

FALL / WINTER 2004

U. S. Army Air Forces and presented the C-46 replica to the Academy, Academy Superintendent Lt. General John Rosa who accepted the sculpture on behalf of the Academy and C-46 sculptor Robert Henderson.

The ceremony opened with the presentation of the colors by a Cadet Color Guard. Music was provided by members of the Academy Air Force band. The ceremony last approximately 30 minutes. It was a beautiful mild day with a light wind blowing. It was a very memorable occasion for all those attending.

Following the ceremony we visited the Academy Visitors Center for a short period then moved on to the Officers Club for lunch. Approximately 341 people attended the luncheon. The Club was just about maxed out.

Following the luncheon we traveled out to Peterson AFB, south of Colorado Springs, to visit the Air Force HPA C-17 P-62 being flown in from McChord AFB especially for this occasion. The aircraft was waiting for us when we arrived. Thanks, in part, for this successful event goes to Honorary Hump Pilot Captain Steve Sprowls who helped coordinate the visit. Steve himself flew up from Del Rio, TX, in a twin engine trainer to meet the C-17 and mix with the Hump pilots.

We were due back at the hotel in Denver by 4:00PM so many of our members could attend a local dinner theater presentation that night. They were scheduled to depart the hotel at 5:00PM. The busses begin arriving back at the hotel exactly at 4:00PM. Overall it was a pretty complex operation that went off without a hitch. Amazing.

(A follow-up on the C-46 dedication – Important to those who missed out being a Donor)

LEAVING A LEGACY... again

The C46 CBI Hump Pilots Memorial has been set into history at “The Study Hall” sculpture garden at the United States Air Force Academy. The only cargo warbird amidst the fighters and bombers. Since the day of dedication, September 9, 2004, there have been numerous requests by family members and crews to become a part of the Memorial.

Because of this, the nonprofit tax-exempt corporation, Groups Memorial Inc. of the Army Air Forces, has decided to do a second replacement

sponsors plaque. They provided the following statement. “We are asking those who want their name(s) on the plaque, to send their money (\$900, or credit card #) to our office by February 2005,” states Gen. James McPartlin, president of the corporation. “If we receive 10 or more names and donations, we will re-do the plaque.”

The sculptor, Robert Henderson, has agreed to this proposal and feels very strongly that anyone who wants to be recorded in this history should be able to. “My goal has always been to record this era,” remarks Henderson. “I know this is the final opportunity for most of this generation to have their names etched in history.”

To add a name, please send your donation and information to:

Groups Memorial Inc., of the AAF
816 Water Street
Canon City, CO 81212
(800-305-1738)
or log on to: www.warbirdcentral.com

More follow-up to the Dedication:

AVAILABLE: ONE WOODEN C46 REPLICA

As is customary with the monumental warbird projects, the wooden model (from which the molds are taken to produce the bronze) is available as an indoor sculpture. In the past, these wooden/steel replicas have been purchased by individuals and groups for museums and airports nationwide.

Museums, such as the 8th Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah, has two hanging displays painted in the donating groups’ colors. The replicas can be hung or displayed as floor models. The P38 Lightning was donated to the Burbank Airport. “Now, all who travel through that airport are given a history lesson,” remarks Dale Brown, a WWII POW and vice president of Groups Memorial Inc., of the Army Air Forces. Groups Memorial Inc., of the AAF is the nonprofit tax-exempt corporation which oversees all of the memorial projects.