



Distinguished Flying Cross  
Recipient:

Birth: July 4, 1911

Death: May 30, 2009

**Paul Charles Schaefer**

Branch: U.S. Army Air Corps

Theatre: WWII

***(National has no Citation) Research Information:*** Paul Schaefer obtained his private flying license in 1940 and bought his first plane, a Piper Cub in 1941. He enlisted in the Army Reserve in 1941 and was a Primary Flight Instructor with the Army Air Force in Sikeston, Missouri. He was sent to Randolph Field in Texas to learn instrument and multi-engine flying. He graduated from Randolph as a Flight Officer and then served in the China-Burma-India Theatre. He was based at Tezgaon and Kurmitola, flying C-109's (B-24's converted to gas tankers) and C-54's over the Himalayas, "The Hump". Flights were mostly at night in all types of weather without all the navigational equipment available today. He was among the first Americans to deliver Chinese Nationalist troops to Shanghai to relieve the city from Japanese rule. His service flying "The Hump" earned him the *Distinguished Flying Cross*, the Air Medal with two clusters and three combat stars. He left the service as a second lieutenant.