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Media Contact: Peggy Elam, Ph.D. (615) 356-5188

peggyelam@pearlsong.com

Jack Adler (818) 766-0731

jadler@prodigy.net

***Retired Naval Reserve Lt. Commander Lee Stanley honored for his work
commemorating comrades in flight***

*87-year-old Indian Wells, CA resident recognized in "Splendid Seniors Among Us" program
honoring people whose post-65 activities can inspire all ages.*

NASHVILLE, TN—Lee Stanley doesn't have any special advice to people who might hope to accomplish as much as he has in his eighth decade. "I follow the beat of my heart," he says. These days, his heart is beating within monuments he helped raise to commemorate military heroes—including the buddy he lost in combat more than 60 years ago.

Stanley's efforts to commemorate comrades in flight, as well as other post-65 activities, have led to the Indian Wells, CA resident being chosen as the "Splendid Senior Among Us" for July 2007 in a national program initiated by Nashville, TN-based publishing company Pearlson Press.

In recent years Stanley, a retired Lt. Commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve, inspired and raised funds for the Wall of Honor and Walk of Honor at the Palm Springs Air Museum and the "A Wing and a Prayer" Missing Airman Monument at the Palm Springs International Airport.

The Air Museum monuments, dedicated Nov. 11, 2004, pay homage to members of the Desert Fliers Command who have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross medal for heroism. The Missing Airman Monument, dedicated Nov. 11, 2006, was born from Stanley's memories of his buddy Ken Henry of Oakland, CA, who was lost in combat off the coast of French Indochina during World War II. The "Eternal Light" on the wing tip of that monument is lit to serve as a beacon for all missing airmen to find their way home.

*p.o. box 58065 | Nashville, Tn 37205 | 615-356-5188 | Tollfree 1-866-4-A-PEARL
fax 615-352-4222 | www.pearlsong.com | CONTACT @pearlsong.com*

“I am proud to know that the years I gave to have my phoenix’s rise allows me to put to rest the guilt as to ‘why them—why wasn’t it me?’” Stanley wrote Pearlsong Press founder Peggy Elam, Ph.D. after being notified of his recognition as a Splendid Senior.

As Stanley nears his 88th birthday on August 9, he is working on yet another project: establishing the Air Medal Society (www.airmedal.org) to honor the airmen and women in past, present and future wars who have been (or are) awarded the Air Medal for distinguished achievement in flight.

Stanley served in World War II and the Korean War. He joined his B-24 Squadron as a pilot in February 1944 and flew raids in the Marianas and Leyte. (His South Pacific Squadron was famously dubbed the “Blue Raiders” in a radio broadcast by Tokyo Rose.) He was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses, nine Air Medals, Fleet Commendation and the Presidential Citation as a result of his military service.

After World War II Stanley worked for Pan American World Airways, flying routes from San Francisco to Japan. He also flew Constellations for World Airways out of Oakland, CA. His trips to Japan exposed him to Asian cuisine, which so inspired him that he attended several Japanese cooking schools and continued his culinary education in other Asian and European schools. He apprenticed for Philippine Airlines Inflight Kitchen and the Manila Hotel, “where he perfected his cooking skills,” according to biographical notes at the Desert Flight Command website (www.dfcommand.com).

In 1980, when he was in his 60s, Stanley was invited to attend the Hotel School at Lausanne, Switzerland, and later earned a spot in the kitchen of one of the world’s most famous restaurants, Fredy Giradet in Lausanne.

His travels as a commercial pilot and experiences in the hospitality industry inspired Stanley to write and publish travel articles, stories and photos in several national and international publications. In 1992, when Stanley was in his 70s, he teamed with his wife, Pita Stanley, to form the East-West News Bureau (EWNB), a network of professional travel, food and wine writers, photographers and photojournalists around the globe. In 1999 the EWNB allied with the North American Travel Journalists Association and L’Organisation Mondiale de la

Presse (OMPP) in Belgium to become the largest organization of professional journalists in the world.

Stanley recently received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from Congresswoman Mary Bono thanking him for his work on the “A Wing and a Prayer” monument as “a tremendous lifetime achievement.” He has also received several food-related awards, including the President’s Medal from his local chapter of the National Chef’s Association and Chef de Cuisine in 1992 and 1993.

As the “Splendid Seniors Among Us” honoree for July 2007, Stanley receives a certificate and an autographed copy of *Splendid Seniors: Great Lives, Great Deeds* by Jack Adler, an original trade paperback published by Pearlsong Press in March 2007. *Splendid Seniors* celebrates 52 men and women throughout history who accomplished great things after age 65. Pearlsong Press is sponsoring the year-long “Splendid Seniors Among Us” program in conjunction with publication of Adler’s book in order to honor seniors who are living inspiration.

To nominate someone for the “Splendid Seniors Among Us” program, see the Pearlsong Press website at www.pearlsong.com. The book *Splendid Seniors: Great Lives, Great Deeds* can be purchased from Amazon.com and other online booksellers as well as directly from Pearlsong Press (www.pearlsong.com/splendidseiors.htm).

Pearlsong Press, founded in 2003 by psychologist and journalist Peggy Elam, Ph.D, specializes in books and resources that entertain while expanding perspectives on the self and the world.

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