

SACO NEWS



Veterans of the Sino-American Cooperative Organization, World War II China, aka The Rice Paddy Navy
Perpetual Skipper VAdm. Milton E. "Mary" Miles
This issue dedicated to the memory of Editor in Chief Richard Rutan, 1923-2014

January 2015

WHAT THE HELL?

Issue No. 45

61st Reunion Aug. 19-22, 2015 in Indianapolis

Dan Miller is pleased to host the next SACO Reunion in Indianapolis, Indiana. Watch your mail for details.

See you there!

60TH REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

109 guests, including 15 SACO veterans, attended the 60th Reunion in Dearborn, Mich., in August 2014. Official representatives from the Republic of China included Maj. Gen. Kelvin Tso, Lt. Col. Howard Wang, Lt. Col. Vience Fu, Lt. Col. Claire Lien and Col. Jackie Cheng.

The SACO Veterans Board of Trustees gave lifetime memberships to Gen. Kuo and his wife Laura Lin, who attended the reunion with their son Constantine and his wife.

The ROC delegation awarded two SACO Medals. Valerie Griffith received the medal for her late father, C.W. Merriman, who died in 1964. Veteran Frank Mileti's medal was sent to him at home.

World War II Vets From Secret Operation Reunite in Dearborn

By Gus Burns, mlive.com

Editor's note: Lynn Grabenstein and Richard Terprstra hosted the 60th Annual SACO Reunion in Dearborn, Mich. Aug. 13-16, 2014. This story by Gus Burns was reprinted with permission from local media outlet mlive.com. Photos by Mike Cannon, Lynn Grabenstein, and Roger Moore.

DEARBORN, MI, Aug. 14, 2014—Each year, the reunion gets smaller. Each becomes more vital.

This weekend marks the 60th reunion of The Sino-American Cooperative Organization (SACO), a covert, volunteer Navy and Marines outfit that formed during World War II to train, alongside the Chinese army, guerrillas to fight off the encroaching Japanese.



SACO veterans in Dearborn. Back row, l. to r.: Jack Demmer, Vern Dalrymple, Don Hardenbrook, Guy Purvis, Jim Kelly, Mike Cannon, Donald Huber, Roger Moore. Front row: Jack Peterson, Jerry Coats, Bob Hill, Bob Thomas, Dick Terprstra, Francis Reynnet, Mel Goughey.

The operations took place behind enemy lines in the Himalayan Mountains and also included surveillance that assisted Allies in their attacks on Japan and Japan-conquered territory.

The cooperatively trained guerrillas are credited with killing 23,540 Japanese, wounding 9,166 and capturing 291, according to the U.S. Navy.

(continued on p. 5)

SACO Officers 2014-2015

President:	Richard Terpstra, Sr.
Vice President:	Jim Kelly
Membership Chairman:	Jack Coyle
Assistant Membership Chairman:	Jodi Petersen
Treasurer:	Judy Barbieri
Assistant Treasurer:	Mel Goguey
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Assistant Secretary:	Judy Maurice
Historian:	Jack Coyle
Assistant Historian:	Jodi Petersen
Reunion Coordinator:	Dan Miller
Assistant Reunion Coordinator:	Jodi Petersen
Assistant Editor SACO News:	Linda Kush

Trustees:

Richard Maurice
Mel Goguey
Jack Petersen
Robert Hill Jr.

ABOUT SACO NEWS

The goal of the SACO News crew is to publish two issues per year. This issue has come out later than intended, so there will be three issues in 2015.

The next issue, slated for May 2015, will feature details about the 61st Reunion in Indianapolis, a piece by the late SACO veteran Jack T. Colye, and an article about Dick Terpstra published in his local paper last August. There is space for more, and contributions are welcome!

Special Call to Associates: Your assistant editor would like to hear about why you continue your commitment to the SACO Veterans and special memories of SACO vets in your life. Please send me a few lines, and I will compile your responses.

The fall 2015 issue will start with a 61st Reunion recap.

SACO Annual Dues

Payment is due January 1 each year.

Annual dues: \$35.00

Please remit to:

Judy Barbieri
244 Silver Creek Circle
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

SACO News

is a periodical published by and for WWII veterans of SACO (Sino-American Cooperative Organization), aka U.S. Naval Group China as well as the Rice Paddy Navy. The publication is funded by annual dues of members, their families, and friends.

Please send your comments, news, and memories (along with clear, sharp pictures, if available) to the Assistant Editor:

Linda Kush
57 Brighton Ave. #9
Boston MA 02134
linda.kush@verizon.net

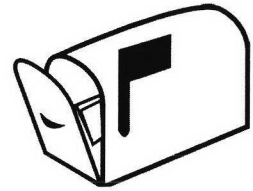
Keep your SACO News coming!

If it has been more than two years since you paid your dues, this is the last issue you will receive, as voted by the Trustees in June 2013. Please keep your dues current to stay on the mailing list.

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SACO News Mailbox



Dear SACO Tigers,

It is with great sadness we informed the membership of Richard Rutan's passing on October 21, 2015. Richard passed quietly as he slept. Your outpouring of love and remembrance was generous and overwhelming and truly appreciated by us. Richard spent many years writing and publishing the *SACO News* which was a labor of love for him. He also loved the notes and calls he would receive after publishing each edition. Well, you have done it again. We have received an unbelievable number of calls, prayers and tributes to Richard and we would like to sincerely thank you for your support and generosity.

Jack Parks and Diane Reed

Dear SACO Veterans and Friends:

Bob and I are very saddened to learn of Richard Rutan's death. He has been a good friend and comrade. Such a loss. However, the past few years he has not been in good health and has suffered much pain both physical and mental that I am sure that he is at a peaceful rest now. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.

Bob and Lola Hill

Dear Judy:

Enclosed please find my dues for 2015. I am now 88 years old and have vivid memories of my experiences in SACO. If anyone is interested in hearing my side of the story, please give me a call or write to me. I look forward to hearing from you!

Best wishes,
Wayne Goodson
4101 Windlestraw Lane
Greensboro, NC 27410
336-664-0114 (Home)
336-255-8169 (Cell)

Dear Carolyn:

Thank you for sending out the notice of the passing of my dad, Francis Reynnet. I always thought that he would be one of the last two SACO veterans to share a drink from that special bottle of brandy that was purchased years ago, but it was not to be.

My father loved the Taiwanese and his fellow SACO vets and associate members, as do my mother and myself. I certainly plan to attend the next SACO reunion and future reunions.

I would like to do whatever I can to keep the memory of my father and his fellow SACO members alive. Please stress this to Laura Lin and the rest of the MIB.

Thank you so much.
Dairus Reynnet

Dear Ms. Kush:

Greetings on the 69th Anniversary of VE-Day. Having just finished reading the current issue of *SACO News*, I was pleased to read the article about Wayne and Gerry Gregersen of Mt. Desert, Maine. It is quite possible that Paul Gregersen may have served with my father, Elbert R. Skinner, Chief Motor Mech, who was in SACO at the same time in Calcutta, Kunming, and as he called it, Happy Valley. He did spend the last three months of the war as a POW, of which time he did not elaborate very much. He passed away in 1978 at the age of 74. He was older than many of the others in his unit, and they referred to him as "Pap." I have corresponded with one of his buddies from SACO, Arthur Wilding, who has since passed away as well.

I attended the reunion held in Peoria, Illinois, in 1997, at which I accepted the SACO medal which was given out by the Republic of China to all who had served in SACO.

Sincerely,
Gregory B. Skinner

Dear Linda:

I have just received the latest issue, #44, of the SACO News and was surprised to see not one, but two entries involving my life and times in China, as well as a reprint of a letter sent your way several months ago. Not deserving of all this publicity, but then again, I don't deserve my arthritis either.

I found it rather amusing that my address was show as New Hope, PA, whereas we are living in Mt. Joy, PA. No matter. I like to think they are biblical axioms of faith.

It was sad to note the obituary of John Conway with whom I've been in constant touch over many years. As far as I know, that leaves me as the sole survivor of the second group of 12 to arrive at Camp Four.

A neighbor, a retired navy captain, recently invited me to speak to a fifth-grade class at a local public school, which I did on April 22. They made lots of notes, and in May, I will return to review their essays.

The new version of the SACO News is nicely done and reflects the declining numbers of SACO still hanging around.

Wishing you all the best,
Jack Shearer

Dear SACO Veterans and Associates:

I am reaching out for information on SACO personnel and places, and I would be very grateful to hear from you.

I am looking for information on these veterans:
James E. Wilson, Motor Machinists Mate 2/C
M.I. (Mac) McBee, Chief Boatswains Mate 1/C

Also, does anyone know about a houseboy named Shang Shen Fo at Camp 3?

I am also looking for any information on Liutung.

You may reach me via email at suemeier04@yahoo.com or by phone, 812-216-4200.

Thank you,
Sue Meier

Dear SACO Veterans and Associates:

On July 21, my dad, Herman "Wes" Weskamp fell and broke his hip. Though his legs are weak, he can "walk and roll" and enjoys talking to the nurses.

In August, he moved to the Clara Baldwin Stocker skilled nursing home. He has a comfortable and cozy room filled with family photos and some of his own furniture.

He would enjoy receiving cards and notes at this mailing address:

Mr. Herman W. Weskamp
216 S. Citrus St. # 304
West Covina, CA 91791

Thank you for keeping Wes in your thoughts and prayers.

Love and hugs,
Mary Lou Visosky

Obtaining Your DD-214

Dear SACO Veterans:

I have been receiving a lot of requests on how to obtain military information and have given information on awards and other items.

One document EVERY veteran should have is their DD-214. I would highly recommend every veteran have one on hand, as it may be needed to receive Veterans Administration benefits or assistance on burial as well as other needs. I would also suggest children or caregivers of veterans have a copy, as they may not know where the veteran keeps his, and it may be needed in a hurry.

One way to receive it is go online to www.archives.gov and request the form. If you have the veteran's military ID number, which everyone had on their dog tags, it would be helpful, as well as the Social Security number. Your U.S. Congress representative may be able to help if it is needed quickly. Also, the local American Legion or VFW may help. I keep my copy in a secure place and let everyone know where it is, and I have given copies to my children. SACO Veterans Association only has the veterans' pay records as shown on our website. That information may help if the records at the archives are lost.

Jack Coyle
Historian and Membership Chairman
jackwcoyle@bellsouth.net
(770) 788-2454

Dearborn Reunion, *continued from p. 1*

They destroyed 209 bridges, 84 trains, 141 ships and 97 depots and warehouses.

Members swore to secrecy and the existence of SACO wasn't declassified until decades after its formation.

Jack Demmer, the owner of successful car dealerships in Dearborn and Wayne, was among the 2,500 servicemen in China more than 70 years ago. Demmer remembers arriving through Calcutta, crossing over "the hump," what they called the Himalayas, and making his way to the 5th Column, one of the desolate training camps.

On Wednesday, his wife Margaret stood at his side, his daughter and granddaughter also present, awaiting the arrival of Taiwanese delegates representing the overseas participants in the secret World War II program that spawned today's Navy SEALs.

More than a dozen Boy Scouts in uniform waved tiny U.S. and Taiwan flags as the SUV carrying the delegation pulled into the DoubleTree by Hilton parking lot in Dearborn.

Demmer, leaning on a cane, smiled and greeted the foreigners with handshakes as they exited the vehicle.

Dearborn Mayor John B. O'Reilly, Jr. presented the leader of the delegation with a key to the city; he honored Demmer with a proclamation plaque.



Jack Demmer, Dearborn Mayor John O'Reilly, and Major General Kelvin Tso

In a hospitality room near the lobby, Demmer, who has 31 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren, took a seat at a large table. He says he can't stand for long periods of time anymore.

He leans his cane against the white tablecloth and

begins reciting with vivid detail his memory of the life-forming experience.

He laughs recalling the ocean crossing on the USS *Morton*, which Demmer and his fellow troops dubbed, due to its plodding pace, "The USS Snoreton."

It's minute details like this that are lost each time another veteran dies, says Jack Coyle, 71, of Oxford, Ga., who operates as the historian and membership director for the reunion organization.

He said 10 of the veteran survivors died last year.

"That's why we're trying to keep this organization alive, to pass on the knowledge of what SACO did to future generations," Coyle said. "Unfortunately, they're not being taught in schools about the history of World War II, what the veterans went through, what they fought for, and this is one way we can."

One Boy Scout, when asked about the purpose of the event, seemed unsure, but said he believed they were honoring veterans of "The Green War."

The Scout, whose troop is based in Dearborn, said he received an email about the event but "didn't really read all of it."

Although about 15 SACO veterans are expected to participate in some of the weekend's events, which culminate with a banquet Saturday, only about five were present to welcome the Taiwan delegation.

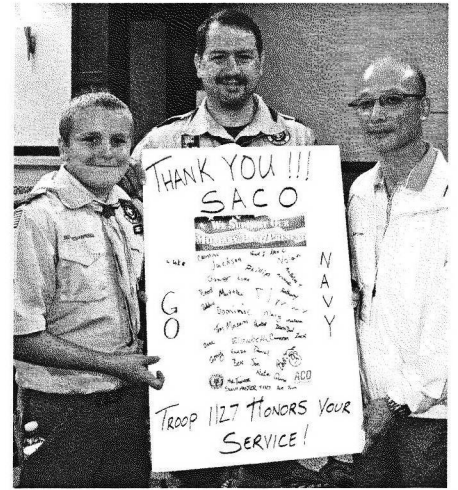
"I was considered one of the fastest telegraphers in all of China," said Mel Goguy, 87, of Chiloquin, Ore.

Standing next to him is another Detroit-area veteran, 88-year-old Richard Terpstra, a resident of Oakland County's Oxford, where he lives with his daughter, one of the reunion organizers.

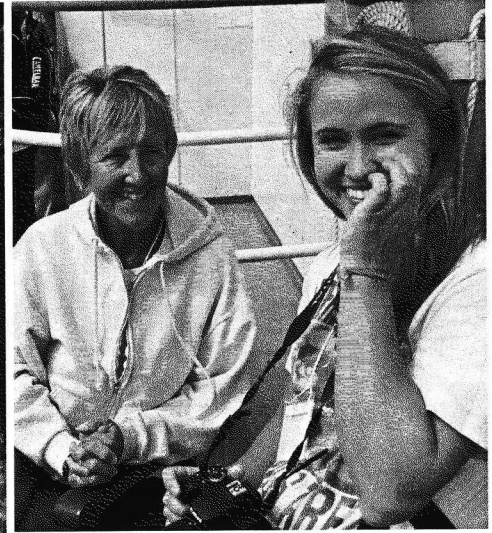
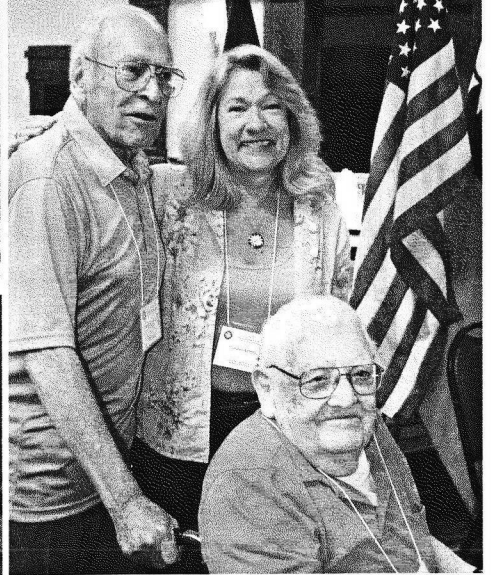
Terpstra spent 14 months in China behind Japanese lines as a demolitions expert.

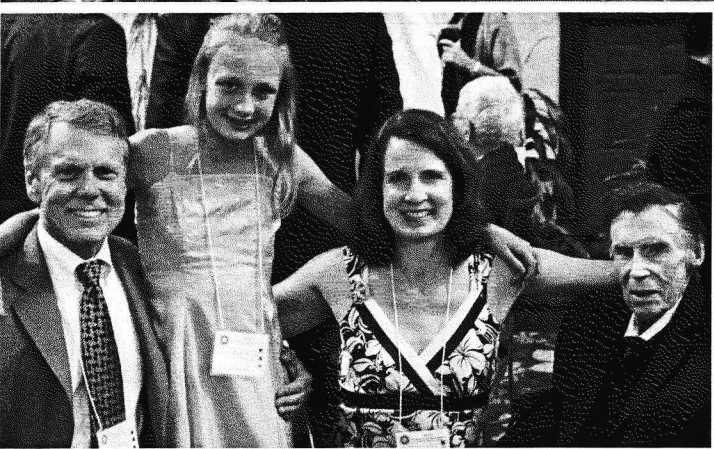
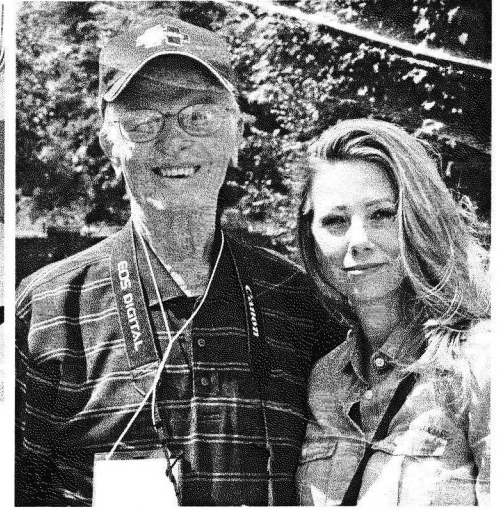
"We disrupted things, I guess, is what you would call it," says Terpstra, wearing a baby-blue jacket he received at a previous SACO reunion.

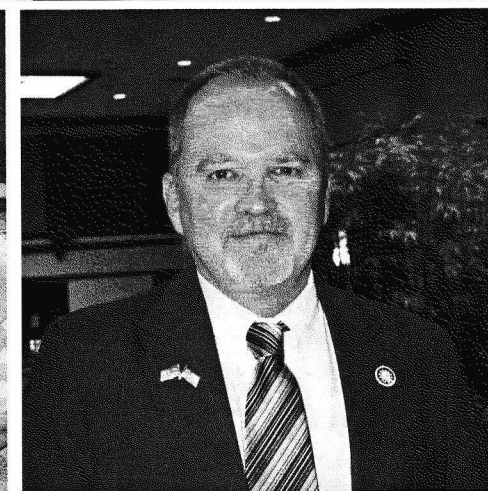
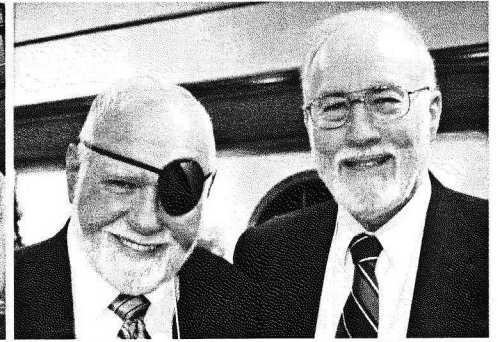
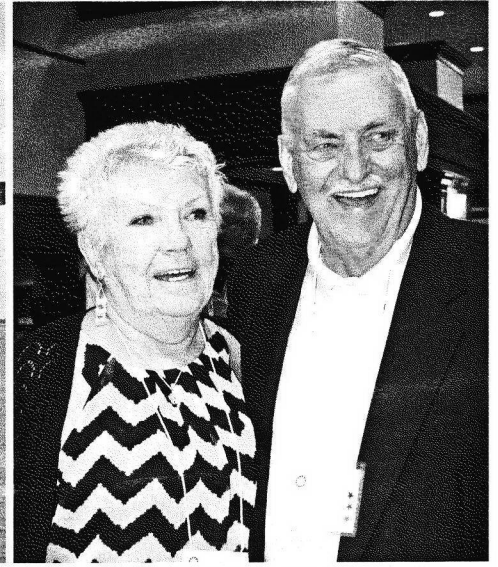
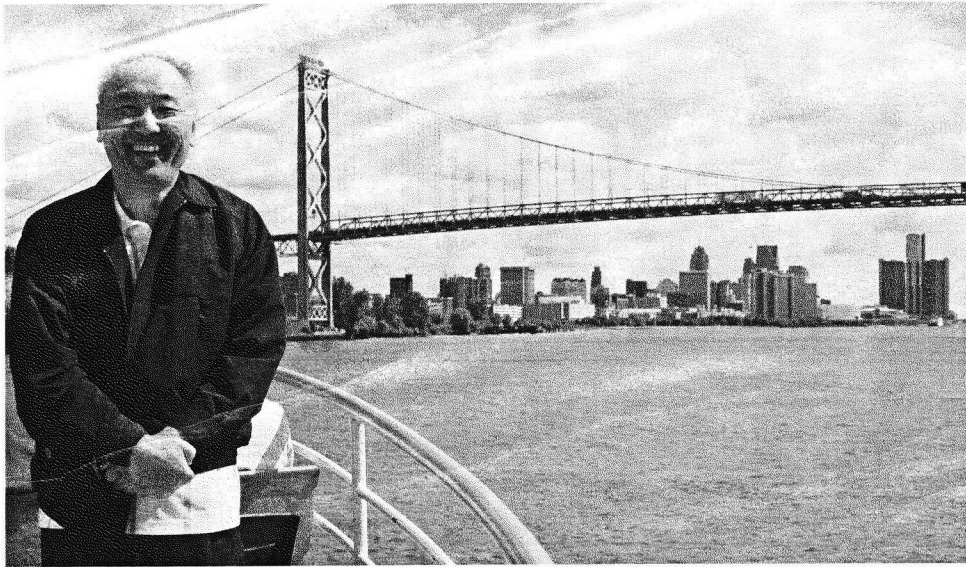
"Sometimes a boat would sink and we didn't know anything about it," he says with a devious smirk. "We started the SEALs. I was underwater demolition."

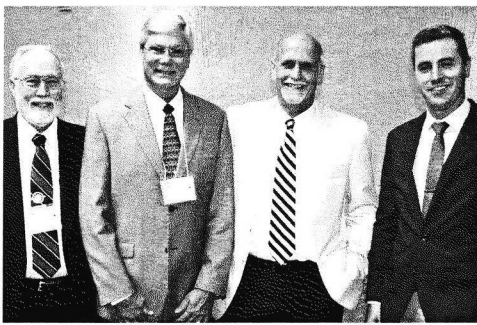
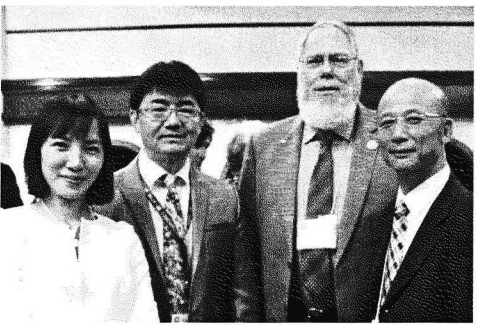
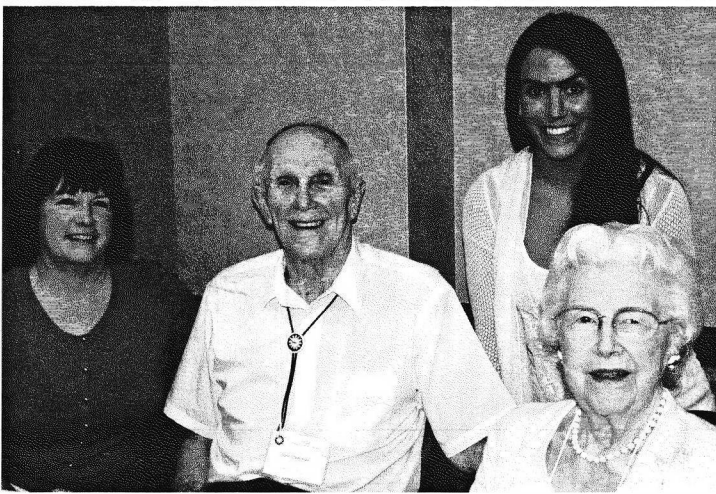
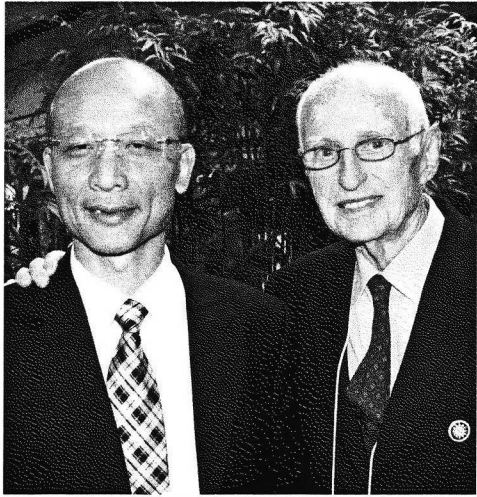


60th SACO Reunion: Fun, Friends, Family









Analy High School Students Make SACO Keychains for veterans

Judy Barbieri, SACO Veterans associate member and treasurer, has discovered an innovative way to share the SACO story. Thanks to her efforts, students at Analy High School in Sabastopol, Calif., produced custom key chains with the SACO logo for the veterans last spring. The students participate in the school's Maker program, a 21st-century shop class that teaches creativity and hands-on skills using sophisticated technology.

SACO veterans received the key chains at the reunion in Dearborn in August 2014.

Judy Barbieri coordinated the project with Maker teacher Casey Shea, who also teaches math. The students learned about SACO while advancing their skills with the shop's laser cutter.

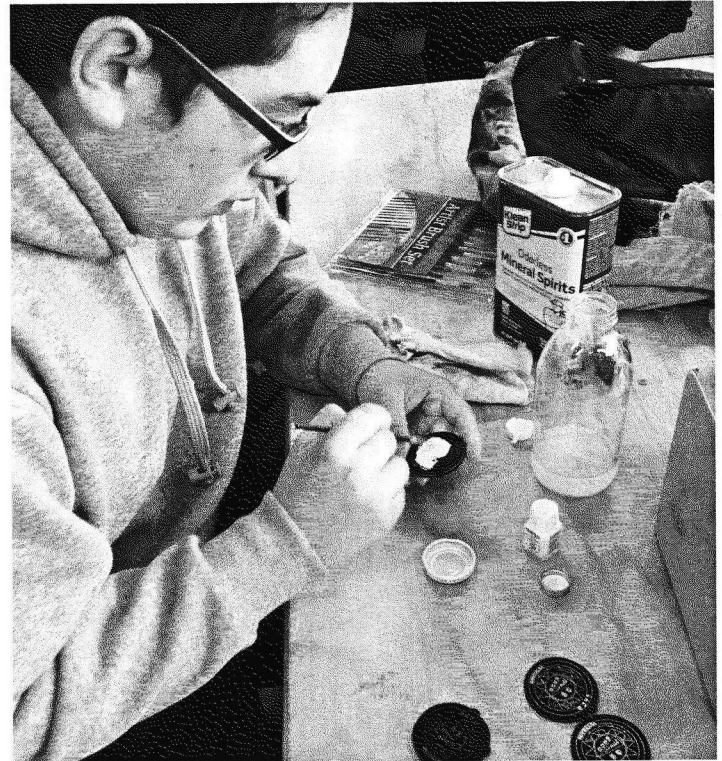


"In a small way, I have been able to give the students a history lesson that is not in their books," said Judy, who gave a brief talk about SACO to the class. The students were deeply moved to learn that some of the SACO veterans were about their age when they landed in China.

Using the SACO logo as a template, the students programmed the laser to cut acrylic disks and etch the SACO symbol into each. Different settings on the laser varied the depth of the etching to bring out different components of the artwork. The disks were then painted dark blue and finished with hardware.

Students Eduardo Ortiz, August Guerne, Alex Rodriguez, Adam Ferdinandson and Ana Onofre made 150 key chains. The project also inspired plans to make keychains with the school's sports team symbol to promote school spirit.

This is the second SACO-themed shop project Judy has coordinated at Analy High School. In 2013, students made beautiful wooden pens for the SACO veterans. These projects bring history to life for the teens, creating new connections across generations.



A Different Lone Journey to the Unknown In A Different Kind of War

Editor's note: This article by Richard Rutan first appeared in SACO News in October 2008. Richard passed away in October 2014 after serving as Editor in Chief of this newsletter for many years. This issue is dedicated to his memory.

By: Richard L. Rutan

Preface

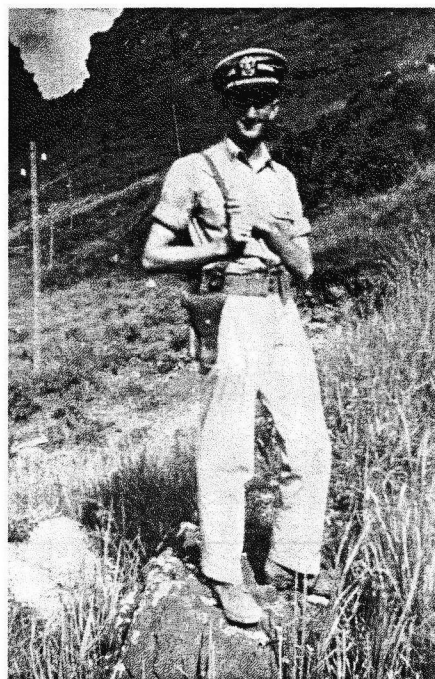
The city of Kweilin, popularly known at the time, as the Paris of China, whose people were so generous and kind to SACO, was home to about 18 of us in mid 1944. On the outskirts was headquarters for the 68th Composite Wing of the 14th U. S. Air Force with whom we in SACO's RI (Radio Intelligence) worked. We intercepted Japanese code- notified the Air Force of location of Japanese ships, which they would send out planes to bomb. Brigadier General 'Casey' Vincent, who was in charge, had visited us in the radio shack. He became the youngest Brigadier General ever at age 29 while we were in Kweilin.. We also met David Lee (better known as "TEX") Hill who was on Gen. Vincent's staff. Tex was a "Flying ACE", credited with shooting down more than 12 enemy aircraft as member of the Flying Tigers of the American Volunteer Group (AVG) which disbanded in mid 1942. Many Tigers became U. S. Air Force members during WWII. "Tex" Hill died Oct. 11 last year.



RM 1/c Richard L. Rutan – age 20

It was, without the slightest doubt, the turning point of my life – from adolescence to adulthood in a moment without warning???!*** Why me?yet, why not me? 'Why,' did I ask myself, 'am I chosen for assignment for a journey to the unknown from about 18 of us RI men on duty in Kweilin? Was my performance at intercepting enemy code unsatisfactory? Was this an opportune moment to *deport* me and test my ability to be of further help to my SACO Family; i.e. *WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?*'

This was my immediate reaction when in late May or early June of 1944, Lt.jg Harned P. Hoose, our officer-in-charge, approached me one late afternoon informing me that arrangements were made for me to fly out from Kweilin at daybreak the next morning to Luliang, site of a new B-29 base still under



Lt.jg Harned P. Hoose (age 25?)

construction. To this date, I have been unable to locate my destination on any globe, world map, etc. I can only estimate if you were to draw a line northwest from Kweilin to Chungking and a line from Kunming east – Luliang would be in the vicinity where the lines intersected. This was an area chosen as a potential evacuation destination for our group should the Japanese advance upon Kweilin become imminent.

I had little time to get myself in order for departure on short notice. I had limited clean clothing to pack when my great pals, Bob Lynch and Lyle Jansen saved the day by each loaning me a set of khakis – not being aware that I was never to see them again.

It was a sad day when I left, departing from my ‘family’ in Kweilin. I boarded the C-47 plane, alone with the pilot and load of radio equipment. To say that I was concerned about my flight when meeting the pilot during flight would be an under-statement. I doubt if he was even two years older than me and that alone, not giving me cause for concern, he stated our destination was blanketed with fog and I might have to consider parachuting. Not aware of his sense of humor in his assessment of my apparent trepidation of destination, I quizzically inquired, ‘What is your destination? Where will you be going?’ ‘Kunming,’ he replied. ‘So am I!’ I responded with assertion as his response of laughter assured me that he had accomplished his aspiration . . . to spark the candle of fear in me.

Understanding our plane may have been the first to land as the airfield was not yet in operation, a crowd of Air Force men were assembled as I deplaned wearing my blue jacket with US NAVY emblazoned on it, I was met with ‘‘What the hell is the Navy doing here?’’

My orders, upon arrival at Luliang, were to report to the Major in charge of the B-29 base, explaining briefly, my needs – a private area that I had exclusive rights to and that I was restricted from offering further details as to my activities.

To say that I was apprehensive in my approach to a commissioned officer and I did so without fear would be to put it mildly. I was astounded by the reception considering the limited information I had offered and soon came to the conclusion that my secret mission was authorized by higher authority prior to my arrival, thus explaining lack of interrogation as to my presence.

My request for privacy was honored beyond expectation when I was assigned quarters in a newly constructed building on the base and exclusive admission rights.

Now, my greatest challenge was to be met. Me, setup a radio station? All the equipment that had accompanied me on my flight was delivered to my quarters and required my personal assembly without help. I can’t put into words my fear of lack of qualifications to accomplish what lay before me. What if I failed to establish a receiving station...I couldn’t violate the oath of secrecy and seek help.

To this date, I can’t recall how I consummated the assembly; my knowledge being somewhat limited to knowing where the electric plug-in was. Perhaps the radio theory education I had from the University of Wisconsin stuck with me, but that with prayers and God’s help – I became proud beyond description in receiving my first intercept of Japanese code, thereby establishing mission accomplished!

I intercepted code almost daily and reported to Lt. Hoose as to good reception at that location. Most of my time was free otherwise and I spent much time with my new friends of the Air Force – particularly helping the young doctor in the dispensary.

The mascot of the base was a Chinese boy about the age of four. The story as I recall was the boy was orphaned by both parents being killed and just how he came to the base, I’m not sure – but he was there and ‘‘adopted’’ by all the men of the Air force. He was gifted with a personality unmatched by anyone his age and loved by everyone. I can’t recall the nickname the men gave him, but he never

knew a stranger. He was cared for, fed and clothed by the men and loved taking showers. He developed a growth on the foreskin of his penis and the base doctor felt it was necessary to circumcise the little guy. The base was so knew and lacking of supplies that what local anesthetics were available were, as I understood, not the strength they would like. I was asked to hold the little guy's shoulders firmly as they proceeded with the surgery. I can't tell you how heart-rendering it was for me as the poor fellow endured the pain. For a few days, he would sadly say "Chi-ba (his pee-pee) bu-hao! Chi-ba bu-hao!" (Pee-pee no good!) But in a short time, he greeted you, smiling broadly, "Chi-ba ding-hao!" (very good) and we were all "Ding hao!" One man of the Air Force seemed to be chief-in-command when it came to the camp mascot and as I understood, was making preparations to adopt the lovable Chinese boy when he completed his tour in China. I only hope it worked out. Such a wonderful gang of guys I was fortunate to be with and I regret having no contact with any of them today.

About 30 days after my arrival, Bob Ervin arrived by train with a load of equipment in case of future evacuation to this point from Kweilin. (At least I was spared a few weeks without one of his outbursts of an aria from a would-be star of the opera.). In a very short time, Ervin and I were ordered to return to Kweilin. Bob Lynch and Lyle Jansen were killed and replacements as code interceptors



Lyle Jansen

Bob Lynch

were needed without delay. We traveled by a 6x6 stake-truck over several hundred miles through dirt mountain roads to Kunming. Talk about long hours on a bumpy ride!

Arriving at personnel headquarters in Kunming we were presented with a telegram stating both our names and rank, that we were to report to headquarters in Kweilin without delay with top priority. The telegram was signed Admiral Chester Nimitz and Admiral Wm. Halsey. I regret to this day, that I condescended to Ervin's request to take the telegram. In later years, several attempts in writing to Ervin for a copy of the telegram went unanswered and some time after his death, contacting his wife failed to produce anything as she never knew about the telegram. I can only blame myself for giving in to others' desires before satisfying my own! What a historical document I could have had!

Anyway, to continue my story, you should have heard the egregious remarks, certainly unbecoming two high-ranking officers who were bumped off the plane by, of all people, enlisted men, Ervin and I, who were ordered to Kweilin.

Soon after returning to Kweilin, Lt. Hoose took me on a tour of the newly constructed compound to house SACO personnel! Seems the 14th Air Force took exception to feeding and housing us, so the State Department allotted \$30,000 for our own headquarters. It's hard for me to describe - it was so unbelievably nice! Bear in mind that was a tremendous amount of money in those days when a dollar was still a dollar and went even further with Chinese labor. Built as a quadrangle surrounding a huge courtyard with a water fountain (copied after Lt. Hoose's parents' home in Peiping years before). A sturdy flagpole was installed so the What The Hell flag could be raised beneath the American flag when Admiral Miles visited. The exterior walk around the quadrangle and surrounding the courtyard was covered by the extended roof which covered the quadrangular living

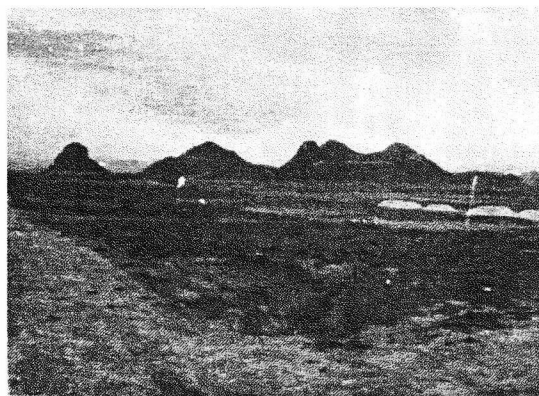
quarters. In other words, you could walk around the courtyard sheltered in rainy weather. Our rooms were to be shared by two. There was a huge living room with immense fireplace and mantle filled with precious artifacts from the generous, loving populous of the city of Kweilin. As I recall, there were three fireplaces throughout the structure with exquisite vases, a recreation room and mess hall. Absolute splendor, never to be enjoyed, as a few days later it was destroyed before the arrival of the Japanese invasion forces which drove us out and we all were flown to Kunming. I have tried to find someone who had pictures of our home-to-be. Perhaps Lt. Hoose, but he met an untimely death in a mainland China auto accident on a visit after the war.

Prior to his death, I located Lt. Hoose after moving to California in the late 1940s. He was a member of a law firm in Beverly Hills and invited me to have lunch with him and his partner at their private club. Sharing martinis at the bar. I queried him as to choosing me for the foregoing adventure and he assured me, "Because you impressed me as being one of the more mature of your group." I felt he was sincere and I could put aside any doubts about my prior performance record. As I have stated before, he was the most unforgettable person I ever knew and it is regrettable that he doesn't share our lives today as well as Lynch & Jansen.

When anyone asked Lt. Hoose – "How ya doin'?" his 'trademark' reply never failed –



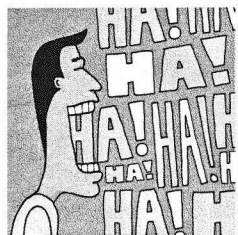
Kweilin Air Force Base



Rugged terrain surrounding Kweilin Air Strip



loud and clear – "Damn fine! – Good as Hell!" and so it was.....for all of us who served under him as our Officcr-in-Charge – always "Damn fine! – Good as Hell!"



Just for Laughs

A Soldier, a Sailor, an Airman, and a Marine passed away on the same day and found themselves standing before the Pearly Gates together.

Having argued all their lives about which service was "The Best," they hoped to at last receive an authoritative answer.

They posed the question to St. Peter, who promised to ask God himself.

After some celestial time passed, St. Peter handed them a written message and told them it had come straight from the top. It read thus:

MEMORANDUM

TO: Soldiers, Seamen, Marines, and Airmen
SUBJECT: Which Military Service Is the Best?

Gentlemen, all the branches of the Armed Services are "honorable and noble." Being a member of any branch of the American Armed Forces represents a special calling warranting special respect, tribute, and dedication.

Be proud of that.

Very respectfully

GOD, CPO USN (Ret.)

SACO Veterans Contributors

These contributors made gifts to SACO Veterans in 2013-2014 in addition to their membership dues. *Thank you for your support.*

ROC Military Intelligence Bureau Judith Gallagher Lynn Harper Roger Moore Paul Boroff Terry Hanson Guy Tressler Jr. Frank Gleason Mrs. Thomas Delaney Tim Mastenbrook Mary Lou and Tom Visoky Kenneth Wilson John Demmer John Pisarich Jr. Kathryn Petersen John V. Pisarich Sr. Joseph Keenan Richard Bannier John Pepler Jeannie Zuzek Thomas Coughlin M.D. Wilcox Lilma Huntley Robert Hill Jr. Guy Purvis Charles Tether Sr. Irving Floress James Bash Ted Bartee	Dorothy Zucks Linda Kush Vernard Dalrymple Edward Socha Robert Thomas Brooks Ambos Don Tressler Jr. Dairus Reynnet Ronald Johnson Geraldine Delaney Wilbert Edwards Walter Stoddard Gregory Skinner Donald Huber Don Hardenbrook Robert Reddon James Eaton Herman Weskamp Frank Kilmer Charles Bonnett Richard Ryan E.W. Nitcher James Kelly Michael Cannon Keith Allen Annabeth Carter Richard and Judy Maurice Francis Belotti Mary Tanner Gordon Rathburn Roger Martineau
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Definitions

friend • someone who knows what you are really like but likes you anyway

smile • a curve that sets many things straight

dictionary • a place where success comes before work

tomorrow • a mystical land where 99 percent of all human activities are stored

feet • devices used for finding sharp objects in the dark

Books of Note

World War II US Navy Special Warfare Units

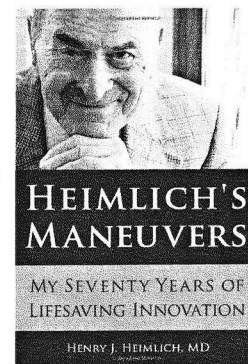
by Eugene Liptak
Illustrator: Johnny Shumate
Osprey Publishing
Published Oct. 20, 2014



With the need for large-scale amphibious landings to decide the outcome of World War II, the US Navy developed specialized units to reconnoitre potential landing areas, degrade the enemy's ability to resist, and assist landing forces. The Scouts and Raiders were the forerunners of the SEALs, Beach Jumpers made elaborate simulated landings to distract the enemy, the Naval Combat Demolition Units and Underwater Demolition Teams cleared obstacles to amphibious landings, and Naval Group China fought alongside Chinese guerrillas behind Japanese lines. This book uncovers the fascinating history of these units.

Heimlich's Maneuvers

by Henry J. Heimlich, MD
Prometheus Books
Published Feb. 11, 2014



Dr. Heimlich, the thoracic surgeon best known for having developed the Heimlich Maneuver, the most universally known method to save people from choking to death, developed other lifesaving innovations. He is the inventor of the Heimlich Chest Drain Valve, which saved thousands of lives during the Vietnam War, and the Heimlich MicroTrach, which provides a remarkably efficient way for people to take oxygen.

The book also discusses Dr. Heimlich's current work. He has turned his attention to HIV/AIDS and explored other uses for the Heimlich Maneuver, such as to help people with asthma. He describes his research and its promise, as well as the controversy and resistance his new ideas have generated.

Interweaving the author's personal life with riveting stories of his numerous medical breakthroughs, this rich memoir provides insights into the workings of a creative mind and the machinations of the American medical system.

DAY IS DONE ... GONE THE SUN...
 FROM THE LAKES, FROM THE HILLS,
 FROM THE SKIES.
 ALL IS WELL ... SAFELY REST.
 GOD IS NIGH.

Taps

Membership Chairman Jack Coyle regrets to report the following deaths recorded since SACO News Issue 44, April 2014, as of December 15, 2014. Locations of service are in chronological order.

Lawrence "Bill" Bartee, 2014
 Kunming, 14th Air Force, FRUCHI, Chungking, Shanghai

James Bash, 2014
 Kunming, 14th Air Force, Chungking, Kunming, Calcutta

Gerald F. Coats, 2014
 Calcutta, Kunming, Camp 5, Kunming, Camp 10

Robert L. Lear, 2014
 Calcutta, Chungking

Thomas W. Mills, 2011
 Calcutta, Kunming, Shanghai

Carl R. Parrick, 2013
 Calcutta, Chungking

Francis Reynnet, 2014
 Shunan, Shanghai

Frank Ruggieri, 2014
 Calcutta, Changting, Kienyang, Changchow, Hangchow, Shanghai

Richard Rutan, 2014
 Calcutta, Kweilin, Kunming, Kweilin, Kunming, 14th Air Force, FRUCHI, Chungking

Clifford Schmierer, 2014
 Kanchow, Kienyang, Camp 8, Changting, Kienyang, Camp 8, Shangh

Joseph Sekulich Jr., 2014
 Calcutta

Franklin G. Shuler, 2012
 Calcutta, Kunming

Harry S. Simms, 1997
 Chungking, Kunming, Camp 1, Hweichow, Camp 1, Kunming

Robert T. Smith
 Calcutta, Shanghai

Robert Stahlnecker, 2013
 Kunming, Camp 2, Chenyuan, Chungking, Kunming, Shanghai

Howard Swolgaard, 1988
 Chungking, Kunming, 14th Air Force, Calcutta

Thomas F. Welchel, 2014
 Calcutta, Chungking

Alfreda "Sissy" Miller

"Sissy" Miller passed on August 26, 2014, in Lake Stevens, Wash., at age 87.

She is survived by her sisters Geneva Cairns and Janet Taylor; sons John (Jan) and Steve (Julia); four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, Bill, a SACO veteran who served as a radioman.

Sissy was born and raised in Pe Ell, Wash., and lived in North Seattle for most of her adult life. She was a fantastic mother, golfer, skier, cook, and hostess. She made many wonderful friends at the Everett Golf and Country Club. She and Bill were able to travel a lot, much of it with what became known as The Adventure Club.

Thank you to Barb Soltero and the staff at Lakeside Adult Family Home for the ultimate care that she received during her final years.

Richard Rutan, Editor of SACO News

In Appreciation

By Linda Kush

Richard Rutan, editor in chief of *SACO News*, died peacefully on Oct. 21, 2014, at age 90 in Palm Springs, Calif.

For nearly four decades, Richard truly *was* *SACO News*. He personally created the vibrant, informative publication that sustained the SACO veterans' community.

He solicited the latest news, letters, and photos from fellow SACO veterans, combed newspapers and magazines for articles of interest, and wrote original stories. Working in "paste-up," he organized it all into pages back when assembling a publication was a messy, time-consuming operation involving rulers, craft knives, and rubber cement. Each issue, ranging from 60 to 80 pages, represented hundreds of hours of volunteer work, culminating in the proud day when he finally delivered the pages to the printer.

And Richard loved every minute of it.

His favorite part of the job was keeping in touch with all his SACO friends, encouraging them to send material to fill those pages. *SACO News* chronicled their wedding anniversaries, promotions, retirement parties, illnesses, and deaths. He covered the annual SACO Reunion with flair, including dozens of photos that captured the faces and the fun.

Here is how his cousin Diane Reed described the process in her moving eulogy to Richard:

He had his office and computer where he spent hours corresponding with other SACO vets and creating his magazine. You could always tell when he was in process on the magazine as there was a mountain of paper on top of his desk and tons of scraps in the wastebasket from his cut and paste efforts.

Richard Lee Rutan was born November 18, 1923, in Akron, Ohio, the son of Hollis and Angela Rutan. Angela passed away when Richard was a toddler, and a few years later, his father married Erma, who became Richard's beloved mother and dearest friend.

After joining the navy during World War II, his

talent as a radio operator and his willingness to serve landed him in SACO. This issue includes the article he wrote about his experience, "A Different Lone

Journey into the Unknown in a Different Kind of War," first published in *SACO News* in 2008.

During his SACO service, he bought several yards of pale blue silk embroidered with silver flowers for Erma in India. She made the fabric into a smashing evening gown that she wore to the Academy Awards with Richard in 1950.

He treated her to the ceremony,

which in those days was open to spectators for the price of a ticket. As Richard and Erma wove through the crowd, whispering onlookers wondered whether she was a movie star.

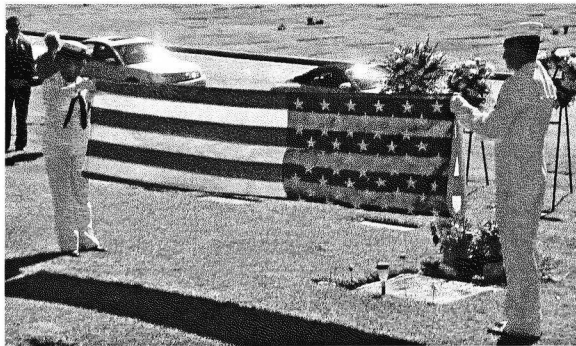
This writer never had the good fortune to meet Richard in person, but we had several long conversations by phone as I was preparing a magazine article and a book about SACO. Both works lead off with an anecdote he shared with me about landing on an airstrip in central China alone. When he received his copy of the magazine, he called to thank me.

"I've never been in a real magazine before. What a thrill," he said.

What a thrill it was for his fellow SACO veterans to receive *SACO News* for some 40 years.

Richard Rutan was buried at Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills in Los Angeles on Oct. 29. At the graveside, an Air Force bugler and a volunteer from Bugles Across America played Echo Taps prior to a flag ceremony by the Navy Honor Guard. Fellow SACO radioman Hank Scurlock received the funeral flag. The service closed with the Navy Hymn. Jack Parks, with whom Richard lived his final years, called the service "a beautiful tribute and a fitting send-off for a very special SACO Tiger."

This issue of SACO News is dedicated to Richard Rutan's memory. Thank you, Richard.



Navy Honor Guard at graveside service for Rutan, Los Angeles, Calif.

Lawrence "Bill" Bartee Jr.

Bill Bartee died at 5:20 p.m. on August 2, 2014, at the Arizona State Veterans Home in Tucson, Ariz.

Bill Bartee was born in Springfield, Mo., on June 13, 1924. During the depression years, his family moved often, and he went to many schools throughout the Midwest. In 1939, he joined the U.S. Navy but was released after his father disclosed his true age. He re-entered the navy in 1942 and retired as a Chief Radioman in 1962. Immediately upon retirement, he went to work at the same intelligence community where he had served in the navy. He remained in that community until 1976, when he retired. After civil service, he went into real estate where he worked until 2010.

In July 1949, he married Wanita Howard. She accompanied him to the many worldwide posts where he served.

He was a life member in the following organizations: Builders Lodge #60 Tucson, Scottish Rite of Tucson, Disabled American Veterans, Fleet Reserve Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, China-Burma-India Veterans Association. He was a dues-paying member in: Alma Shrine Temple, Washington, D.C., Sino-American Cooperative Association (SACO), Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association, National Association of Realtors, and many others. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Wanita, his brothers Ned (Mary Ann) of Bellaire, Tex., and Ted (Windy) of Clover, S.C., and numerous nieces and nephews.

Clifford E. Schmierer

Clifford E. Schmierer, 93, died on May 9, 2014. He was born and raised in Ellendale, N.D.

Cliff was a U.S. Navy veteran of WWII, serving as a lieutenant in a Scout and Raider unit in the interior of China. He was teacher in the Granite Falls and Everett school districts, retiring in 1979 from Evergreen Middle School. He loved woodworking, fishing, and hunting. He was married to Teresa Walsh in Phoenix, Ariz., in 1946 and was planning to celebrate their 68th anniversary on May 18th.

Cliff is survived by his loving wife, Teresa; his sons, Jerry (Theresa) and Mike (Barb); daughter Ann; and sister Clara. Cliff had four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son, Kurt Schmierer, in 1994.

Francis D. Reynnet

Born: Garber, Okla., Aug. 3, 1925

Died: Okemos, Mich., Sept. 27, 2014

Another member of the Greatest Generation has left us. Francis D. Reynnet passed away peacefully in his sleep after a period of illness.

Son of Ada (Bell) and Francis Faust Reynnet, Francis led an eventful life, and while all of his experiences may not have been pleasant, they shaped him into a man who was a fine example of the Greatest Generation. He was fair, resolute, moral, and intelligent in addition to being a faithful husband and a fine father. Co-workers remember him as a competent manager and mentor.

He served in the U.S. Navy in mainland China during World War II in a little-known but vitally important intelligence unit known as the Sino-American Cooperative Organization (SACO). SACO carried out operations against Imperial Japanese forces which included reporting shipping and troop movements, weather forecasting, rescuing downed flyers, and training Chinese Nationalists in clandestine attacks. As a radio operator, Francis' duties took him far into the interior of China. He was an eyewitness to many historical events. He had encounters with Japanese troops, brushes with Chinese Communists, and on one occasion, a Chinese warlord. He also flew "over the Hump" in a broken-down C-47 transport with one engine shut down. The stories he told years later fascinated his friends and family.

After graduating from Michigan State College (now Michigan State University) in 1953 with degrees in arts and letters and accounting, he worked in public accounting before joining the Michigan state government. He rose to a position in highway finance at the Michigan Dept. of Transportation, retiring in 1989.

Francis had many passions, including sailing, studying art, history, the French language, and his Scottish heritage, as well as fine wine and dining. He and his wife Caroline traveled to Europe, particularly France, many times in retirement. Their travels also included Scotland, Ireland, Italy, and Taiwan. He sailed for more than 30 years in and around the Grand Traverse Bay area in his sailboat the *Peregrine*. Many happy memories came from those times. Francis also enjoyed the simpler things such as a good hamburger, a football game, and dining with friends and family.

James H. Bash

James (Jim) Havens Bash died peacefully at home on October 6, 2014, from acute leukemia. He was born June 28, 1924, to the late Maude Trabue Bash and the Reverend Carl Edward Bash. He grew up in Kokomo, Indiana, and graduated from Arsenal Technical High School in Indianapolis. He studied voice at Jordan Conservatory of Music. He enrolled at Pennsylvania State College, then enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was assigned to the Sino-American Cooperative Organization designated by President F.D. Roosevelt to thwart incursions of the Japanese into China. After WWII he earned his doctorate in education at the University of Virginia. He married in 1946 and made his home in Virginia. He served as principal at the Highland View Elementary and High School at Brosville, VA and was principal at the high school in Farmville, VA. When the School Board closed the Prince Edward County Schools to avoid desegregation as ordered by the U.S. Supreme Court, he spoke publicly in opposition to this maneuver, and his name became part of history. Jim joined the faculty of UVA, always intermingling his lectures to include references to equal education. He was a member of the Jefferson Society of UVA. In 1967 he received a federal grant to organize the Consultative Resource Center on School Desegregation with the mission to "accord equal human status" to all persons regardless of race. The staff at the "Deseg Center" advised teachers, principals and superintendents on ways to ameliorate problems brought about by integrating their schools. After serving as consultant to the Southern Regional Educational Board in Atlanta, GA, he returned to UVA to head the newly formed Curry School Foundation as Executive Secretary. He authored several publications dealing with integration and desegregation. In 2014, the Virginia General Assembly passed a resolution honoring the work Jim did in the field of civil rights education, and the City of Charlottesville issued a proclamation honoring his work. Jim was predeceased by his brother Richard Trabue Bash, sister Mrs. Kenneth (Vera Jean) Mann, and son Michael McNett Bash. He is survived by his wife Jean, daughter Bonnie Jean Bash Stevens, son-in-law Stewart Stevens, four grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Jim was a loving husband and a kind and forgiving father. He enjoyed his home and took pride in manicuring his azaleas and boxwoods.

Franklin Grady Shuler

Franklin Grady Shuler passed away on June 4, 2012, at his home in Santee, S.C., after a long illness. He was born on April 8, 1925 in Bowman, the oldest son of Brown Grady Shuler and Bessie Felkel Shuler. He is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Earlyne Mattox Shuler.

After graduating from Bowman High School in 1942, Frank enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He was selected for Scouts and Raiders, the navy's first special warfare commandos and forbearers of today's Navy SEALs. He served with the Sino-American Cooperative Organization (SACO) in the China-Burma-India theatre. Frank was discharged from the navy as a Gunner's Mate, First Class, on Dec. 24, 1945. He maintained military fitness throughout his life, walking up to 10 miles a day until age 84.

After the navy, Frank enrolled in the University of South Carolina's Pharmacy/Pre-Med program and discovered his life's two true loves: Gamecock athletics and his wife, Earlyne. He and Earlyne were married on June 3, 1948, and he graduated from USC in 1949. He became a Registered Pharmacist in 1950 and maintained his license until he was 86 years old.

Frank's career in pharmacy began at Wannamaker's Pharmacy in Orangeburg, S.C. He joined the Upjohn Company in 1952 as a salesman and served as Medical Science Liaison from 1970 until his retirement in 1987. In that role, he helped establish clinical studies of new medications and would relay the results to teaching hospitals nationwide. He joined the National Board of Directors of the American Diabetes Association.

After retirement, he served as president of the South Carolina affiliate of the American Diabetes Association and president of the South Carolina District Exchange Club. He returned to his native Orangeburg County in 2002.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a sister, Georgia S. Aronstamm of Southbury, Conn.; a brother, Archibald, of Clarksville, Tenn.; a daughter, Beth Shuler Patrick; sons Franklin G. Jr. (Jane), Homer L. (Pam), Eric E., and Kirk S. (Miriam); ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a sister, Quintilla S. Ripley, and a brother, Woodfin.

The family wishes to thank the Grove Park Hospice and Joan Lewis for the loving care given during Frank's/Dad's last days.

SACO NEWS

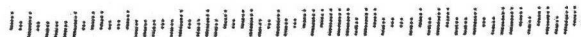
Sino-American Cooperative Organization
Linda Kush
57 Brighton Ave. #9
Boston MA 02134

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*****SNGLP T2 P1
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Address correction requested

483711549 RD14



SACO History

SACO (pronounced "Socko"), the Sino-American Cooperative Organization, officially started in May 1942 in a rice paddy near Pucheng, 130 miles from the China coast; the formal SACO agreement was approved by both the Chinese and United States governments April 15, 1943. The Directors of SACO were General Tai Li, head of the Chinese Secret Service, and Commander (later, Rear Admiral) Milton Edward "Mary" Miles. This was a land-locked U.S. Naval unit of almost 2,700 Americans who fought the Japanese in China during WWII. The men became known as "SACO Tigers" and the outfit, "The Rice Paddy Navy."

The center of operations, named Happy Valley, was

built eight miles west of Chungking. Fourteen additional camps were established. All of these units trained Chinese troops and gathered intelligence. At war's end SACO included 97,000 organized Chinese guerrillas and 20,000 saboteurs and pirates.

SACO set up weather stations throughout China as far north as the Gobi Desert and by the end of 1943 began producing weather reports for the Pacific Fleet. Coast-watchers reported on enemy shipping and furnished targets for U.S. submarines as well as the 14th Air Force and Naval aviators.

The activities of SACO remain little-known at home; but these men and their deeds continue to be remembered, studied, and honored in China.