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VIRGINIA CHAPTER
8TH AF HISTORICAL SOCIETY
LEW BURKE, PRESIDENT



FROM THE
CO-PILOT'S SEAT

November 23, 2009

Mr. Walt Havenstein
Chief Executive Officer
SAIC
1710 SAIC Drive
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McLean, VA 22102

The National Capitol Area Chapter and the Virginia Chapter, Eighth Air Force Historical Society were both asked to have WW-II Veterans present to answer questions from those attending the Collings Foundation's Wings of Freedom Tour and Veterans Roundtable October 22-25, 2009 at the Warrenton/Fauquier Airport.

As President of the Virginia Chapter of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society, I wish to extend our sincere appreciation to SAIC (and the Intelligence Security and Technology Group, and the Military Affinity Group) for its sponsorship of this history-making affair. SAIC's support was invaluable in making this "Living History" experience all it could be for visitors to the Airport at Midland, Virginia.

Of the nearly 90 people that attended, approximately 30 were WW-II Veterans most of whom were from the U. S Army 8th Air Force. The Veterans were comprised of WW-II pilots, co-pilots, navigators, bombardiers, gunners and others, who answered questions from the Cub Scouts in attendance, to the adult children of veterans who have passed on.

Thanks also to SAIC support, our veteran's stories have been videotaped and photos taken for future use by the Historical Societies and the Collings Foundation, grafting our memories into our nation's historic record. Also through SAIC's generosity, some 20 veterans took rides aboard the vintage B-17 and B-24 as guests of the Collings Foundation. Our and our families' response to this generosity was extremely positive. It was a meaningful experience for all involved. I personally need to express my gratitude, as I was one of the "riders." It was my first time in the air in a B-17 since May of 1945.

Veterans from the two Chapters answered questions from the 22nd through the 25th. It was, however, SAIC's generous contributions to the Collings Foundation and on-site support of the Wings of Freedom event and the Veterans Roundtable that made our mission of honoring veterans and educating Americans about WW-II and our heritage more positive.

Additionally SAIC deserves commendation for underwriting tour tickets for about 60 of their own employees and their guests who attended. This was an education about the vintage aircraft for them.

The Chapters look forward to seeing the Wings of Freedom Tour back at the Warrenton/Fauquier Airport next year. We will be pleased to continue this rewarding relationship with SAIC so as to make the Fly-In another meaningful living historical experience for veterans as well as the community at large. Again in behalf of the Chapters and myself, we thank you for your excellent corporate citizenship and support of America's veterans and military heritage.

Cordially,

Lew Burke, President
Virginia Chapter, Eighth Air Force
Historical Society

CC

Arnold Punaro, Executive Vice President and General Manager,
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