



The George W. Jalonick III
and
Dorothy Cockrell Jalonick
Memorial Distinguished
Lecture Series

Presents

Professor William Leary

of the University of Georgia

Author of

Perilous Missions

AIR AMERICA

. . . Myth and Reality

The
University
Of Texas
At Dallas
Conference Center

February 1, 1992



GEORGE JALONICK
LECTURE

Air America: Myth and Reality
by Professor William Leary
Department of History, University of Georgia

Air America's place in the history of the airline industry is surrounded by mystery, myth, and misunderstanding. What little common knowledge exists in the public's mind is based on sources which were self promoting and seriously flawed. Reality in this case is more fascinating by far than the myth.

William Leary, author of *Perilous Missions* - the history of Claire Chennault's Civil Air Transport, has devoted most of his professional life to recording the history of these airlines. Flying in the shadows of American consciousness as an instrument of our foreign policy, Air America was a private corporation owned by the Central Intelligence Agency. That seeming contradiction is basic to Leary's study of the men, machines, the missions and the customers of Air America.

No airline ever operated under the circumstances that defined Air America's routine. Landing strips on top of mountain ridges, operating fixed wing and helicopters, props and jets, contending with lethal hostility for years at a time were normal. Air America demanded a special kind of employee for work which was extraordinary as a norm. At this Jalonick Lecture you will learn a fascinating reality and meet some of those who lived it.

SCHEDULE

February 1, 1992 2:30 P.M.

JALONICK LECTURE

Air America: Myth and Reality

by William Leary, Ph.D.

Welcoming Remarks

Larry D. Sall, Ph.D.
Associate Library Director
for Special Collections

Introduction of Professor Leary

Jerry McEntee
President, Air America Association

Air America: Myth and Reality

William Leary, Ph.D.

*The CAT-Air America Memorial Plaque present
through the courtesy of the CAT Association
and Air America Association*

Refreshments will be served in the lobby following the program.

The GEORGE W. JALONICK III and DOROTHY COCKRELL JALONICK MEMORIAL DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

The George W. Jalonick III and Dorothy Cockrell Jalonick Memorial Distinguished Lecture Series was established to inform and enlighten the public about the history of flight by bringing aviation notables to the Dallas community. Through the years, Dorothy and George Jalonick III were special friends of The University of Texas at Dallas and the History of Aviation Collection. This series was endowed in the Jalonicks' names by their children and friends.

CAT - Air America Archives

The History of Aviation Collection in U.T. Dallas' McDermott Library has been designated as the repository for records of the veterans of both Civil Air Transport (CAT) and Air America by the CAT Association and the Air America Association. Already collections from over seventy individuals have been donated to the University. Also, the University is home to the CAT-Air America Memorial Plaque which honors 242 people who lost their lives or are missing in action in Asia while employed by these two airlines between 1947 and 1975. For the veterans of those companies, this plaque has the significance of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. That Memorial would contain many more names but for some listed on the CAT-Air America Memorial.

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