

**HPA 2005 60<sup>th</sup> and Final Annual  
Membership Reunion**

Plans are now being finalized to have our 2005 Reunion at the **Marriott Nashville Airport Hotel in Nashville, TN, September 26 – October 2, 2005**. This is a four star countryside hotel located about eight miles east of Nashville and about three miles north of the airport. It is nearby a major shopping mall which is also the site of Grand Ole Opry activities.

Room costs will be \$95 per day plus 14.25% tax. Free parking for automobiles is located on site. Free airport transportation is provided twice each hour. This is a high-rise hotel with all rooms conveniently located near an elevator (very similar to the Albuquerque Marriott).

**This is all very important.** We cannot be sure exactly what kind of a turnout to expect for this final reunion at this time. To help in our planning any member, or family member, who even thinks they might go to the reunion should go ahead and **make their reservations at the hotel as soon as possible**. This will help greatly in giving us a look at what to expect in attendance and will also insure that all members attending have reservations at the hotel. There will be a no penalty period for canceling reservations for members who may have to cancel out so this should not be a matter of concern.

Final plans for the reunion could not be completed early enough for inclusion in this newsletter. Therefore a **special mail-out of Reunion Registration Forms will be sent to the membership around the first of February 2005**. This mail-out will include all the necessary information needed for making hotel reservations and registering for the reunion.

Let's make this final Reunion a really big blow-out.

**Members in Action**

**Bill Kelso, ATC**, has completed his HPA public relations slide presentation referred to in the Spring 2004 newsletter. He spent considerable time on this project. The program was accepted by the Board of Directors at the Denver Reunion as a recommended tool for making presentations in public

forums about the Hump Operation of WWII. (See the article further on in this letter from Bill that provides further detail about his presentation and how it can be ordered by members for their use.)

Many thanks to Bill for developing this presentation.

**Richard F. "Dick" Millan, ATC**, a past HPA President, was featured in an article in the May 27, 2004, issue of The Virginian-Pilot, a Norfolk, VA newspaper, about his World War II service in the CBI. Dick went directly from flying school to the Hump in November 1944. He was a pilot based at Misamari. He flew 99 Hump missions. In his story he spoke about his CBI adventures of flying the Hump and eating the food. He explained that in China, in a flight line snack bar where the Chinese could not speak English, a pilot could have ordered a cheeseburger with fries and a chocolate milk shake and he still would have gotten scrambled eggs. (Yes – how well we remember).

Recently deceased Member **George P. Mortensen, ATC**, will long be remembered in his home town of Shelby, IA. George was a radio operator with one of the very first Hump flight crews, arriving in India in April 1942. According to his wife Pat she is planning an "Aluminum Trail" in a garden by the nature trail that goes through their town in memory of George. She will place flagstones covered with aluminum every now and then through the area with information telling what these flagstones mean.

Thanks Pat for this very thoughtful project. George must surely be smiling down.

HPA members President **J. V "Jay" Vinyard, ATC**, Board Member **George H. "Jake" Saylor, 10<sup>th</sup> ComCar Sq.**, and **David K. Hayward, 14<sup>th</sup> AF**, were among a small group of U. S. Veterans that attended a World War II symposium in Kunming, China, on July 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of this year. The American Volunteer Group (AVG) and China National Aviation Corporation (CNAC) were also represented. The symposium was a first class event and was very well covered by the Chinese news media. There is a great deal of interest in present day China about the American air activities in China during World War II. We also visited the ancient cities of LiChiang (near Likiang Mt. up on the old northern Hump Route) and Dali, at the foot of Tali Mt., (and near the old Yunnanyi airbase) while there. (See further articles on this trip following in this issue).