

ENDORSEMENTS FOR *THE BROWN SHOES HISTORY*

Captain Daniel Gabriel, USN (Ret):

From June 1998 to June 2001, I served as Commanding Officer of the Naval ROTC unit at the University of Virginia (UVa). During this period, I had the privilege of serving as Principal Investigator for the Brown Shoes History Project, advising, providing scholarly support, and making available to Patricia B. Francis and Burdett L. "Lou" Ives the physical resources of the UVa NROTC unit.

Mrs. Francis and Mr. Ives, compilers of "The Brown Shoes" (subtitled 'Personal Histories of Flying Midshipmen and Other Naval Aviators of the Korean War Era,') have created a significant history project about a little known era in the history of our country.

This valuable history provides – in their own words and photographs – the personal memoirs of more than 400 Naval Aviators who served during the Korean, Vietnam, and Cold War with particular emphasis on the "forgotten" Korean War. Its research illuminates little known events and corrects published misconceptions.

"The Brown Shoes" qualifies for inclusion on UVa's Virginia Center for Digital History (VCDH) award-winning web site. Its placement will guarantee the information about this era will not disappear; will make it available to all, world wide.

Response from the University of Virginia, those who submitted their personal histories, and my enthusiastic support and strong recommendation for this worthy endeavor of importance to students, scholars, historians, and the general public is a testament to the superb quality of "The Brown Shoes" History Project.

Tex Atkinson, Naval Aviator, author of "From the Cockpit":

"Thanks for your great work recording the history of Flying Midshipmen. We were a 'special' group and I have always been proud to be a member." 3/14/06.

Homer Davis, VF-781:

"That book [Turner coffee-table book "The Brown Shows"] was a work of art!" 12/25/05.

Jesse Hofmann, Naval Aviator, Author:

"Thanks for the Aviation Cadet Mess Xmas menu of 1946 [on the 2005 Christmas card]." 12/25/05.

Hill Goodspeed, Historian, National Museum of Naval Aviation, Pensacola, Florida:

I want to express my gratitude for the donation of the Flying Midshipmen Histories to The National Museum of Naval Aviation.

I've had a chance to flip through the 20 binders at length, and they certainly are a treasure trove of information. We are indeed honored to have them in our collection and, on behalf of the National Museum of Naval Aviation, I thank you.

Hill Goodspeed, Historian, National Museum of Naval Aviation, Pensacola, Florida (June 18, 1999):

It is with grateful appreciation that I acknowledge receipt of the copies of the VF-781 Pacemakers Personal Histories. What a fine collection of material, particularly the pages from the LSO log and some transcripts of personal diaries! It will certainly enhance the files here in the museum library and serve as a valuable resource for researchers.

Thank you again for thinking of us with this donation, Lou. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions or if I can be of any assistance.

P.S.-Glad to hear UVA is supporting your worthwhile endeavor.

William G. Thomas, Director, Virginia Center for Digital History:

I give my support and endorsement of The Brown Shoes Project. The World Wide Web offers the best means of disseminating and displaying the wide variety of material in the project, including film, audio tape, photographs, letters, recollections, and articles.

The Virginia Center for Digital History (www.vcdh.virginia.edu) offers its support and interest in the project.

David Hudson, Assistant Vice President for Research, University of Virginia:

Our office has been working with Lou Ives and Pat Francis for some time to enable them to pursue the "Brown Shoes History Project" a history of the flying midshipmen in post-World War II period.

We feel that this is a serious and important historical project. We were eager to try to help find a home for this project here at UVa, and to enable this work to proceed. We hope that we, too, can help contribute to this project's success.

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