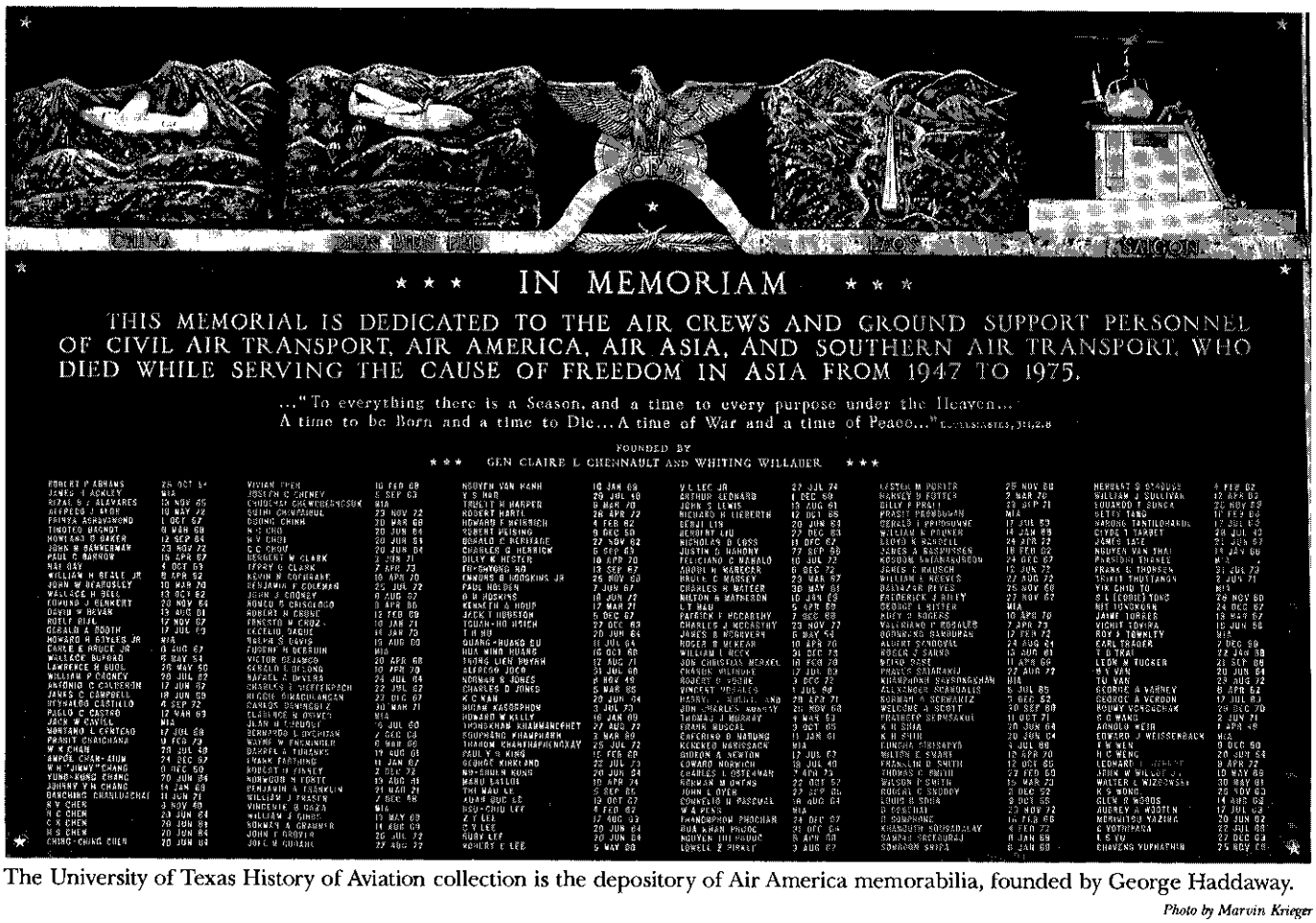

The University of Texas History of Aviation collection is the depository of Air America memorabilia, founded by George Haddaway.

Photo by Marvin Krieger

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
May 5, 1987

It gives me great pleasure to greet everyone gathered for the Air America Club's 1987 reunion, and to dedicate a memorial for the pilots and associates of Air America who died in the line of duty in Asia during 1947-1975.

Each of you has gone his separate way in the world, but — as this reunion shows once again — the unique service you shared in defense of freedom forged a bond of brotherhood that time and distance cannot break. Unsung and unrecognized, each of you confronted danger and endured terrible hardships, and each of you rose to the challenge; you never faltered. Although free people everywhere owe you more than we can hope to repay, our greatest debt is to your companions who gave their last full measure of devotion. Just as their names are inscribed on this memorial, so their memories are inscribed in our hearts. We will never forget them or their families, some of whom still seek answers.

I send a special salute to all those members of Air America present, and reaffirm my Administration's pledge to obtain the fullest possible accounting on the fate of our missing in action. You have my best wishes. God bless you, and God bless America.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF TEXAS
WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS, JR.
May 1, 1987

It is my pleasure to send greetings to the Air America Club's reunion on this special occasion.

It is important to the health and welfare of our nation to remember those veterans and volunteers who answered the call of duty. A nation cannot ask more of any citizen than to risk his or her life for the country's preservation.

In Southeast Asia, 242 American civilians lost their lives between 1948 and 1975 flying supply and other missions for the U.S. government. The conditions and equipment with which they worked were never the best, yet they never gave up in the fight for freedom.

It is with thanks and gratefulness that I offer my best wishes to the surviving members of their familites. It is high time that these brave individuals be honored, and there is no better place than the McDermott Library's aviation section.