



The  
**BentProp™**  
Project



March 4, 2003:  
(L to R) Joe  
Maldangesang  
(Master Guide),  
Val Thal, Pat  
Scannon, Flip  
Colmer, Dan  
O'Brien. Used  
with Permission

August 24, 2004

Dear Frances and Walter,

In February 1994, I located this Corsair deep in a mangrove swamp. In April 1998, I visited your home for the first time as a complete stranger and left as a friend forever more – and we discovered this Corsair was Brownie's shot down March 4, 1944. On March 4, 2003, fifty nine years to the day (and hour), the PMANV team revisited the crash site one more time – just for you. We took in, and carried out, the enclosed American flag – the only one we will ever give to a survivor from Palau, as you are the only American aviator to get shot down and escape alive from within the enemy's grasp.

Please accept this flag, which contains both mangrove stains and our sweat, as our way of saying thank you: thank you, Brownie, for risking all in the defense of our great country and thank you, Frances, for the sacrifices you made while he was away at war and for taking care of our American hero ever since.

With deep respect and warm regard,