

Cold War Times

The Internet Newsletter for the Cold War Museum and
Cold War Veterans Association



September / October 2003



**America's Newest Super Carrier Honors
Cold War President**

Volume 3, Issue 2: September / October 2003

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The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of *Cold War Times*, the Cold War Museum, the Cold War Veterans Association, and/or their respective Board of Directors. As is the case with all history, the history of the Cold War is subject to some degree of interpretation.

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On the Cover: USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76) at sea for the first time off the coast of Virginia on 5 May 2003. (Official U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class James Theirry.)

About the Cold War Museum

Founded in 1996 by Francis Gary Powers, Jr. and John C. Welch, the Cold War Museum is dedicated to preserving Cold War history and honoring Cold War Veterans.

For more information: Cold War Museum, P.O. Box 178, Fairfax, VA 22030 Ph: 703-273-2381

Cold War Museum Update

Gary Powers Jr., Cold War Museum Founder

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Cold War Museum:

The Cold War Museum continues to make advancements. Recently, we submitted a proposal to Fairfax County Park Authority to locate at the former Nike Missile Base in Lorton, Virginia. In addition, we hired Dr. Stephen Fuller from George Mason University to produce a site feasibility study for the Lorton Nike Missile Base and a few alternative locations around the Washington, DC metro area. Until we secure a permanent home, we are working with the Fort Meade Museum and the Historical Electronics Museum in Maryland, the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC, the Florida International Museum, and the Leipzig Contemporary History Museum in Germany to temporarily display artifacts from our collection.

Annually, the Bulgarian, Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Romanian, and Slovakian Embassies co-host a reception for the Museum. The 2003 event will be held at the Embassy of Bulgaria on November 10. If you are interested in attending, please let me know. As a result of our International Support, the Museum has acquired many important Eastern Bloc artifacts, including an East German admiral's uniform, a Checkpoint Charlie sign, a Stasi prison door and bed, a piece of the "Iron Curtin" and items from the United States Military Liaison Mission.

I am pleased to announce that we are cosponsors of the conference "Cold War Memory: Interpreting the Physical Legacy of the Cold War - An International Conference," to be held September 8-9, 2003, at the Woodrow Wilson Center. This conference is organized by the Cold War International History Project (www.cwihp.org), an international clearinghouse

for Cold War history. Generous financial support is being provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and The Boeing Company.

Our mobile exhibit on the U-2 Incident continues to generate interest and support. The exhibit will open formally to the public at the National Test Site Museum in Las Vegas, NV on October 2, 2003. The following day Sergei Khrushchev and I will discuss various aspects of the Cold War during an hour long lecture. The educational "Spies of Washington Tour" (www.spytour.com) now includes a stop at the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC. Our next public tours are scheduled for August 30 and September 27.

Please consider making a donation to the Cold War Museum's general fund. Your gift will help us plan for the New Year and the new physical location. Tax-deductible contributions and artifact donations to the Museum will ensure that future generations will remember Cold War events and personalities that forever altered our understanding of national security, international relations, and personal sacrifice for one's country. Please help spread the word about the Museum. Together we can make this vision a reality.

Very truly yours,

Francis Gary Powers, Jr.
Founder
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Are you a Cold War vet with an interesting story to tell or someone with an interest in the Cold War?

Cold War Times is looking for writers and submissions for future issues. If an interested, send an e-mail to:
editor@coldwartimes.com

A Few Words from the Editor

Bryan J. Dickerson, CWT Editor

It's 'Anchors Aweigh' on another issue of *Cold War Times*. You'll note that this issue has a very strong Navy theme to it. (No slight intended against the other branches of service.) It just happened that three major Navy events related to the Cold War happened in the last several weeks: the commissioning of *USS Ronald Reagan* (CVN-76), the decommissioning of *USS Constellation* (CV-64), and the donation of *USS Midway* (CV-41) to a private group for use as a museum. The former is a fitting tribute to President Reagan whose leadership was a major factor in ending the Cold War. He also was the driving force in re-building our Armed Forces, and in particular the U.S. Navy, at a critical time in our world's history. It is with a bit of sadness that *USS Constellation* was withdrawn from service. This renowned veteran served our country through the Cold War, Vietnam, the Gulf War and most recently in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Another Cold War veteran *USS Midway* begins the conversion into a new life as a museum ship in San Diego. A special thanks to Capt. Gerry Spaulding, USN (Ret.), for sharing one of his Cold War stories with us.

This issue also focuses upon the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. The Cold War was barely a few years old when America's commitment to defend democracy and contain Communism was put to one of its greatest tests. In South Korea, Washington and numerous towns across America, ceremonies were held to commemorate the anniversary and honor Korean War veterans. To our Korean War vets we offer our heartfelt appreciation for your service during this pivotal time.

News from the Cold War Veterans Association

2003-04 CWVA Goals (Revised)

With your support, we can sustain the momentum to make the following CWVA Goals a reality:

- (1) **Cold War Veterans Appreciation Week** to be declared by multiple governmental units,
- (2) **Cold War Victory Medal** recognition for every man and woman who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces during America's longest war,
- (3) **Continued growth** of the Cold War Veterans Association (U.S.) and the establishment and growth of the CWVA - International,
- (4) **Equitable tax treatment for VSOs,*** and
- (5) **UNITY** within and among all the nation's (and free world's) Veterans' Service Organizations.

THANK YOU for your ongoing support and may **God Bless** each and every one of you.

Sincerely,

The Cold War Veterans Association

Vince Milum, Chairman

Visit the CWVA online at www.coldwarveterans.com

Cold War News & Notes

COLD WAR MUSEUM TO CO-SPONSOR CONFERENCE AT WILSON CENTER

Bill Craig, Contributing Editor

An international assemblage of scholars of the Cold War era will get together with museum officials and military veterans to consider problems of preserving the physical remains associated with that decades-long struggle, during a program September 8 and 9 at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C.

The conference, co-sponsored by the Cold War Museum, is entitled "Cold War Memory, Interpreting the Physical Legacy of the Cold War." It was organized by the Cold War International History Project at the Wilson Center. Because of space limitations, attendance is limited to invitees.

"We are going to address the issues, challenges and problems in creating museums and sites memorializing the Cold War in this country and abroad," explained Christian Ostermann, project director. He said the program will focus on artifacts and sites themselves, rather than on the content of documents and archival materials.

Panelists from throughout the U.S. and Europe will discuss such topics as how to preserve and interpret properties and how to establish museums. A reception will mark the opening of a traveling exhibit dealing with the Gulag Museum at Perm-36 in Russia.

Gary Powers, Jr., will chair a panel examining "Approaches to Cold War Museums." Frank Tims of the Cold War Veterans Association will participate in a panel entitled "Honoring Service, Interpreting the Past."

Other co-sponsors are The Association of Air Force Missileers, based in Breckenridge, Colorado; The German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C.; The Harry S. Truman Library at Independence, Missouri, and the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies at the Wilson Center, in cooperation with the Norwegian Aviation Museum and the Eisenhower Library of Abilene, Kansas.

Gorbachev to Speak in Jacksonville, FL on 2 Oct. 2003

The International Forum Institute and The Ponte Vedra Federated Republican Women's Club Present *A New Time A New Beginning* **An Interview with Mikhail Gorbachev** on Thursday, October 2, 2003 at the Lazzara Performance Hall ~ Fine Arts Center ~ The University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida. Mr. Michael Reagan will serve as Interviewer/Moderator and Congressman Curt Weldon will also be there as a Special Honorary Guest. Tickets are \$130 Per Person for the 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm reception and \$250 Per Person for the reception and a Private VIP Party at 8 pm. Tickets are available through the UNF Box Office (904) 620-2878. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Call (904) 220-6285 for more information.

USS Midway Headed for San Diego as Museum Ship



On 8 July 2003, Acting Navy Secretary Hansford Johnson announced that the aircraft carrier *USS Midway* (CV-41) will be donated to the San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum. Currently in mothballs at Bremerton, Washington, *Midway* will be towed first to Astoria, Oregon for refurbishment and then to San Diego this fall for conversion to a museum. The total cost of converting *Midway* into a museum is projected at \$7 million and organizers are anticipating a spring 2004 opening date. Commissioned in September 1945, *Midway* served throughout the Cold War and participated in the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Storm. She was decommissioned in 1992. [Photo: *USS Midway* underway in 1971. Official U.S. Navy photo.]

'America's Flagship' Decommissioned

After nearly 42 years of service, the aircraft carrier dubbed 'America's Flagship' by President Ronald Reagan was decommissioned in a ceremony held 7 August 2003 at Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, California. *USS Constellation* (CV-64) was commissioned on 27 October 1961. In August 1964 she participated in the first naval air strikes against North Vietnam in response to that nation's attacks upon two U.S. Navy destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin. Ultimately, *Constellation* had seven deployments to the West Pacific and Vietnam. She was a mainstay of the Cold War Navy which deterred Soviet aggression on the high seas and the littoral area. More recently, *Constellation* served in both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. After returning from the latter, *Constellation* was decommissioned and will be placed in mothballs at Bremerton, Washington.

Cold War Sponsorship Opportunities Available

The Cold War Museum is looking for corporate sponsors for its *Cold War Times* publication and its Spy Tour of Washington brochure. This is a great opportunity to market your business and contribute to the preservation of Cold War history. Sponsors would receive their logo and URL on either 10,000 brochures (\$1,500) or 20,000 (\$2,500) brochures. In addition their logo would be placed on the newsletter section of our webpage with a link to their website. We also have a sponsorship opportunity for a business or group to sponsor *The Cold War Times* (\$2500 for logo and URL on newsletter webpage, logo and URL on all newsletters, and the opportunity to submit an article in two issues.) For more information, contact Gary Powers Jr. at Cold War Museum, P.O. Box 178, Fairfax, VA 22030 Ph: 703-273-2381.

USS Ronald Reagan Joins the Fleet

Over twenty years ago, President Ronald Reagan set out to re-build America's armed forces and deter Soviet Communist aggression through strength and diplomacy. On 12 July 2003, his namesake *USS Ronald Reagan CVN-76* was commissioned and entered service to defend freedom and democracy around the world.

Few other Americans contributed as much to winning the Cold War as Ronald Reagan did. From re-building the armed forces and thwarting Communism in Central America to initiating the Strategic Defense Initiative and literally ordering the Soviets to tear down the Berlin Wall, President Reagan's leadership was instrumental in bringing about the end of the Cold War between democracy and Communism.

USS Ronald Reagan is the ninth *Nimitz*-class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. Her flight deck is 1,092 feet long and covers 4.5 acres. Over 5,500 sailors man this latest powerful instrument of American freedom. She operates over 80 combat aircraft. She was built by Newport News Shipbuilding, Norfolk, Virginia and will be home ported at San Diego, California, replacing *USS Constellation* which was decommissioned in August. [See cover photo of *USS Ronald Reagan* underway in the Atlantic Ocean.]

FORGOTTEN FAMILIES to Remember Cold War MIA

Forgotten Families of the Cold War will hold a ceremony to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the disappearance of Geoffrey Francis Sullivan on Sunday, 21 September 2003 at 2:30 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Augusta, Maine. Sullivan and his partner Alexander Rorke, Jr. were involved in covert operations against Cuba. They disappeared in September 1963 while conducting a covert mission in Central America. For nearly 20 years, his daughter Sherry struggled against bureaucracy to get Missing in Action status for him. For more information, contact Ms. Sullivan at 207-567-4098 or sassully@prexar.com.

Forgotten Families of the Cold War to Hold First Conference

22-23 September 2003

Penobscot Bay Gallery, Stockton Springs, Maine

The Forgotten Families will hold its first ever Conference on 22-23 September in Stockton Springs, Maine focusing upon the secret war against Cuba. The conference will feature presentations by historians, Cold War veterans, and family members of Cold War MIAs. Other presenters will discuss researching and legal issues to assist families in the search for truth and information about their missing loved ones.

Ms. Sullivan has spent the last 20 years investigating the disappearance of her father Geoffrey and his partner Alexander Rorke, Jr. while on a secret mission in Central America in September 1963. During her investigation she began associating with other families who also lost loved ones in similar fashion. As a result, she established a 501(c)(3) an organization: Forgotten Families of the Cold War, in an effort to join the families, to share information, conduct investigations and when necessary, court cases.

For more information,

PO Box 513 Stockton Springs, Maine 04981

Phone 207 567-4098 Fax 207-567-4102

sassully@prexar.com or Forgottenfamilies.com

KGB

Capt. Gerry Spaulding, USN (Ret.)

Sergei Kryuchkov was KGB. More than that, his father, Vladimir Kryuchkov, headed that organization, the most formidable espionage agency on Earth—much larger and more powerful than the German Gestapo had ever been.

I met Sergei in Geneva, Switzerland, in the late 1980s when he was a senior member of the Soviet delegation to the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks.

The Soviet Union still existed then. Mikhail Gorbachev was in charge. The Cold War continued unabated. Nevertheless, the United States and the Soviet Union were about to complete the START Treaty, the first pact between the two superpowers that would actually reduce rather than merely limit their strategic nuclear weapons.

One evening at a diplomatic reception hosted by the Soviets in their Geneva mission, I found myself in a protracted conversation with Sergei Kryuchkov, known KGB agent and son of that agency's head spook. We were sipping red wine—Soviet rotgut red wine—from paper cups.

It was a typical diplomatic reception—200 people, half of them Americans, the rest Soviets, grazing from a buffet table brimming with finger food, exchanging diplomatic half-truths diplomatically.

The Soviets always put out good food at their receptions, better than the stuff we served at the American mission when it was our turn to host. However, because of Mikhail Gorbachev's desire to reduce alcoholism among government officials, the Soviet mission was prohibited from serving hard liquor at its diplomatic functions. Beer and wine only—Soviet wine, at that.

Our side was not similarly constrained. Whenever the Soviet delegation arrived at one of our receptions, its members shot right past the food table, hot-footing it to our fully stocked bar like hallucinating desert survivors pursuing an illusionary oasis. When we Americans showed up at a Soviet reception, we went first for the food; visiting the bar was but a diplomatic obligation.

So Kryuchkov and I were talking. I was about to say something I'm sure would have been quite profound when he took a sip of his rotgut Soviet red wine and made a contorted face.

"Excuse me for a moment," he said, forestalling my profundity, then walked purposefully to bar. He returned a moment later sporting a fresh drink, something other than wine. He was beaming.

"You know," explained the dedicated Soviet spy whose father was head of the KGB, the most potent organization of subversives, saboteurs, forgers, assassins, political terrorists and anti-capitalist insurgents in the history of the planet, "when you're really thirsty...*nothing* beats a Coca Cola!"

"Pepsi beats Coke!"

—The Pepsi-Cola Company

About C-C-Cold War Syndrome

"KGB" is a national award winner from *C-C-Cold War Syndrome*, a book of 43 nonfiction short stories about the human and humorous side of the Cold War, by G.H. Spaulding. *C-C-Cold War Syndrome* is available in electronic, paperback and hard cover formats from 1st Books Library at www.1stbooks.com. Other true stories from this collection are posted on the author's web site at <http://users.adelphia.net/~ghspaulding/>

About the author

G.H. Spaulding is a retired naval aviator and former squadron commander whose career also encompassed rich experience in the intelligence and diplomatic arenas. He sat with the Soviets at the negotiating table in Geneva helping to hammer out the first START treaty, then served as the U.S. Naval Attaché to Egypt following the Gulf War. Now a professional writer, he is the author of *Decree*, a novel originally published two years before 9/11, about a foiled airborne attack by Arab terrorists against a key target in the United States. The newest edition of this book is available from 1st Books Library and may be previewed on the author's web site at <http://users.adelphia.net/~ghspaulding/>

50 Years Later, 'Forgotten War' Remembered

From South Korea to the Jersey Shore, commemorations were held to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. Regardless of the size of the event, each was a time to remember the fallen, honor the veterans and celebrate the freedom of South Korea that so many fought...and died...to preserve.

On 26 July, the Department of Defense held a gala event at Washington's MCI Center in honor of the war's fallen and survivors. The event featured performances by Korean folk dancers, country singer Randy Travis, and 50s / 60s singing groups the Cornell Gunter Coasters and the Platters.

On 27 July, an Armistice Day ceremony was held at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington. "Because thousands of brave men and women from 22 nations put their lives on the line, the face of Asia was changed dramatically for the better," said Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz at the ceremony. "Thanks to our combined action in Korea, the stage was set for the eventual victory in the larger Cold War. It took decades, but freedom triumphed throughout most of the Communist world. And one day, freedom will come to the people of North Korea as well."

Half a world away, over 1,200 veterans of the United Nations forces gathered at Panmunjom, South Korea, to mark the occasion at the exact time (10:00 am) that the Armistice was signed. That evening, another ceremony was held at the U.S. Forces Korea Headquarters in Seoul to commemorate when the armistice officially took effect.

Brick Township, New Jersey, held its Korean War Armistice ceremony on 8 August so as not to interfere with the national and state ceremonies held on 27 July. Public officials honored seventy Brick residents who served in the Korean War and remembered the fallen.

The Korean War Armistice: A Halt to the Fighting but Not an End to the War

By the summer of 1951, the United Nations forces and the North Korean / Chinese Communist forces had already suffered massive casualties in a horrendous struggle for the Korean peninsula. After several see-saw offensives and counter-offensives, the battle lines stabilized roughly along the 38th Parallel. Negotiations to end the Korean War began on 10 July 1951 but would ultimately drag on for two years before the guns would fall silent.

The negotiations languished over a variety of issues from mundane procedural protocols to the repatriation of prisoners of war. Exchange of prisoners of war was a major stumbling block because a great many of the Chinese and North Korean PWs did not want to return to their Communist homelands and the United Nations were reluctant to force them to do so. Bloody offensives and counter-offensives were periodically employed to break negotiation deadlocks and gain bargaining advantages.

In 1953, two major events helped to facilitate the signing of the Armistice. In the late spring of 1953, the new U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower made veiled threats to end the war through an escalation that would include the use of nuclear weapons. Historians are still debating just how effective these threats were in producing an armistice. The other major event was the death of Soviet Premier Josef Stalin. Stalin had pressured the Chinese Communists into entering the war to aid North Korea. For many months, Stalin had pressured the Chinese Communists and North Koreans into prolonging the negotiations and the war as a means of tying down American military power. With his death came a change in the Soviet leadership and an effort to reduce worldwide tensions.

Finally at 10:00 am on 27 July 2003, the Armistice was finally signed at Panmunjom and took effect twelve hours later. Unfortunately for Sgt. Harold Cross, the Armistice

took effect an hour and a half too late. He was the last American killed in action during the war.

The Armistice, however, did not end the war officially as no peace treaty was ever signed. Thus for these last fifty years a tense cease-fire has existed on the Korean Peninsula. To this day the two Koreas are separated by a 2.5-mile-wide, 154-mile-long demilitarized zone of barbed wire, land mines, machine gun posts and defenses.

But the two Koreas are separated by more than just this demilitarized zone. North Korea languishes under a brutally oppressive Communist regime that is a pariah. Its economy is in shambles and it suffers from periodic famines. North Koreans live in fear, deprived of basic human rights and struggling in poverty.

In stark contrast, South Korea is a free and democratic nation. South Korea's economy is one of the strongest in Asia and in the world. South Korea has even hosted the Summer Olympic Games.

The United States remains committed to the freedom of South Korea. Today, some 35,000 Americans are serving in South Korea as part of the 8th U.S. Army, the 7th Air Force and units of the Navy and Marine Corps.

Frequently North Korea has proven that American forces are needed in South Korea. Since the Armistice signing, North Korea has frequently launched commando raids and small boat attacks against South Korea. They have even attempted to tunnel under the DMZ on numerous occasions. In 1968 they seized the *USS Pueblo* and held her crew for nearly a year. And of course, North Korea continues in its efforts to develop nuclear weapons.

Cold War times offers its prayers and best wishes for the safety of our armed forces serving around the globe in defense of Our nation & Human freedom.