



(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2005-06

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation...

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

2005 SENATE BILL 306

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & TRANSPORTATION

This bill names the state aviation facilities at the Dane County Regional Airport in the city of Madison the "Fritz E. Wolf Aviation Center."



Fritz E. Wolf
35 Years of Distinguished Service to the State of Wisconsin
Aeronautics Commission
Division of Aeronautics
Bureau of Aeronautics


1. Air Marketing Program
 - A. Not necessary to have longitude or latitude – saved thousands of gallons of paint
 - B. Convinced FAA to switch to chrome yellow and black rather than orange and white.
 - C. Wisconsin was recognized as the best air-marked state in the union.
2. Tall Tower Law
 - A. Tower farm – Cluster towers together that might be hazardous to planes
 - B. Strobe lighting of antennas – Convinced FAA, became national method of lighting towers.
3. He organized the first agricultural air tours in the nation.
4. He established the first minimum airport operation standards in the nation.
5. He was responsible for implementing the first aviation weather report in the nation, later to become familiar to thousand of radio listeners as the twice-daily “Weather Roundup” over the state radio network.
6. He was instrumental in the development of the National Association of State Officials publication “Preparation Guide for Minimum Requirements for Aeronautical Services,” He served as President for that organization.
7. 1946 – 32 public owned airports
1981 – 103 owned by the public, 61 privately owned but used by the public,
220 had been developed for private use.
8. 1989 – Inducted into the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame

Wolf's A Statesman of The Air



Fritz Wolf . . . an ex-Flying Tiger who has settled down to the business of helping Wisconsin communities with their aviation problems.

Ex-Flying Tiger Sells Aviation

Last Name:	Wolf	Picture 
First Name:	Fritz	
Nickname:		
Born/Died	2/8/1916 to 4/24/1997	
Hometown:	Shawano, Wisconsin	
Squadron:	1st Squadron, Adam & Eves	
Position:	Flight Leader	
Victories	4 AVG; 1 Navy	
Decorations:	White Cloud Banner 5th Grade, China Air Force Wings 2 & 4 Star, China War Memorial Decoration, Two Distinguished Flying Crosses, Air Medal, Presidential Unit Citation Award, WWII Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal Three Star, Philippine Liberation Medal One Star.	
Pre AVG:	Fritz Wolf attended Shawano High School where he excelled in leadership, character and athletics including 1933 state basketball playoffs. In 1938 Fritz earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Carroll College, WI where he became an all-conference fullback for three straight years undefeated. About this time he realized that if he was ever going to learn to fly, now was the time. In 1939, he enlisted in the U. S. Navy. Upon completion of flight training in 1940 Ensign Wolf was assigned to the USS Saratoga as a Dive-Bomber pilot. During his training at San Diego naval base, Fritz was chosen as one of the fliers to perform in "Dive Bomber," a movie portraying Uncle Sam's Dive-Bomber pilots before the war. In the summer of 1941 Fritz resigned his commission to join the AVG Flying Tigers. Like a lot of other pilots, he was looking for a little more excitement.	
AVG Service:	Wolf sailed in the first contingent of AVG pilots from San Francisco on July 6, 1941 aboard the Jaegersfontein. Fritz's passport read "agriculture student." The first month after Fritz's arrival was spent learning Chennault's tactics to fight Japanese pilots. On December 20, 1941, Fritz took part in the first Flying Tiger action near Kunming China, during which time he shot down two Mitsubishi bombers. On April 8, 1942, near Loiwing, China, Fritz took part in another action in which he shot down two zero fighters. On April 17, 1942 near Magwe, Burma, Fritz was caught on the ground when the Japanese bombed the airfield. R.T. Smith recorded in his diary that even Fritz Wolf was scared. During this raid, Fritz witnessed first-hand the tragic death of AVG	

	<p>Crew Chief John Fauth. Fritz was honorably discharged from the Flying Tigers when the AVG was officially disbanded on July 4, 1942. He had logged 220 hours of combat flying in the skies over Burma and China fighting the Japanese.</p>
<p>Post AVG, WWII:</p>	<p>Fritz returned to the Navy with the rank of Lieutenant, senior grade and assigned as flight instructor at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station in Florida. After training his own team, Fritz's team was sent to Guam, assigned to the USS Hornet on January 8, 1945. Flying the Grumman F6F Hellcats, Fritz and his squadron struck Japanese targets in Hong Kong, Formosa, Hainan Island and French Indo China. While serving as skipper of VBF-3 aboard the Yorktown in 1945 and during the first carrier-based attack against mainland Japan, Fritz officially shot down his fifth Japanese plane making him an ace. Wolf closed the war at the Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Brown Field as executive officer. He left the Navy in 1946 to work for the Wisconsin State Aeronautical Commission. He remained in the Naval Reserves retiring as Commanader in 1967.</p>
<p>Post War Career:</p>	<p>Fritz became the first paid employee in the new Wisconsin State Aeronautical Commission and later headed up operations there. Fritz was appointed the Wisconsin Director of Aeronautics and later became the Bureau Director of Wisconsin's Dept. of Transportation. Fritz retired from state service in May of 1981 after 35 years of distinguished service. Fritz felt that this biggest role was the development of the state's airport system that started with 32 public airports in 1946 to 103 public airports and more than twice that in private airports when he retired. The capstone of Fritz's career came when he was inducted into the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame. He loved his work and as a result was presented with numerous career awards.</p> <p>-Contributed by Rick Wolf. For more information, contact Rick Wolf.</p>

Aviation leader, war hero to retire

By Paul A. Rix
State government reporter

Fritz Wolf has had his share of ups and downs since he was a youngster in Shawano County, racing across fields to catch a glimpse of incoming aircraft.

Wolf's love affair with planes took him from northern Wisconsin to the Far East during World War II, where he earned combat honors, and eventually to hundreds of Wisconsin communities seeking support for improved airport and passenger services.

At 65, Wolf is the first and only man to head the state Department of Transportation's Aeronautics section. Next month, he retires.

He was appointed to the post 14 years ago by Gus Bakke, former state transportation secretary, and before that served 20 years on a state aeronautics commission created under former Gov. Warren Knowlton.

He served under five transportation secretaries: Bakke, Norm Clapp, Zel Rice, Dale Catlanach and Lowell Jackson.

A big, quiet man, Wolf stared at a transportation map on the wall of his Hill Farms State Office Building on Madison's West Side recently and reflected on his early interest in aviation, his contributions to the industry, and, with some reservation, the war years.

"I used to run to every field to watch the planes land," he said. "In those days the fields were big enough for about five cows. I also had friends who were pilots."

After graduating from Carroll College in Waukesha, Wolf lined up a \$100-a-month job but never made the payroll because of an appendicitis operation.

"I decided right then that if I was ever going to learn how to fly it had to be then. So in 1939 I joined the Navy."

By October 1940, and after completing his cadet training, Wolf turned his sights to North Island, San Diego, where he became a member of a bombing squad assigned to the USS Saratoga, a converted aircraft carrier.

Wolf's early exposure to the military took an interesting twist that may have had a lasting impact on his devo-

tion to aeronautics.

Under an Executive Order dated April 15, 1941, a unique aviation corps called the American Volunteer Group was formed.

The order allowed the recruitment of American pilots under the command of General Claire Chennault. Wolf, not one to sit idly by, lined up with these "advanced training units."

Personnel attached to the AVG were offered a one-year contract with Central Aircraft Manufacturing Co., which had established a plant in China in 1941 to build planes.

The AVG staff were offered one-year contracts with Central Aircraft to manufacture, repair and operate planes, according to Chennault's memoirs.

Their salaries ranged from \$250 to \$750 per month with 30 days leave.

Housing was furnished, a \$30-per-month food allowance was provided and \$500 bonuses were given for each Japanese plane destroyed.

AVG personnel, recruited from American military units under Presi-



Fritz Wolf

Turn to Page 2, Col. 1

Continued from Page 1

dent Roosevelt's authority, arrived in Rangoon, Burma, on July 28, 1941, and ~~was~~ ~~put~~ ~~into~~ ~~action~~.

Less than a month later, Chennault arranged a meeting with Wolf and other mercenary pilots to see firsthand how this corps was adjusting. Living conditions and food were bad, according to Chennault's memoirs, and the men were plagued with a shortage of spare parts and supplies.

However, conditions did not deter AVG pilots, who within days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (Dec. 7, 1941), were defending Rangoon and conducting aerial raids into Indochina.

Of one mission, Chennault noted: "Fritz Wolf of Shawano, Wis., had shot down two enemy bombers and cursed his armorer because his guns had jammed. On ground examination he found them empty. One other Jap plane was confirmed down that day for a total of 3 of 10 for the day."

Word of such heroics spread quickly. Wolf and his compatriots were surprised to learn from newspaper clippings mailed to them from the United States that they had become internationally famous and had inherited a new title — the Flying Tigers.

A major contributor to the Flying Tigers' distinguished record, Wolf returned to the States in 1942, married and re-enlisted in the Navy as a fighter pilot instructor. He spent a tour of duty as a fighter squadron leader in the Pacific and was discharged in 1946.

What does he think of the war years?

"I've down-played them from the beginning. Sure it opened some doors when I got out of the service but I've wanted to be known as Fritz Wolf, head of aeronautics."

He said he'd like to think his election as president of the National Association of State Aviation Officials seven years ago and his 35 years of service to the state surpasses the lofty combat honors.

"I remember so many friendships. I gave as much of my time to the rural areas as the urban because aviation shouldn't be restricted to the large communities. I was welcomed by so many councils and never abused, even by those who weren't familiar with

aviation."

These are shaky times for the nation's transportation network. Railroad, bus, water and jet service are in a state of flux.

"We're experiencing one of the most important periods in aviation in Wisconsin," Wolf said. "There's the impact of deregulation and complete changes in federal airport aids in the next three years, which will mean the state has to play a more important role."

With Republic Airlines of Minneapolis reducing service to many smaller Wisconsin communities in favor of cost-cutting, long-distance flights, aviation in Wisconsin is changing.

"Right now people in Superior who board at 6:30 a.m. have to stop at Minneapolis and don't get into Madison until 10:30.

"Going back north they take a 9:30 p.m. flight that doesn't get into Superior until 1:30 in the morning. That's not service by any means."

Wolf says Republic, formerly Wisconsin Central and later North Central, "has been good to Wisconsin. But Wisconsin has been good to Republic. Airports were built and improved to accommodate them. They had priority over the years."

The route ahead, Wolf said, won't be easy.

The state, he said, has to explain to the public the economic benefits of safe reliable airports.

"By no means have we completed the airport system in Wisconsin. Somebody has to take the lead and somebody has to come up with solutions."

The first hired employee of the Aeronautics Commission was Flying Tiger war vet and Shawano native, Fritz Wolf. He recalled that his first job was to run education programs but he preferred operations. When the operations job opened, he moved to it, leaving the education position to another young war vet, Carl Guell. Wolf and Guell worked together for thirty-five years and left a lasting imprint on every feature of state involvement in aviation.

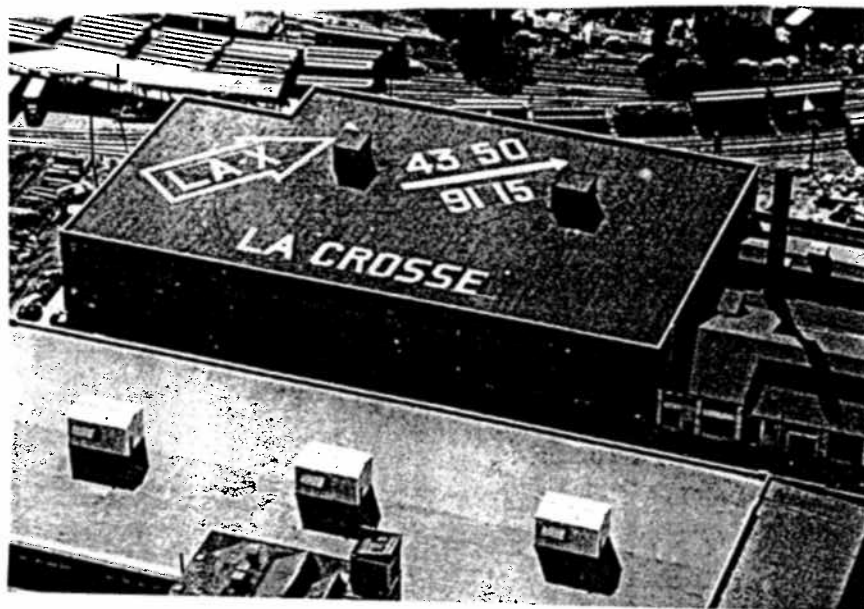
Wolf also recalled that budget limitations forced him to focus on the air marking program, which meant "a sign up on a roof that would be easily seen," by aviators. The sign would identify the place and indicate the whereabouts of the local airport. Wolf was able to persuade the Federal Aviation Administration that adding the longitude and latitude to the sign was unnecessary. "I said that they all have maps who fly around here, so they changed it. We must have saved thousands of gallons of paint."

He also convinced the FAA to switch to chrome yellow and black paint for the air markers instead of the original orange and white since, "you couldn't see them when it was snowing." In a few years Wisconsin was recognized as the best air-marked state in the Union, with over 1,850 highly-visible yellow and black signs in place by 1955.

Wolf was also proud of his work administering the "tall tower" law and developing the "tower farm" where antennas hazardous to airplanes could be clustered.

He also made Wisconsin a pioneer in the strobe lighting of antennas. "We worked on it and then we worked on it and we got the FAA finally convinced. Finally it became a national method of lighting towers."

The number of airports in Wisconsin increased every year in the 1940s and '50s, but the financially perilous condition of many fixed based operators at smaller municipal airports did not improve. In response, Wolf developed a model contract which gave FBOs the security of a long term lease and provided them with an incentive to improve the operation. "The industry got much stronger, and the airports got to be more useful, and they became a good asset for any city looking for new industries."



ARTICLES TAKEN FROM
FORWARD IN FLIGHT
THE HISTORY OF AVIATION IN WISCONSIN

BY
MICHAEL J. GOC
WISCONSIN AVIATION HALL OF FAME

WISCONSIN AVIATION HALL OF FAME
AWARDS DINNER
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1989, 6:30 PM
EAA AVIATION CENTER
OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN

1989 RECIPIENTS

Dale and Dean Crites
Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg USAF
Fritz E. Wolf

Fritz E. Wolf graduated from Shawano High School in 1933 and entered Carroll College, Waukesha on a basketball scholarship but never played. He was named All Conference fullback for three years on a team that lost only one game. After working his way through school working in a restaurant he graduated in 1938 with a degree in Business Administration. He joined the Navy to become a naval aviator in 1939 and was commissioned an Ensign and went on active duty in 1940. In July 1941 he resigned his commission to join the American Volunteer Group (AVG-Flying Tigers) where he served as a flight leader until it was disbanded on July 4, 1942. His commission was restored in the US Navy and he served as a carrier pilot squadron leader in F6F's. He retired from the Naval Reserve in 1967 as a Commander. Wolf became the first employee of the Aeronautics Commission in 1946 and served until 1967 when he was appointed as Director of Aeronautics by Guss Bakke the first Secretary of Transportation. Wolf was recognized for organizing the first agricultural air tours in the nation, he pioneered strobe lighting for tall towers and he established the first minimum airport operation standards in the nation. He organized the first Aviation Weather roundup on the State network and established Wisconsin's nationally recognized Air Markers program. He served as President of the National Association of State Aviation Officials.

Farmboy aces and homegrown astronauts

By Roger A. Gribble
Wisconsin State Journal

Wisconsinites have played prominent roles in the nation's aviation and military history, some attaining fame in both arenas. Among them:

■ **Gen. Billy Mitchell**, for whom Milwaukee's airport is named, grew up in Milwaukee and was an early and outspoken proponent of air power. His critical statements about the War and Navy departments led to his court-martial and a five-year suspension from the Army. After retiring he continued his fight for a strong, autonomous air force.

■ **Richard Bong**, a farmboy from Poplar, was the all-time leading U.S. air ace. Flying a Lockheed P-38 Lightning, Bong shot down 40 Japanese aircraft during World War II. He returned to the United States before war's end and served as a test pilot for the P-80 Shooting Star jet fighter. Bong was killed in August 1945, when his P-80 crashed.

■ **Paul Poberezny** founded the Experimental Aircraft Association, now a worldwide organization, in 1953 after inviting fellow homebuilding aircraft enthusiasts to a small Milwaukee airport

For the next 11 years the EAA's headquarters was in the basement of his Hales Corners home. Poberezny was EAA president for 37 years until his son Tom was named in 1989. The EAA's annual Oshkosh convention attracts visitors and aircraft from all over the world.

■ **Howard Morey** flew with Lindbergh in the Spirit of St. Louis when it landed here, started and managed two airports, including Madison's first municipal airport, and was chief instructor for a World War II program that trained several thousand Navy pilots here. He also started his own airline and later became president of North Central (now Northwest) Airlines. He was also the first chairman of the state Aeronautics Commission. He died in 1995 at the age of 92.

■ **Donald "Deke" Slayton**, of Sparta, former Mercury astronaut, was scratched from his first mission when he developed a heart condition, but was later cleared to become docking module pilot of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project in 1975. He died in 1993 at the age of 69.

■ **Gen. Nathan Twining** was born in Monroe and served in the U.S. military for 43 years, including a stint as the first Air Force chairman of the Joint Chiefs of

Staff. During World War II Twining headed Air Corps units in the Pacific, Italy and the Mediterranean. He later headed the Strategic Air Command. He died in 1982 at the age of 84.

■ **Daniel Brandenstein**, a Watertown native, was a chief astronaut who commanded the satellite rescue mission of Endeavor. A four-time space flyer, he spent 789 hours on the space shuttle and commanded three shuttle missions. He left NASA in 1992.

■ **Steve Wittman** of Oshkosh won many of the national air races he competed in from 1926 until after World War II. He also conceived, designed and built racing planes and managed Wittman Field in Oshkosh. He died in April 1995 at the age of 91 in the crash of a plane he designed and built.

■ **Britt Wolf of Middleton** was a member of the famed Flying Tigers, which fought against the Japanese during early World War II, later serving as a Navy pilot. Wolf shot down five Japanese planes and was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses. After the war, he was Wisconsin director of the Aeronautics Commission and Bureau of Aeronautics. He died in 1997 at the age of 81.

Friend of Wisconsin aviation led high-flying life in wartime

By Roger A. Gribble
Wisconsin State Journal

Although he served with the legendary Flying Tigers, the late Fritz Wolf of Middleton wanted to be remembered for his contributions to Wisconsin aviation, his son said Sunday during funeral services for his father.

Fritz Wolf, who died Thursday at St. Mary's Hospital at age 81, recently received a second Distinguished Flying Cross for his World War II exploits.

But he didn't talk about that much, said his son, Richard Wolf of Sun Prairie. He wanted to be remembered for helping airports and aviation while serving as director of the state Aeronautics Commission and, later, the Bureau of Aeronautics. He retired from the latter position in 1981.

As for his wartime service, during a 1991 interview, Fritz Wolf said, "A lot of guys go bugs about being a Flying Tiger, but I never followed it up." In fact, up to that point he hadn't attended the group's reunions, he added.

Richard said his father joined the Flying Tigers, officially the American Volunteer Group, resigning his Naval commission to do so, "because he wanted more excitement."

During the 1991 interview, Fritz Wolf recalled, "I was a country boy from Shawano and never traveled too much. I also had a feeling we were going to



Wolf

be in the war anyway."

There were about 150 of the American Volunteer Group aboard the ship he took to Singapore, and the

planes had been assembled in Rangoon (Burma) before they were picked up, he said.

He had never flown a P-40, he said, so he and other pilots had to adjust to them. "We did a lot of simulated dogfights to see what the planes would do in turns."

Other wartime experiences related during the 1991 interview included:

- Taking part in the first Flying Tiger action in mid-December 1941, near Kunming, China, during which he shot down two Japanese bombers.

- Taking part in the first Naval air attack on Tokyo after having his Naval commission restored when the Flying Tigers were disbanded.

- Getting into a fight with the late, legendary Marine ace, Greg "Pappy" Boyington, with whom he lived for a time. "I knocked him off his feet," Wolf recalled.

- Being told by a doctor in China he would not survive a hepatitis attack and being measured for a coffin.

- Not being able to pull his P-40 fighter out of a dive until he reached treetop level. (P-40s attacked Japanese planes by diving on them.) Wolf said Japanese planes were faster and could turn tighter, but couldn't dive as well as the P-40s.

- Having to ditch his Navy plane at sea and spending three hours in the ocean before being picked up.

He was credited with shooting down four planes as a Flying Tiger and another as a Navy pilot.

The Flying Tigers were credited with shooting down 297 Japanese planes during the early days of World War II.

Four Flying Tigers were killed in aerial combat and another eight in accidents and by enemy strafing, another former Flying Tiger recalled at an Experimental Aircraft Association Convention in Oshkosh.

Despite Fritz Wolf's military exploits, Richard said, the capstone of his career was his induction in 1989 into the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame.

Sunday's funeral service at Westminster Presbyterian Church ended with the playing of taps.

HOWARD A. MOREY
901 FARWELL DRIVE
MADISON, WI 53704

April 09, 1981

Mr. Fritz E. Wolf

Dear Fritz:

One of the greatest assets of General Aviation is the many dedicated people involved. Were it not for their efforts, the industry could not have progressed to its present level of achievement.

You stand out as one of those dedicated people in aviation for having contributed so much to the industry you have loved and worked for. Your entire aviation career makes us all stand in admiration.

I am especially glad to have been a member of the (then) Wisconsin Aeronautics Commission whose decision it was to employ your services. I am pleased to bask in reflected glory.

May your retirement bring you much pleasure which you so richly deserve.

Warmest regards,

Howard A. Morey
Howard A. Morey



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



April 15, 1981

Mr. Fritz E. Wolf, Director,
Bureau of Aeronautics
Division of Transportation Assistance
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 7914
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Fritz:

The Council on Aeronautics has had the pleasure of working with you over the last fourteen years of its existence in its advisory role to the Secretary of the Department of Transportation. Personally, I have had the honor of knowing you since the summer of 1978, and have worked with you regularly since my appointment to the Council in November 1979.

The Council has had an excellent working relationship with you throughout its existence. You are the "Grand Old Man" of Aviation in Wisconsin, carrying a reputation far beyond its borders. Your achievements are legion, having earned you a place in the history of aviation and in the hearts of aviators and aviation officials everywhere.

On behalf of the Council, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for the leadership and selfless dedication that you have provided to aviation. Without your 35 year career with the Bureau of Aeronautics and its predecessor agencies, Wisconsin would not have the excellent airport system we have today.

Throughout your retirement, we hope you remain our friend, counsellor and colleague in our mutual efforts to improve aviation. We wish you all the best of luck, health and Godspeed in the future.

Sincerely,

David L. Duax, Chairman
Council on Aeronautics



CHAPLIN *aviation, inc.*

PHONE 414/467-6151 — COUNTY TRUNK 0 — ROUTE 2 — BOX 141 — SHEBOYGAN FALLS, WIS. 53085

April 25, 1981

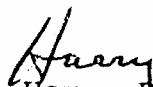
Dear Fritz:

A salute to you, Fritz, on this important occasion...
Your Retirement.

It was a long climb from Operations Consultant to Administrator... Each step filled with challenges... You approached each with the same foresight and dedication for which you have been so well known, and everyone in Aviation has benefitted.

I was fortunate to have shared most of those moments of pride and accomplishment with you. Many is the time that you made my job lighter, and my day brighter. I am grateful.

May you and Martha enjoy the pleasures of retirement to the utmost. You've EARNED it.


Harry R. Chaplin

Discover Flying

with us



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



April 24, 1981

DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION
ASSISTANCE

P. O. Box 7914
Madison, WI 53707
(608) 266-3351

Mr. Fritz E. Wolf, Director,
Bureau of Aeronautics
Division of Transportation Assistance
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Fritz:

As our formal working association draws to a close, I want to add my sincere thanks and best wishes to those you are receiving from so many of your colleagues and friends. Though it may not always have shown, I have counted myself fortunate to have been under your tutelage on aviation matters through the years, and particularly in these latter two years, when our association has been the closest.

I, perhaps as directly as anyone in the Department, will miss your advice and perspectives on national as well as local aeronautics issues. Thus, your offer to continue to make available your expertise on a special need basis is most welcome, and something I know we will want to take advantage of from time to time. We'll promise to be good stewards of that offer and not wear out our welcome with you, or with Martha either, for that matter.

I can't help but stand in awe of the record you have left on aviation in this state and nation, from your heroic military flying days, through your thirty-five years of devoted service to the State of Wisconsin and its aviation interests, plus your many years of service and leadership to NASAO. To have been exposed directly to only a small part of that history has, in itself, been a real privilege for me. As is so often the case, we don't recognize the full contributions of many until they begin to exit our midst. Such is and will increasingly be our experience with you as you retire from state service.

May these upcoming retirement years be pleasant for both you and Martha, and may you be able to do some of the things your work with us has inhibited. Though I am quite certain your interest in fishing will capture some of your extra time, I'm also quite

Fritz E. Wolf

-2-

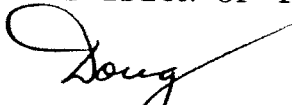
April 24, 1981

certain that your love for and concern for aviation will not diminish, and that Wisconsin aviation interests will continue to be blessed by your participation in one way or another.

Again, my deep thanks and very best wishes.

Sincerely,

DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Doug", written over the typed name "D. F. Haist".

D. F. Haist,
Administrator

DFH/abg

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**

Airports District Office
6301 - 34th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55450



April 25, 1981

Mr. F. E. Wolf, Director
Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics
Division of Transportation Assistance
P.O. Box 7914
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Fritz:

Congratulations on your achievement of the new role of "retiree". You have worked long, hard, and diligently to reach this plateau in your career.

I have enjoyed working with you toward the improvements at various airports including Mosinee, Rhinelander, Hayward, Ashland, Arbor Vitae, La Crosse, Eau Claire, Madison, Green Bay, Sturgeon Bay, Eagle River, Oshkosh, Monroe, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Waukesha, Platteville, and last but not least, Milwaukee. ~~Your positive approach led toward excellent solutions to the transitory problems associated with these projects.~~ You may well think of these locations with pride of accomplishment.

I wish this commencement of the rest of your life and your new career to be equally as rewarding and successful. You are loved and respected by the entire aviation family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don", written over a light-colored background.

Donald R. Stockdale

NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
William C. Hennessy, Commissioner



1220 Washington Avenue, State Campus, Albany, New York 12232

April 1981

Dear Fritz:


I am sorry that I can't be there to personally wish you the best in the coming years. In our eight years of association through NASAO, I have always respected and valued your opinions. We have shared many ideas and concerns about aviation and I will surely miss your insight in these discussions.

Of all the State Aviation Directors, Fritz, you will always stand out as the one Director that we should all emulate. Your ability to make us reach for the stars and believe the impossible is a tribute to your leadership abilities and is why you have the respect as a true professional from all the State Aviation Directors.

Needless to say, your wit and levity will be sorely missed. I hope that you will be able to join us in Minneapolis this fall and share those precious bits of wisdom that have made you famous.

Seriously, I would like to wish you the best and hope that the fishing is great.

Sincerely,


CLARENCE M. COOK
Director
Aviation Bureau



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AVIATION OFFICIALS

Suite 400 • 1300 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005 • 202-783-0588

President
DAVID L. BLACKSHEAR
Louisiana

1st Vice President
CLARENCE M. COOK
New York

2nd Vice President
WILLARD G. PLENTL, JR.
North Carolina

Treasurer
T. JAMES TRUBY
Maryland

Regional Vice Presidents

WILLIAM H. HAMILTON
Washington

HARRY (AL) HOOVER
Iowa

ROBERT L. DONAHUE
Illinois

WILLIAM E. RICHARDS
West Virginia

RICHARD DIPIETRO
Maine

SONNY NAJERA
Arizona

C. A. (CLAY) WILKINS
Texas

JOHN W. HAMILTON
South Carolina

April 7, 1981

JOSEPH G. MASON
Executive Vice President

Mr. Fritz E. Wolf, Director
Bureau of Aeronautics - DOT
P. O. Box 7914
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Fritz:

Since you are about to terminate our employer/employee relationship, I now address you as "Fritz". Am sorry I will no longer be working for you, but being a couple of years short of eligibility for social security, welfare, food stamps or a room at the poor house, am unable to offer my services as 1st assistant angler, baiter of fish hooks, etc., and besides I don't want to deprive Martha of her responsibilities in this regard.

Down to serious business. ~~When you finished your term as NASAO President, I told you you had been one of, if not the best president the association had had.~~ I meant that sincerely for you did a terrific job leading the troops. And, you did what I fully expected you to do in the years that followed -- you continued to offer your guidance, wisdom and leadership without benefit of an official title, not to mention a little humor when it was sorely needed during some of our meetings.

You have been very good to, and for, the membership and staff of NASAO and we'll all miss not only you, but Martha as well. Having been with NASAO 32 of the 35 years you've been with the State of Wisconsin, this is rather like cutting an umbilical cord, so will hope you end up in some mischief that will bring us together in the future. If not, may all your fish either be two feet long and weigh at least ten pounds, or may your audience believe the whoppers when you tell them they did. Have lots of fun!!

Sincerely,

Jean R. Lloyd, Director
Membership Services



PAUL J. HARDY
SECRETARY

Department of Transportation and Development
OFFICE OF AVIATION AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

P. O. BOX 44245 CAPITOL STATION
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70804



DAVID C. TREEN
GOVERNOR

DAVID L. BLACKSHEAR
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

April 6, 1981

Mr. Fritz E. Wolf, Director
Bureau of Aeronautics
Division of Transportation Assistance
Department of Transportation
P. O. Box 7914
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Fritz:

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere congratulations to you on this the occasion of your retirement from a long and distinguished record of service in the field of aeronautics.

It will be a long time before this "new kid on the block" fails to remember the tremendous assistance which you provided to me in developing a comprehensive air transportation development program for the citizens of the State of Louisiana. That assistance has been forthcoming for a period of 10 years now and the strongest assistance of all has been the conscientious and dedicated attitude which you have always portrayed in your approach to the resolution of aeronautical problems not only for your state but for the entire nation.

Sincerely,

DAVID L. BLACKSHEAR

DLB:by

I MEAN IT!

Florida

BOB GRAHAM
GOVERNOR



Department of Transportation

Haydon Burns Building, 605 Suwannee Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301, Telephone (904) 488-8541
WILLIAM N. ROSE
SECRETARY

April 8, 1981

Mr. Fritz Wolf, Director
Bureau of Aeronautics
P. O. Box 7914
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Fritz:

Your retirement is causing great concern in Florida as we feel that this will give you more time to spend in our State. Invariably aviation knowledgeable retirees are the most vocal and efficient opponents to our airports. The threat of your running loose across the Nation is just too much for State Aviation Directors to rest comfortably.

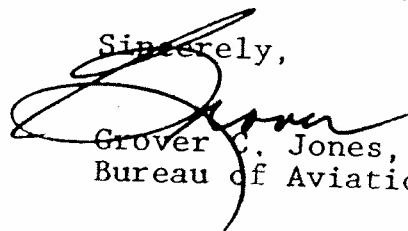
We have further concerns that your talents in running contraband might be put to use. We are not proud to be the pipeline for which most of the drugs are coming into the Country. We just know that with your expertise there could be no control to these illicit operations.

Most of our bars are operated at a profit and generally in keeping with the desires of the neighborhood. Should you decide to open such an establishment in Florida we know that this situation will change. We just do not have entertainment acts that could compete with girls in high heel shoes jumping from table tops to your chest.

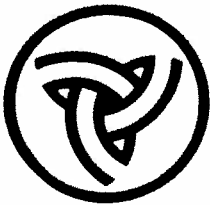
Fritz, state aviation will miss the leadership that you have given Wisconsin and the Nation for ever so many years. I have used your State as an example many times in trying to find better ways to improve air transportation in Florida. You have always been cooperative and helpful and I will sorely miss being able to call you as I have many times for expert advice.

Old anchor clankers have been known to mend their ways and become law abiding and community supporting citizens. We hope this will be the case in your retirement and that you could visit with your many friends throughout the Nation on a full time basis.

Sincerely,


Grover C. Jones, Chief
Bureau of Aviation

GCJ:sm



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Aeronautics
One Langhorne Bond Drive/Capital Airport
Springfield, Illinois/62706

April 20, 1981

Mr. Fritz E. Wolf, Director
Department of Transportation
Bureau of Aeronautics
4802 Sheboygan Avenue
P. O. Box 7914
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Fritz:

I understand that you, an old naval, tiger, flying person, are going to retire. What are we poor newcomers in the state aviation business going to do without you? ~~I for one have certainly relied on your leadership and knowledge as a valuable resource in my indoctrination.~~ Your advice has always been straight-forward and certainly without embellishment. One could always accept your word as being factual and based on valid experience.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to enjoy a fishing trip with you. Again, your knowledge of Wisconsin's home waters gives testimony to your prowess as a fisherman. I have been fascinated with your factual recounts of fishing experiences and of the outstanding size of your fish catches which you so modestly have declined to record for posterity. I would anticipate that your retirement will result in a net decrease in the fish population of Wisconsin.

I have listened in awe inspired admiration when you have, quietly and without bravado, talked of your early training as a naval pilot. I am an avid enthusiast of the history of military aviation and I have spent long hours in research in an attempt to identify some of the aircraft which you have flown such as the NY2, in addition to others. I find them to be so rare and even so experimental in design and concept that they were unrecorded-- a calamitous loss.

I for one, hope to stay in touch with you so that I may be kept current of your future experiences. They will certainly be as great and as newsworthy as any in your illustrious past.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Donahue
Director



Department of Transportation

Division of Aeronautics

Pierre, South Dakota 57501

605-773-3574

April 22, 1981

Fritz E. Wolf
Bureau of Aeronautics
4802 Sheboygan Avenue
P.O. Box 7914
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Fritz:

I will not be able to attend your retirement dinner but would like to convey to you that I have enjoyed your friendship and guidance over the past 14 years.

Your foresight and leadership will be missed at the National level and I want to express to you that the year of 1975 was especially meaningful to me during your NASA0 presidency.

You are invited to come to Pierre and try fishing for Walleyes in the Great Lakes of South Dakota.

Hope to "cross trails" with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Monte R. Schneider

MRS/jb
Enclosures



WISCONSIN AVIATION TRADES ASSOCIATION

6031 Lawry Court Oregon, WI 53575

(608) 835-7063

Fritz Wolf, Director
Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics
Hill Farms State Office Building
Madison, Wisconsin

May 1981

Dear Fritz,

On behalf of the Wisconsin Aviation Trades Association, I wish to thank you for serving the aviation business community in the state -- first as an operations consultant, and in more recent years as administrator of the Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics.

Among your many accomplishments throughout your 35-year career, those which are foremost in the minds of Wisconsin aviation businessmen has been your work to strengthen the industry through dedication and positive reinforcement.

Through your efforts, operators were able to obtain long-term leases with municipal governments. Without such leases, it would have been extremely difficult -- if not impossible -- for operators to obtain loans and make the kind of personal and financial commitment necessary to establish operations. In addition, your long standing belief that a good fixed base operation and its services are as important as an airport itself, has helped to build strong working relationships between operators, airport managers and municipal governments.

The Wisconsin Aviation Trades Association also recognizes your involvement in the establishment of minimum standards for airport operations; height zoning legislation; tower marking; air marking of buildings; and the improvement and modernization of the state's navigation aid system.

Your support in keeping members of WATA informed concerning legislative matters and encouraging them to be more vocal and to take a stand on issues as a unified group, even though you were aware that the association might not always be in agreement with your own positions, exemplifies the professional attitude you have always maintained.

The members of the Wisconsin Aviation Trades Association wish you and Martha much success in all of your future endeavors, and thank you for making aviation your vocation these many years.

Respectfully yours,

Dave Weiman
Executive Secretary



**EXPERIMENTAL
AIRCRAFT
ASSOCIATION**

P.O. BOX 229, HALES CORNERS, WISCONSIN 53130
OFFICES AND AIR MUSEUM: 11311 W. FOREST HOME AVE., FRANKLIN, WI 53132
PHONE: 414/425-4860

April 15, 1981

Mr. Fritz E. Wolf
Bureau of Aeronautics
4802 Sheboygan Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Fritz,

Where has the time gone - from 1946 to 1981?

It has been a great pleasure knowing you and working with you over these past many years. Under your leadership Wisconsin has moved ahead in many areas of aviation.

We are all very proud of you and thankful that we had leadership of your caliber.


It was a great pleasure, on behalf of the Experimental Aircraft Association and its thousands of members, to present you with a plaque of appreciation at the 1981 Wisconsin Aviation Trade Meeting at Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Old fighter pilots never die; they keep on flying.

Take care of yourself, Fritz, and be happy.

Sincerely,

EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION


Paul H. Poberezny
President

m



*Rhineland-Oneida County
Airport Commission*



ROBERT HECK, Chairman

WILLIAM LUDWIG, Secretary

FRED FELLER

ANDREW H. CREGLOW, Airport Manager

P. O. BOX 753 • RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN 54501

April 10, 1981

Mr. Fritz E. Wolf
Bureau of Aeronautics
Division of Transportation Assistance
P.O. Box 7914
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Fritz:

It is with sincere regret that I advise you that my wife and I will be unable to attend your retirement dinner party.

In May 1975, I became Chairman of the Rhineland-Oneida County Airport Commission. During the past six years our airport has been involved with one of the larger airport expansion programs in the state. As I have mentioned to many people the cooperation received by our Commission from you and your associates has continually been nothing short of sensational.

My comments at the banquet ceremony on April 9, 1981 were a reflection relative to the great esteem and admiration Fred, Bill and I have had for you. You have excelled in your role because of the tremendous respect and ability you have always brought to the job. To me . . . this is the ultimate measure of a person.

I sincerely hope you and your lovely wife, Martha, will be able to enjoy a wonderful retirement. You certainly are always welcome in Rhineland, should the occasion permit.

Thank you!

Kindest regards,

Robert G. Heck
Chairman

RGH:js

City of Marshfield

P. O. Box 727
112 East 2nd Street
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449

MARILYN HARDACRE
Mayor

715-384-2919

April 13, 1981

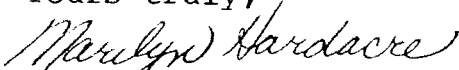
Fritz E. Wolf, Director
Bureau of Aeronautics
4802 Sheboygan Avenue
P.O. Box 7914
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Fritz,

On behalf of the City of Marshfield and its Airport Committee and Manager, I extend congratulations to you on having completed 35 years of distinguished service to the Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics. ~~Be-~~
~~cause of your enduring efforts and leadership in the~~
~~field of aeronautics, small cities such as Marshfield~~
have been able to develop airports and aviation services which have greatly facilitated their growth and economic development.

Personally, I am honored to have become an acquaintance of yours, even though its only been a very short time span of your many years of service. I wish you many years of happiness and good health as you embark upon your golden days of retirement so richly deserved.

Yours truly,



Marilyn Hardacre
Mayor

MH/b

Langlade County

AIRPORT COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 460
ANTIGO, WI 54409

April 20, 1981

Mr. F. E. Wolf, Administrator
Division of Aeronautics
P. O. Box 7914
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Fritz:

Governor Dreyfus beat you to the punch by formally announcing your retirement from state aviation activity. We think you should be proud of his recognition of your years of service to Wisconsin aviation.

Your years of leadership at the state and national aviation scenes are an inspiration for us locals involved in improving the air facilities of Wisconsin.

We in Langlade County are proud of our association with you and regret your leaving the aeronautics domain for parts unknown. We suspect those parts will be some fishing spots in this part of Wisconsin. When that fishing bug bites be sure to include Langlade County in your itinerary. We have a darn good airport due partly to your efforts and some dandy fishing holes.

Good luck in your new venture as a retiree.

Sincerely,

Vernon McKinney
Vernon McKinney, Chairman
Airport Committee

Nelda McNeil
Nelda McNeil Member
Airport Committee

Delmar Frisch
Delmar Frisch, Member
Airport Committee

Joseph J. Jopek
Joseph J. Jopek
Extension Resource Agent

Carlton Kerstetter
Carlton Kerstetter
Airport Manager





Eau Claire County Airport

3800 STARR AVENUE EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701

(715) 839-4900

April 16, 1981

Mr. Fritz E. Wolf
Administrator
Bureau of Aeronautics
P.O. Box 7914
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Fritz:

It is an honor to be able to reflect my thoughts of our association on the occasion of your retirement. Although our friendship has been relatively short compared to your career with Wisconsin, the privilege of working with you both as a fellow State Aviation Director and as a Wisconsin Airport Manager, will long be remembered.

Your leadership of the National Association of State Aviation officials during the crucial period of ADAP renewals as well as troubled times for our association, gained the respect of that membership and other aviation groups. Serving as your Vice President during that period was most rewarding and provided me with experience which has been most valuable in guiding the growth of the Eau Claire Airport.

The rebuilding of Eau Claire's Airport is an accomplishment you also have a right to reflect upon with pride. Numerous meetings we had in developing the strategy for the transfer of airport ownership with required Capital Improvements have certainly shown their value. The Capital Program we developed in 1978 has well guided our airport's growth and is a significant example of your foresight, leadership, and knowledge of local government.

In addition to the support you have received from your staff and others, Martha's support for you has always been silently obvious. She no doubt anxiously looks forward to more time that can be shared, which is so well deserved by both of you.

I look forward to our personal friendship continuing for many years. My very best wishes and continued good health to you both.

Yours truly,


Guy Wood
Airport Manager



April 16, 1981

Mr. Carl Guell, Chairman
Fritz Wolf Retirement Party
Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics
P.O. Box 7914
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Lawrence J. Timmerman Airport
9305 W. Appleton Ave.
Milwaukee, Wis 53225
MEMBER



Dear Carl,

All the friends of Fritz Wolf I'm sure appreciate the personal attention that you are applying to make his retirement party a happy and successful one. You two have been running mates since 1946 in helping to make a state aviation program work and it is hard to imagine one without the other.

At this time I'd like to laud one of you in a manner befitting a former Flying Tiger and naval pilot and an Administrator for the State of Wisconsin. I'm sure that Fritz is still a good Tiger, and he had to be a good naval pilot, but above all he has been an excellent Administrator for the Bureau of Aeronautics. The class that he displayed was not as a politician but as a real down to earth, sensible, hard working Administrator. He has been successful nationally, state wide and locally in your offices.

I remember Fritz in my arguments and my agreements as it applied to aviation legislation and procedures, but I remember him even more vividly as a personal friend; the fishing and deer hunting we did together, the several airplane rides together over the Rockies flying to NATA conventions in single engine airplanes at night, through weather, and other exciting experiences. Once we found that Alexander Wiley was accompanying us and another experience was the unsolicited room service that was offered to us. Then, there was Taliesin West, the solar power plant visit in Phoenix long before the energy crisis, and many laughs together that emanated from Fritz's talent for being a good story teller and a little bit of a bull shooter.

I know that his wife Martha is a beautiful person and that theirs is allasting love affair and I wish them the greatest happiness in their retirement together. They will be in my prayers when I ask God to bless them.

Sincerely,

Bill Lofgren

The Cessna logo, featuring a stylized 'C' with a wing-like shape integrated into it, followed by the word 'Cessna' in a bold, sans-serif font.

SALES AND SERVICE

Flight School No. PSC-13-18 • Maintenance Station No. 3749 • Air Carrier No. 13GL-83 • Phone (414) 461-3222

WHITMAN AVIATION INC.

AIRCRAFT SALES

24151 W. BLUEMOUND ROAD ■ WAUKESHA COUNTY AIRPORT ■ WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN 53186
(414) 544-6966

April 6, 1981

Mr. Carl. E. Guell
Committee Chairman FWRP
Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics
P.O. Box #7914
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Carl,

Because of prior plans we will not be able to attend Fritz's retirement party, but did want to drop a short line.

Our association with Fritz through WATA and Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics has been most memorable. His humor, dedication and genuine interest in aviation and the people he associated with is something he can be proud of, as are his friends and associates.

We wish him luck in his retirement and whatever he may do.

Sincerely,



Charles & Jeannette Whitman

aba

From: Twig1027@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2006 12:15 pm
To: rwolf@cambridge.k12.wi.us
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Letter

To: Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation

From: Tom Pandolfi

Subject: SB 306

As an Aviation enthusiast and retired FedEx flight manager, I support renaming the State Aviation Facility to the "Fritz E. Wolf Aviation Center".

Renaming this Facility after the Wisconsin native Fritz E. Wolf would be a great tribute to the State because of his recognized duty and service in the military with the American Volunteer Group (AVG) Flying Tigers and his Naval career. His continued service in the aviation industry in Wisconsin for well over 40 years of distinguished credentials and his innovations, are a credit to the State. In addition to being rewarded the Chinese Cloud Banner Decoration (one of the China's highest awards), Mr. Wolf was awarded two (2) Distinguished Flying Cross plus other military citations.

As a dedicated Wisconsin native, Mr. Wolf contributed more to the states aviation industry than any one person. He served his country proudly and came back to Wisconsin, never forgetting his "roots".

Renaming the facility to the "Fritz E. Wolf Aviation Center" would do honor to the State of Wisconsin.

Respectfully,

**Thomas S. Pandolfi
47 Denler Drive
Marlborough, CT 06447**

From william charles <bc122051@msn.com>
Sent Friday, January 27, 2006 12:54 pm
To rwolf <rwolf@cambridge.k12.wi.us>
Cc
Bcc
Subject SB 306

To: The Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation, Members of the committee, I encourage you wholeheartedly to send bill SB 306 forward for a vote, hopefully to receive a resounding YES....Fritz E. Wolf was a great American hero. Your state of Wisconsin has provided many heroes to this country, going back to members of the famed 'Iron Brigade' in the Civil War, and Fritz Wolf stands among these American heroes from Wisconsin. As a member of the famed Flying Tigers, along with other natives of your great state, such as Frank Andersen and the late John Rumen, Fritz Wolf embodied the greatest ideals of our country. The willingness to take on a difficult and dangerous task, against overwhelming odds, to help a people who desperately needed our assistance, reflects the very best of what America has to offer. His service to his country, before, during, and after the second World War, along with his dedicated service to aviation in the state of Wisconsin surely makes him worthy of the great honor you are considering to bestow upon him. If a man of Fritz Wolf's stature, dedication, and loyalty is not worthy of such an honor, I can't imagine who would rise to that level. Thank you for your consideration and time. Please do all you can to honor this great man, a great American, and a great native of the state of Wisconsin. With all my encouragement and best wishes, William E. Charles