



American Fighter Aces

and Friends

The Bulletin of the American Fighter Aces Association

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Raoul G. Lufbery - First American Ace



Association President's Message

Dear Aces, Friends, Survivors, and Honorees:

We note that the 56th Aces reunion in September in San Antonio has been changed from late in the month to September 7-10. Full information about the reunion is included in other sections of the Bulletin. See you in San Antonio!

We have a new Aces Administrator, Jema Hayes (no kin to Matt). She is experienced in the ways of non-profits and museums and is very interested in the Aces. The undersigned spent two days at the Museum of Flight recently to meet her, to talk to the staff and leadership of the Museum, and to discuss Aces requirements and responsibilities. Jema is young, smart, eager to serve as the Aces Administrator, and has had a good overlap with Arthur Bednar.

Since before Bill Hardy's days as president, our annual expenses have exceeded our income, mainly because the sales of our lithographs have decreased sharply (in tandem with a sagging art market nationwide). The bull stock market has kept us well solvent, and we actually have more funds in our two invested accounts, Scholarship and Corporate, than we did in 2008 (that was the year of the crash). Discussions with Matt Hayes about our financial issues were productive and will continue. Look for more movement in this area.

The Smithsonian Institution has sent the original Congressional Gold Medal to the Museum of Flight for safekeeping and display. The unveiling ceremony will be in November in concert with the Museum's Veterans Day celebration, and everyone who can be there is invited. Under guard, the CGM will be anchored alone in a rotating glass case in the center of the lobby leading to the aircraft displays, the absolute best spot available.

The unsigned book *Wings of Valor* is available at the Museum's bookstore at list price. It can also be ordered on-line or in person from any bookseller, e.g., Books-a-Million or Barnes & Noble, and from Amazon. In addition, there are 50 books at MOF signed by the 14 Aces who attended the ball at the Wings over the Rockies Museum back in November. They sell for \$200, with the proceeds going to help pay for the production costs of the book.

The Grim Reaper has been relatively kind to us recently, with two Aces having flown West: Daniel Driscoll, United States Navy, five victories; and George Loving, USAAF, five victories. Happy landings, sirs. Aces left: 50.

Respectfully,

General Charles "Chick" Cleveland, USAF (Ret)

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OFFICE:

American Fighter Aces Association
9404 East Marginal Way South
Seattle, WA 98108-4097

T: (206) 768-7166

F: (206) 764-5707

E: AFAA@museumofflight.org

W: www.americanfighteraces.org



[facebook.com/americanfighteraces](https://www.facebook.com/americanfighteraces)



twitter.com/afaatmof

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Editor/AFAA Administrator

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Merchandise Sales

Lesley Hooker LHooker@museumofflight.org

AFAA Volunteer

Paula Clark



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Cover:

Lithograph of Raoul Gervais Lufbery, entitled The First American Ace, by Roy Grinnell. Depiction is of Lufbery's 5th victory during the Oberndorf Raid on October 12, 1916.