



NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
THE DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
AND THE MILITARY HISTORY LECTURE SERIES
 PRESENT

COLONEL GAIL HALVORSEN
"FREEDOM ON THE WINGS OF HOPE -
THE BERLIN AIRLIFT"

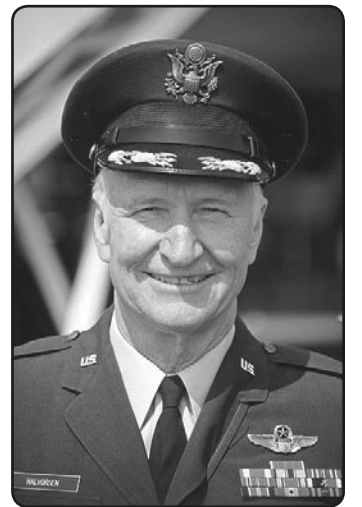
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2009

7:00 PM

Tri-State Warbird Museum
 4021 Borman Drive
 Batavia, Ohio



Gail Halvorsen was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1920 and grew up on small farms in Utah and Idaho. He earned a private pilot license under the non-college Civilian Pilot Training Program in September 1941. Almost concurrently, Gail joined the Civil Air Patrol as a pilot. He joined the United States Army Air Corps in June 1942. He completed his fighter pilot training with the Royal Air Force and then returned to the Army Air Corps where he was assigned flight duty in foreign transport operations in the South Atlantic Theater. After WWII he flew in the Berlin Airlift where he became known as "Uncle Wiggly Wings," the "Chocolate Flyer" and the "Berlin Candy Bomber." The blockade of Berlin began in June 1948 and ended 12 May 49. Flights continued until 30 September 1949 to build up reserves.



COLONEL GAIL HALVORSEN

In 1948 and 1949 over two million people in West Berlin looked to the skies for their daily bread, milk, coal and everything else they had to have to stay alive. Stalin had cut off all the supplies to West Berlin from baby's milk to newsprint. He wanted to control not only West Berlin, but West Germany. The sounds of hundreds of aircraft engines; day, night and during bad weather was a constant reassurance to the West Berliners that they would not be left without their hope for freedom. A great difference from what those sounds meant during the war! It became the first battle of the Cold War. In all, 31 American and 39 British airmen gave their lives to feed the former enemy. This lecture is a first-hand account by a pilot who flew 126 missions into the blockaded city.

Co-Sponsors:

- The German Embassy in Washington, D.C.
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- The Military History Program
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The lecture is free and open to the public
Free refreshments will be served afterward