer and Dr. Richard Lemp. All of these individuals bring special talents to the Board and we are very happy to have them join us.

The first order of business was the election of officers and members of the Executive Committee. The incumbents were all unanimously elected. Those members of the Board whose term of office expired in 2001 were also unanimously elected to another three-year term. Our Treasurer, Brig. General George Fagan, then reported that we are solvent but needed to continue effective fund raising in order to pursue the projects we have under consideration.

The Board Meeting featured two special presentations of great importance to the future of the Friends. The first was by Colonel Jim Shaw, President and CEO of the Association of Graduates (AOG). Colonel Shaw talked about the AOG fund-raising campaign and how that effort will impact on The Friends. As reported in the last Newsletter, The Friends has asked for significant AOG support over the next few years in order for us to accomplish some of our long-term projects. Certainly, Colonel Shaw's talk reinforced our confidence in our partnership with the AOG in achieving our long-range objectives.

The second presentation was by Colonel Jim Gaston and Mr. Matt Gaston of Word One, Inc. They first explained how they want to proceed with the 50th Anniversary of the Academy DVD project and then showed a short example of what such a DVD might feature. They demonstrated the DVD that is to be a companion piece to The Friends book on Falconry at the Academy that is presently under consideration for publication. Both demonstrations were very impressive and certainly reassured us that our partnership with Word One has a bright future and the projects we have undertaken show great promise.

Our final report was by the Director of Academy Libraries, Dr. Ed Scott. Dr. Scott first thanked The Friends for our continued support and then briefed the Board on several challenges that face the Library, primarily in the area of personnel. Certainly Dr. Scott faces some daunting challenges in the weeks and months ahead and all the members of The Friends need to stand ready to support him and the Library in any way we can.

The last item of business was a unanimous vote to change the date of our annual Board Meeting to coincide with the date of the annual luncheon. This moves the Board Meeting from the dead of winter to spring and will facilitate easier attendance at both the Board Meeting and the luncheon by those members who live outside the Colorado Springs area.

50th ANNIVERSARY

As reported in the last Newsletter, one of the major, long-range projects that The Friends has undertaken is producing a DVD of the first 50 years of the Air Force Academy along with an updated version of the "History of the Academy" display that was such a success in January 1998. The Friends had several meetings with key Academy officials in an effort to put this project on a firm foundation since it must be finished by April 2004. The most important meeting was in mid-January with the Superintendent, Vice Superintendent, Director of Plans, President/CEO of the Association of Graduates (AOG), and the Director of Development. As a result of that session, at which Mr. Matt Gaston of Word One, Inc., presented a superb example of our proposed DVD project, it was agreed that the project would be funded by the AOG with the full support of the Academy and the senior staff.

This meeting was followed in the next few days by meetings separately with the Director of Plans and the AOG at which details of the arrangement were worked out. As a result of this effort, Word One, Inc., has been tasked to begin the first phase of the DVD project. This entails video interviews with key people in the development and evolution of the Academy. Of significance, the first two interviews were with Lt. General A.P. Clark and Brig. General George Fagan, which were completed in February. The Executive Committee is excited about having this very significant project underway. Not only will it be a major part of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary, but it will also provide a living history of the Academy that will be critical in documenting the evolution of the institution.



Lt. Gen. A. P. Clark USAF (Ret.) is shown receiving a compilation of biographies of the early 39th Pursuit Squadron's Commanders from Col. Gerald Brown, USAF (Ret.) President of the 39th Fighter Squadron Association, Board member of the American Fighter Aces Association and former POW.

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*Former Superintendent
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THE FRIENDS COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM

The Friends offers a special opportunity for those who wish to honor individuals, organizations or groups of individuals. For a minimum donation of \$50 a handsome certificate will be placed in the Friend's Honor book. The Honor Book is displayed in a prominent location in the Special Collections Branch of the Air Force Academy Library where it is readily accessible to cadets and visitors.



This is an ideal way to give special, perpetual recognition to a classmate, fellow crew members, a friend, a team, or an organization of special importance to you. The honoree(s) need not be military nor deceased to be commemorated with an Honor Book Certificate. To date, more than 1000 individuals, units and organizations have been commemorated with an Honor Book

Certificate. Honorees include participants in virtually every American conflict of the 20th Century as well as a wide variety of other individuals to include Academy faculty/staff, spouses, USAFA cadets and graduates.

Specific details on this unique Academy program, which is overseen by Dr. Richard Lemp of the Academy's Department of English, are on the enclosed flier (photo above). The Friends encourage you to give serious consideration to participating in our Commemorative Program.

Copies of *The Genesis of Flight* may be purchased by sending your request to the Air Force Academy Association of Graduates, 3116 Academy Dr., USAF Academy, CO 80840-4457, along with your check for \$60.00 plus \$6.00 shipping and handling. To purchase the CD-Rom separately, send your check to the same address for \$24.00 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling.

CADETS STUDY *THE GENESIS OF FLIGHT*

At the request of Colonel Mark K. Wells, Professor and Head of the Department of History, The Friends provided 560 copies of the *The Genesis of Flights* CD-ROM for use in a course entitled "Introduction to Military History."

Colonel Wells wrote:

"This high-quality CD-ROM is both visually and historically engaging, as it introduces our cadets to this unique collection. Our feedback from its use last semester suggests that many cadets found its contents illuminating. Additionally, many others are in academic majors and technical disciplines that would not normally make use of the library's special holdings — this catalogue exposes them to a rare and intriguing collection located right here at the Academy."