

Members in Action (cont.)

Member **Robert Logan, ATC**, was awarded a special “Wright Brothers 50th Anniversary” Certificate at a banquet held on September 25th at a local hotel. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) presented these certificates to selected pilots who have flown continuously for 50 years and have been active in aviation. The award was presented to him by representatives of the local FAA Flight Standards District Office. The award to Robert was based on his flight instructing during the early part of World War II, time in the military flying the Hump, establishing a Flying Club for students at Georgia Tech and serving as their advisor, and serving in several positions the Civil Air Patrol.

Congratulations Bob. You have obviously lived your life’s dream.

David Hayward China Trip Report

A RETURN TO CHINA—JULY 2004

David K. Hayward

Jeanne and I were invited to go to China July 23 to August 2. The invitation came from the Sino American Aviation Heritage Foundation. The purpose was to participate in the International Symposium on Sino American Friendship in the Second World War. The symposium was comprised of ten members. Three were members of the American Volunteer Group (AVG), a B-25 pilot (myself), a B-24 pilot, a P51 pilot, a P40 pilot, an Air Transport Command pilot, a China National Aviation Corporation pilot and a Combat Cargo Command pilot. The entire trip was paid for by the Office of Information, Yunnan Province, China.

Our Chinese hosts represented the government, schools, universities, researchers, writers, television and newspapers. The symposium was held at the Kai Wah Plaza International Hotel in Kunming, a 5-Star hotel.

Each member of the symposium was asked to speak on the role played by his type of airplane in China, his experiences in assisting the Chinese, and one or two exciting missions he flew. In addition, each member submitted to interviews for the press, the local TV stations and for the record.

The Chinese treated us all like “heroes” who had saved their country from falling into the hands of the Japanese. This was unlike our experience in China in 1989 when, during our visit to Kweilin (now Gweilin) where the B-25’s of the 11th Bomb Squadron were stationed in WWII, our guide said to us, “there were never any Americans stationed here.” At that time, China still associated the Americans with the former leader Chiang Kai Shek. But now China recognizes our having helped the Chinese people in their time of need, and wants to develop our friendship.

After the symposium was concluded, our group often pilots plus wives or other family members were taken to other points of interest in Kunming. The first was a photographic exhibition called “Yunnan in the Eyes of the Hump Flight Veterans.” Again, photographers and interviewers were there to catch our reactions and comments as we viewed the pictures.

The second stop was at the Hump Flight Memorial School. The 22nd Bomb Squadron had made a donation to this school in 1999. Our squadron name is engraved on a marble plaque in front of the school.

On the next day we flew to the town of Lijiang, about 200 miles northwest of Kunming, for a tour of the Lijiang Ancient Town, the MU Mansion, a welcoming dinner and the Ancient Naxi (an ethnic group) Music Show.

Next morning we visited a World War II airfield, now a family horse-riding field. Then we boarded a bus and drove 100 miles south to the town of Dali, on beautiful Erhai Lake. We had another welcoming dinner and the next day we visited the monument to Captain Mooney, a P.40 pilot who was killed while maneuvering his plane away from the populated city to avoid civilian



casualties, for which the townspeople have been eternally grateful. Next we traveled along the “Tin-