

## TESTIMONIALS

“The tipping point are the coded messages” deciphered in the typed 1971 D.B. Cooper letter, released by the FBI through Colbert’s 2017 court order. “Narcissists often leave clever clues that identify who they are” because they think “authorities are not smart enough to crack the messages and hints.”

“Since they correlate with the identifiers in Rackstraw’s [Army] life, I am convinced this was written by the hijacker. This is your strongest evidence linking him to Cooper.”

—**FBI Behavioral Analyst Jack Schafer (ret.); now a Psychologist, Professor and Author**

“Your [coded message] discoveries are a nice work. I think you’ve arrived. No one, yes I admit it, no one has come up with a more complete explanation and thorough documentation of this matter than you and your team. You seem to have gotten very near the finish line, while I and my [FBI] colleagues did not. Congratulations.”

—**FBI SAC Dorwin Schreuder (ret.); chief of 1980 Cooper-cash recovery at the Columbia River**

“I have always jumped at the opportunity to work with Tom Colbert for thirty-plus years, he is the best investigative journalist I know. Tom possesses the curiosity and instinct that have repeatedly led to discovering the truth. But he would never trust a simple hunch. He would always dig for evidence.

“All of us who reported the fascinating tale of D. B. Cooper and anyone who savors a mystery must read Tom’s superb investigative story. Believe me—and believe him!”

—**Connie Chung, former network TV news anchor**

“In my professional opinion as a seasoned and trained investigator and former criminal court judge, the case Colbert has made establishing Rackstraw as the hijacker, documented in *The Last Master Outlaw*, is one of the strongest cases I have ever seen. The book invites you along on the five-year hunt, as Colbert’s cold case investigators track down old crime partners and coworkers, dig through the records, and log the solid evidence. You’re left to ultimately conclude—beyond a reasonable doubt—that he has identified the man America has come to know as D. B. Cooper.”

—**Shannen L. Rossmiller, Montana State Investigator, former Municipal Judge**

Most of the evidence is circumstantial, “but after a while, when those circumstances are all going in the same direction and then they all fit, the circumstantial quality just becomes overwhelming. My favorite saying is, ‘if it looks like a duck, and walks like a duck, and talks like a duck, it’s probably a duck.’ I think Mr. Rackstraw is D.B. Cooper. I think it’s time for him to take credit for what he did.”

**—20-year FBI Special Agent Jack Trimarco (ret.); Polygraph Manager, Los Angeles**

“This incredible journalistic achievement shames the FBI’s investigation of the nation’s most famous skyjacking in 1971. Thomas Colbert’s cold case team spent seven years tracking down the prime suspect and learning how he outsmarted special agents at every turn.

“It’s one of the best investigative reports I’ve read in years, serving up cold, hard facts and leaving nothing to mindless speculation. I’ve had a long-time interest in the Cooper case, and the book, *The Last Master Outlaw*, answers a lot of questions I’ve been asking over the years.”

**—Pete Noyes, former TV Investigative Journalist and Exec Producer, Los Angeles**

“There are five factors of critical importance which the accumulated evidence demonstrates Rackstraw’s experience and conduct singularly meets: Motive, Skill and Aptitude, Planning, Opportunity and Conduct suggesting knowledge of the offense only the perpetrator would have. My review of evidence compiled by Tom Colbert and his associates leads me to the conclusion that Robert W. Rackstraw Sr. is D.B. Cooper... a strong circumstantial case. ”

**—Two-Time U.S. Attorney Joe Russoniello (ret.), former Law School Dean & FBI Agent; 2014**

“When you gather a bunch of people like Tom Colbert did, you run a great risk of group-think. As a member of his Cold Case Team, I can tell you this did not happen. I and my colleagues pushed back against theories, shot down conclusions, and changed views in light of new evidence. Some facts, however, are unavoidable.

“Rackstraw once claimed he was Cooper. He was flying in the Northwest in November 1971. He was a parachutist, and has a record of doing crazy stuff as a pilot in Vietnam. And Cooper’s commands to the Northwest crew demonstrated his knowledge of flight characteristics of the 727 that a pilot, but not your average Joe, would know — and Rackstraw would know them.

“Whatever you think about Colbert’s motivations or the quality of the documentary and book, these facts exist. But the FBI has not told us why they decided Rackstraw was no longer a suspect. Until someone pulls that ripcord, I proudly stand with the team.”

**—Jeffrey T. Renz, Attorney & Retired Law Professor, CPT INF and former Army Ranger**

"You put together a fine team, I personally know some of them quite well. These were in-depth investigators and prosecutors who knew federal law and knew crime and how to solve it.

"This is more than a theory, and you have an individual that has all of the attributes required of someone to do this successfully. These are issues that have to be examined and weighed. "So if we can move forward and we're able to do that, I'm all for it."

**—FBI Assistant Director William M. Baker (ret.), Criminal Investigative Division**

"The book is a must-read. I believe this cold case, involving a fugitive many consider to be America's last outlaw before modern law enforcement tools, has been finally solved by an outstanding team of professional investigators. A fitting end to an epic legend of history."

**—Major General Paul E. Vallely, US Army (ret.), Montana**

"Colbert has truly made history by finally solving this cold case. His tenacity and zeal in the pursuit has made *The Last Master Outlaw* a perfect example of how a lifelong criminal like D. B. Cooper can keep running but can never hide!"

**—Rich Vigna, Pacific Field Operations Director, US Customs & Border Protection (ret.)**

"A couple things that stand out to me: With all of the information developed by your investigation and the information that has come directly from the FBI, you are about as close as possible to identifying Rackstraw as D.B. Cooper, lacking only one piece of evidence that would make it 100% (fingerprint, DNA, etc.). So, you've made an extremely good case.

"What is almost equally incredible is that nothing turned up so far by anyone eliminates Rackstraw. I think it was Sherlock Holmes who said, 'Once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth.'"

**—25-year FBI Special Agent Ron Hilley (ret.), Polygrapher & Investigator, San Francisco**

"Colbert and his cold case team took on a daunting challenge, and it paid off. This book meticulously lays out each piece of their D. B. Cooper investigation with compelling precision and attention to detail. What unfolds is a tale that is spellbinding and jaw-dropping. I had to keep reminding myself this is not a work of fiction!"

**—Sylvia Lopez, twenty-five-year Los Angeles TV news anchor (ret.)**

“What makes *The Last Master Outlaw* so enjoyable, beyond the details of this man’s complicated life, is the systematic, tenacious pursuit by Colbert’s investigative team. When I read the evidence uncovered, I gasped. You may have the same reaction. Detailed, reliable, and consistent, it paints a compelling picture and makes for a gripping, entertaining book.”

—**Mark A. Reinecke, Professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Northwestern University, and Chief Psychologist, Northwestern Memorial Hospital**

“This book should come with a warning: Don’t pick it up because you’ll never put it down. I am so pleased that Colbert’s efforts to bring closure to this case, which the world has been fascinated by for decades, is ending up in the win column. Credit his talent, time, and selfless attitude for this success. He would have been a great FBI agent!”

—**18-year FBI Special Agent Jim Reese (ret.), pioneering profiler, Behavioral Science Unit**

“A great tale of dedicated, dogged determination, and a fascinating story for the public. Tom’s research was excellent, and the resolve to see this case to the end is a testament to his focus.”

—**Jamie Graham, Chief Superintendent, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (ret.)**

“A criminal investigation is successful when the ‘probable cause’ standard is met. Probable cause is achieved when a logical and prudent individual believes that there is enough direct or circumstantial evidence collected to determine that a crime was committed and that a certain person or persons committed that crime.

“All such persons reading this book will be able to judge for themselves whether this standard has been met and whether the D. B. Cooper skyjacker has clearly been identified. Readers will be captivated by the detail and complexity of its content, produced by authors Tom Colbert and Tom Szollosi.”

—**Thomas P. Mauriello, MFS, Professor of Criminalistics, University of Maryland; one of USA’s “Top 15 CSI Professors”**

“The determination of Colbert to track down D. B. Cooper is amazing. His cold case team’s investigative work to solve this mystery is unbelievable. *The Last Master Outlaw*, with cowriter Tom Szollosi, makes for great reading.”

—**Scotty Sang, Port Director, US Customs and Border Protection, Phoenix Sky Harbor (ret.)**

“I really enjoyed reading your book, especially the second time. Your investigation was so overwhelming that I really had a difficult time trying to figure out where to start!

“You’ve done a great job proving that Rackstraw is a perfect liar, con man, thief, abuser, and killer. Your team collected a lot of detailed information pointing to your theory that he is Cooper. From the background regarding his mental and physical make up, I have no doubt that he was the type of person who would not hesitate to pull off the skyjacking.”

—**FBI Special Agent Gary Tallis (ret.); first arrival at the 1971 Seattle Airport Hijack Scene**

“This is a great yarn. Just fascinating. I’ll enjoy watching this play out. Congratulations to you!”

—**Van Gordon Sauter, former President, CBS News & FOX News**