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# Swanson of Virginia: A Political Biography

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Indian country gives the Air Force rescue crews the credit they richly deserve, but after spending an evening engrossed in the flying, it seemed a bit contrived. But, the book claims to be a novel. Whatever, it's a good book.

The scenes of liberty will bring back memories, some never to be relived. For God's sake, they've paved the streets of Olongapo. Somehow the smell could not be captured in print, nor the gastric distress that lingered when you dined in town. I hope the gut-wrenching emotion of this book is not lost on the casual reader, or overplayed in the inevitable movie. My thanks to Stephen Coonts for giving us *Flight of the Intruder*. It's a damn good book.

DON A. GERRISH, JR.  
Captain, U.S. Navy

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Ferrell, Henry C. *Claude A. Swanson of Virginia: A Political Biography*. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1985. 294pp. \$28

This is a detailed, thoroughly researched, and quite unexciting study of the long political career of Franklin Roosevelt's first Secretary of the Navy. Appointed Navy Secretary in 1933 at the age of 71, Swanson served until his death in July 1939. Ferrell properly emphasizes Swanson's career before his appointment when the Virginian was, successively, Congressman (1893-1905), Governor (1906-1910) and then four-term Senator. In the Senate, Swanson built a reputation as an

astute politician and as an expert in the field of naval affairs. As Navy Secretary, Swanson concentrated on building political support in Congress for Navy expansion. Ferrell disputes the claims of Swanson's critics that, as Senator, the Virginian was a spokesman for a party "machine" which catered to corporate interests and that, as Navy Secretary, Swanson was too feeble to have a major impact on Navy affairs. Characteristic of Swanson's approach to politics was his observation that "No sane man would slap a tiger in the face when his other hand is in the tiger's mouth." This pragmatism was the hallmark of all of Swanson's public life.

THOMAS HONE  
Arlington, Virginia

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Muirhead, John. *Those Who Fall*. New York: Random House, 1986. 285pp. \$18.95

John Muirhead's memoir of piloting B-17s out of Italy in 1944 ranks with and adds a new dimension to Murray Peden's *A Thousand Shall Fall* and Beirne Lay's *Twelve O'Clock High*. Flying and eventually leading missions into Germany, Italy and Romania, Muirhead evokes an extraordinarily vivid sense of the exhilaration and fear of tight formation flying and combat with rapacious Me-109s. The reader is struck by the courage of these very young men as they fought weather, equipment malfunction, flak, and fighters on the way to such infamous targets as