

Report to the Membership

**CBI Hump Pilots Association, Inc. - 59th Annual Reunion  
Business Meeting Minutes  
Denver Marriot Hotel City Center - Denver, Colorado  
September 11, 2004**

President J. V. "Jay" Vinyard called the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting of the Hump Pilots Association to order at 9:00AM. All present were welcomed.

The first order of business was to introduce the head table. Those present were Board Members Earl A. Story, Charles R. Bonar, Eugene Comontofski, Robert L. Moore, Alfred J. Gardner, Jack Goodrich (Chairman of the Board), Warren L. Simpson (Interim Chaplin), Sam Burton (newly appointed to replace resigned Board member and Chaplain James E. Iriion (physically unable to attend further meetings), George H. Saylor, Peyton R. Walmsley and Jay Vinyard. Absent was new Board Member William C. "Bill" Jackson (appointed to replace resigned member E. J. Albers, no longer physically able to attend meetings) who had to cancel at the last minute due to unplanned eye surgery. Bill is the only surviving member of the incorporators of the Association in 1972 and on the first Board of Directors established following incorporation. It seemed appropriate to appoint him to the last Board.

Additional persons recognized were:

Roy Ladd who, together with his wife Pat, is serving as the Reunion Chairman. He was thanked for all their work in planning the Reunion.

Dudley Blumh (Associate Director), John Bodenhamer, and Bill Paul from the Museum of Aviation. They were thanked for again bring the traveling HPA Museum to our reunion and staffing it for our enjoyment.

Captain Steve Sprowls, an honorary Hump Pilot, who was one of the planners at the McChord AFB, WA, June 2000 dedication ceremony for placing the HPA logo over the crew door of USAAF C-17 P-62, and one of the pilots of the aircraft at that time. Steve has been faithfully attending our reunions since that time and worked this year to insure that the C-17 would be available at Peterson AFB in Colorado Springs following our dedication of the bronzed C-46 replica at the Air Force Academy on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

William "Bill" Thies, who needed no introduction. Bill and his wife Jan were the heart and sole of the HPA from 1968 to 2003 when Jan so tragically died. Bill came to the reunion to be a part of the C-46 dedication ceremony at the Academy. Bill and Jan were donors for the placement of the replica there. Bill was heartily welcomed to our reunion. It was good to see him again.

Jeff Luginbuel (not present in the room) of the Veterans Administration. Mr. Luginbeul brought a crew from the Hearing Aid Section of the VA to provide a free service of inspecting and doing minor repairs on members' hearing aids for this one day. It was noted that our members were being quick to take advantage of this service. (He has indicated an interest in bringing his crew to our 2005 reunion to again provide this service.)

Dr. Mark Russell and Mr. Robert Richeson of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) headquartered at Hickam Field, HA. Dr. Russell is JPAC's leading authority on searches for World War II missing in Burma. He will provide a short program on their activities and procedures later in this meeting.

First time attendees, wearing their green dots, were asked to stand up and be recognized. Two members stood up. They were Dallas H. Masterson, pilot, ATC, and a Life Member, down from Anchorage, AK and Merle A. Baer, a crew chief, 1<sup>st</sup> ATS, and a Life Member, in from La Cresenta, CA. They were welcomed to our reunion and it was recommended that they begin early planning to attend next year's reunion.

A call was then made for the oldest attendee to be recognized. Normally this would be no contest as our oldest member in attendance has long been Jim Beamon who is in his upper 90s. However, bad times have