

## Comments From the Chairman

by Jack Goodrich

since that time with no suggestions that it be extended. This year the Board likely will establish this as a firm date. This will be in keeping with the plans of the China-Burma-India Veterans Association (CBIVA) who have already set August 31, 2005 as their date of dissolution. They are now in the process of spending down their treasuries.

This is something we need to also begin to think seriously about. If we do decide at the Denver Annual Board Meeting to dissolve at the end of 2005 then we also need to look closely at various opinions available to us during our final 15 months of existence. This will be discussed at the Denver Annual Board meeting and Business meeting. Input from the membership on this is welcomed. Input does not necessarily have to be made prior to the Denver reunion but will need to be made in a timely manner afterwards to receive serious consideration. There will still be time for some decisions at the 2005 Board meeting but the essence of what we plan to do likely will be pretty well decided by that time.

I am sure it has been noted that more than a little recognition has been given in our recent newsletters to **Mr. Clayton Kuhles** of Prescott, AZ, who has become a one man search team in looking for downed Hump aircraft still missing in Burma (now Myanmar). Personally I am very pleased that he has developed a serious interest in undertaking such an expensive and dangerous mission as this. Due to the limited finances and manpower that the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) has available Mr. Kuhles has become our best bet on locating additional missing aircraft and crews during our lifetime. I have been providing him whatever support I can in the name of the Hump Pilots Association in an effort to expand his efforts. There is an article later in this newsletter that will bring our membership up to date on what he is now doing along this line.

A final note to those who have not yet signed up for the Denver Reunion. It is never too late. Pre-registration Forms are available in both in the Fall/Winter and the Spring newsletters. If you do not have a Form call the office at 806-331-1160 or E-mail to [cbihpa@nts-online.net](mailto:cbihpa@nts-online.net). Call the hotel for reservations at 303-297-1300. Our room block has expired but rooms may still be available at the Hump Pilot rate at either the Marriott or nearby Hyatt Regency hotel. It would be a great pleasure to see you in Denver.

This has been a standout year for all of us who participated in World War II. Appropriately, Memorial Day was used to dedicate a magnificent monument on the mall in Washington D.C. to all veterans of that conflict. Throughout the afternoon, the TV cameras were focusing on various guests in the audience. It was a thrill to see the CBI emblem on the hats of several men and realize that we were well represented.

The sixty year anniversary of D-day was celebrated in France with many of the survivors once again walking the beaches that they had captured so long ago. Movies on television and the History channel seem to be partial to World War II plots and incidents.

On June 25 the Peoples Republic of China and the Yunnan Provincial Peoples Government presented an airfield stone roller to the USAF Museum at Wright-Patterson Field in Dayton, OH. Kunming was one of the airfields on which these massive concrete rollers were used to compact the hand crushed stone runways. It is easy to remember the dozens of Chinese men and women pulling on long ropes to keep the roller moving. Pictures of this primitive, but effective, compactor, along with individuals hammering stones into smaller sizes were exhibited to show perseverance and a will to overcome. The roller is meant to represent the relationship that existed between the American and Chinese peoples during the Second World War.

In late July a symposium is scheduled to be held in Kunming commemorating World War II activities in the CBI. All groups who were active in the Theater will participate. Our Hump Pilots Association will be represented by Jay and Sally Vinyard and Jake and Patti Saylor.

Close to the memories of each of us will be the dedication of the bronze model of a C-46 at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO. The ceremony will celebrate a personal triumph for each of us, since this aircraft, which we affectionately called Dumbo was the backbone of material movement across the Hump. The model dedication will take place on Thursday, September 9 with busses transporting us from our reunion site in Denver to and