

BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation

Press



Release

For Immediate Release

BRAVO 369 JOINS IN VICTORY DAY CELEBRATIONS WITH THE RUSSIAN CONSULATE IN SEATTLE

**ON THE 69TH ANNVERARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II IN EUROPE,
REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA GATHERED TO PAY
TRIBUTE TO THE MILLIONS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR FREEDOM**

Bellingham, Washington, USA. June 1, 2014

On Thursday, May 8th, 2014 the BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation was honored to participate in the 69th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe with the Russian Consulate in Seattle. What so many Americans, along with the majority of the world does not know, are the extensive casualties suffered by Europe and the former Soviet Union during that conflict. History tells us of the atrocities of over six million Jewish casualties; but, of that that number, there were significantly higher casualties suffered by Russian men, women, and children who lost their lives during World War II, or as the Russian's so appropriately call it, the "Great Patriotic War". In the first few weeks of the conflict, Nazi Germany, under Operation Barbarossa, wiped out over half of the Soviet Air Force, which at the time was the largest in the world.

As part of the "Victory Day" celebration, the people of Russia put forth an honor guard, like no other, to recognize and celebrate Russia, the United States, and other Allied countries in our mutual effort to free the world of fascism. The Consul General, Mr. Andrey Yushmanov, delivered a speech to a select group including government representatives from both Russian and United States, the local community and the BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation, recognizing the sacrifices of *ALL* Allied countries during World War II. In fact, each guest was presented with St. George ribbon to honor those who gave the supreme sacrifice during those times. As so eloquently spoken by the Consul General, "the orange in the ribbon represents fire, while the black represents smoke. Let us not forget those who gave their all for freedom, worldwide!"

Representatives from the BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation had the opportunity to talk about their upcoming flight re-creation and documentary “*Warplanes to Siberia*™: the story of the secret delivery of nearly 8,000 military aircraft from the United States to the former Soviet Union during World War II along the Alaska-Siberia air route (ALSIB). Washington State Senator Jim Honeyford, who was in attendance, was very interested to learn more about the role the U. S. had in sending aircraft to support our allies over this little-known air route as well as the *Warplanes to Siberia*™ project.

Approximately 6,000 miles (9,700 kilometers) long, the ALSIB air route runs from Great Falls, Montana through Canada and Alaska, across the Bering Strait, and through Siberia to Krasnoyarsk, Russia. As part of the Lend-Lease program under the Roosevelt administration, it was one of the great logistical efforts of the 20th century and a vital supply route to the former Soviet Union. It is a story that is untold in documentaries to this day; yet, was a major link to the friendship and cooperation of Russia, Canada, and the United States during that time.

The majority of the United States citizens think that we won World War II with the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; however, the Russian people feel they won the war with their human sacrifice of nearly 27 million souls*. Yet, very few in the world, especially the United States, know of the huge loss of life in Russia.

On this the 69th anniversary of the end of hostilities in Europe, ALL parties paused to recognize the sacrifices as well as celebrate the friendship and mutual cooperation between our countries that helped free the world from tyranny. In the immortal words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, “The structure of world peace cannot be the work of one man, or one party, or one nation... it must be a peace which rests on the cooperative effort of the whole world.”

*These figures provided by the Russian Consulate are approximate and include: Russian Jews, casualties due to the Nazi invasion, loss of life due to Stalin, and starvation as a result of the complete collapse of the Russian infrastructure during World War II.

Warplanes to Siberia™ is a trademark of the BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation.

End

In the photo, left to right: David Lowrance (Filmmaker and Director, BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation), Roman Smovskiy (Attaché, Consulate General of the Russian Federation), Andrey Yushmanov (Consul General, Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Seattle), Craig Lang (Co-founder and Director, BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation). Photo by Rusian Shemelin, Vice Consul, Consulate General of Russia)



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