

Jon, I can't begin to put into words how fortunate I am to have been able to work on the T-28 restoration and exhibit project with you. It has been an honor to be among dedicated pilots, historians and people who simply have a love for the realm of aviation. Never have I been graced with such diverse and selfless group of people such as yourself who would go to extra lengths to make someone else's dream become a reality.

Jon, you do not realize the extent of your work goes beyond just telling our stories. A project of this undertaking unites people who may have different opinions otherwise. It heals the hearts of those wounded by loss, it bridges words unspoken between the young and old, and it turns back times for a moment for those of us who are a little bit older. Most importantly for us and for our children, that they can look back and be proud of our contributions in safeguarding our future.

Former Capt. Koua Xiong

Hmong T-28 Pilot

U.S. Secret War in Laos

Jon, you did an awesome job! Without your vision and dream this exhibit could not have been possible. Many thanks to Cliff and his Heritage Aero crew for all their hard work, the EAA Chapter 766 for more hard work, Sheboygan Paint for their paint and painting services, the landscaping contractor and all the many people who were involved in making this exhibit a success, contributing historical information and of course to the Hmong Pilot Committee whose history the exhibit honors, the Instructor Pilots who taught the Hmong pilots and the Ravens who fought alongside the Hmong pilots during the Secret War in Laos. I enjoyed supporting your dream Jon and wish you luck in your future endeavors. This exhibit will outlast us and continue educating and inspiring others for future generations.

Helen Murphy

President, T28TrojanFoundation.com

Tucson, AZ

You and your crew put in an incredible amount of time to pull Saturday's program together. I had a rough idea of what to expect on Saturday, but the actual realization far exceeded anything that I would have imagined. The one unexpected thing for me was the emotion of the event. A lot of memories came flooding back.

Col. (Ret.) Gary Koldyke

Former T-28 Instructor Pilot and A-1 Combat pilot, Vietnam

Colorado

You did an amazing job with this exhibit and the dedication event...thank you!

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Greg Cayon

Former Air Force One Pilot
Presidents Clinton and G. W. Bush

Congratulations on a very successful event to honor Hmong pilots of the US Secret War. A big THANK YOU to all the men and women who put countless hours into making this Hmong T-28 exhibit a reality. We are also forever grateful to the dozens of Hmong and American donors who made this project possible. Most of all, thanks to Jon Helminiak for his foresight, leadership and patience. God Bless.

- Nkaujlig Yaj

My grandson Geoffrey and I enjoyed ourselves immensely! I am so glad I decided to follow through on my idea of bringing him to witness this piece of history. The Hmong people are to be admired, not only for their contribution during the Secret War, but also for making good lives for themselves and their families in a different land and culture. You should be very pleased with how the dedication and banquet came off last weekend. I think you did a splendid job...you and your dedicated crew of volunteer workers. It was your concept and you certainly saw it from that to a wonderful finish.

Jan Haack

Author
Charlotte, NC

WOW! What a wonderful memorial weekend. You and your team did a superb job of making it a first class event! I am so thankful to have been a part of it. And please pass along my kudos to all of your team and staff that made this such a wonderful success. I can now leave this world (whenever God decides to take me!) with the peaceful knowledge and experience of having seen this small band of Hmong pilots having been duly honored and remembered.

Rev. Tim McKeown

Former T-28 Instructor Pilot
Houston, TX

Congratulations and thanks again for all the hard work that went into a very successful T-28 exhibit and event to honor the Hmong pilots. The Trojan fly-over certainly was an extra treat for everyone but especially for Hmong pilots and families. It brought back many bittersweet memories and tears. I believe many families will come back and bring relatives to visit the exhibit.

Gaoly Yang

Wife of Former T-28 Pilot Capt. Phong Yang

It's great to see the Dedication and Memorial of these brave Pilots of the Royal Laotian Air Force. I served in DET 1 56 SOWG Udorn RTAFB in 1970 with the Water Pump and Raven project training Laotian and Cambodian mechanics and pilots. I also worked alongside Air America up country Laos at our Lima and Alternate sites.

Randy Kim

Jon –

Thank you so much to you and your teamwork and thank you to the Aviation Heritage Center that give us a very great honor. We will not forget that forever.

Former Capt. Pao Yang and Family

Hmong T-28 Pilot

U.S. Secret War in Laos

Jon –

Thank you again for urging me to attend the T-28 dedication on September 20th. I know I would enjoy it, but it turned out to be a much richer and deeper experience than I could have foreseen.

Charlie Felsenthal