



Name in English: Frank Fong
Name in Chinese: 方启绪 [方啟緒]
Name in Pinyin: Fāng Qǐxù
Gender: Male
Birth Year: 1919 -2007
Birth Place: Augusta, GA

Profession(s): Military Officer and Pilot. US Army Air Forces P-47 Thunderbolt and P-51 Mustang Fighter Pilot, and US Air Force Air Intelligence Officer. Commercial artist and designer.

Education: High school honor graduate

Awards: Two Distinguished Flying Crosses (highest military flight honor); Eight Air Medals; Purple Heart; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with six stars, American Campaign Medal; Korean Service Medal; United States Air Force Senior Pilot Badge

Contribution (s): Frank Fong, a natural born American citizen, volunteered in World War II to join the Army and was denied the right to join because of his race. He was unsuccessful getting local help to join up, and had to write General Hap Arnold for assistance. After reviewing Fong's application, General Arnold appointed Fong as a pilot candidate.

Frank Fong graduated at the top of his pilot training class, and became the Chinese American fighter pilot in the United State Army Air Forces. He skillfully disposed of two German Luftwaffe fighters and unfortunately sustained spinal and eye injuries that removed him from combat fighter status.

Due to a pilot shortage, Frank Fong was assigned to non-combat flying status and flew reconnaissance missions in support of the D-Day Normandy invasion. In a follow-up flying assignment, Lieutenant Colonel Fong commanded the Fifth Emergency Rescue Squadron which rescued many US and Allied aircrews downed in the North Sea. In 2001 the British military honored Colonel Fong and his squadron for their heroic rescue missions during WW II. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean War and also the Vietnam War.

For more details including photos of Col Fong's career, see the links below.

External Links:

http://articles.sun-sentinel.com/2007-03-27/news/0703260270_1_mr-fong-fighter-pilot

<http://archeologygroup9.blogspot.com/2009/12/1942-frank-fong-one-of-first-chinese.html>

<http://www.alpost385fl.com/ALPost385Apr07.pdf>