

DFCS NEWS

Volume 7, Issue 3

December 2007

The Distinguished Flying Cross Society

THE
DISTINGUISHED
FLYING CROSS
SOCIETY



THIS DAY IN NAVAL HISTORY

2 SEPTEMBER 1944

PILOT DOWN!

THE
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SOCIETY



By the autumn of 1944 the Allied advance across the Pacific was approaching the Bonin's, an 1800 mile long island chain that includes Iwo Jima, a toehold for an eventual invasion of the Japanese mainland.

At 0715 this day a squadron of Grumman TBF Avengers took off from USS San Jacinto (CVL-30) to strike Japanese radio installations on another of these islands, Chichi Jima. During the 71 mile flight to the target the Avengers were picked-up by the enemy's RADAR, and the anti-aircraft batteries were ready when they arrived.

As one of the pilots steadied his aircraft on its bombing run, he felt the sudden lurch of a flack burst slamming his fuselage. Flames began licking the cockpit and neither the tail-gunner nor the navigator responded. The pilot regained control for the moment and finished his run, but by the time he pulled up his plane was badly aflame. Bailing out was the only option, but not before he nursed the Avenger past the island's coast. His parachute landed four miles from shore near a life raft dropped from another plane in his squadron. But when a Japanese boat departed the beach in his direction the pilot paddled furiously out to sea while his airborne buddies strafed in his defense. This action may well have saved his life as it was later learned the Japanese island commander believed his troops gained strength by eating the flesh of their enemies. Several POW's had already been cannibalized!

After three hours in the raft he was picked-up by USS Finback (SS-230), a submarine pulling "lifeguard" duty off the island—a duty that saved many a pilot's life during the War). Three weeks later he took a well deserved leave at home, during which he married his high school sweetheart, Barbara Pierce. For today's and other brave actions during the War he was awarded the Navy's Distinguished Flying Cross. In 1944 the whole event might have passed without much fanfare, indeed who could have anticipated that the pilot, LTJG George Herbert Walker Bush, would one day become President.

George Bush enlisted in the Navy on his eighteenth birthday, 12 June 1942, with the goal of becoming a pilot. A year later, 9 June 1943, he was commissioned an Ensign and entered pilot training at NAS Ft. Lauderdale. He was assigned to VT-51 in Norfolk and was shortly deployed with Task Force 58 in the Pacific. He flew his first combat mission over Wake Island on 23 May 1944 after which he logged over 1200 flight hours, 58 combat missions and 118 carrier "traps." He twice survived being shot down, the first coming in his TBF Avenger nicknamed "The Barbara" during the Battle of the Philippine Sea on 19 June 1944.

He will probably be our last President with combat service in WWII.

George Herbert Walker Bush is a member of The Distinguished Flying Cross Society.

Basic Flying Rules: "Try to stay in the middle of the air. Do not go near the edges of it. The edges of the air can be recognized by the appearance of ground, buildings, sea, trees and interstellar space. It is much more difficult to fly there."



Inside this issue:

Presidents Message	2
Chapter of the Year Winner	3
Official DFCS Flag	4
WWII Gunner receives DFC	5
Treasurer's Report	6
Memorabilia & Painting	7-11
Strategic Planning Survey	13
Fundraising	14
National DFC Memorial	15

President's Message

● Wow - where has this past year gone? The Holiday Season is upon us, and Year 2007 is nearing its end. It seems like just a few days ago we were making plans and setting goals for the year. So, it is my pleasure to thank you for the trust you put in our Board of Directors and tell you what we have accomplished.

We happily welcomed a new volunteer at our National headquarters. Paul DeGennaro is now heading up the Memorabilia shipping. Hans Peterman has retired from this long-held position, but is still available for guidance when Paul needs him. Welcome, Paul.

We also have another new addition to our office, Gordana High. Gordana is our new accountant, and she will be working closely with Bill Bradfield. Welcome, Gordana.

Eddie Mims, Director and Vice President of Chapter Development, has brought in three new chapters this year which, of course, increased our membership. Thank you, Eddie.

We now publish the news magazine three times a year. This has brought in more donations and memorabilia orders, scholarship applications, and new members, as well as allowing us to keep the membership fully informed on events.

Thanks to new members and our high renewal/retention rate, we are on a positive growth rate. New members average 30 - 35 a month. We will continue to expand as new chapters are formed.

Our Descendants and Their Education

By Bob Frantz, Chairman

As I read through the DFCS scholarship applications this week, I could not help but think about Ward Macauley whom we have named our scholarship program after. A dedicated lifelong educator, he would truly be inspired today by the applications from these wonderful young students who are descendants of our society's members. Although not graded in the applications, their testimonials about their fathers or grandfathers are very moving. Here are some short examples:

"I was always very close to my grandfather who was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service and accomplishments as a Navy Ace during WWII. When younger I always invited him to speak to our class during Parents Day and Career Day because I knew the entire school never tired of his stories and loved to see his medals and actually touch them."



The Convention Committee continues to plan for our 2008 Reunion in October. We will keep you informed, as those plans are solidified.

Your Executive Board approved a new dues structure effective 1 January. This is our 1st increase in over six years and brings us in line with other military organizations. We do discount active duty recipients' initial membership.

The Scholarship Committee received many applications for the DFCS Scholarship, and they have chosen four deserving students. Their names are published in this issue.

One of our proudest moments was the completion of the "DFC Painting" by American Master Artist, Ruth Mayer. This is a magnificent painting depicting America's aviation history. When Ruth was commissioned to create this painting, her one stipulation was that she had 100% control of its content. Members of the Board submitted many, many photos from which she created her artwork. Ruth went 'above and beyond' our wildest expectations. Plus, she has donated the original painting and all rights to the DFCS. We, in turn, have loaned the painting to the San Diego Air & Space Museum to be put on display for all to view. Our next step is to raise the funds for a unique interactive display. Originally we had planned to host a fundraiser on November 8, 2007, but we had to cancel due to the firestorm that ravaged San Diego.

After consulting with our registered parliamentarian it was deemed appropriate to

cancel the annual meeting (because of the fires) and notify members via this magazine of news & reports.



You will find a return envelope in this issue which requires your action. The Executive Board approved a slate of board members nominated by the Nomination Committee plus updated the Society's Bylaws and Standing Rules. The Board of Directors and the DFCS Parliamentarian approved all changes, and we now need the approval of the general membership. Please fill out the return envelope and drop it in the mail by the date shown.

We hope you each have a blessed and Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Holiday, and a most joyous new year.

Michael E O'Neil, President, National DFCS



Newly formed DFCS Wiregrass Chapter in National Peanut Festival parade, Dothan, AL. Mark Steetle, Pres. & 2 members of the new chapter.

"The most memorable conversations I have had with my grandfather were about his experiences in WWII. He is 88 years old now and sometimes his memory isn't as good as it used to be, but his accounts of the war are still intact. He is a walking, talking history lesson."

We have been fortunate this year to have Dr. Bob Krone, DFCS board member, join myself and member, Dr. Dick Leabo, on our scholarship committee. All three of us, as well as our board, wish to increase the number and amounts of our awards for these wonderful young applicants, but we have had to be very conservative in the management of our limited funds. Fortunately this fall we received a surprise donation of \$10,000 from member, Charles Bloom. His generosity will allow us to start increasing our awards starting with this award period.

Charles Bloom is a World War II veteran who flew as a bombardier with the 817th Bomb Sq, 483rd Bomb Gp, over Germany and received his DFC 18 July 1944. He's

also an entrepreneur who values education and, as a patriot from "the greatest generation", receives great pleasure in giving to the present generation.

We salute you.

Although my grandchildren are still years away from college, it would be a great thrill for me, if some day they might win a DFCS scholarship; and I am sure all of our members share the same feelings about their descendants. These young people have been inspired by their fathers and grandfathers, and they now reflect the patriotism and love of their country that was bestowed upon them. What greater investment could we make in the future of our descendants and the future of our country than a donation to support the DFCS scholarship program.

Please give generously.

Thank you,

Robert L. Frantz

Chairman, DFCS



And the Winner is . . .

AL CIURCZAK CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD



The Distinguished Flying Cross Society Board of Directors was pleased to present the annual *Al Ciurczak Chapter of the Year Award* to the **Air Force Village West Chapter** of Riverside, CA. The DFCS Chapter of the Year Committee selected the chapter based on criteria shown below. Jim Kleine, Chapter President, has been notified, and plans are being made to make a formal presentation to him.

The award, named for our Founder, recognizes the outstanding efforts of the chapter that best promotes The Distinguished Flying Cross Society, as outlined in Article II of our Society's by-laws.

The following criteria was used to select the chapter of the year:

The Distinguished Flying Cross Society Al Ciurczak Chapter of the Year Award Criteria

1. **Demonstrate efforts in continuing to build chapter**
 - a. Conduct regular chapter meetings
 - b. Market the existence of the chapter through articles, ads, radio, television, etc.
 - c. Host speakers to inform chapter members
 - d. Pursuit of associate members
2. **Contribution to national organization**
 - a. Dues
 - b. Consistently contribute to newsletter
 - c. Provides ideas to and responds timely to request from the national headquarters
3. **Building awareness in community**
 - a. Participation in veterans outreach events
 - b. Community service in support of veterans
4. **Perform noteworthy accomplishment during the reporting year**
 - a. Distinguish the chapter
 - b. Illuminate the DFCS standing in the community
 - c. Promote the overall mission of the organization

The Board believes this award serves to promote good-natured competition between chapters, encourages interaction between National and chapters, motivates chapter members to contribute to their Regional Chapter, and highlights both individual and chapter activities.

The Board of Directors wishes to thank all chapters for their submissions and takes great pride in bestowing this honor to the **AFVW Chapter of The Distinguished Flying Cross Society**.

All chapters who have received the honor of winning the Al Ciurczak Chapter of the Year Award will also receive a new DFCS flag in recognition of their achievement, in addition to having their name inscribed on the official plaque at National Hdqtrs. The AFVW Chapter was also given a \$350 check for their accomplishments. We understand that it will be used as seed money for the Nationally sponsored DFC monument at March Field Air Museum, Riverside, CA.

Eddie Mims



Reunion 2008 - Pensacola, FL - Oct. 26-30, 2008



The 2008 DFCS Reunion will be held at the Naval Air Station Pensacola, and some events will be at the National Museum of Naval Aviation. The aviation museum at Pensacola is over 300k sq. ft. It is all under one roof with displays of aircraft from the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. The Blue Angels are the centerpiece display inside with a large open function room. Actual Blue Angels A-4F aircraft hang from the ceiling. This is where our banquet will be held. "How cool is that!?"

There is an actual flight deck area with appropriate aircraft that is used as a cocktail pre-banquet area. The original "Cubi Bar" serves lunches and will host a private breakfast for us, after which we will

have a private viewing of the Blue Angels.

These are the highlights of only **one** day of our 2008 Reunion. We will also have a trip to Eglin Air Force Base, with a special tour of their fabulous armament museum.

The military folks at Pensacola are very excited and honored to have us at their facility. They have reserved the entire Navy Lodge (102 rooms) for us at the low fee of only \$67.50 per room, per night. And . . . the lodge is only about 100 yards from the museum. They also have shuttle service during regular hours of operation.

We will be working on arrangements for other tours and highlights, as the time gets closer.

DFCS members, Ned Wernick and Ed

Hooton who live in Pensacola have volunteered their time to assist us with our 2008 Reunion/Convention details. We are also looking for volunteers from our members in the Eglin/Fort Walton Beach area, contact Reed Phillips if you can help. The reunion team will be visiting Pensacola in January.

The dates are October 26-30, **2008**. We are very excited about this reunion and know it will be one of our best.

We'll keep you updated regarding registration and tour information in our news magazine and via e-mail. PLEASE send us your current e-mail with your name and snail mail address to info@dfcsociety.org

Reed Phillips, Reunion Chair

WWII gunner has his day

Marine veteran, 83, overcomes his hesitation to accept medals

By Keith Darcé

STAFF WRITER Union-Tribune

Robert B. O'Reilly joined The Distinguished Flying Cross Society after receiving an invitation from one of our active & proud members.

May 7, 2007

MIRAMAR – World War II veteran Robert B. O'Reilly of El Cajon put aside years of guilt and ambivalence yesterday to receive a pair of military medals that he earned while flying more than 50 combat missions in the South Pacific.

The 83-year-old retired security guard and former Chicago police detective accepted the Marine Corps' Distinguished Flying Cross with a gold star and an Air Medal with seven gold stars in a late-morning ceremony at the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum at the Miramar Marine Corps Air Station. The gold stars represent multiple awards of the same medal.

The Distinguished Flying Cross, the nation's oldest military aviation award, is given to pilots and crew members who perform voluntary acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement during flight missions.

"Awards from the Marine Corps are earned and never freely given out," said Col. Christopher O'Connor, commanding officer of Miramar. "It's somewhat unfortunate that these weren't presented to you while you were still in service."

O'Reilly was a turret gunner on TBF Avenger torpedo bombers, the same planes that were flown by former President George H.W. Bush. He fired machine guns at enemy planes while the Avenger dropped torpedoes aimed at Japanese submarines and warships. His missions included flights from Iwo Jima, where his plane sometimes faced enemy fire as it took off.

"I really appreciate this," O'Reilly said. "I had mixed emotions previously. Now I understand that I was wrong. Better late than never."

O'Reilly said he thought little about the medals he earned during the years following his discharge in 1945 while he focused on raising a family with his wife, Delores, and pursuing a career as a police officer in his hometown of Chicago.

In 1969, a year after the family moved to El Cajon, guilt became a factor when O'Reilly's 19-year-old son, Tim, was killed by rocket fire only five weeks after he arrived in Vietnam as a freshly minted Marine.

"I was a Marine, so he was a Marine," O'Reilly said. "In a way, I blame myself."

He resisted applying for the medals owed to him even as thousands of other aging veterans flooded the armed service branches with similar requests.



"I just didn't feel right because of Tim," O'Reilly said. "He deserved the medals."

But his feelings started changing last year after two of his other sons read about a medal ceremony for a World War II veteran in a local newspaper. Soon the sons and O'Reilly's other three children were pushing him to seek his own medals.

"He didn't feel like he was a hero," son Tom O'Reilly said yesterday. "So we told him it would be good for his grandchildren to know" about his distinguished service.

The family faced another hurdle: documenting O'Reilly's combat missions.

O'Reilly had recorded the details of all of his flights in a logbook that he kept after his discharge, but a thief stole the book along with his flight jacket and other combat mementos from a locker in the basement of his apartment building in Chicago not long after he left the service.

Fortunately, O'Reilly had reconnected with Harry Lanphear, a fellow Marine who flew as a radio gunner on many of O'Reilly's missions. When Lanphear died of cancer in February 2003, his widow gave O'Reilly her husband's log book, which recorded all of the missions the Marines flew together.

In December, O'Reilly flew with the logbook to the Marine Corps base at Quantico, Va., to apply in person for his medals. He also filed a posthumous medals application for Lanphear.

"It's because of Harry that I was able to do this," O'Reilly said yesterday.

Lanphear was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross with a gold star and Air Medal with eight gold stars, which were delivered in late March to his widow in Klamath Falls, Ore.

O'Connor, the Miramar commanding officer, pinned the medals on the lapel of O'Reilly's navy blue, double-breasted sport coat while they stood in front of the nose of a TBF Avenger that is part of an outdoor aircraft display behind the Leatherneck Aviation Museum. Sitting just a few feet away in the front row at the ceremony were several of O'Reilly's seven grandchildren. "I did this for them," O'Reilly said. "I thought they would be proud to know that their grandfather got some medals."

THE
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DAN TREVAN / Union-Tribune

World War II veteran Robert B. O'Reilly received the Distinguished Flying Cross and an Air Medal yesterday from Col. Christopher O'Connor, commander at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station, at a ceremony at Miramar's Leatherneck Aviation Museum.



It's Here! Our own flag . . . See The New "Distinguished Flying Cross Society Flag"

Congratulations to Becky Hartley! Becky submitted the winning design for The Distinguished Flying Cross Society flag. The contest was open to all members, and we received four (4) designs. The DFCS Board of Directors made the final decision. Becky is an Associate Member of the Ira Eaker Chapter in Arkansas.

The Flag is available for purchase for \$100.00. Please send your check and request for a flag to: DFCS, P.O. Box 530250, San Diego, CA 92153. Shipping and handling is included.

Flag dimensions: 3' X 5'



- Magnificent visual journey of America's history in aviation
- Created especially for The Distinguished Flying Cross Society by American Master Artist, Ruth Mayer (Certificate of Authenticity with each Giclee & Lithograph)
- Original painting on permanent display at San Diego Air & Space Museum
- 20+ aviators and 22 aircraft featured
- High quality Giclee available

ALLOW 4 - 6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "DFCS"



DFCS ORDER FORM FOR

"DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS" PAINTING

By American Master Artist, Ruth Mayer

Item	Comments	Size	Price	Qty	Due
Giclee	Canvas	40"x50" (20 pieces only)	\$6,000		
Giclee	Canvas	32"x40" (100 pieces only)	\$2,800		
Giclee	Canvas	24"x30" (100 pieces only)	\$2,000		
Giclee	Canvas	19"x24" (100 pieces only)	\$1,500		
Artist's Proof Lithograph	Lithograph Signed and Numbered	25"x32" (55 pieces only)	\$350		
Lithograph	Signed & numbered	25"x32" (395 pieces only)	\$300		
Poster		19"x24"	\$25		
	Shipping & Handling Included	No Tax		Total Due	\$

"Distinguished Flying Cross"

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MAIL ORDER FORM & CHECK TO: DFCS. P.O. BOX 530250, SAN DIEGO, CA 92153

ALL MEMBERS . . . (if you haven't yet)



Please send your

name, address, via e-mail to:

info@dfcsociety.org

THE DISTINGUISHED
FLYING CROSS



2007 TREASURER'S REPORT

THE DISTINGUISHED
FLYING CROSS



The Distinguished Flying Cross Society is financially sound and getting better.

In 2006 and 2007 the DFCS Board of Directors took a number of initiatives to reduce administrative costs while at the same time increasing income to the organization. For example, the DFCS administrative office was moved to a new location which is rent free, thus eliminating a significant monthly cost.

On the income side, members of the Board have stepped up fundraising activities. Perhaps the most significant is the commissioning of the Ruth Mayer DFCS painting. Although the unveiling of the display area where the painting will be housed at the San Diego Air & Space Museum was delayed due to the fires in Southern California, the DFCS is now offering limited edition lithographs for sale to members. These lithographs should sell quickly and will add significantly to the operating funds.

Our balance sheet near the end of 2007 is stronger than it was at the end of 2006 and continues to grow. As of October 31st, our total assets in the DFCS are \$114,045.

2007 has also seen increased scholarship donations, higher memorabilia sales and other donations. The Board of Directors placed an emphasis on fundraising and has developed a comprehensive fundraising plan. The ultimate goal is two fold. First, create an endowment fund large enough to pay for annual scholarships from the interest earned. Second, build a fund of at least \$1 million so that the DFCS can afford to pay an Executive Director from the interest income. Having an Executive Director will help take the DFCS to the next level.

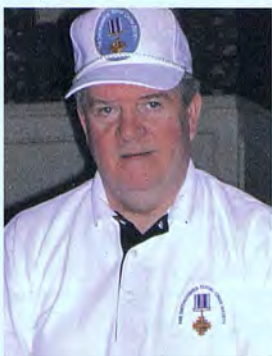
Please Remember your Society - Perpetuity takes Donations!

CONTRIBUTING YOUR IRA TO THE DFCS by Bill Bradfield, DFCS Treasurer

IMPORTANT GIFTING INFORMATION FOR THOSE OVER 70 ½

As we have previously shared with our members, if you are considering a charitable contribution to the DFCS, you currently have until the end of 2007 to make gifts to charities directly from your IRAs.

Anyone, age 70 ½ or older (those required by law to take a minimum required distribution from their IRAs), can now contribute up to \$100,000 in IRA assets directly to the DFCS (or other charitable organization).



The contribution must be made directly from the trustee of your IRA to the DFCS. If this is done, you do not report the distribution as income on your tax return, nor do you report the contribution (because you are not reporting it as income) on Schedule A.

Because IRA assets can be heavily taxed, making gifts from an IRA can be an appealing option to many DFCS members.

If your age qualifies you for this provision and you are interested in donating to the DFCS, contact the DFCS at 1-866-DFC-MEDAL or contact Bill Bradfield, DFCS Treasurer for additional information and assistance.

THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS SOCIETY MEMORABILIA BROCHURE



www.dfcsociety.org

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DMP700 \$150

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See Page Ten for directions to engrave
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Order Form on Page Ten

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For DFCS
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#DCAR300



For DFCS
Members
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Form on
Page 10**

The Distinguished Flying Cross Society

DFCS License Plate Frame (black)
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www.DFCSociety.org

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Available in
Red or Black
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For DFCS
Members
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Aviation Bear
w/mini medal - \$24
w/o mini-medal - \$19

DDAC400 &
#DDAC401

THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS SOCIETY

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of the organization shall be "The Distinguished Flying Cross Society", hereinafter referred to as "DFCS", a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of California and qualified as a 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE II

MISSION STATEMENT

The Distinguished Flying Cross Society is founded on fraternity and fellowship among military flyers - of all our armed services and of all ranks who have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Our Society's focus and principal goal is to build the Society in two major ways: (1) To build our organization and its chapters, so as to increase the Society's effectiveness in serving all our members and associates, and (2) To look outward as well, toward public service and education about the Distinguished Flying Cross and aerospace in America.

By pursuing this two-part strategic goal, the Society will grow. And, as importantly, the Society will become ever more effective in spreading its educational message - and awareness of the Society - ever more widely among American citizens.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to preserve and grow The Distinguished Flying Cross Society (DFCS), as America's champion of the one military medal awarded to aviators for heroism and/or extraordinary achievement during aerial flight.

The Society is a unique organization in that it represents all five military services, all wars and campaigns from World War I forward, all ranks, all aviation crew positions, and both genders.

The Society educates the general public and enhances public records by documenting, publishing, and presenting the history of the DFC Medal and its recipients.

DFCS fosters fellowship among its members and creates innovative plans for securing funding for future programs and growth. The Society takes great pride in aviation and space exploration, as an American and global treasure.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. CLASSIFICATION & QUALIFICATION

- A. Regular members have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and have joined the Society. They are required to maintain membership in the national DFCS in order to be members of a regional chapter.
- B. Associate members are spouses, relatives, and descendants of individuals who were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and are members of the DFCS. Spouses, relatives, and descendants of deceased individuals who were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross may become associate members when they are entering the deceased as a member of the DFCS. Associate members are required to maintain their national membership in order to be members of a regional chapter. The Society is greatly benefited by its Associate Members who continually contribute their talents and energies. Associates shall support the mission and vision of DFCS.
- C. Lifetime membership is available to DFCS regular and associate members in accordance with established fees.
- D. Honorary membership is an honor bestowed upon worthy individuals who have been recommended by Society members. Written recommendation must be submitted to the Board of Directors for its unanimous approval.
- E. Regular and Associate members in good standing (active) are members whose dues are current and who have not been found by the Board of Directors to be in violation of the DFCS Code of Ethics.
- F. Inactive (Regular members who have chosen not to renew), Associate and Honorary members are not eligible to vote.
- G. Deceased members. Their name will be on the Honor Roll in perpetuity.

Section 2. DUES

Dues, as established by the Board of Directors and delineated in the Standing Orders, are payable at the time of application for membership in the National DFCS and upon renewal of membership. Only members whose dues are current with the National Society may become chapter members. Members whose dues are delinquent for ninety (90) days shall be removed from active membership status.

ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. BOARD'S COMPOSITION

The Board of Directors of the Society shall be no fewer than seven (7) and no more than fifteen (15) Directors. They shall be elected annually by the membership, serving a three-year term, and may run for re-election. Director terms shall be staggered to insure continuity, not to exceed three (3) terms.

Section 2. ELECTIONS

Members shall elect directors by ballot or electronically. A majority shall elect.

Section 3. ACTIONS

Action may be initiated by members through the use of signed, printed or written ballots, which together with a description of the issues involved, are mailed or otherwise furnished by the national headquarters to each and all regular members in good standing, not less than ten and not more than ninety days prior to the counting of such ballots, unless otherwise prohibited by law, the articles of incorporation or these by-laws.

Section 4. BOARD'S DUTIES AND POWERS

The Board of Directors governs the affairs of the Society, fix the time and place of meetings, make recommendations to the Society and perform such other duties as specified in these Bylaws. The Board shall be subject to these Bylaws, Standing Orders, and the Code of Ethics. None of its acts shall conflict with those documents.

Section 5. RESIGNATION

Any national Officer, Director or committee member may resign by giving written notice to the National Board of Directors. The resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein or immediately, if no time is specified. Unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

Section 1. CLASSIFICATION

- A. The elective officers of the organization shall be the Chairman of the Board, President, Vice-President, Vice President for Membership, Vice President for Chapter Development, Secretary, and Treasurer. The duties shall be those prescribed in these Bylaws, Standing Orders, and Parliamentary authority. The Chairman of the Board is an ex-officio member of all committees, except for the Nominating Committee.

Section 2. QUALIFICATION

- A. To be eligible for the office of Chairman of the Board, President, or Vice-President, a member shall be an active member in good standing and a member of the Board of Directors for at least one (1) year.
- B. The new officers shall assume their duties immediately.
- C. The officers shall serve a term of one (1) year or until their successors are elected or appointed.

Section 3. VACANCIES

The President shall fill a vacancy in the office of Chairman of the Board; The Vice-President shall fill a vacancy in the office of the President. The Vice-President for Membership shall fill a vacancy in the office of the Vice-President. Vacancies in the other offices shall be filled at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. DUTIES

All duties are listed in the Standing Orders.

Section 5. CODE OF ETHICS

All Officers and Directors must follow the approved Code of Ethics. DFCS Code of Ethics are listed in DFCS Standing Orders.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

Section 1. MEETINGS

- A. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - There shall be an Annual Membership Meeting at a time and location, as designated by the Board of Directors, to receive the National Election Reports, Annual Reports and other business requested by State laws. Notice of the meeting shall be thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. Quorum shall be twenty-five (25) members representing three (3) chapters and members at large.
- B. BOARD MEETING - There shall be no fewer than four (4) regular meetings of the Board of Directors each year on such dates and at locations determined by the Board. Notice of meetings shall be fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting. Quorum shall be the majority of the Board of Directors. Board of Director meetings, when possible, will be chaired from the DFCS office. Teleconference is approved for official and non- official Board meetings.
- C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - They can be called between board meetings, if necessary, by a majority of elected Officers. A fifteen (15) day notice is required or can be waived in case of emergency
- D. SPECIAL MEETING – This meeting can be called by the Chairman of the Board or President of the Board of Directors or two-third of the Directors by telephone or email to the Board of Directors with a five-day notice.

ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES

Section 1. COMMITTEES

- A. The standing committees of the Society shall be the Executive, Financial, Membership, Nominating and Chapter Development.
- B. The Executive Committee members shall be the elected Officers. A majority of the elected Officers shall constitute a quorum. A majority vote will adopt business action (s).
- C. The Chairman of the Board will appoint other committee chairs, as needed. Committee chair will appoint members of the committee subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.
- D. The President, with the approval of the Executive Committee, may appoint special committees.
- E. The quorum in a committee is a majority of its membership.
- F. In addition to an elected Treasurer, the Board of Directors shall appoint a Finance Committee.

Section 2. DUTIES

- B. Each committee chair, except for the executive chair, will develop appropriate procedures and agendas to ensure the purpose of the Society is achieved. They will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval prior to taking any action.

ARTICLE VIII CHAPTERS

Section 2. REGIONAL CHAPTERS

- A. Regional Chapters may be formed by filing an application to the DFCS National office. The forming chapter will be a "Provisional Chapter" after its organizer meets the necessary requirements in accordance with Standing Orders and has submitted the following documents:
 - i. A Letter of Intent.
 - ii. A copy of regional chapter bylaws or policies. These may not be in conflict with the National Bylaws or policies.
 - iii. A list of the chapter Officers including names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses.
 - iv. A membership roster of, at least, six (6) members who are in good standing with National DFCS
- B. When the National Board of Directors approves the charter application, the Chapter will receive a letter acknowledging its new status as an official chapter of the DFCS. Start-up funding will be provided to recruit members and cover administrative expenses.
- C. Chapters shall not enter into any agreements, leases, or make other commitments which directly or indirectly legally obligate or constrain the DFCS without prior written approval of the National Board of Directors. They shall not engage in any activity contrary to, or inconsistent with, the purpose or policies of the organization.

ARTICLE IX INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS

The DFCS shall indemnify to the full extent permitted by law any person who is made or threatened to be made part to any action, suit or proceeding (civil, criminal, administrative or investigative) by reason of the fact that he, his testator or in testate is or was an Officer, Director, employee or agent of the said DFCS or served or serves any other enterprise at the request of the organization.

ARTICLE X DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution of the Society, the assets shall be liquidated and distributed to a not-for-profit organization qualifying under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). None of the funds shall inure to the benefit of individuals.

ARTICLE XI PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

"The details of parliamentary procedure will be provided in a Standing Order." Robert's Rules of Order, modified as needed with Board approval.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

Section 1.

All articles and sections of these Bylaws may be amended, repealed or altered in whole or in part upon approval of the National Board of Directors and then by two-thirds vote cast by the membership. Any change shall be amended only upon receipt and processing of written and signed ballots in an organized membership at the annual meeting or voting by mail.

Section 2.

All active members shall be notified of the proposed Bylaws changes and a deadline date for submission. The notice may be published in the Society news magazine or by individual mailing. Ballots received subsequent to the deadline will not be counted. The number of valid ballots received shall meet the requirements noted in Section 1.

This is to certify that these Bylaws were approved and adopted by the National DFCS Board of Directors at an Operational Meeting held on October 20, 2007. The general membership of the Society approved the Bylaws on February 1, 2008.

ROBERT L. FRANTZ

MICHAEL E. O'NEIL

REED PHILLIPS

ROBERT KRONE

EDDIE MIMS

JOHN APPEL

CHARLES SWEENEY

DENNIS SCHOVILLE

WILLIAM WITHUHN

HARRY KAPLAN

RICK IVARS



DFCS Post Cards

\$6.00/packet of 10

#DDAC402



Sheet of 50 DFCS Stamps

\$6.00/Sheet

#DDAC403

SET OF THREE (3) BALLPOINT PENS

#DDAC406 \$10/

SET OF 3



For DFCS
Members
Only



DFCS LAPEL PIN COLLECTION

MINIATURE MEDAL #DFCP600 \$8.00

RIBBON BAR LAPEL PIN #DFCP601
\$8.00

DFCS OVAL LAPEL PIN #DFCP602

\$8.00

DFCS LADIES PIN #DFCP603 \$8.00



DFCS Key Ring

\$7.00

#DCAR304

Authentic DFC Replacement Medal

#DFCAM500 \$28

Authentic DFC Ribbon Bar

#DFCAM501 \$7

"V" Device for Valor

#DFCAM502

\$3/set of two

For DFCS
Members
Only

New !!



PEN & LETTER OPENER SET IN BEAUTIFULLY ENGRAVED

WOODEN CASE

w/DFCS LOGO ON TOP

DDAC405 \$30

Framed DFCS Logo

\$12.00 #DDAC404



New !!



DFCS Mouse Pad

\$10.00 #DDAC407

	Description	Size	Color	Price	Qty	Total
DAB200	Belt Buckle - Solid Brass	N/A	N/A	32.00		
DAH201	Baseball Cap	Adjustable		15.00		
DAL202	Ladies V-neck Shirt		White	35.00		
DAM203	Polo Shirt		White	35.00		
DAM204	Polo Shirt	XXL	White	38.00		
DAP205	DFCS Embroidered Patch	3 1/2"	Blue	6.00		
DAP206	DFCS Embroidered Patch	4 1/2"	Blue	7.00		
DAP207	DFCS Embroidered Patch	5 1/2"	Blue	8.00		
DCAR300	DFCS Bumper Sticker	N/A	N/A	3.00		
DCAR301	DFCS Window Decal	N/A	N/A	3.00		
DCAR303	DFCS License Plate Frame	N/A	Black	8.00		
DCAR304	DFCS Logo Key Ring	N/A	N/A	7.00		
DDAC400	Aviation Bear	N/A	Brown	19.00		
DDAC401	Aviation Bear with Mini-Medal	N/A	Brown	24.00		
DDAC402	DFCS Post Cards	Set of 10	N/A	6.00		
DDAC403	Sheet of DFCS Stamps	Sheet of 50	N/A	6.00		
DDAC404	Framed DFCS Logo	8" x 10"	N/A	12.00		
DDAC405	Pen & Letter Opener Set	N/A	N/A	30.00		
DDAC406	Ballpoint Pens w/DFCS Logo	Set of 3	N/A	10.00		
DDAC407	DFCS Mouse Pad	N/A	N/A	10.00		
DDAC408	DFCS Gold-rimmed Coffee Mug	N/A	N/A	15.00		
DDAC409	Deck of Playing Cards w/DFCS Logo	N/A		10.00		
DFCAM500	Authentic DFC Replacement Medal	N/A	N/A	28.00		
DFCAM501	Authentic DFC Ribbon Bar	N/A	N/A	7.00		
DFCAM502	"V" for Valor Device	Set of 2	Bronze	3.00		
DFCP600	DFC Mini-Medal	N/A	N/A	8.00		
DFCP601	DFCS Lapel Ribbon Bar	N/A	N/A	8.00		
DFCP602	DFCS Oval Lapel Pin	N/A	White	8.00		
DFCP603	DFCS Ladies Lapel Pin	N/A	Tri-color	8.00		
DMP700	DFCS Medallion Plaque w/name plate	N/A	N/A	150.00		

Office Use Only

Rcvd _____

Check # _____

Amt \$ _____

Logged _____

Order #_M _____

Order #_S _____

Order #_P _____

Make Checks Payable To:
D.F.C.S.
PO Box 530250
San Diego, CA 92153

TAX-EXEMPT	\$0
SHIPPING INCLUDED	\$0
TOTAL DUE	\$



ALLOW 4 - 6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY

Use box below for wording you wish when ordering DFCS Medallion Plaque. Maximum 4 lines; 30 characters per line.

**S
H
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T
O**

The Distinguished Flying Cross Society



DFCS VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to preserve and grow The Distinguished Flying Cross Society (DFCS) as America's champion of the one military medal awarded to aviators for heroism and/or extraordinary achievement during aerial flight. The Society is a unique organization in that it represents all five military services, all wars and campaigns from World War I forward, all ranks, all aviation crew positions, and both genders. The Society educates the general public and enhances public records by documenting, publishing, and presenting the history of the DFC Medal and its recipients. DFCS fosters fellowship among its members and creates innovative plans for securing funding for future programs and growth. The Society takes great pride in aviation and space exploration, as an American and global treasure..

DFCS MISSION STATEMENT

The Distinguished Flying Cross Society is founded on fraternity and fellowship among military flyers of all armed services and all ranks who have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

"Our Society's focus and our principal goal is to build the Society in two major ways: (1) To build our organization and its Chapters so as to increase the Society's effectiveness in serving all our members and associates, and (2) To look outward as well, toward public service and education about the Distinguished Flying Cross and about aerospace in America.

"By pursuing this two-part strategic goal, the Society will grow. And, as importantly, the Society will become ever more effective in spreading its educational message and awareness of the Society ever more widely among American citizens."

Charles H. Bloom

Philanthropist
DFCS Member



Charles Bloom feels very strongly about education. He sits on a non-profit board in the educational sector and hears stories of how people change their life's direction by education. Charles looks back on his own life and is grateful for what he has and wanted to help young people achieve all they could in life.

As a member of The Distinguished Flying Cross Society he called the National Headquarters and requested information about our Ward Macauley Scholarship. He was impressed with our eligibility requirements and selection and forwarded a \$10,000.00 check to be used for the DFCS Scholarship fund.

Charles feels that you are in charge of your own destiny, but education will give a push in the right direction.

Thank you, Charles, from the entire DFCS Executive Board and from all the descendants of DFCS members who your generous donation will help.

Michael E. O'Neil, President & CEO, DFCS



National Headquarters:

P.O. Box 530250

San Diego, CA 92153

Toll Free Telephone Number:

1-866-DFC-MEDAL (332-6332)

Local Tel: (619) 220-0003

www.dfcsociety.org

email: dfcs@dfcsociety.org

Membership Services - Beverley O'Neil

email: [REDACTED]

Accountant - Gordana High

Board of Directors - effective 1/1/2008

- Chairman of the Board

Bob Frantz

email: bfrantz@dfcsociety.org

- President & CEO

Michael O'Neil

email: moneil@dfcsociety.org

- Vice President

Reed Phillips

email: rphillips@dfcsociety.org

- V. P. for Membership

John Appel

email: jappel@dfcsociety.org

- V.P. for Chapter Development

Chuck Sweeney

email: csweeney@dfcsociety.org

- Treasurer

William Bradfield

- Secretary

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Email: bkrone@dfcsociety.org

- P.R. Director

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- Director of Fundraising

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- I.T. Director

Rick Ivars

email: rivals@dfcsociety.org

- Director

Tony Adessa

Email: tadessa@dfcsociety.org

America's First Jet Airplane



This is America's first Jet airplane - the P-59 first flown in Oct. 1942. Volunteers have spent the last 10 years restoring this airplane, and they put the wings back on last weekend just in time to be on static display at an air show this weekend. In 1942, this was a Top Secret project located at Edwards AFB. When the dry lake flooded, they had to transport it by road so it was disguised with a dummy wooden propeller on the front and covered with a shroud. There is also a story behind the hats. On one test flight it was spotted by pilot's getting checked out in P-38's operating from Van Nuys Airport. When the P-38 pilots reported seeing an airplane with no propeller, their account met with skepticism but the story kept circulating, so on a subsequent flight the test pilot of the P-59 dressed up in a gorilla mask, put on a derby hat and a smoked a cigar. He then made a point to fly next to the P-38 pilots and waved at them. When the P-38 pilots got back to the base, they told everyone about the plane with no propeller flown by a gorilla wearing a derby and smoking a cigar. The result of their report was total disbelief, so the airplane remained a secret until after the war.



1st Hand Account of December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor Hawaii

By December 7, 1941, the USS Wright, a seaplane tender, had been at sea for thirty days. At 8 AM Sunday the Wright was six miles out of Pearl Harbor. Some of the crew, including Stanley Wier, a Hospital Corpsman, were anticipating shore leave as soon as the ship docked.

A short time later the crew saw a large flight of planes high overhead flying toward the harbor. About five minutes later they heard distant rumblings and tremendous explosions. Huge clouds of smoke covered all of the harbor and adjoining areas.

They felt it could not be a drill. It was too realistic, unless the ammunition on one of the warships had accidentally exploded. Then came the loudspeaker blast: "This is no drill. The Japanese are attacking." It was shocking and electrifying!

The Captain immediately ordered General Quarters, ordering full battle readiness. He set the ship on submarine torpedo evasion zigzag course. All combustible material was thrown overboard including a cherished piano.

The black smoke was alarming. About a third of the crewmen were married. Their families were living in the adjacent harbor areas. The crewmen were traumatized with fear for them. There was no communication. The ship had orders for radio silence; no sending, no receiving.

Housing areas for the families were a short distance from the harbor where some of the housing was at a level where ships were visible when they were within ten miles of the harbor. The Wright's dependents knew she was due in port about 9 AM. We later learned they had scanned the horizon since 7 AM and saw the Wright heading for home.

About 8 AM they spotted many aircraft approaching. With no warning, the planes bombed and strafed the harbor ships and shore facilities. The total horror was mind numbing. The explosions were deafening. It was hellish destruction. Flying debris from explosions and huge masses of burning oil spread an invisible shield and it was suddenly dark.

When the ammunition of the USS Arizona and other ships exploded, the shock waves were deafening. The harbor was totally blacked out with heavy smoke.

The families with men on the sunken ships were totally helpless and terror stricken, witnessing a funeral pyre for twenty four hundred men. The Wright's families could only guess what happened to their men. Many assumed the Wright was sunk and only dared to hope for a few survivors. After a night of praying and pleading, they still scanned the horizon. After 8AM Monday morning they saw a ship's silhouette heading into Pearl Harbor on a zigzag course. It looked like the Wright to them. It was! It entered the harbor very slowly.

The crewmen witnessed the utter devastation and were horrified. The mighty Battleships were fallen giants. The entire harbor was covered with oil. Smoke still was rising from the burning ships. Fire fighting crews scrambled to control the flames. Nineteen warships had been sunk.



THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS SOCIETY STRATEGIC PLANNING RESEARCH

Members' Survey – DFCS News, Winter 2007

IDEAS UNLIMITED TARGETING SHEET

I. INTRODUCTION. The National Board of Directors for the DFC Society is conducting its first Strategic Planning Research. Dr. Bob Krone, Secretary of the DFCS Board, is the primary researcher. He has thirty years of experience in Strategic Planning public and private consulting and teaching Strategic Planning to University undergraduate to doctoral students. Bob is using the Ideas Unlimited Research Method.

Bob has already done personal workshops at three DFCS Chapters. The method can also be used online or by surface mail. I request that every member take a few minutes to provide ideas to add to the database which will produce a Strategic Plan to assure the successful future of our Society in perpetuity.

You need no previous experience or knowledge of the method to fully participate. All you need is your memory and a short time for reflection. You are asked to independently write your responses to a "Target" that Bob has created. Your personal know-how and recommendations are what we want. Unless you request accreditation for your inputs, Bob will separate your e-mail or surface mail from the ideas you submit so that you will be guaranteed anonymity.

II. DIRECTIONS FOR YOUR RESPONSES.

You will respond to the Target following in Para III.

No need to write the target wording.. just your answer.

Don't wait for your "best" response... write the first idea that comes to mind, it will lead to others.

Be prescriptive. Say what should be done. Begin with words like "Start...," "Create...," "Find...," "Do...."

When mental slow-down occurs, re-read the target and review the responses you have written. New ideas will come to you.

The brain works on problems sub-consciously, so you might want to spend a few minutes writing responses, then return to the target a day later; but please send your responses to Bob by 15 January 2008.

THE TARGET

OUR SOCIETY'S FUTURE: HOW TO INSURE PERMANANT SUCCESS

What noble causes? Events? Programs?

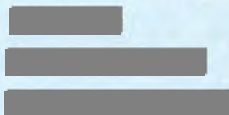
What should leadership do? National? Local?

How can members contribute?

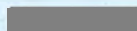
Where might new chapters form?

If you had complete control of the DFCS, what would you change?

SUBMISSION. You can e-mail your responses to Bob Krone at: BobKrone@aol.com or surface mail them to him at:



If you have questions for Bob, e-mail him or call him:



Michael E. O'Neil

President & CEO

The Distinguished Flying Cross Society



Bob Krone, PhD - Secretary DFCS

Growing Your Society!

At our 2006 Las Vegas Convention and Reunion, your Society formally launched "**Mission Objective 2007, and Beyond**." This mission objective – which will be a focus of DFCS energies for the next several years – is targeted fund-raising to build your Society.

The **goal** is to build the Society in two major ways:

- (1) To build our organization and its Chapters internally, to increase the Society's effectiveness in **serving our Members**
- (2) To **look outward**, as well, toward public service and education about the DFC and aerospace in America.

We will survey the membership for **our members' ideas** on how best to achieve our two-part goal. And we want to involve the **Chapters** in developing our strategies. The survey is being finalized right now by DFCS Chairman, Bob Frantz. Initially, it will go out by a broadcast e-mail to internet-using members. Then we want to reach our members who depend on the mail.

Most importantly, we will not forget in pursuing "Mission Objective 2007, and Beyond," that the **first purpose** of the Society is fraternity and fellowship among military flyers – of **all** our armed services and **all** ranks!

Approaching **corporations** requires very special skills. Above all, for our Society to secure any corporation's favor, the Society must offer something in return that fits the **corporation's own goals** for its own outreach to **its customers and the public**. Explicitly matching the Society's goals with the corporation's goals is the essential art. Any corporate gift is allocated out of that company's budget for its publicity and marketing. So any sizeable gift is essentially a contract: the corporation will expect the receiver to fulfill very definite expectations on how the money will be used. And every corporation is different in its approach to public giving.

Receiving **individuals'** gifts requires a similar matching of the goals of donor and receiver. Just because we perceive our goals and objectives to be worthy is not enough. **Why** should members and others give to the DFCS, in comparison with other worthy causes in their communities? We need to give solid reasons for people to **care** about the DFCS. For any donor, his or her contributions to all the worthy causes out there are a zero-sum proposition, and so we'll need to compete effectively, on the **donors'** terms. The Society needs to offer a number of ways that individuals can donate, **proportional to their means**, and with a menu of purposes (scholarships, endowment, memorials, etc.) toward which they can decide to contribute

Foundations are a third source of support. But each foundation is sharply focused in its giving. Each foundation has its own published criteria and a specific grant-making cycle, with formal procedures for applications, supporting data required, etc. For almost every foundation for which the DFCS would be eligible, it is **education** that is the fundamental purpose of the foundation's giving. Therefore, only activities that are of definite educational value to the public are considered for support. Even then, any applicant – such as the DFCS – will be in direct competition with many other applicants.

But despite the hurdles noted above, **opportunities** are wide open!

If (a) the Society is thoroughly professional in its initial approach to a prospective donor; if (b) the Society's informational materials for the prospect demonstrate the highest quality (those materials inevitably reflect **our own** quality as a Society and so amateurish looking materials sink a solicitation before it's even started); if (c) we know how to negotiate to achieve that "golden matching" of goals with the donor; and if (d) we do our homework so that we **know** we can fulfill donor expectations, then we will succeed!

Here is a very basic chart of possible donations:

1. Corporate Donations – can go to:

A. Annual Gifts

B. **Dedicated Projects**, offering specific "naming opportunities" for corporate sponsors. *Example:* Permanent exhibits about the DFC at several aerospace and military museums around the country

2. Individual Donations, *entirely* voluntary, to:

A. DFCS Scholarships

- i. Ward Macauley Scholarship
- ii. Other Scholarships (can also be supported by corporations)

B. DFCS Endowment Fund

C. Legacies

D. Oral History Programs.

3. Grants from Foundations –

A. For **educational** purposes

B. For other purposes that fit various foundations' specific grant-making **criteria**

4. Special Projects –

Unique opportunities not fitting within 1, 2, or 3, above –

Example: licensed products, such as aviation prints

And the **DFCS Store** continues to be a major source of our financial support.

A professional-quality **Fund-Raising Prospectus and Brochure** is being prepared.

It will be ready this Spring. It is being designed to **excite** potential donors about the Society and to **care** about its purposes, and to describe a **variety** of projects which donors can support so we can match donors' goals with the Society's goals.

So look for your DFCS Survey from Bob Frantz and please respond. And watch this space for further news!

Bill Withuhn has 23 years professional experience in fund raising.



Bill Withuhn



The National DFCS Executive Committee Approves a National DFC Memorial at March Field Air Museum.

"A Nation that does not honor its Heroes will not endure"

Abraham Lincoln

VISION, VALOR, VICTORY

At it's November 2007 meeting the DFCS National Executive Committee approved the naming of a new memorial to be built at the March Field Air Museum, Riverside, CA. The Air Force Village West Chapter along with the March Field Air Museum Chapter have joined forces with the March Field Air Museum to build a \$150,000 memorial to all aviators who have distinguished themselves by deeds performed in aerial flight. The 4ft by 4ft DFC medal will sit atop an eight-foot bolt of lightening with the models of two historic aircraft, the Loening OA-1A and the Spirit of St. Louis, on separate pedestals along side. The idea of a DFC memorial began at Air Force Village West four years ago when chapter founder, Chris Luecke, and Jim Champlin got their heads together. When Chris became chairman of the AFVW committee to build a chapel, a DFCS Window was included in the plans. \$15,000 was raised within the chapter, and it is now in the final plans. After Chris died the idea to build a memorial at March Field Air Museum to honor all DFC awardees and better publicize and honor our heroes started after the window fund drive was completed. The March Air Field Museum felt that it was of such importance that it dedicated a prime location in the middle of the 62 aircraft on display.

Since the March Field Air Museum is in the geographical center of the fastest growing commercial area in Southern California and only three-quarters of a mile away from the Medal of Honor and POW memorials at the Riverside National Cemetery it was the ideal place to attract the greatest number of visitors. Last year the museum had 62,000 visitors. The memorial will be a great attraction and will increase that attendance figure. It was the "Right Place", at the "Right Time" with the "Right People" available to plan, raise funds and build a major Memorial in the Inland Empire. It is what "The Right Stuff" is made of.

Officially the fund drive will begin in January 2008, but close to \$3000 has already been pledged by AFVW residents. The first commemorative tile has been sold for \$100 and will bear the name of Amelia Earhart. Rewards, in addition to tiles, will be offered for greater contributions to the fund.

The National DFCS Headquarters will be mailing the fund drive letter to all DFC Society members and will also support the project in other ways.

A nationally known sculptor, Robert Henderson, is presently making models of the memorial aircraft. His prior projects include the B-24 memorial at Balboa Park in San Diego, CA and many historic aircraft models at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO. Another company, Heritage Bronze of Hesperia, CA is also working on the project. Their resume' includes the POW Memorial at The Riverside National Cemetery and statues at the Cowgirl's Hall of Fame in Dallas, TX. It is hoped that Society members will generate the majority of funds, but corporate sponsors will be welcomed.

When you receive your fund letter please show your support by returning a check or pledge.

It is hoped to finish the memorial by the summer of 2010 and dedicated at the DFCS National Convention in October 2010.



Pearl Harbor

Continued from
page 12

When the Wright was nearing the dock, the crew spotted the Captain's wife with a flag. She had sensed the desperate concern on the Wright for the crew's loved ones. She was waving and shouting over and over: "Families are O.K.!" "Families are OK!" Many were tearful but laughing and shouting joyful prayers.

Stanley was immediately assigned to temporary duty at Pearl Harbor Naval Hospital. It was amazing how the hospital staff had taken care of so many casualties in such a short time. The staff was totally exhausted and looked like zombies. Casualties were still being admitted. Many patients suffered from wounds and burns. Inside areas of the hospital were overpowered with the smell of burned flesh. It was pitiful. The burned injuries required constant and delicate care.

The harbor had been dredged to a depth sufficient for battleships to clear the bottom by a few feet at low tide. The bombed-out warships rested on the harbor bottom. Some were capsized and others were lying on their sides. About a fourth of the hulls were above the water line.

Some trapped sailors in the lower compartments survived, but were locked there in total darkness and terror. They banged on the steel hulks in Morse Code hoping for rescuers to reach them. The workers heard them and used steel cutting torches to penetrate the hulls. In some cases it was necessary for divers to use underwater cutting torches. The topside cutters had to be sure a compartment was not under air pressure as a sudden release of air could raise the compartment water level and the men would drown. The rescuers had top priority. The cutters were Navy men and shipyard workers who worked to exhaustion, slept an hour or two, and went back to the rescue work. In three days the entombed men were finally rescued.

Battered survivors arrived at the hospital in utter shock and in dire need of immediate care. After a few hours many of them were amazing cases. They were recovering strength after intravenous injections and cozy warm beds. They seemed to be near full recovery, but they were on a high, beyond pain. They were so thankful that they were euphoric and just so glad to be alive. They were among the many unsung heroes.

Stanley Wier is my neighbor & friend.

Editor

TOP PRIORITY

We need your approval on BYLAW changes & new slate of DIRECTORS.

Vote for Nominees or Write-In on Ballot.

Check-off "Approve" or "Disapprove" for BYLAWS

**Complete, Sign and return by January 31, 2008
Election Ballot (inside flap of return envelope.)**



Welcome Abroad. Keep'em Flying!

THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS SOCIETY

P.O. Box 530250
San Diego, CA 92153

Toll Free Phone: 1-866-DFC-MEDAL (332-6332)

Fax: (619) 330-4864

E-mail: dfcs@dfcsociety.org

"For heroism and/or extraordinary achievement in aerial flight..."

THE DISTINGUISHED
FLYING CROSS
SOCIETY



We're on the web!
www.dfcsociety.org

for deeds accomplished while participating in aerial flight...

medal, ribbon and award criteria for all service branches.

The first Distinguished Flying Cross award citations were presented to the Pan American Flight crew on 2 May, 1927 by President Coolidge, for their five ship, 22,000 mile flight, five (5) weeks before the actual medal was struck.

The first recipient of the DFC medal was Charles A. Lindbergh, then a captain in the Army Reserve on 11 June, 1927. The award recognized his 1927 transatlantic crossing in the Spirit of St. Louis.

At the earliest aviation event for which the new award was presented was Orville and Wilbur Wright's first powered flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C., on Dec. 17, 1903. Because the law permitted only awards for aerial events after 1917, Congress passed special legislation by the President and Act of Congress, to Orville Wright and Wilbur Wright (posthumous), Washington D.C., Feb. 1, 1929 and authorized the Wrights' DFC.

Although the law states a recipient must be "serving" with the military, a number of awards were made to early civilian aviation pioneers, one being Amelia Earhart. Awards to civilians came to an end when President Calvin Coolidge signed an executive order prohibiting them in 1927.

Who knows how many DFC's were awarded but The Distinguished Flying Cross Society has over 5,000 recipient members with possibly thousands more eligible to join our prestigious and elite Society.

During wartime, members of the Armed Forces of friendly foreign nations serving with the United States are eligible for the D.F.C. It is also given to those who display heroism while working as instructors or students at flying schools.

DFC History

In World War I, aircraft proved their value for reconnaissance and as weapons platforms. Pilots of those primitive flying machines showed both courage and endurance in carrying out air missions. To recognize their gallantry, the Distinguished Flying Cross was created.

The prime mover behind the DFC was Sen. Hiram Bingham of Connecticut. An air power advocate and veteran World War I pilot, Bingham used his position as a member of the Aircraft Board, to which President Calvin Coolidge had appointed him, to propose that Congress create an aviation award "for heroism or outstanding achievement."

Bingham's colleagues agreed and established the Distinguished Flying Cross on July 2, 1926. By law, the new decoration could be awarded to anyone in the Air Corps of the Army, Navy or Marine Corps after April 6, 1917, who "distinguished himself by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight."

There were three interesting aspects to the law. First, DFC awards could be retroactive to the start of World War I, permitting the Army, Navy & Marine Corps to recognize aviators who had been among the earliest pioneers. Second, the decoration was not restricted to combat heroism. Instead, the focus was aerial achievement, in war or peace. The DFC could be awarded to fliers who were setting distance and endurance records. Third, a military decoration had been created for the first time to have an identical

Election Ballot Attached

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