

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The completion of this book on the life and military service of **2nd Lt. Gilbert (Gibby) A. Rauh** would not have been possible without the support, generosity, and commitment of many individuals and families.

Rich and Carol Ashburn — Our collaboration spanned more than ten years. Their father, **Carlyle R. Ashburn**, flew on combat missions with Gilbert Rauh out of Panagarh Air Base in the CBI Theater of Operations. The research we pursued together was extensive, and their contributions to this book were invaluable.

Kelly McKeague, Director, DPAA — Without the tireless dedication of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, this story could never have reached its long-awaited closure. His personal attendance at the Arlington National Cemetery funeral services was both unexpected and deeply appreciated.

Rachel Jones — Memorial Affairs Coordinator, Casualty Assistance Center, Joint Base Myer–Henderson Hall, Fort Myer, Virginia. Her continuous communication, coordination, and personal support before, during, and after the deplaning at Reagan National Airport and the funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery made the entire closure phase of this story both dignified and memorable.

Vicente (Vincii) Lim IV — Director of the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial Visitor Center. His gracious response to my request for photographs of the rosette placement at the Tablets of the Missing provided an important visual addition to this book.

Gene Maestas — Public Affairs Specialist at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). His willingness to locate the gravesites of the *Apocalypse* crew and provide photographs was a vital contribution to tracing their eighty-two-year journey.

Anita and Richard McLauchlen — Nephew of *Apocalypse* pilot **John E. McLauchlen** and his wife. Their contact, following DPAA's acknowledgment that the remains of the *Apocalypse* crew might have been identified, brought new personal connections that enriched this narrative.

The family of Charles Kaufman — Navigator who served with Gilbert Rauh at Panagarh and later flew with Mike Iriarte on his fatal mission from Pandaveswar. His son **Richard** and daughters **Cynthia, Cheryl, and Wynd** graciously shared their father's stories and memoirs. Their generosity added perspectives and details that would otherwise have been lost to history.

To all of these individuals and families, I extend my deepest gratitude. Their dedication, memories, and willingness to share have preserved not only the story of Gilbert Rauh, but also the legacy of the *Apocalypse* crew and their service during World War II.