



# News Release

**Military Officers Association of America**  
Southwest Virginia Chapter  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **GARY POWERS, JR PRESENTS COLD WAR STORY TO SWVA MOAA CHAPTER**

To a packed room at the Shenandoah Club in downtown Roanoke, VA on the evening of 17 NOV, Francis Gary Powers, Jr., son of the famed U-2 pilot during the Cold War incident, captivated the MOAA SWVA Chapter with the true story of what really happened during the shoot down of his father on May 1, 1960 over Russia. As a technical advisor to Steven Spielberg's movie, "Bridge of Spies", he stated that the events depicted were fairly accurate despite the use of some artistic license with special effects to enhance the movie, particularly the U-2 bailout scene. Gary Powers, Jr. presented much background from his own father's recorded accounts to dispel the many conspiracy theories surrounding the shoot down, his father's captivity and subsequent release and US government debriefings. As a result of his missions and service, Francis Gary Powers was subsequently awarded the Intelligence Star, the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross and the Prisoner of War Medal. Francis Gary Powers, Jr. now criss-crosses the nation presenting his father's story some 60 times a year.

In 1996, Powers founded The Cold War Museum to honor Cold War Veterans, preserve Cold War history, and educate future generations about this time period. It was a virtual museum until it found a permanent home in 2011 at Vint Hill Farms Station, a former Army communications base located 40 miles outside of Washington, DC. The Cold War Museum is dedicated to education, preservation, and research on the global, ideological, and political

confrontations between East and West from the end of World War II to the dissolution of the Soviet Union. More information online at [www.coldwar.org](http://www.coldwar.org).



*MOAA SWVA Chapter President James Flynn speaking with Francis Gary Powers, Jr.*

*Francis Gary Powers, Jr. speaking to the SWVA Chapter of MOAA about the Cold War and the incident involving the shoot down of his father in a U-2 over the Soviet Union.*



*(l-r; MOAA SWVA Chapter Members: CAPT Gary Powers USN (Ret), LTC John Wagner, USA (Ret), LTC James Flynn, USA (Ret), Francis Gary Powers, Jr., LTC Steve Jamison, USA (ret), COL Tom Dalzell, USMC (Ret), LTC Dan Karnes, USAR (Ret)).*



*MOAA SWVA Chapter members listen to Francis Gary Powers, Jr. at the Shenandoah Club in Roanoke, VA.*