



FLYING TIGER LINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The famous WWII American Volunteer Group (AVG), commonly known as the Flying Tigers, were a group of incredibly brave American pilots protecting the supply route into China from invading Japanese forces. It was a very short-lived operation (about 15 months), but extremely successful. When the mission was over, Ace Pilot Robert Prescott went on to create the first US all cargo airline, the Flying Tiger Line, in 1945.



FTL Founder Robert W. Prescott

Flying Tigers, as it was more informally referred to, was a pioneer in the air cargo industry transporting goods such as cars, flowers, racehorses, whales, oil drilling

equipment, satellites, and the list goes on. The new airline quickly developed their corporate philosophy - *Anything, Anytime, Anywhere*. Flying Tigers also had a lucrative military contract, not only transporting military equipment, but military personnel and their families as well. Flying Tigers was a trailblazer in the industry, setting many records, and hiring an incredibly loyal employee workforce having the same passion as its founder, Robert Prescott. For 44 years, Flying Tigers was known around

the world as innovative, daring to do the impossible, and leaps and bounds ahead of its time – the reason why it was so attractive to FedEx when the two companies, with vastly different missions, merged in 1989.

A group of employees within Flying Tigers immediately gathered all the historical documents, photos, manuals, publications, marketing and sales material. These artifacts were archived in two back rooms of the now “FedEx” building and guarded with their souls.

For over 35 years, former Flying Tiger employees have continued to carry a torch for their beloved airline, still loyal to that “can-do” spirit, reminiscing of bygone days as “the best days of their lives” and ever so passionate about their fabled airline.



First jet powered aircraft for FTL, the Canadair CL-44 “Swingtail”

Fast forward to 2023 when a group of those very same employees started a new organization called the Flying Tiger Line Historical Society (FTLHS), a registered 501c3 non-profit corporation, to protect the vast archives which had been safeguarded all those years.



Lockheed 1049-H Super Connie (1957-1967)

The purpose of the FTLHS is to preserve the history of the Flying Tiger Line. The archives are in process of being digitized in order to provide an online research repository for students of aviation and to educate youth and aviation enthusiasts alike about Flying Tiger Lines’ place in the world of air cargo and charter flights on the world stage of aviation.



10-Year Anniversary party for Flying Tiger Line Burbank, CA - 1955

With your incredible support, we have gotten off to a great start and moved to a new location in August 2024. We have successfully completed Phase I on our website which launched in July 2023. Phase II, currently well underway, is to design the Online Library while Phase III will entail the arduous task of digitizing the vast archives and uploading photos, documents and files to make Flying Tiger history available worldwide. We've already had several authors contact us for information from the archives and have been delighted to provide information and photos that have been published in various books!



Current FTLHS Archives in Los Angeles, CA

We have a volunteer work force of just a few people working diligently to make this dream come true. Unfortunately, our lofty goals require money – primarily for office rent, utilities, and website fees. Every penny of every dollar that is donated goes 100% to our cause. We would be forever grateful for any donation you could make to help further our cause, preserve aviation history and get the next generation excited about what came before them. We hope to be a stepping stone into their future.

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We Need Your Support!

Donations can be made to FTLHS and sent directly to:

**P.O. Box 91296
Los Angeles, CA 90009**

or

Scan the QR code below to make your donations online



*Original FTL Logo
from 1946 to 1960*

www.FTLHS.org

Email us at
contact@FTLHS.org



FTLHS office in Los Angeles



Tails of an Era - 1945 to 1989

The iconic Curtiss P40 Warhawk, flown by the AVG Flying Tigers, on the ramp with the Flying Tiger Line Boeing 747 Cargomaster, both named in honor of FTL Founder, Robert W. Prescott