

# FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

MORNING

EVENING

SUNDAY

AMON G. CARTER, PRESIDENT

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

March 16, 1949.

Honorable W. Stuart Symington  
Secretary for Air  
Department of the Air Force  
Pentagon Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Confirming our telephone conversation today and my telegram to you of March 4, the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce has plans under preparation to accord special honors to Captain James G. Gallagher and his crewmen of the round-the-world B-50 bomber "Lucky Lady II" --- subject, of course, to the approval of Mr. Forrestal and yourself.

This first non-stop circumnavigation of the earth by air has caught the enthusiasm of people everywhere, as well as our community, which, as you know, already is highly air-minded because of its closeness to the Eighth Air Force and the Convair plant where the B-36 bombers are being built.

Specifically, our people would like to have a dinner honoring Captain Gallagher and these boys, at the earliest convenient date which can be set in conformity with your plans and those of Mr. Forrestal.

Commemorative gold medals the size of a silver dollar would be struck especially for Captain Gallagher and his men, as civilian recognition for their aeronautical achievement. These medals, to be made of 14-karat gold, would bear the legend as indicated on the card attached to this letter.

Moreover, the City of Fort Worth would like to make these round-the-world fliers its honorary citizens for life, as a mark of its esteem. A parchment scroll attesting to this, as well as a neat card in a leather case, would be presented to each man.

It is intended that the souvenir program for this testimonial dinner would contain photographs of the men and their plane and of those who directed their flight, as well as a description of the unusual mission.

Naturally, we are most anxious that if possible Mr. Forrestal, yourself, General Vandenberg and General LeMay be here -- or those of you whose schedules permit -- to join in this testimonial to Captain Gallagher and his men in the city where their historic flight began and ended successfully.

Fort Worth is keenly alive to the importance of the national defense program and to the great work Secretary Forrestal and you are doing. It is our earnest wish in this instance to make our local observance in keeping with the general aims and purposes of the Department of National Defense.

We are not unmindful that you have many important problems confronting you at this time and I think you know we are thoroughly in sympathy with any plan that will strengthen the national defense program.

We hope we were not presumptuous, but while we were attempting unsuccessfully last week to reach you, certain phases of the plans were initiated which were necessary if the gold medals and other adjuncts to such a program were to be made ready in the near future.

With your permission, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram also would like to present to the Air Force, for installation at Carswell Air Base, a bronze plaque mounted on a neat marker of red Texas granite which would record the flight, its time, date and the names of the crew members.

Right now, the thing in which we are most interested is receiving the approval of Mr. Forrestal and yourself, and your designation of a date for, the Chamber of Commerce program here to commemorate this first round-the-world non-stop flight.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "H. G. Carey", with a horizontal line underneath.

AGC:mm

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