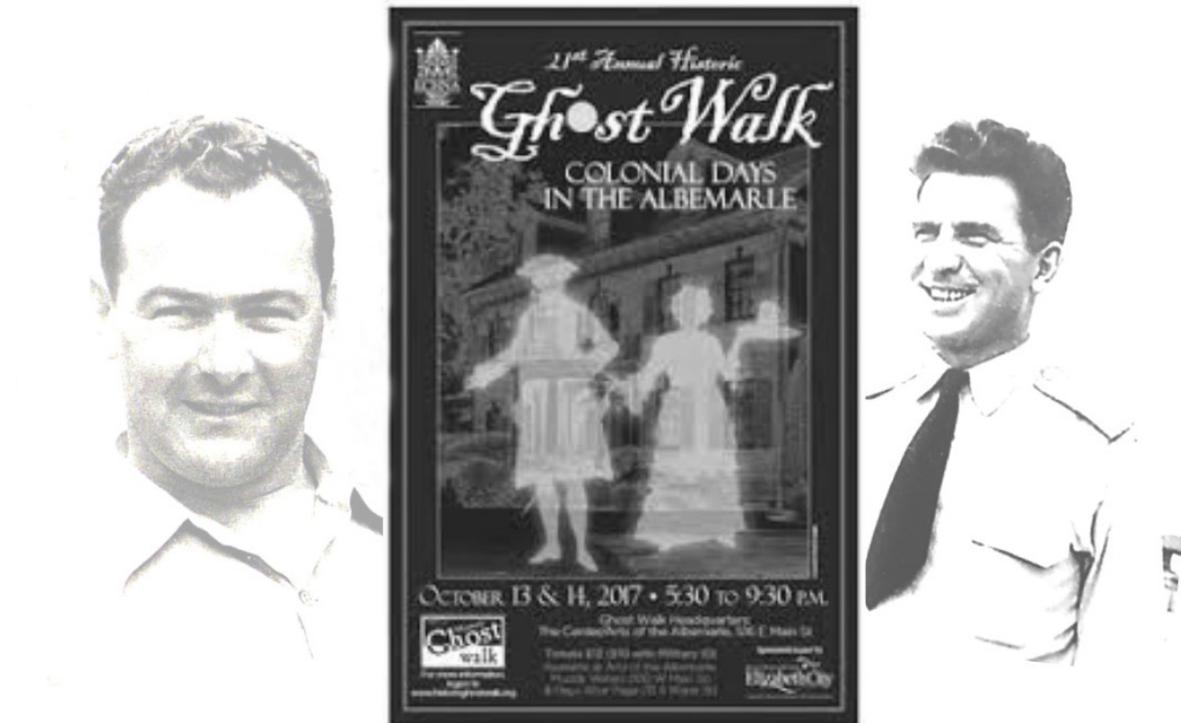




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***Deceased Russian and American commanders of top-secret, World War II mission, Project Zebra, to participate in Ghost Walk.***



*U.S. Lt. Colonel Stanley Chernack (l) and Russian Colonel Maxim Chibisov (r)*

(ELIZABETH CITY, OCTOBER 2017) When Hitler destroyed 80 percent of the Soviet air force during the early days of World War II, the decorated Russian air hero, Colonel Maxim Chibisov, was personally selected by Joseph Stalin to fly to Elizabeth City, North Carolina, with 300 Soviet airmen. There he was met by 11 skilled Navy pilots and crews under the direction of U.S. Navy Commander, Stanley Chernack.

The mission called Project Zebra spanned 18 months. While living in Elizabeth City, the men worked long hours learning to operate a huge, technically advanced amphibious plane nicknamed “the flying boat” which was built by American workers in Philadelphia. By mission’s end, 185 planes were delivered to the North Atlantic and Pacific theaters where they flew hundreds of combat missions without losing a single plane.

Under the guidance of Stanley and Max, both sides came to trust and respect each other as equals, despite language and customs barriers, and Elizabeth City residents opened their arms in friendship while keeping the mission a secret from the outside world.

“Much about Project Zebra has been lost in time, since the mission remained top-secret until early 2013,” said critically-acclaimed author, M.G. Crisci, who has written the first complete book about the mission, the town’s supportive relationship, and the lifetime friendships the Soviet and American Zebras would cultivate through the Cold War and beyond. The book, *Project Zebra. Roosevelt and Stalin’s Top-Secret Mission to Train 300 Soviet Airmen in America*. (Orca Publishing USA, \$32.95, hardcover, 354 pp and 200+ photographs), has received numerous endorsements from international cross-cultural organizations and historical societies and is available in online bookstores everywhere. Official on-sale date os November 1. Video trailer is posted on M.G.’s youtube channel. (<http://bit.ly/2xEOlqW>)

“According to their diaries, notes, and conversations with family and friends, both men remembered their stay in Elizabeth City, and vowed to one day return,” said Crisci.

“And, what better time for these two men to return than Ghost Walk,” said Elizabeth City Mayor Joesph Peel. “Rumor has it they may even spend a bit of time around the booth where Crisci will be signing first edition copies of his book.”

*Manhattan-born M.G. Crisci ([mgerisci.com](http://mgerisci.com)) is the author of ten books based on true stories or real events in the genres of fiction, nonfiction, drama, and romance. His most recent book, *The Salad Oil King. An American Tale of Greed Gone Mad* (Orca Publishing USA), has been hailed by critics as an “American crime classic spun by a master story-teller.” Recently, Crisci, a 22-time selectee to *Who’s Who in the World*, received the Albert Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award for his business, literary, and cultural contributions (<http://bit.ly/2uO0nB4>).*

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