



MILE HIGH FLIGHT 18

Order of Daedalians

Newsletter

Feb 2004

Flight Captain begins second year

2004 meeting sked taking shape

Flight 18 normally meets on the third Friday of each month. Exceptions to that practice are announced in the newsletter and through the caller phone tree. Your caller should be contacting you via phone or e-mail roughly seven days prior to each scheduled meeting. If not, please advise Flight Adjutant Ray Rider.

Meeting schedule and tentatively planned activities:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Speaker/activity</u>
20 Feb	Aurora Hills*	Laotian Coalition
19 Mar	Aurora Hills*	L. Wise, WASP
16 Apr	Aurora Hills*	War stories
14 May	Platte Valley A/P	WWI A/C
18 Jun	TBA	TBA
16 Jul	TBA	TBA
20 Aug	Aurora Hills*	TBA
17 Sep	Aurora Hills*	TBA
15 Oct	Aurora Hills*	TBA
19 Nov	Aurora Hills*	TBA
?? Dec	Gov Mansion	Christmas party

* The Aurora Hills Golf Course Tin Cup Restaurant is located one block N of Alameda, just E of Peoria.

Membership roster growing

Since the end of calendar year 2000, Flight 18 has enjoyed a net gain of 27 members, an increase of 23 percent. The flight had 116 members at the close of 2000 and 143 at the end of 2003. Growth in the size of the flight is attributed in part to a 2001 expansion in Daedalian membership criteria to include former military pilots who left the Service prior to retirement—a welcome change, indeed.

First since Bill Hendrix in '72-'73 to serve consecutive terms at helm

Fellow Daedalians,



Gentlemen, it appears we're on our way to another year that will be as great as or greater than last year. My thanks go out to all of the Mile High Flight officers who worked so hard to make 2003 such a success and for your participation in our organization. You made this all happen and I appreciate your efforts.

For those of you who missed our Christmas party at the Richthofen Castle, too bad...so sad. It was an outstanding event and our thanks go out to Jerry and Ester Priddy for hosting the party and to Andy Parks for coordinating our event. A great time was had by all. We hope to have our Christmas party this year at the Governor's Mansion, which should also be an event not to be missed.

Last year our stated goals were to: (1) Recruit five new members, which we did; (2) Collect \$2,000 for the scholarship fund, which we did; and (3) Dedicate two meetings to war stories, again which we did. Congratulations on meeting our 2003 goals.

We rolled over our 2003 goals into 2004 with two additions. The first is to investigate the possibility of obtaining corporate sponsors to match our \$2,000 in scholarship funds with another \$2,000. That could enable us to award larger or additional scholarships. The second goal is to get our proposed Mile High Flight Distinguished Pilot Award up and running.

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From the Flight Captain

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Our guest speaker in February will be Mr. Yang Chee, CEO of the Lao-Hmong-American Coalition. Mr. Chee will discuss the CIA-sponsored "secret war" in Laos (1961-1975) from his perspective flying T-28s and A-1 Skyraiders. I understand that a short video is also part of his presentation. This should be a very interesting briefing to which I am sure many of you gentlemen will relate.

Our guest speaker for March is being confirmed, but we've had a tentative nod from our new female Daedalian, Lucile Wise, who is going to tell us about her experiences as a Women Air Force Service Pilot (WASP).

For April, we've scheduled another exciting session of War Stories. So, gentlemen, dust off those tall tales (10% truth is all that is required). However, we have some ROE changes for War Stories; each story is limited to no more than 10 minutes and only four storytellers will participate in each session.

We are tentatively scheduled to participate in the annual "Platte Valley Rendezvous" in May. More to come on dates and times for this exciting event.

Gentlemen, I look forward to our continued fellowship next month and throughout 2004.

Volabamus

Volamus

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GREGORY D. BLACK,
LCOL, USAF (Ret)
Flight Captain

Wilhite attends 7th Rockies Fantasy Camp

At press time, Mile High Flight member Jack Wilhite, age 75, is set to attend his seventh straight Fantasy Camp with the Colorado Rockies Jan 25-31 at Hi Corbett Field in Tucson, AZ.

Each Fantasy Camp participant is assigned a locker, issued a Rockies uniform with his



name on it and drafted onto one of six teams, which then compete in a week-long series of double-headers. Clinics, team meetings, and dinners with coaches and major leaguer players round out the daily routine.

The teams are coached by Rockies' Manager Clint Hurdle and his coaching staff as well as several Rockies players. The club's regular trainers are also present to attend to the inevitable "war wound."

Wilhite, whose professional baseball career in the New York Yankees organization was cut short by the outbreak of the Korean War, has attended every Fantasy Camp conducted since the program's inception and has become a fixture at second base in Tucson.

Seldom idle, he also participates in senior baseball and softball leagues in Denver, Senior Olympics, flies his Mig-17 and Skybolt in weekend airshows, is a pilot for the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office and works security for the county's Small Claims Court.

Not bad for 75, but we wonder whether Jack will be able to keep up this hectic pace for more than another decade or so.

Distinguished Pilot Award *The plan so far.....*

As reported in the November 2003 Newsletter, the membership has authorized an expenditure of \$500 for the development of an annual award to be presented to the COANG F-16 pilot selected as the distinguished pilot for the preceding year. The authorized amount includes the cost of a full-sized display case, which (pending approval of the 120th TFS) is to be perpetually located in the squadron's foyer.

Criteria for the award—in keeping with the Tenets of the Order of Daedalians—are airmanship, leadership and personal character. The plan calls for the 120th TFS commanding officer to nominate two or three candidates and for Flight 18 to select the winner.

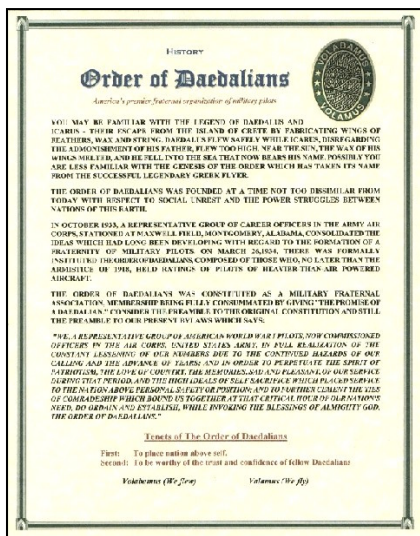
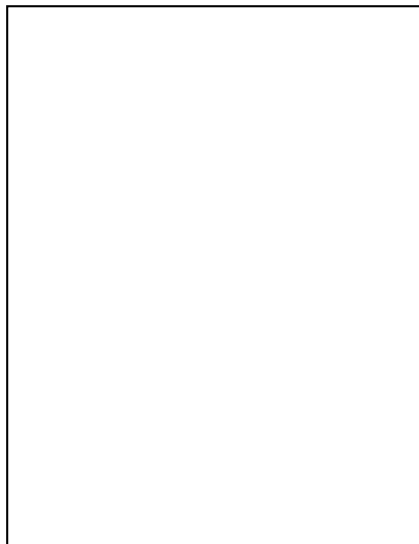
Because the COANG works for him, Governor Bill Owens will be invited to present the award annually beginning this year for 2003.

The selected Distinguished Pilot will receive a trophy (pictured on p.3), a framed certificate and a formal letter from the Flight Captain. He or she will also be invited to become a Daedalian. As an incentive, Flight 18 will pay his/her flight and National dues for the first year of membership.

Pictured on Page 3 are the display case (far right), the trophy and the materials that will be visible behind an identical trophy on perpetual display within the case. Featured (upper left) is a photo of the bronze figure of Daedalus that tops the new Daedalian Memorial at Wright-Patterson AFB, while the textual document (lower left) is the history of the Order of Daedalians.

Mile High Flight 18 Distinguished Pilot Award

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FORGET YOUR 2004 FLIGHT DUES?

For your convenience, please cut out and mail this coupon along with a check in the amount of \$12.00 for your 2004 flight dues. Add any amount you desire to donate to the Scholarship Fund. (Scholarship donations are tax deductible.) *And, remember, your annual Order of Daedalian membership dues are billed by and paid separately to National in San Antonio.*

Name: _____ Home Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ e-mail: _____

Amount enclosed for: 2004 Flight Dues \$12.00 Scholarship Fund _____ Total _____

**** Make check payable to: DAEDALIAN FLIGHT 18**

**** Mail to: Treasurer, Mile High Flight 18, P.O. Box 470141, Aurora, CO 80047-0141**