

Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter (FFCPC)
Representing the States of Oregon & Southwestern Washington
Based in Portland, Oregon U.S.A.

President Greg Jacob
FINLAND 100 Chair Pirjo Schulbach

On behalf of our organization, Elizabeth Newton is our Presenter. Elizabeth is on our Board of Directors and a member of Finlandia Foundation National. The national organization has approximately 55 chapters representing some 8,500 members, most Finnish-Americans. It is the largest such organization in the U.S.A.

PRESENTATION OF THE AERIAL COMBAT PORTRAIT

Artist Ms. Jerry Ghiglieri

This year, we celebrate Finland's Centennial, 100 years of Finnish Independence, FINLAND 100.

As Finnish-Americans, we take great pride in Finland's many accomplishments, its faithful adherence to universal values, and its role in leading by example and deserved reputation.

Fundamental to such a celebration must be an acknowledgement of Finland's veterans, the men and women who were willing to risk everything to become and remain autonomous. Our Columbia-Pacific Chapter of the Finlandia Foundation based in Portland, Oregon U.S.A. with a grant from the National organization decided to do this in a personal way. One of our local founders is the daughter of Winter War Flying Ace, then Lieutenant, Jorma Sarvanto. Our choice was to pay tribute to all Finnish Veterans by creating an Aerial Combat Portrait memorializing his heroic defense of country on January 6th, 1940.

Our Aerial Combat Portrait pays tribute to all Finnish Veterans, men and women, for their Heroic Defense of Country, not to the glory of war.

This event began when Finnish Air Force pilot Lt. Per-Erik Sovelius was on air patrol and discovered a formation of eight returning Soviet bombers. He radioed their position and shot one down. Scrambling from the Utti Air Force Base, Lt. Sarvanto encountered the Soviet bombers dispatching six of the remaining seven in four minutes. The last bomber, although damaged by his gun fire, survived because he ran out of ammunition. The event resulted in global attention to the Winter War.

On behalf of our Chapter and Finlandia Foundation National, we present this painting in celebration of FINLAND 100 and in honor of all Finnish Veterans.

Elizabeth Newton, Presenter

Aerial Combat Portrait Project Co-Chairs
Dave Alford & Greg Jacob