



## GAIL HALVORSEN

*Aviator (1920 - present)*

Born in Salt Lake City, Halvorsen a.k.a. the 'Candy Bomber' joined the Army Air Corps and flew cargo planes of supplies to the starving people in Berlin during 'Operation Vittles' in 1948. One day he met a group of Berlin children and shared two sticks of gum with them. Halvorsen promised to bring more gum the next day - only this time, he would drop it from his plane. When one child asked how they would recognize Halvorsen's plane, he said he would wiggle his wings for them (later the children nicknamed Halvorsen "Uncle Wiggly Wings"). Halvorsen began regularly dropping boxes of candy tied to handkerchief parachutes. Halvorsen's airlift commander then expanded Halvorsen's project into 'Operation Little Vittles'. From Sept. 22, 1948 - May 13, 1949 children and candymakers in the U.S. sent an estimated 23 tons of candy, which was then dropped by pilots over Berlin, drifting down on tiny parachutes. In 2014, Halvorsen was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his part.