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Mr. James Glerum
C/O "Air America Log"
4612 North Sixth Street
McAllen, TX 78504

Dear Mr. Glerum,

I am the nephew of Captain Norman A. Schwartz, who along with Captain Robert C. Snoddy were the two Civil Air Transport pilots lost in Manchuria on 29 November 1952 during "Operation Tropic." I read with interest a copy of your letter to the Central Intelligence Agency in the recent "Air America Log." I wholeheartedly support your desire to see other fallen Cold War civilian patriots receive the honor and respect they so richly deserve, including but not limited to James B. McGovern and Wallace A. Bufford.

The only point I would respectfully add is for many of the families in similar circumstances as ours, repatriation is perhaps even more important than awards and recognition, appreciated though it truly is. The gnawing need for closure, especially for elderly parents, wives, children and siblings, is something perhaps only other families can truly understand. I agree it is high time the Agency recognize ALL the many brave men and women who voluntarily served their country, and in every communication with the Agency I myself have raised that point with them repeatedly. But I would also strongly encourage our Government and its various agencies to redouble their commendable efforts with regards to *aggressive* repatriation and closure -- by any means necessary.

With the wise and prudent counsel of Felix Smith, and the blessing of Ms. Ruth Snoddy Boss, in the spring of 1998 I began the Schwartz/Snoddy family quest for repatriation. The good news in these cynical times is "the system" does indeed work; though admittedly prodded with a liberal dose of tenacity. What I discovered to my surprise is indeed reasonable observations made by a simple citizen to the most powerful people in Washington, D.C. will be considered based on merit. Hell of a civics' lesson! Where else in the world can a common citizen even hope to have such expectations? No where else. While the issue of repatriation now rests solely with the

People's Republic of China, I am pleased to report we have the full support of all branches of the U.S. Government, which during the Cold War era was not possible.

As an added unexpected bonus, last October I received a phone call from DCI George Tenet's Chief of Staff informing me the Director had decided to award Schwartz and Snoddy "Intelligence Stars" and also the Agency's prestigious "Intelligence Cross" medal for valor. Nearly four months later I am still at a loss for words, which if you knew me would be unheard of. Simply put: Wow.

The Schwartz and Snoddy families have been invited to Langley to attend a memorial ceremony this coming Memorial Day for all the other families awarded Intelligence Stars. It is our hope other unsung but not forgotten CAT and Air America heroes, some of whom also paid the ultimate price, will also receive the recognition they too deserve; perhaps the welcomed recognition of Norm and Bob will serve as a watershed event for others. Kudos' to DCI George Tenet.

I will keep the "Air America Log" posted of any repatriation developments. We are aggressively pursuing several avenues. I would like to thank Director Tenet, Senator Jesse Helms, DPMO, Mrs. Leigh Hotujec(!), Felix Smith and *especially* Ms. Ann Mills Griffiths, executive director of the National League of POW/MIA Families. (FYI: Ms Griffiths is truly a national treasure and would be a real asset to any Vietnam era family searching for closure.)

Sincerely,

Erik Kirzinger