

 **05hr_SC-NRT_sb0306_pt01**



(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2005-06

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation...

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (June 2012)

Moved by Senator Breske, seconded by Senator Kapanke that
Senate Bill 306 be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (5) Senators Kedzie, Stepp, Kapanke, Wirch and
Breske.

Noes: (0) None.

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 5, Noes 0

Matt Phillips
Committee Clerk

Vote Record

Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation

Date: 2-1-06

Bill Number: SR 306

Moved by: Breske

Seconded by: Kapanke

Motion: Passage

Committee Member

Senator Neal Kedzie, Chair

Senator Cathy Stepp

Senator Dan Kapanke

Senator Roger Breske

Senator Robert Wirch

<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

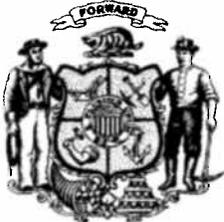
Totals: _____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Johnson, Dan (Legislature)

From: rwolf@cambridge.k12.wi.us
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2005 7:45 AM
To: Sen.Kedzie
Subject: SB 306 support

F71- FILE

Dear Senator Kedzie:

Let me begin this letter by introducing myself. My name is Rick Wolf. I'm writing to you to encourage you to put 2005 Senate Bill 306 on the agenda for an open hearing at your next committee meeting. As you know the bill was introduced by Senator Mark Miller and was referred to Natural Resources and Transportation Committee of which you are Chairperson. The purpose of the bill is to name the state aviation facility at the Dane County Regional Airport the "Fritz E. Wolf Aviation Center"

Naming this facility after my father would be a fitting tribute for a man that spent 35 years of public service to make the state of Wisconsin one of the leaders in aviation. Many of his accomplishments over these 35 years were used as models nation wide. He was a man of honesty, integrity and above all modesty.

Not only did he have a distinguish career in state government but he also made a name for himself in the military during WWII as well. He was a member of the American Volunteer Group, better know as the Flying Tigers, who fought against the Japanese at the beginning of the war. He later went on to become a squadron commander aboard the USS Yorktown, commanding VBF-3. He led the first carrier based attack against mainland Japan.

I know that your committee has a lot on its plate and this bill may not be important to some. Wouldn't it be nice for a change to pass a bill that to my thinking is not political in nature but a bill that honors the memory of a man that did so much for the state he lived in and a country he fought for.

I truly hope you will consider my request. If you would like additional information about my dad, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

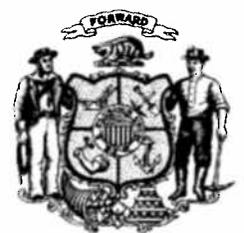
Rick Wolf

Work Phone - 1-608-423-8140 Home Phone - 1-608-837-2876

09/16/2005



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Phillips, Matt

From: Johnson, Dan (Legislature)
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2005 2:39 PM
To: Phillips, Matt
Subject: FW: 2005 Senate Bill 306

I've saved this to the S: drive, Transportation committee file.

From: Alan Armstrong, Esq. [mailto:alanarmstrong@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2005 1:31 PM
To: Sen.Kedzie
Cc: Rick Wolf
Subject: Legislation Honoring Fritz Wolf, 2005 Senate Bill 306

Senator Kedzie:

I am an aviation lawyer in Atlanta and a pilot who has written about the exploits of Gen. Claire Lee Chennault and the American Volunteer Group (AVG). Fritz Wolf was a member of the AVG, having resigned his officer's commission in the U.S. Navy to fly and fight for China. I understand there is pending legislation to honor Fritz Wolf by appropriately naming the Aviation Center at the Dane County Airport. I urge you to place this bill on the Senate's agenda at the earliest practicable time.

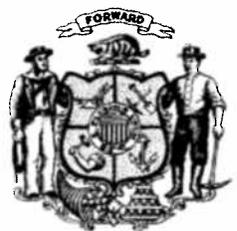
Respectfully,

Alan Armstrong

This e-mail, and any attachments thereto, is intended only for the use of the addressee(s) named herein and may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this e-mail, and any attachments thereto, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify me via return e-mail and via telephone at (770) 451-0313 and permanently delete the original and any copy of any e-mail and any printout thereof. Thank You.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



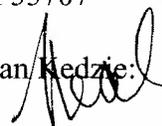


MARK MILLER
WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

P.O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

October 3, 2005

Senator Neal Kedzie
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation
Room 313 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Chairman  Kedzie:

Please schedule a hearing on Senate Bill 306, naming the state aviation facilities at the Dane County Regional Airport the Fritz E. Wolf Aviation Center, the father of one of my constituents.

SB 306 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation which you chair. As you will note from the attached biography, Mr. Wolf has had a remarkable career in aviation. It is appropriate to recognize his many contributions to aviation in war and peace by dedicating this facility in his honor.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Mark Miller
State Senator
16th Senate District

Biography of Fritz E. Wolf

Fritz Wolf graduated from Shawano High School in 1933 and in 1938 he graduated from Carroll College in Waukesha. While at Carroll College, he was a member of the football team and was named All Conference fullback for three years. The football team only lost one game during those three years.

Mr. Wolf joined the Navy and became a naval aviator in 1939. He was commissioned an Ensign and went on active duty in 1940. He resigned his commission in July, 1941 and joined the American Volunteer Group (AVG-Flying Tigers). After the Flying Tigers were disbanded in 1942, Mr. Wolf re-enlisted in the Navy as a fighter pilot instructor. Mr. Wolf fought in World War II and was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses.

After his service in the Navy, Mr. Wolf became the first employee of the Aeronautics Commission in 1946 serving until 1967 when he was appointed as the first Director of the Division and Bureau of Aeronautics by the first Secretary of Transportation, Guss Bakke. As the Director of Aeronautics, Wolf was instrumental in organizing the first agricultural air tours in the nation, pioneering strobe lighting for tall towers and established the first minimum airport operation standards in the nation. In addition, during Wolf's tenure he implemented the first aviation weather report in the country. The weather report would later be referred to as the "Weather Roundup" over the state radio network.

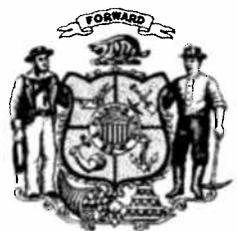
After serving the state for 35 years in the Aeronautics Division, Fritz Wolf retired in 1981. He served under 5 Secretaries of Transportation and 10 Governors during his service to the state. Mr. Wolf was a long time resident of the Middleton area.

Mr. Wolf died in 1997 at the age of 81. Many of the aeronautics programs he established during his tenure with the bureau became models for other states in establishing their own aeronautical programs.

Fritz Wolf is regarded as one of the Wisconsinites who played a prominent role in the development of Wisconsin aviation. He is often referred to as an equal of Steve Wittman, Donald "Deke" Slayton, Paul Poberezny, Richard Bong and General Billy Mitchell. Mr. Fritz Wolf was inducted into the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame in 1989.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Phillips, Matt

From: Beil, Mickey [Beil.mickey@co.dane.wi.us]
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2005 4:43 PM
To: Sen.Kedzie
Cc: Johnson, Dan (Legislature); Phillips, Matt; lori.vanatta@legis.state.wi.us; Falk, Kathleen; Wells, Topf; Livingston, Bradley; rwolf@cambridge.k12.wi.us
Subject: SB 306 (Naming State Aviation Facilities at Dane County Airport)

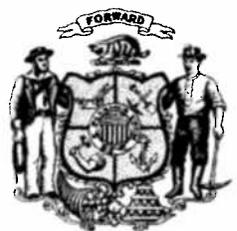
Sen. Kedzie---Kathleen Falk would appreciate a Committee hearing on SB 306 (Naming State Aviation Facilities) before the end of the year.

Thank you for your consideration---Mickey

~~~~~  
Mickey Beil  
Dane County Legislative Lobbyist  
Room 421, City-County Building  
210 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard  
Madison, WI 53703  
Ph. 608/266-4576  
Fax 608/266-2643  
TDD 608/266-9138  
Dane County's Website: [www.co.dane.wi.us](http://www.co.dane.wi.us)



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



**Phillips, Matt**

---

**From:** StarShooter.net - Jay Wolf [jay@starshooter.net]

**Sent:** Friday, October 14, 2005 10:35 AM

**To:** Sen.Kedzie

**Subject:** Agenda

Senator Kedzie,

This email is in regards to Senate Bill 306. As I am sure you are aware, under Fritz Wolf's leadership for some 30 years, aviation in Wisconsin was greatly improved. It would be a fitting tribute to him to have this bill passed. Therefore, I ask you to place this bill on the next agenda to allow action to begin.

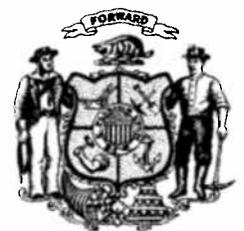
Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Jay Wolf  
New Richmond WI

10/14/2005



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



**Chairman's Notes: Senate Committee on  
Natural Resources and Transportation  
Executive Session – January 31, 2006**

**Senate Bill 162 (Joint Legislative Council)**

Relating to: creating a Council on Transportation Infrastructure in the Department of Transportation.

- **MOTION FOR INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF LRB 2072/1 AS SA 1**
- **SECOND**
- **DISCUSSION**
- **ROLL CALL**
  
- **MOTION FOR PASSAGE OF SB 162 AS AMENDED**
- **SECOND**
- **DISCUSSION**
- **ROLL CALL**

**ASSEMBLY BILL 20 (AINSWORTH/ZIEN)**

Relating to: displaying attractions on highway specific information signs.

- **MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE OF AB 20**
- **SECOND**
- **DISCUSSION**
- **ROLL CALL**

**Assembly Bill 509 (Rep. Albers and Senator Breske)**

Relating to: liability of cities, villages, towns, and counties for damages caused by an insufficiency or want of repair of a highway. (FE)

- **MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE OF AB 509**
- **SECOND**
- **DISCUSSION**
- **ROLL CALL**

**Assembly Bill 534 (Rep. Ainsworth and Rep. Zien)**

Relating to: sale, by the Department of Transportation, of surplus real property.

- **MOTION FOR INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF LRB 0494/1 AS SSA 1**
- **SECOND**
- **DISCUSSION**
- **ROLL CALL**
  
- **MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE OF AB 534 AS AMENDED**
- **SECOND**
- **DISCUSSION**
- **ROLL CALL**

**Senate Bill 208 – Authored by Senator Zien and Colon**

Relating to: designating and marking USH 45 as the Wisconsin Labor Highway.

- **MOTION FOR PASSAGE OF SB 208**
- **SECOND**
- **DISCUSSION**
- **ROLL CALL**

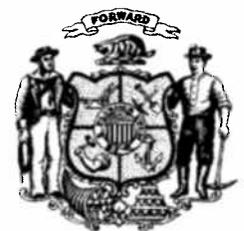
**Senate Bill 306 – Authored by Senator Miller and Representative Hebl**

Relating to: designation of state aviation facilities at the Dane County Regional Airport as the Fritz E. Wolf Aviation Center.

- **MOTION FOR PASSAGE OF SB 306**
- **SECOND**
- **DISCUSSION**
- **ROLL CALL**



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



# **Chairman's Notes: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation Public Hearing – February 1, 2006**

- Welcome to today's hearing of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation.
- Committee Clerk will take Attendance. The roll will be left open for members who have yet to arrive.
- I would like to remind individuals wishing to testify to fill out a hearing slip and give it to the member of the Sergeant's Staff.
- It is my intent to take up the items in the order listed on the hearing notice, and will take up Companion bills at the same time.

## **Senate Bill 84 (Assembly Bill 120) – Authored by Sen. Olsen and Rep. Petrowski**

Relating to: restrictions on the operation of motor vehicles by persons holding instruction permits or probationary licenses and providing a penalty.

**Summary:** This bill creates an additional restriction that a probationary licensee who is under 18 years of age may not, during the first nine months following issuance of the probationary license, operate a "Class D" vehicle while using a cellular telephone, except to report an emergency. The same exceptions that apply to existing restrictions on the licensee also apply to this new restriction. The bill also stipulates that a person operating a motor vehicle under an instruction permit may not operate the motor vehicle while using a cellular telephone.

### **Assembly Action – AB 120:**

- Passed Assembly Committee on Highway Safety on a 7-1 vote.
- Passed the Joint Committee on Finance on a 10-5 vote.
- Passed the Assembly on an 89-6 vote.

**Senate Bill 208 – Authored by Senator Zien and Colon**

Relating to: designating and marking USH 45 as the Wisconsin Labor Highway.

**Summary:** This bill directs the Department of Transportation (DOT) to designate the entire route in this state of USH 45 from the Wisconsin-Illinois border to the Wisconsin-Michigan border as the "Wisconsin Labor Highway" in recognition and appreciation of the contributions and achievements of organized labor to the economic well-being, health, and welfare of the state's citizens. The bill directs DOT to erect and maintain signs that mark the designated route upon receipt of sufficient funds, other than state funds, from interested parties to cover the cost of erecting and maintaining the markers.

**Questions:**

- The fiscal estimate on the bill indicates that the total initial cost to install the designating signs will be \$2,200. Is there a group/groups that are lined up at this point to fund this amount?

**Senate Bill 238 – Authored by Senator Reynolds and Representative Cullen**

Relating to: Vehicles operated in a funeral procession.

**Summary:** This bill allows, in addition to the lead vehicle, any vehicle being operated in, or as an escort to, a funeral procession to be equipped with a flashing amber light if all vehicles in the procession are so equipped, but the light may be used only in the funeral procession.

**Questions:**

- How many different types of vehicles are currently allowed to operate on our highways with flashing amber lights?
- What are the penalties for someone who would use this light in violation of law?
- Doesn't adding more types of vehicles to the list of those allowed to use flashing lights diminish their effect on motorists?

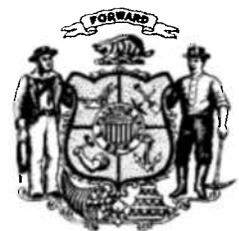
**Senate Bill 306 – Authored by Senator Miller and Representative Hebl**

Relating to: designation of state aviation facilities at the Dane County Regional Airport as the Fritz E. Wolf Aviation Center.

**Summary:** This bill names the state aviation facilities at the Dane County Regional Airport in the city of Madison the "Fritz E. Wolf Aviation Center." Mr. Wolf served for 35 years in state service, first as an employee of the former state Aeronautics Commission beginning in 1946 and then from 1967 to 1981 as the first director of the Division and later the Bureau of Aeronautics in the Department of Transportation.



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



**2006 Senate Bill 306**

1/Feb/06

I wish to go on record as expressing my strong support for this proposed new statute, 16.839 which proposes naming the state aviation facilities at the Dane County Regional Airport The Fritz E. Wolf Aviation Center.

I first met Mr. Wolf in 1971 when I was looking for employment. I was an unemployed Vietnam Veteran and unable to find a job and went to the Division of Aeronautics and asked to speak to the director. Mr. Wolf welcomed me and spoke to me for some time and encourage me to keep trying and something would come up. I didn't know he had been one of the original Flying Tigers prior to Pear Harbor.

Jumping ahead, I'd learned that the Division of Aeronautics was hiring an Aviation Consultant in late 1972 and applied. I was finally hired in March of 1973 as the Airport Operations Section Chief. That began my working relationship with Mr. Wolf and I found him very knowledgeable about aviation in Wisconsin and learned much from him. He was well known and well liked by our "customers" across the state which consisted of airport managers, fixed base operators and airport consultants. He'd established an impressive network of contacts throughout the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and other governmental support industries.

I had the pleasure and honor to work with Mr. Wolf until his retirement from the state in the early 80's. I feel his greatest accomplishment in his career with the state was the promotion of aviation and airports for the benefit of the citizens of the state. He played a key role in drafting the state's aeronautics laws, Ch 114. Although they are fairly brief, the words promote <sup>was</sup> used over 10 times! That was a "Fritzism". He was a firm believer that the state's airports belonged to the tax payers and they should first and foremost serve them. He "walked the talk" as he encouraged his employees to fly to the airports they were working on and use the navigational aids that had been installed with the assistance of state dollars.

During my employment, I worked with other state aviation agencies on mutual areas of interest/problems. We, the Wisconsin Division of Aeronautics, were often called for advice on how to solve a particular problem or request samples of our airport operations documents which had all been drafted and refined by Mr. Wolf. His work was know both regionally and nationally as being an excellent example of how to run a state aviation agency. He didn't want, and never did try to duplicate the FAA's duties or responsibilities, but believed strongly in working together, in partnership, to enhance the flying safety of our citizens by having the safest airports and air navigation system. That also included the education of our pilots on safe operating techniques and new changes and updates to the air regulations we all had to fly under.

Mr. Fritz E. Wolf was a dedicated state employee, the first director to head up the Division of Aeronautics, was well know and a recognized aviation leader throughout the state, region and nation, a tireless promoter of the benefits of aviation and airports to local communities and a pilot that 'walked-the-talk' by regularly flying general aviation aircraft around the state using the airports which made up the state's airport system. Under his leadership, the first State Airport System Plan was completed in the mid 1970's. That plan has been updated twice since, but continues it's positive growth because of the strong foundation established by Mr. Wolf. The state's current aviation agency is still a leader in the nation and that directly relates back to the hard work of Mr. Wolf.

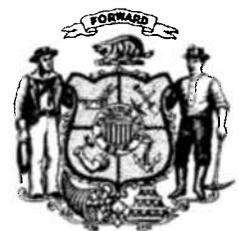
It would be truly fitting to name the state's aviation facility at the Dane County Regional Airport which I worked out of since it was first built until retiring in 2005, The Fritz E. Wolf Aviation Center.

Tomas J. Thomas, WisDOT Bureau of Aeronautics (Ret)  
5210 Kingsbridge Rd., Madison, WI 53714-3416

608/221-1994



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





**MARK MILLER**  
WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

P.O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

**February 1, 2006**

**Senate Bill 306 (naming the state aviation facilities at the Dane County Regional Airport in honor of Fritz Wolf)**

**Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation**

Thank you Mr. Chair and Committee Members,

The bill before you authorizes the naming of the state aviation facilities at Dane County Regional Airport in honor of Fritz Wolf, a man who played a prominent role in the development of Wisconsin aviation. He is often referred to as an equal of Steve Wittman, Donald "Deke" Slayton, Paul Poberezny, Richard Bong and General Billy Mitchell. Mr. Fritz Wolf was inducted into the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame in 1989.

Mr. Wolf joined the Navy and became a naval aviator in 1939. In 1941 he joined the American Volunteer Group known as the Flying Tigers. After the Flying Tigers were disbanded in 1942, Mr. Wolf re-enlisted in the Navy as a fighter pilot instructor. He fought in World War II and was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses.

After his service in the Navy, Mr. Wolf became the first employee of the Wisconsin Aeronautics Commission in 1946 serving until 1967 when he was appointed as the first Director of the Division and Bureau of Aeronautics. Fritz Wolf organized the first agricultural air tours in the nation. He pioneered strobe lighting for tall towers and established the first minimum airport operation standards in the nation. He also implemented the first aviation weather report in the country.

He worked under five Secretaries of Transportation and ten Governors during his service to the state.

Mr. Wolf died in 1997 at the age of 81. Many of the aeronautics programs he established during his tenure with the bureau became models for other states in establishing their own aeronautical programs.

It is appropriate to recognize Fritz Wolf's service to the nation and to Wisconsin by naming the state aviation facility at the Dane County Regional Airport in his honor.

Thank you for your consideration.



## DANE COUNTY

**Kathleen M. Falk**  
County Executive

March 25, 2004

Senator Chuck Chvala  
130 South, State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Dear Senator *Chvala* Chvala:

I am writing to convey my strong support of naming the State of Wisconsin's Aviation Support Facility located at the Dane County Regional Airport in honor of Mr. Fritz Wolf.

In addition to an extraordinary military flying career during World War II, Fritz Wolf had a very distinguished 35-year career in State Aviation, beginning with the newly formed Wisconsin State Aeronautics Commission in 1946 and culminating as the Director of the Bureau of Aeronautics until his retirement in 1981. He is the recipient of countless state and national aviation awards and was inducted into the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame in 1989.

Fritz Wolf most certainly had a tremendous impact on aviation the State of Wisconsin and it would be appropriately fitting to have the State's Aviation Support Facility named in his honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Falk".

Kathleen Falk  
Dane County Executive

Cc: Representative Tom Hebl



## DANE COUNTY

Kathleen M. Falk  
County Executive

*COMMUNICATION  
TO & FROM  
KATHLEEN FALK  
CHUCK CHVALY  
DANE COUNTY*

February 10, 2004

Mr. Richard A. Wolf  
1000 Surrey Court  
Sun Prairie, Wisconsin 53590

Dear Mr. Wolf:

It was very nice meeting you and your wife at the Frostiball. I appreciate your father's contributions to the nation and the State of Wisconsin.

I asked the airport staff about your idea of naming some kind of facility after your dad. They discovered that the recently constructed State of Wisconsin Aviation Facilities might be a very appropriate opportunity considering your father's distinctive achievements in State Aviation. In an effort to further this idea, airport staff have made an initial contact with the State of Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics, suggesting the idea of naming the states new aviation facilities in honor of your father.

The State of Wisconsin's Aviation Facilities are located on Dane County Regional Airport's South Ramp and house a variety of State owned aircraft including the Governor's plane. The largest building contains a maintenance hangar, flight planning facilities, offices and a conference center.

All honorary name designation of buildings, etc., is now controlled by the State Legislature. I would suggest beginning your efforts, if you want, with your State Representative and State Senator. I would be most happy to send a letter of support to our legislative delegation.

I hope this option is useful to you. Let me know if I can help.

Sincerely,

  
Kathleen M. Falk  
Dane County Executive

January 24, 2006

Senator Mark Miller  
Room 106 South  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Re: Senate Bill 306

Dear Senator Miller:

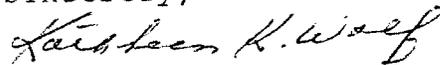
It recently came to my attention that you have introduced legislation (Senate Bill 306) to name the aviation facilities at the Dane County Regional Airport the "Fritz E. Wolf Aviation Center."

I was not aware of this Senate Bill 306 until I saw an article in the Quarterly Newsletter of the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame.

My husband, Fritz E. Wolf, was an extraordinary individual. He deserves this recognition for so many reasons.

I thank you for initiating this Senate Bill 306 and, hopefully, it will be voted on unanimously.

Sincerely,



Kathleen K. Wolf  
7710 Hillcrest Avenue  
Middleton, Wisconsin 53562

(608)836-6799

Senator Mark Miller  
State Capitol, Room 112 North  
P. O. Box 8953  
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Senator Miller,

Please receive this letter in support of the "Fritz Wolf Aviation Center" from an individual outside your great state, but with a keen interest in all aviation history. Three members of my family flew in WWII including my Father who was shot down and spent 13 months in a German Prisoner Of War camp. I have studied and researched WWII aviation for over 30 years with a special interest in the American Volunteer Group. As you are aware Fritz Wolf was a member of this stellar maverick organization under Claire Lee Chennault. While a number of its members either retired or took an airlines job Mr Wolf re-enlisted in the U. S. Navy as a pilot and continued flying combat throughout the war. With an already impressive record with the AVG Fritz went on to distinguish himself even further.

His service was for love of country, not personal ambition nor love of glory. This is evidenced by the continual quiet life of service he led devoting himself to the citizens of Wisconsin. He never sought notoriety which would have been his for the asking for either his AVG service or his Navy service, either of which would stand alone. This is evidenced by the life he led outside the public eye. Many of his fellow AVG members actively sought publicity through books and public speaking. Mr Wolf did not do so but instead stayed devoted to his home state, writing only an occasional article. The casual researcher would probably never become aware of Fritz by his own accord. I only discovered this valiant American through the records compiled by his son Richard Wolf. He so graciously loaned me a treasure trove of written material and let me research it at my own discretion furthering my studies on the AVG. I was amazed that Fritz's name had never stood out before as his story would have made a great novel.

After all my research, I was amazed that he even survived the war and yet he summed it all up by saying he would rather be remembered as "Fritz Wolf" Director of Aeronautics over "Fritz Wolf" Flying Tiger. I believe it is an honor for your state to be so recognized by a man of so many accomplishments in his aviation career. I wish you Godspeed in this endeavor and thank you for your fine efforts.

Sincerely,



Richard Peacher  
Flying Peach Air Museum



# FLYING TIGERS ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN VOLUNTEER GROUP • CHINESE AIR FORCE

John Richard Rossi  
3038 E. Mission Road  
Fallbrook, CA 92028  
760-728-4254 Fax 760-723-3156  
Email: stargrfx@earthlink.net

#### Executive Committee

John R. Rossi  
David L. Hill  
"Red" Petach Hanks  
Charles H. Older  
Peter Wright

#### Officers

John R. Rossi  
President  
"Red" Petach Hanks  
Vice President  
David L. Hill  
Vice President  
Charles H. Older  
Vice President  
Peter Wright  
Treasurer  
Albert V. Kaelin  
Secretary

#### Nonmember Officers

Lydia Rossi  
Executive Secretary  
Mark Burken  
Historian

#### Board of Directors

Lt. Gen. Claire L. Chennault  
Honorary Chairman  
Madame Chiang Kai-Shek  
Honorary Commander  
John R. Rossi, Chairman  
Charles N. Baisden  
Charles R. Bond  
Paul Clouthier  
Edwin L. Fobes  
Paul J. Greene  
"Red" Petach Hanks  
David L. Hill  
Kenneth A. Jemstedt  
Albert V. Kaelin  
Robert B. Keeton  
Robert F. Layher  
Frank Losonsky  
Charles H. Older  
Joseph A. Poshefko  
Roland L. Richardson  
Edward L. Stiles  
Peter Wright

February 22, 2005

Senator Mark Miller  
State Capitol, Room 112 North  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Dear Senator Miller.

Regarding: Wisconsin State Senate Bill 2005

I want to congratulate you on your sponsorship of this bill to recognize a great American, Fritz Wolf by naming the Dane County Regional Airport after Fritz. I offer my support and the support of the Flying Tigers Association for this effort.

Fritz was a fellow fighter pilot and personal friend, and I know of his heroism during WWII. I also know of the pioneering experience he brought to the Bureau of Aeronautics in the Department of Transportation for thirty-five years in his service to the state.

I think it would be a very fitting recognition of Fritz Wolf to name the airport in his honor. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dick Rossi  
President

Copy: Rick Wolf

**ALAN ARMSTRONG**

**ATTORNEY AT LAW**

**PARK RIDGE 85 OFFICE PARK  
BUILDING 5, 2900 CHAMBLEE-TUCKER ROAD  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30341**

(770) 451-0313  
FAX (770) 451-0317

alan@alanarmstronglaw.com  
www.alanarmstronglaw.com

March 1, 2005

Senator Mark Miller  
Wisconsin State Capitol  
Room 112 North  
Post Office Box 8953  
Madison, Wisconsin, 53708-8953

RE: Wisconsin Bill 2005

Dear Senator Miller:

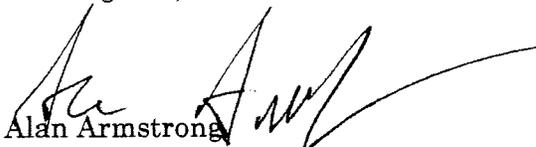
This letter is written in support of Wisconsin Bill Number 2005, relating to naming the State Aviation Facilities at the Dane County Regional Airport as the Fritz E. Wolf Aviation Center. As a Navy pilot, Fritz Wolf resigned his commission to fly on behalf of the Chinese Air Force as part of the American Volunteer Group ("AVG"). The AVG was a secret organization created pursuant to the verbal order issued by President Roosevelt to Navy Secretary Frank Knox. If time had permitted, one of the objectives of the AVG was to operate bombers with which to bomb Japan. As luck would have it, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the AVG had less than 100 fighter planes and 100 pilots with which to defend Burma and China against attacks by in excess of 1,500 Japanese fighters and bombers.

Fritz Wolf served with distinction in the American Volunteer Group, shooting down several Japanese aircraft. When the AVG was officially disbanded on July 4, 1942, he returned to the United States and was re-commissioned as an officer in the United States Navy. He served with distinction as a pilot in the South Pacific.

Please accept this letter as my endorsement of Wisconsin Bill 2005.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,

  
Alan Armstrong

AA/kao

Cc: Mr. Rick Wolf

# Aviation leader, war hero to retire

By Paul A. Rix  
State government reporter

Fritz Wolf has had his share of ups and downs since he was a youngster in Shawano County, racing across fields to catch a glimpse of incoming aircraft.

Wolf's love affair with planes took him from northern Wisconsin to the Far East during World War II, where he earned combat honors, and eventually to hundreds of Wisconsin communities seeking support for improved airport and passenger services.

At 65, Wolf is the first and only man to head the state Department of Transportation's Aeronautics section. Next month he retires.

He was appointed to the post 14 years ago by Gus Bakke, former state transportation secretary, and before that served 20 years on a state aeronautics commission created under former Gov. Warren Knowles.

He served under five transportation secretaries: Bakke, Norm Clapp, Zel Rice, Dale Cattanach and Lowell Jackson.

A big, quiet man, Wolf stared at a transportation map on the wall of his Hill Farms State Office Building on Madison's West Side recently and reflected on his early interest in aviation, his contributions to the industry, and, with some reservation, the war years.

"I used to run to every field to watch the planes land," he said. "In those days the fields were big enough for about five cows. I also had friends who were pilots."

After graduating from Carroll College in Waukesha, Wolf lined up a \$100-a-month job but never made the payroll because of an appendicitis operation.

"I decided right then that if I was ever going to learn how to fly it had to be then. So in 1939 I joined the Navy."

By October 1940, and after completing his cadet training, Wolf turned his sights to North Island, San Diego, where he became a member of a bombing squad assigned to the USS Saratoga, a converted aircraft carrier.

Wolf's early exposure to the military took an interesting twist that may have had a lasting impact on his devo-

tion to aeronautics.

Under an Executive Order dated April 15, 1941, a unique aviation corps called the American Volunteer Group was formed.

The order allowed the recruitment of American pilots under the command of General Claire Chennault, Wolf, not one to sit idly by, lined up with these "advanced training units."

Personnel attached to the AVG were offered a one-year contract with Central Aircraft Manufacturing Co., which had established a plant in China in 1941 to build planes.

The AVG staff were offered one-year contracts with Central Aircraft to manufacture, repair and operate planes, according to Chennault's memoirs.

Their salaries ranged from \$250 to \$750 per month with 30 days leave.

Housing was furnished, a \$30-per-month food allowance was provided and \$500 bonuses were given for each Japanese plane destroyed.

AVG personnel, recruited from American military units under Pres-



Fritz Wolf

Turn to Page 2, Col. 1

# Trans Action



March/April, 1981

Vol. 5, No. 2

## Aviation Leader Will Retire May 8

The first and only administrator the department's aeronautics program has ever known, will retire from state service May 8.

Fritz E. Wolf, the first full-time employe of the old Aeronautics Commission and later head of the Division and Bureau of Aeronautics, will retire after more than 35 years on the job.

Wolf has been the guiding force behind many of the innovative aeronautics developments in the state throughout the past four decades, many of them becoming models for programs around the nation.

Wolf played a prominent role in helping fledgling airport owners get started: laying out plans, developing rules and regulations for operation, selecting airport sites and helping obtain state and federal aids for airport development.

In 1946, there were only 32 publicly-owned airports in Wisconsin; now, 35 years later, there are 103 airports open to the public, plus 61 privately-owned airports, serving general, commuter and scheduled airline users. Another 220 airports have been developed for private use.

Wolf said he considers development of the airport system as the most significant contribution to state aviation. "The assistance given to cities that were developing airports helped them get started in the right direction and greatly advanced the pace of airport development and operation," he said.

### Constant Change

Wolf said that during the advancement of aviation from the cub to the jet stage, "airport development was a catch-up game." Constant change was needed to accommodate—in that time of meteoric growth—the aviation industry, primarily the airlines, with its larger and more sophisticated aircraft. Faster and larger planes required airport modifications and advanced navigational systems.



Fritz Wolf

Wisconsin, during Wolf's tenure, also set the pace in aviation safety improvements, and he was responsible for implementing the first aviation weather report in the country, later to become familiar to thousands of radio listeners as the "Weather Roundup" over the state radio network.

Wolf began his career in aviation in 1939, after graduation from Shawano high school and Carroll College in Waukesha, where he played full-back on the football team.

He became a naval aviator, resigning in June, 1941, to become a member of the American Volunteer Group in China, flying P40s with Gen. Claire Chennault and the legendary "Flying Tigers" over the Burma Road supply line.

He rejoined the Navy in October, 1942, and later led one of the first naval bombing attacks on Tokyo during World War II.

Wolf has served under five secretaries of transportation and 10 governors. He plans to stay active in aviation after retirement—there may be some consulting work, he said, but more often than not the "gone fishin'" sign will hang prominently on the front door of the Madison home where he lives with his wife, Martha.

A retirement dinner will be held April 25.

## Employees Complete 25 Years Service

The following 142 DOT employes will complete 25 years of state service during 1981. Traditionally, these employes are honored during National Transportation Week, this year May 10-16.

### Transportation Dist. 1, Madison

Thomas E. Evans, James F. Hall, Norman A. Lukes, John Lynch, Bernard M. Main, John L. Reed, John H. Schuette, Robert D. Sobek, Joseph J. Switzky and David A. Williams.

### Transportation Dist. 2, Waukesha

George J. Beyer, Jr., John J. Blackmer, William H. Bordihn, Jr., Paul A. Brehm, Ronald A. Garvens, Margery L. Goralske, Darwin C. Hoefs, Adalbert Kawczynski, Robert T. Kubczak, Thomas M. McCarthy, Myron K. Rake, Milton J. Schroeter, Robert G. Seroogy, David C. Stein, Valdis Strautmanis, Jerome S. Szymczak and Lewis H. Updike.

### Transportation Dist. 3, Green Bay

Harry R. Bortel, Willard W. Bruss, Myron H. Nelson and Donald H. Nerenhausen.

### Transportation Dist. 4, Wisconsin Rapids

Louis E. Marzofka, Robert J. Nate and Floyd C. Taylor.

### Transportation Dist. 5, La Crosse

Francis J. Emery, Gregory F. Furlano, Carl G. Lesky, James R. Martin, Almer L. Moen and Robert J. Vonruden.

### Transportation Dist. 6, Eau Claire

Tilman K. Anderson, Robert B. Froehlich, James R. Girard, J.D. Hunt, F. Joseph Palzkill, Edward J. Prissel, Jr., William A. Rohde and Edward A. Solin.

### Transportation Dist. 7, Rhinelander

Edward S. Adler, Peter J. Hazelquist and Ronald E. Newgard.

### Transportation Dist. 8, Superior

Delbert Melin and John D. Minor.

### Division of Business Management

Ferne E. DeWeese, Phyllis E. Herremann, Dean C. Kasdorf, Glenn J. Long, William E. Brendler, Harold W. Meyer, Leo J. Miller and Ralph D. Pauls.

### Division of Highways & Trans. Facilities

Julius G. Kok, Walter J. Scott, Frank R. Williamson, Elmer O. Bube, Raleigh G. Angle, B. Lawrence Lesniak, Everett J. Meyers, Ronald L. Bowers, Richard D. Doran, Richard C. Jacobson, Ronald P. Schaefer, Robert L. Cramer, Joseph W. Jackson, Jr. and Robert B. Smith.

### Division of Trans. Dists., Central Office

Terrence D. Mulcahy

(Continued on Page 6)