

Directors Report

September 24, 2013

- mailed
9/25/13*
- Total attendance 2224
 - 5 groups/field trips
 - 3 events

Our groups and field trips maybe down but we had several events to make up the numbers.

The first event held on August 11th was the "Spirit of 45 Day" held at the war veterans home. It was well attended and everyone had a lot of fun, right down to the important kiss reenactment.

The second event was the pinning ceremony on August 18th. 26 members of the Chennault Founders Club were present. There were about 60 guests who were present for the ceremony. The Endowment Board has raised over \$60,000 at present and we have approximately 40 members of the Chennault Club.

The last event was the Sheriff Jay Russell roast. It was a sold out crowd at the Civic Center and I was informed that everyone thought it was a big success.

Sadly we had another event that I did not count as it was a personnel event for me. Mother's memorial reception was on the 28th. I was overwhelmed by the number of people who were here to remember her and the great legacy that she left. The missing man flyover was something that I will always remember. I have seen many of them before but they will always have new meaning for me.

I hope that you can see that Cindy Ingram and the great staff we have here have really been busy. Please take the opportunity to thank them for their hard work.

The Tennessee Walking Horse Show is scheduled for Oct. 26th. Greenlight is working very hard and we hope that this will be the biggest one in the state.

The Bond Commission approved our \$50,000 to be moved from Priority 2 to Priority 1. This means that as soon as they sell the bonds we will be able to start on the project of renovating the new Chennault room. The bond has been funded so we are in negotiations with the State on how to proceed. The project cost in \$95,000 and the State will pay half and the Friends will be required to pay the other half. This does not

include the cost of remodeling the room. We will start the bidding process on the actual room renovation.

I was in Washington last week for the event with the FTTHO (Flying Tiger Historical Organization) and the Chennault Museum. The reception that was given by the Chinese was very nice and the meeting with the Chinese Ambassador Cui Tiangkai went very well. I have already asked them to attend the grand opening of our new exhibit when it is completed.

Building Concerns:

- Fire protection for the Museum
- Landscaping and additional sprinklers
- Structural repair for the building
- Claire Chennault Flying Tiger Hangar
- P-40 static display

As many of you know this has been a difficult time for many reasons. When my Mother told me that she was going to help start a Military Museum I did not know what to expect. I told her that I thought it was a great idea and I would help if needed. As we say the rest is history. I think about her legacy and how hard things were in the beginning. She never gave up on the Museum or the importance of what it meant to this community. I am well aware that there were many challenges then and there are still many challenges. I can only hope that I will be able to rise to the occasion the same way that she did. I know that she did not do it alone nor can I. Roy has been our commander for so many years and now he is looking for someone else to take the lead. I can only hope that we will be able to find someone with his passion, perseverance and drive to finish the work that was started so many years ago. His desire is to see phase 3 completed. I hope that whoever we find agrees it that vision and will take up the torch. Thank you for your help and I know that working together we can make it happen.

Respectfully submitted,

Nell Calloway