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8TH AF NEWS

Volume 17 Number 1 Voice of "The Mighty Eighth"

We few, we happy few,
we band of (daughters)...





8TH AF NEWS

Voice of "The Mighty Eighth"

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From the President's Pen

The world is changing, whether for better or worse remains to be seen. Here in America, things that were once sacrosanct have become less so. In particular, service to not-for-profit (NFP) organizations used to be for the good of the organization. In too many cases, this has turned into self-service.

I am sure we have all read of instances where supposedly trusted employees or board members have embezzled funds or abused conflicts of interest with NFPs they were supposed to serve. Fortunately, that has not happened to our Society. We were, however, notified by the Distinguished Flying Cross Society that their Treasurer had embezzled a considerable amount of money. Their board took some of the responsibility for not checking the person's background before he was elected to the board. It turns out he was a convicted felon. They have since urged other NFP organizations to do proper due diligence on people nominated to their boards.

We, like I am sure many other organizations, had not done this before. Since we heard from the Distinguished Flying Cross Society, we immediately took steps to correct the situation. All current board members were asked to submit a list of materials to provide some assurance of their

backgrounds. In addition, I as Treasurer underwent a criminal background check.

This vetting process will be carried out for future nominees to the board. You will see elsewhere in this issue a "Call for Nominations". Nominations are due by May 15. Nominees must submit the documents noted in the "Call" by June 1 to be placed on the ballot. If a person is nominated from the floor at the membership meeting, and is elected to the board, that person must submit the same vetting documents within 30 days of election in order to remain on the board.

While these measures are not a panacea, they do give some assurance that elected board members have the welfare of the Society at heart.

See you in New Orleans!
David Nowack



*David Nowack
President*

Treasurer's Report 2016

Submitted by Dave Nowack

I am presenting the 2016 financial results for the Society. The Statement of Activities shows a loss of \$90K. This is due primarily to the following:

- We had net expenses for the reunion of \$38K. This was planned and was caused mainly by various subsidies we absorbed in order to attract a higher turnout. It worked as the turnout was the highest in several years. The main items causing the \$38K loss were:
 - Rebates to veterans, \$15K
 - Room rate subsidy to everyone, \$10K

- Meal ticket subsidy to everyone, \$3K
- Don Miller's speaker fee & travel expenses \$6K
- We ramped up our outreach programs to spread the word about the 8th Air Force around the country. We awarded grants to museums and organizations to create or improve exhibits about the 8th Air Force, or improve websites about the 8th Air Force. This cost about \$31K.
- Our Managing Director was made full-time in July 2015. Thus 2016 contains full-time salary for a full calendar year. The increase is \$9K.

We had to draw funds from our investment account to cover some of our expenses. This was partially offset by the favorable investment returns. Some of those returns, however, are paper returns and are subject to vagaries in the stock market.

Eighth Air Force Historical Society Statement of Activities For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| REVENUE | |
| Dues & Donations | \$ 90,398 |
| Investments Results | 19,935 |
| Total Revenue & Investment Gains | <u>110,333</u> |
| EXPENSES | |
| National Administration | 43,846 |
| 8th Air Force News | 52,513 |
| Headquarters Office | 66,251 |
| Net Reunion Expenses | 37,585 |
| Total Expenses | <u>200,195</u> |
| Net Loss | <u>\$ (89,862)</u> |

Eighth Air Force Historical Society Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2016

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Checking & Savings Accounts | \$ 13,343 |
| Investments | 352,152 |
| Other Current Assets | 1,263 |
| Total Assets | <u>\$ 366,758</u> |
| LIABILITIES | |
| Accrued Expenses | \$ 14,741 |
| Payroll & Payroll Taxes | 5,300 |
| Total Liabilities | <u>20,041</u> |
| NET ASSETS | |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | 346,717 |
| Total Liabilities & Net Assets | <u>\$ 366,758</u> |

Editor's Message

Laissez le Bon Temps Rouler!

This year marks my 6th anniversary of being part of the 8th Air Force Historical Society and 17 years of being associated with the 8th Air Force. While each year—each DAY for that matter—holds its own specialness in my heart, I am more excited than ever for our upcoming 43rd Reunion this September in New Orleans!

Growing up near New Orleans, I always appreciated its beauty, history, culture, and quirky uniqueness. But the real deciding factor in selecting New Orleans as the site of our 2017 reunion, really came down to two important things: New Orleans is easily accessible from either coast in a few hours via air; it is the site of the National WWII Museum.

What began as the D-Day Museum in 2000, quickly evolved into a world class institution dedicated to telling the entire story of WWII, including the critical importance of the “Mighty Eighth” in saving Europe and defeating Hitler. It was later designated by the U.S. Congress as America’s official National World War II Museum in 2003.

The reunion chair and current Society vice-president, Dr. Nancy Toombs and I felt that in order to truly experience the power and emotion of the Museum, we needed TWO FULL DAYS to explore and appreciate all that it has to offer. When you look over the reunion schedule, you will see that there is ONE Museum tour, but it covers TWO days—lunch and transportation included—for one price. The tour also includes the

Tom Hanks film, *Beyond All Boundaries*, showing exclusively in The National WWII Museum’s Solomon Victory Theater. It is a 4D journey through the war that changed the world. Our traditional Saturday evening Gala dinner will be held in the Freedom Pavilion of the Museum. Transportation will again be provided by the Society.

Due to the overwhelming and positive response and attendance we anticipate in New Orleans, our dates had to be shifted to the last week in September in order to secure adequate hotel rooms that were also affordable. Regrettably, those dates include the Jewish high holiday of Yom Kippur, which begins at sundown on Friday, September 29th and ends at sundown, Saturday the 30th. We have reached out to the congregation of Temple Sinai in New Orleans. They welcome anyone wishing to participate in services on Saturday to join them. They will have both morning and early afternoon services. If you wish to attend services, please let us know and the Society will provide transportation from the Hilton. Information will be available at the reunion registration desk.

Whether you are a veteran, next gen, or someone passionate about the history and stories of the 8th, please plan on joining us for this reunion. We promise it will be memorable.

Yes, it is THAT important that none of us forget the focus of our mission—to honor and preserve the legacy and memories of the 8th Air Force now, and for generations to come.

**See y’all in
N’awlins!
Deb**



Debra Kujawa
Managing Director/Editor





8TH AF NEWS

The Eighth Air Force News is dedicated to the memory of Lt. Col. John H. Woolnough, Founder of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society and Editor for sixteen years. It is published quarterly and is the official news magazine of the Society, a 501(c)3. The 8th AF NEWS is distributed to members of the Society and is not for public sale.

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Continuing the Legacy with your 8th Air Force News Magazine Staff L-R: - Debra Kujawa, Telisha Gaines & Donna Neely



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MATERIAL DEADLINE

May 1, 2017 for the June 2017

8th AF News

We welcome all of your articles!!!

Please include photos & more!!

ALL file formats are accepted

We encourage you to send digital images when possible.

NEW

JOIN THE 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

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BAND OF DAUGHTERS

Two strangers unite to retrace their enigmatic fathers' march across Europe as POWs in WWII.

By Josh Green For the AJC

Photos Contributed by Laura Edge

One autumn day in 2015, Ellen Hartman brought her father's credentials to the National Prisoner of War Museum in Andersonville, the site of a Civil War POW camp in south Georgia. Nearly 20 years after her father had died, Ellen was looking for clues to what exactly he had endured in World War II. A museum library employee dug around and emerged with something that would begin to answer questions that had troubled Ellen all her life.

Have I found a book for you, she said. This lady's father was in the same POW camp as yours.

"On the Wings of Dawn" was the 2012 self-published book by Laura Edge, a Michigan educator turned WWII history buff. Ellen bought a copy on eBay, read it over the winter and emailed the author on Feb. 6, the 71st anniversary of the day their fathers, alongside thousands of fellow American and allied prisoners, began a forced march through Europe, a wartime atrocity of unthinkable hardship that had all but slipped through history's cracks.

A flurry of email exchanges ensued between Ellen, a longtime Atlantan, and this stranger in Michigan. One day Ellen floated an idea: She wanted to peel back the layers on the subject her father never talked about by going to Europe and tracing the steps of what's been called The Black March. And she wanted another POW daughter to join her.



Ellen Hartman (left) and Laura Edge, shown at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate, undertook a 1,300-mile journey across Europe this summer to retrace the forced POW march their fathers endured during World War II. CONTRIBUTED BY LAURA EDGE

LAURA WAS ON BOARD

Some 200 emails and countless hours of research and planning later, the women — virtual strangers — packed their bags and embarked on the trip of a lifetime.

Not that there wasn't a little anxiety. Laura's friends prayed in church that her companion from Atlanta wasn't a psychopath. Ellen's husband Mike Moran took pleasure in busting his wife's chops, predicting a European journey full of incompatibility and clashes.

I bet she's a chain-smoker, a non-

drinker and an incessant talker, Mike joked.

Wearing her father's dog tags around her neck, Ellen boarded a plane in Amsterdam and met her traveling companion for the first time in the flesh. In many ways they were a walking contrast to one another. Ellen is a spunky, talkative 64-year-old career woman who's swapped her hobby of running marathons for a women's cooking group. At 69, Laura is a head taller and exceedingly polite, shorthaired and smiling. She exudes an academic air that suits her fervor for all things WWII.

Both women soon learned they shared a fondness for good food and wine — and for fawning over their grandchildren. To Ellen's delight, her compatriot didn't smoke.

They landed in Berlin, rented an Opel sedan and drove 186 miles to Tychowo in northwest Poland — the first of an eventual 1,300 miles of back roads and autobahns they would traverse in seven days.

DAMAGED PATRIOTS

Long before Post Traumatic Stress Disorder was identified as a mental health condition, Ellen's father Joe Weaver would awake from violent nightmares, thrusting his fists through the walls, still fighting the Germans.

After serving as a technical sergeant in the Army Air Forces, he'd returned to Mississippi weak and skinny with dysentery. But he soon



Joe Weaver joined the Army in 1942 after quitting The Citadel. FAMILY PHOTO

recovered and enrolled at Mississippi State University, where his prowess at Jitterbug dancing helped woo his wife, Kathryn. Together they welcomed two daughters — Ellen was their youngest — and settled on a 150-acre farm near Starkville.

Growing up, Ellen never asked her father about his claustrophobia (he panicked on elevators), his incessant shower-taking (at least twice a day), his disdain for straying far from home, or the fist-sized scar on his back. As her mother often stressed, some things simply came from the war, and it was understood that Dad didn't talk about them. Ellen recalls her father as being loving but walled off by the painful experiences of his past, a puzzle with mostly missing pieces. It was clear to her at an early age the root of his troubles was the war.

Not all of the emotional shrapnel from Joe's war experience was necessarily negative. He had no tolerance for mean people, advising his daughter to live by his mantra:

KILL PEOPLE WITH KINDNESS

That mindset had repercussions for Joe. The owner of an Amoco gas station, he let a group of Freedom

Riders use a white restroom in the 1950s because the blacks-only facilities were out of service. In response, the station was bombed — most likely by the Ku Klux Klan — and the family dog was killed. In hateful phone calls, men threatened to kidnap Ellen and her sister.

The one thing that always brought solace to Joe was flying. He built a runway on the farm, bought a Cessna 150 and taught Ellen to fly. She flew herself to college at Ole Miss, where she earned a journalism degree. In 1974, she moved to Atlanta to begin a fruitful career in public relations, working for MARTA, Coca-Cola and other companies before founding her own firm six years ago. She married twice, had two daughters and helped raise three other children.

In 1996, Joe was undergoing open-heart surgery when he contracted a staph infection that would kill him at age 72, a few months before his 50th wedding anniversary.

Ellen had always wanted to ask her father about his time in the service. All she knew was family lore, things her mother offhandedly mentioned. She'd never thought to sit down with Joe and ask, What happened over there?



Larry Witt was photographed in Brussels, Belgium, after repatriation. He had spent nearly a year in German captivity. CONTRIBUTED BY LAURA EDGE

AND NOW SHE COULDN'T

Eight hundred miles north of Starkville, in the automotive boom-town that was 1950s Detroit, a young Laura was repeatedly warned by her elders: Don't make a lot of noise. You'll make Dad nervous.

Like Ellen, she was the daughter of a kind, reserved father. Larry Witt



Laura Edge's father, Larry Witt (far left, back row), stands with eight members of his crew. Four men in this photo became POWs and the rest were killed in action when their plane was shot down May 12, 1944. CONTRIBUTED BY LAURA EDGE



The barracks at Stalag Luft IV in Tychowo, Poland, where Ellen's and Laura's fathers were imprisoned during World War II. FILE PHOTO

was a former technical sergeant in the Army Air Forces who kept an unsentimental distance from her and thus remained a mystery.

Trained in metallurgy, Larry worked in Ford Motor Company's scientific research laboratories and would eventually hold several patents. But the way that young children scream and dart around made him uneasy. And he had two recurring dreams that frequently woke him in a state of sweaty panic. In one dream, he was running nonstop but couldn't find his way. In the other he was being forced to use a filthy bathroom.

Laura attended Eastern Michigan University, graduating with a degree in social work, and married a grad student. They moved to California and Massachusetts before returning to suburban Detroit. After having two sons, she switched careers to education and retired as an elementary school principal in 2009.

Along the way she developed a fascination with World War II history and spent many summers researching the war. She decided to write a book and began gathering military records and interviewing a range of veterans. Larry was now well into his 80s, so

time was of the essence. She finally sat down with her father and one of his old crewmates, and for the first time heard him open up.

Laura's father died in 2010 at age 86 and never saw the finished book. But she took comfort in knowing that, unlike many of her "next generation" counterparts, she had succeeded in



Ellen Hartman holds the dog tags of her father, Joe Weaver, in front of the Stalag Luft IV memorial sculpture created by Polish artist Zygmunt Wujek. CONTRIBUTED BY ELLEN HARTMAN

breaking her father's 60-year silence.

INSTANT CELEBRITIES

Giddy as teenagers, the road-tripping sexagenarians settled into their roles. Ellen drove and Laura was the navigator, assisted by phone calls to her husband, who punched in satellite coordinates online in the wee Michigan hours.

They were united in a passion for not only knowing the truth about their fathers but experiencing it as much as they could. Their personalities clicked right away.

At Tychowo, the women walked 2.7 miles along a sandy, tree-lined path covered in blue forget-me-nots to the ruins of Stalag Luft IV, where both men were imprisoned. A massive camp, it held several thousand allied prisoners, mostly Americans.

Before he died, Laura's father told her about arriving at this place, of the armed guards, snarling police dogs and a crazed, red-haired German captain waving a gun and shouting orders Larry didn't understand.

THE DAUGHTERS' ARRIVAL WAS DRAMATICALLY DIFFERENT.

Ellen and Laura were treated like celebrities by town dignitaries who had been alerted to the women's journey. They were given flowers, and candles were lit in honor of their fathers at memorials. Zygmunt Wujek, a sculptor who created a memorial at the prison gates and train station, treated the daughters to a tour of his studio and home.

The next morning, Ellen and Laura were whisked to a palace for a meeting with the region's governor, Pawel Michalak. A Polish newspaper covered the event, proclaiming in a front-page headline, "American Ladies Follow the Tracks of History." Ever the PR pro, Ellen doled out her business cards, gave hugs and expressed gratitude to their hosts that the sacrifices of the American military had not been forgotten.

The travelers were amazed to learn that every Feb. 6, the day the forced march began, is memorialized. Bands play, dignitaries and schoolchildren give speeches and participants engage in a ceremonial walk from the prison to the train station. The town's collective sentiment is captured at the base of one Wujek sculpture en route to the camp, where an inscription wishes "eternal glory" to the servicemen "who administered justice and brought us to the dawn of freedom."

HORRORS OF WAR

Ellen's dad, Joe Weaver, had never left Mississippi until he began studies at The Citadel in 1942. He hated the place so much he quit and joined the Army in October that year.

Once overseas, the baby-faced, 20-year-old radio operator and mechanical gunner survived a crash landing during flight training in Northern Ireland, which is where Ellen believes her father incurred the large gash on his back. But it was his 52nd mission — bombing fuel dumps in France in August 1944 with the 554th Bomb Squadron, 386th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force — that would cost Joe his freedom. His B-26 was struck by flak and wouldn't make it back across the English Channel. Joe watched as crewmates frantically readied their parachutes.

Laura's dad, Larry Witt, quit his apprenticeship at Ford Motor Company and enlisted three months after Joe. A 19-year-old engineer on a B-17 with the 338th Bomb Squadron, 96th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, Larry's plane was hit over Germany during his seventh mission. When it was struck, he rushed toward the weapons bay of a fiery aircraft that half his crewmates would not escape.

In that era, Army brass considered skydiving as a training exercise too dangerous. So for both airmen, the first parachute jumps of their lives were from burning airplanes into enemy-controlled territory. Both were

quickly captured and eventually transported to Stalag Luft IV in Poland. En route, Joe endured days on train cars so crowded (and filthy with human waste) he couldn't sit down. Ellen suspects this is the root of his claustrophobia and lifelong obsession with cleanliness.

Larry was among the first transports to arrive at the prison camp when it opened in May 1944. Joe arrived sometime later, and to their daughters' knowledge, the two airmen never crossed paths among the 8,000 captured allies segregated into four compounds.

Each compound held 10 unheated, wooden barracks, and each of those was packed with some 200 men. For months they slept on tables, floors — wherever they could squeeze — and used open-air latrines. There were no facilities for washing, no hot water, and clothing supplies were scant.

Seized with uncertainty, prisoners didn't know if Germany would keep them as bargaining chips or ultimately dispose of them. While some guards were amenable, others were heinous. A hulking captor the prisoners nicknamed "Big Stoop" would slap his huge hands against POW heads to rupture their eardrums. The main staple in their allotted diet was "black bread" — comprised largely of sawdust, leaves and straw, often served hard and moldy.

Still, they made the best of their situation. The YMCA sent books, and the men established a lending library. They hosted a lighthearted minstrel show. With a few footballs, bats and baseballs, they formed teams and gathered for games, cheering on their favorite squads. But the lightheartedness wouldn't last.

That Baltic winter was one of the most brutal on record. In late January, the prisoners could hear big guns in the east that signaled the Russians' advance.

Fearing they'd be overtaken, the Germans evacuated the camp, forcing the weakened masses to march into

subzero temperatures. The prisoners carried what possessions they could, mindful of the German machine guns. They were told the march would last less than a week. Instead it would drag on for 86 horrific days over 600 miles. Estimates as to how many ultimately died vary widely, but researchers have put the number of fatalities as high as 3,500.

Dubbed The Death March, The Black March, The Forgotten March, or more sarcastically, The Shoe Leather Express, it was an ordeal that, unlike the notorious Bataan Death March in the South Pacific, wasn't thoroughly chronicled. Wracked with survivor's guilt and shame, determined to move on with their lives, most of the marchers from Stalag Luft IV would either withhold their stories for decades or share them only with each other.

PATHS UNITE

From Tychowo, Ellen and Laura drove 100 miles west to the Polish port city of Swinoujscie, through which the march passed. Laura recalled her father telling her about sleeping outdoors here and waking up frozen to the ground.

Here they saw the enormous barns that provided shelter to the POWs. Some prisoners would raid a potato stock or steal chickens to supplement their scant diet of bread and occasional bowls of soup. Some men were so hungry they ate livestock feed and rats. Eaten up by lice, they tried in vain to burn the lice eggs from the seams of their clothing without igniting the garments.

Having written extensively about these barns in her book, Laura was struck by the immensity of the brick structures. "I've never had the right perspective," she said. For the first time she could comprehend just how many prisoners it would take to pack them in.

"How did they do it? How could the human body endure?" Ellen kept asking.



Laura and Ellen saw some of the large barns that marchers slept in near the Polish port city of Swinoujscie. CONTRIBUTED



Joe and Kay Weaver with their children Donna Kay, 12, and Ellen, 8, in 1960. Joe was reluctant to discuss his experiences during World War II.

She had a new appreciation for her father's desire to sleep in pressed, "crispy" sheets, as he called them, and his lifelong love of beets, which lucky prisoners would unearth in frozen ground near the barns.

The daughters' present-day experiences were filling yesteryear's voids. They continued to trace the march, crossing the border into Germany.

In wide columns the men slogged along in groups of up to 300. Some marchers' feet became so blistered they removed their boots and walked barefoot in snow and ice, suffering frostbite. They developed systems of digging trenches during stops to avoid traipsing through each other's waste, but sickness spread. Clean water was nonexistent, and thousands were stricken with chronic dysentery. The few medical professionals among them recommended chewing on charcoal to feel better. Those too sick to march were either shot, left behind or loaded on sick wagons pulled by emaciated horses. Some froze to death; others starved.

The daughters drove on tree-lined roads through picturesque towns, where villagers either offered food and coffee to the prisoners or spit on them.

The route of the march was convoluted — going in circles at times. Captives began to separate. Some men boarded boxcars for another stalag near Hammerstein; others kept hoofing.

After about 42 days, Larry was too sick to trudge another step. He was loaded onto a farm wagon and taken to a makeshift hospital in a barn near Neubrandenburg, but he was turned away because it was in the throes of a typhus outbreak.

The site, now marked by a memorial bearing a large black cross, was the emotional breaking point for Laura. She imagined her father close to death and being turned away. She touched the cross as Ellen snapped photos.

Larry endured hallucinations and blackouts for three weeks, coming to

at a railway station in Hamburg. He was taken to Stalag 357 in the town of Fallingbommel, where he began to regain his health. There, two American prisoners (Laura's research suggests they were Tennessee country boys) shared with him a goose they'd captured and secretly cooked, quite possibly saving his life.

On April 16, 1945 — two months after the march began — a sea of prisoners cheered as British forces liberated Stalag 357. After nearly a year in captivity, Larry was so happy he hopped on a motorcycle and buzzed around the countryside. He spent a few days feasting with his pals on the bounties of local farms, then was trucked to a reparation center, flown to Belgium and was in New York by mid-May.

Because of Joe's reluctance to talk, his path to liberation remains a mystery. Ellen knows her father withered to just 90 pounds as he continued to march to a camp in the German town of Gudow, which was also freed by the British.

As she walked around Gudow, Ellen recalled the story Joe told her about the Brits confiscating possessions from his captors, throwing them in a pile and telling the Americans, Here are your first souvenirs from the war.

On the desk in her home office near Emory University, Ellen points to the souvenir her father chose: a Nazi helmet.



Ellen holds a piece of barbed wire from Stalag 11 B, one of the prisoner of war camps where her father Joe Weaver was held. A museum director gave her the item during her trip retracing her father's steps.



Wim Jacobs and Laura visit the grave of Jennings Greuter in Ardennes American Cemetery. Greuter was the tail gunner on Laura's father's plane. CONTRIBUTED

Next to it are souvenirs Ellen took herself. One is a cornerstone of a crumbling building at Stalag Luft IV.

The other, a sharp, rusty relic, Ellen holds in her hand: "This barbed wire held my dad."

GRATITUDE ENDURES

Two months after the daughters parted ways in Brussels, Ellen was eating a steak salad at Peachtree DeKalb Airport's 57th Fighter Group Restaurant and rattling off the names of planes — Cessna 150, Piper Cherokee, a Low-Wing — as they landed. She'd brought her father to the restaurant in the '80s, and he'd gotten a kick out of the aircrafts.

Over lunch Ellen reflected on her journey with Laura and the puzzle pieces that had finally come together.

"I can't quit talking about it, and I can't quit crying about it," she said. "I'm so thrilled to honor my father and validate so many of the stories. Now I can share them with my family."

Though Joe Weaver is 20 years gone, Ellen feels newly acquainted with a side of her father she never knew, and she has gained insight into his enigmatic ways. Her only regret is that she never sought out the details

when Joe could have shared them firsthand.

Laura has gained a newfound appreciation for the hardships her father and the other POWs experienced.

"They were fighting for you and me, and our children and grandchildren," she said. "The world would be very different if they didn't persevere."

Both women cite a highlight of the trip as something that happened toward the end.

They met Wim Jacobs, a 52-year-old carpenter, who has adopted eight graves at Ardennes American Cemetery and the American Cemetery of Henri-Chapelle in Belgium, including the final resting place of Larry's tail-gunner. Despite the gulf of time between the war and now, Jacobs feels duty-bound to routinely festoon the graves in flowers and send photos to stateside descendants of the dead.

"Their fathers have done things for us that should never be forgotten," Jacobs wrote in an email, "but what [Ellen and Laura] have undertaken should also never be forgotten."

The trip wasn't a one-off adventure either. Ellen traveled to Michigan in September, where she and Laura spent time with two surviving POWs. And

the women plan to bring their European hosts to the U.S. where they will tour cities and sites key to the Stalag Luft IV POW story, including Savannah, where the 8th Air Force was activated in 1942.

Of all the lessons Ellen and Laura learned on their odyssey, the one that has impacted them the most is the realization that the problems they encounter in life, no matter how big and daunting, can be surmounted.

Joe Weaver and Larry Witt had an understanding of human suffering that their daughters will never have to know. And for that, they can thank their dads.

And for that, they can thank their dads.

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<http://specials.myajc.com/band-of-sisters/>

ABOUT THE REPORTER



Josh Green is a freelance journalist and fiction author who lives in Atlanta with his wife and daughters.

An Indiana native, Green's newspaper journalism has won top awards in the Hoosier state and in Georgia, where he relocated to work for the Gwinnett Daily Post in 2007. Green is a contributing writer at Atlanta magazine and editor of Curbed Atlanta



43RD ANNUAL 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REUNION

SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 1, 2017

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM

**Thursday & Friday,
September 28 & 29**

Dedicated in 2000 as the National D-Day Museum and now designated by Congress as the country's official WWII Museum, this remarkable attraction illuminates the American experience during the WWII era. From the Normandy invasion to the sands of the Pacific Islands and the Home Front, you will see the courage, teamwork, and sacrifice of the men and women who won the war that changed the world. Explore moving personal stories and powerful interactive displays. Visit the U.S. Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center, which tells the story of our nation's unprecedented industrial capability during the war years. Explore the evolving strategy for fighting across the Pacific and in Asia, and the cultural differences and tremendous range of extreme conditions that confronted our soldiers. Learn about the faltering first battles in North Africa to the bloody struggle at Germany's doorstep. The immersive galleries recreate actual battle settings and villages.





Included in your ticket price is the film, *Beyond All Boundaries*, narrated by executive producer, Tom Hanks. Embark on a 4D journey through the war that changed the world. *Beyond All Boundaries* features dazzling effects, CGI animation, multi-layered environments, and first-person accounts from the trenches to the Home Front. The film will be shown on Thursday at 11am and noon. Your time slot will be determined by which bus you are riding and announced that morning. Simple box lunches including a sandwich, chips, cookie, and a bottle of water will be provided each day.

**9:30am board bus,
2:30pm back at hotel
\$94/Person includes bus and
escort for both days, two-day
admission, a box lunch for both
days, and the film.**

WWII Veterans Price is \$66 per person which covers bus and escort for both days and a box lunch for both days. Admissions are complimentary for WWII Veterans.

Tour Options for Saturday, September 30 Choose Only One

CITY TOUR

Today's tour takes you into the French Quarter, where a blend of French and Spanish cultures intermingles with a modern lifestyle. Also witness the bustling seaport activities, which are such an important aspect of the city's economy. Lunch is on your own in Jax Brewery, an old landmark transformed into a modern complex of shops and eateries. Today's tour

also includes a trip down historical St. Charles Avenue complete with universities, parks, old oaks, stately charm, and an operational streetcar line. Hear the stories of Hurricane Katrina and see first-hand the long-lasting effect it has had on New Orleans. Your tour of the Crescent City includes views and stories of unique above-ground cemeteries and Lake Pontchartrain as well.

**10:30am board bus, 3:30pm back
at hotel**

**\$39/Person includes bus and
guide. Lunch on your own.**





PLANTATION TOUR

A day learning about plantation life awaits. Hear stories and learn the history of several local plantations. Once at Oak Alley, built in 1839, experience a bygone area in one of the South's most beautiful settings. Marvel at the unbelievable view of a quarter mile long alley of twenty-eight magnificent oak trees, each over 250 years old. Perhaps the most photographed plantation ever, Oak Alley has been the setting

for many motion pictures. Enjoy a Cajun buffet outside under a tent. Lunch includes a salad bar, soup, crawfish etouffee with rice, jambalaya, red beans & vegetables, rolls, dessert, coffee, tea, and water. Your guided tour will reveal the fascinating stories of the home and its history. Notes: The second floor of the house is only accessible via stairs. This tour is limited to the first 150 people registered.

10:45am board bus, 3:45pm back at

hotel

\$77/Person includes bus, guide, admission, and lunch.

All Trips require a minimum of 35 people, unless otherwise noted.

Please be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the published time.

Driver and Guide Gratuities are not included in the tour prices.



8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion Schedule

Hilton – New Orleans Airport - September 27 – October 1, 2017

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

| | | | |
|--------|---|--------|--|
| 1:00pm | - | 6:00pm | Reunion Registration |
| 1:00pm | | | Memorabilia/Gathering room open throughout reunion |
| 6:00pm | - | 7:00pm | Welcome Reception, followed by dinner on your own |
| 7:00pm | - | 9:00pm | 8th AFHS Board Meeting |
| 7:00pm | - | | Hospitality Suites open |

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

| | | | |
|--------|---|---------|---|
| 7:30am | - | 8:30am | Continental Breakfast for Package #1 participants |
| 8:00am | - | 11:30am | Reunion Registration Open |
| 9:30am | - | 2:30pm | WWII MUSEUM (description follows) |
| 1:00pm | - | 6:00pm | Reunion Registration Open |
| 3:00pm | - | 4:30pm | Curator's Corner |
| 6:00pm | - | 9:00pm | Cash Bar Reception |
| 7:00pm | - | 9:00pm | Buffet Dinner w/ Speaker (tbd) |

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

| | | | |
|--------|---|---------|--|
| 7:30am | - | 8:30am | Full Breakfast for Meal Package participants |
| 8:00am | - | 11:30am | Reunion Registration Open |
| 8:00am | - | 9:15am | Group Meetings |
| 9:30am | - | 2:30pm | WWII MUSEUM (description follows) |
| 1:00pm | - | 6:00pm | Reunion Registration Open |
| 3:00pm | - | 4:30pm | Q & A WWII Vets |
| 6:00pm | - | 9:00pm | Cash Bar Reception |
| 7:00pm | - | 9:00pm | Rendezvous Dinners |

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

| | | | |
|---------|---|---------|---|
| 7:30am | - | 8:30am | Continental Breakfast for Meal Package participants |
| 8:30am | - | 12:00pm | Reunion Registration Open |
| 8:45am | - | 10:15am | General Membership Meeting |
| 10:30am | - | 12:30pm | Researchers/Webmasters Meeting |
| 10:30am | - | 3:30pm | CITY TOUR (description follows) |
| 10:45am | - | 3:45pm | PLANTATION TOUR (description follows) |
| 12:00pm | - | 3:30pm | 8 th AFHS Board Meeting |
| 4:30pm | - | 5:30pm | Reunion Registration Open |
| 5:30pm | - | 6:30pm | Cash Bar Reception at the hotel |
| 6:30pm | - | 7:00pm | Transport from hotel to WWII Museum for Banquet |
| 7:00pm | - | 10:00pm | Gala Dinner and Program, followed by transportation back to hotels. |

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

| | | | |
|--------|---|--------|--|
| 7:30am | - | 8:30am | Full Breakfast for Meal Package participants |
|--------|---|--------|--|

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less a \$10 per person processing fee. Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the processing fee. Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays. Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.

HILTON NEW ORLEANS AIRPORT NEW ORLEANS, LA

(504) 469-5000 or (800) 445-8667

www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/louisiana/hilton-new-orleans-airport-MSYAHHH/index.html

LOCATION

901 Airline Drive, Kenner, LA 70062

Located directly across from the Louis Armstrong International Airport and just minutes from downtown New Orleans

RESERVATION INFORMATION

Please call (504) 469-5000 and reference the 8th Air Force Historical Society or you can go to www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/louisiana/hilton-new-orleans-airport-MSYAHHH/index.html and use Group Code **AFH**

Group Name: 8th Air Force Historical Society

Reunion Dates: September 27-October 1, 2017

Rate: \$129 + tax (currently 14.75%). Group rate will be available three days before and after the reunion dates, based on space and rate availability.

ROOM RATE DISCOUNT

In an effort to make the reunion more affordable, the Society will offset the room rate by \$10 (plus tax) each night (up to 4 nights). Rates will be confirmed at \$129, and then the \$10 discount will be adjusted at the front desk.

Please confirm the final rate of \$119 at check-in.

CUT OFF DATE: 08/25/17

Late reservations will be processed based on space availability at a higher rate.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations must be made 24 hours prior to arrival date, after this time a charge of one nights room plus tax will be charged to credit card. An early check-out fee of \$50 will be charged if you depart the hotel prior to your original check-out date. Please advise the hotel of any changes to your dates before arriving at the hotel to ensure no extra charges occur.

OVERFLOW HOTEL

There is a strong likelihood that the Hilton Airport will sell out of rooms at the group rate. Please make your hotel reservation first, and then proceed with the activity registration form. Only those confirmed at the Hilton Airport should register for a meal package, as transportation to/from the overflow hotel can't be guaranteed for the group breakfasts.

If you find the hotel has sold out, please check the following webpages for updates on overflow hotel plans: www.afh-reg.com/8afhs2017 or www.8thafhs.org/reunion/. You may also call 757-625-6401 for more information.

We strongly discourage you from making reservations at other hotels without first finding out where 8th AFHS has contracted additional rooms.

UNIT HOSPITALITY ROOMS & FRIDAY EVENTS

A limited number of hotel meeting rooms on the main floor will be used as hospitality rooms for individual groups, as well as meetings and dinners on Friday. Rooms will be available to set up beginning Wednesday afternoon, and should be vacated by Saturday night at 11:30pm. Groups are allowed to bring in their own beverages and dry snacks, and ice will be provided. These rooms will be used for unit business meetings and dinners on Friday, as well, based on groups meeting the minimum number required (tbd based on final counts). Hospitality Room bars must be closed when Receptions show on the reunion agenda (each evening). Rooms will be assigned based on the size of the group after the cut-off date and may need to be shared if lots of groups are interested. Please contact Donna Lee, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. at DonnaLee@afri.com by May 1 to let her know if your group is interested in a hospitality room.

PARKING & SHUTTLE INFORMATION

The Hilton New Orleans Airport will offer reunion attendees a 50% discount off the daily parking fee which is currently \$10. The hotel offers complimentary airport shuttle service to and from the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport; operating 24 hours a day on demand. The van pickups at the Transportation Center, located on the first-floor lower level across from the baggage claim area. The shuttle drops off curbside on the second-floor departure level per airport regulations.

WHEELCHAIR RENTAL

ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call (888) 441-7575 or visit www.scootaround.com for more information or to make reservations.

8TH AFHS ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 1, 2017

total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as confirmation. You may also **register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2017** (3.5% will be added to total). All registration forms and payments must be received on or before August 25, 2017. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. Your contact information will be shared only with reunion attendees.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.

322 Madison Mews

Norfolk, VA 23510

ATTN: 8th AFHS

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # _____ Date Received _____

Inputted _____ Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 8/25/17

| | Price Per | # of People | Total |
|--|--------------|----------------|-------|
| REGISTRATION FEE | | | |
| Includes meeting expenses and other reunion expenses. | \$40 | | \$ |
| Reg. Fee for children ages 8-16 attending more than 1 function & staying at hotel | \$25 | | \$ |
| MEAL PACKAGES | | | |
| Package #1 includes 7 meals beginning with breakfast on Thursday | \$232 | | \$ |
| Package #2 includes 5 meals beginning with breakfast on Friday | \$162 | | \$ |
| SEPARATELY PRICED MEALS (if not purchasing a package) | | | |
| Thursday, 9/28: Dinner Buffet (Braised Beef & Fried Catfish) | \$51 | | \$ |
| Friday, 9/29: Rendezvous Dinner (Chicken Piccata) | \$40 | | \$ |
| Saturday, 9/30: Banquet Buffet at the WWII Museum – transportation included. (Beef Tips & Mildly Blackened Redfish) | \$50 | | \$ |
| TOURS | | | |
| Thursday & Friday, 9/28-29: World War II Museum (box lunch included both days) | | | |
| WWII Veterans Price | \$66 | | \$ |
| All Other Attendees Price | \$94 | | \$ |
| Please choose one of the following two tours: | | | |
| Saturday, 9/30: City Tour | \$39 | | \$ |
| Saturday, 9/30: Plantation Tour | \$77 | | \$ |
| Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. | | | \$ |

Please Print. If a WWII Veteran is registering on this form, please list his name first.

MEMBER NAME (for nametag) _____ ☐ VETERAN ☐ NEXT GEN ☐ OTHER

IF A VETERAN, PLEASE CIRCLE: WWII Cold War Era Korea Vietnam Gulf War Desert Storm Iraq Other _____

WWII GROUP AFFILIATION FOR UNIT TOTALS & SEATING ARRANGEMENTS (please list BG, not BS) _____

SPOUSE NAME (if attending) _____

GUEST NAMES _____ ☐ NEXT GEN

PHONE # (____) _____ - _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____ @ _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? ☐ YES ☐ NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

PLEASE MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION BEFORE SUBMITTING THIS FORM. WHERE IS YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION CONFIRMED? ☐ HILTON AIRPORT ☐ 8AFHS OFFICIAL OVERFLOW HOTEL ☐ OTHER

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____

By submitting this form you will be enrolled in AFR's monthly newsletter subscription. To opt out of this service, please check the box. ☐

43RD ANNUAL 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REUNION

HILTON NEW ORLEANS AIRPORT

SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 1, 2017

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please see the information on the hotel and make your reservations immediately. Once your hotel reservation is confirmed, proceed with the activity registration. See choices below and complete the Registration Form noting your event choices and personal information. By “WWII GROUP,” we’re asking for the group or unit in which you served (specific Bomb Group, Fighter Group, PRG, HQ, etc.). We use this information for tallying totals for each group, nametags, and seating arrangements. If you prefer to sit with a different group, please give us that information too. We do not need your squadron. Remit by mail with check or money order payable to Armed Forces Reunions by August 25, 2017. You may also register and pay with credit card online at www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2017. A 3.5% convenience fee will be added to online credit card reservations. Forms received after August 25 will be accepted on a space available basis only. Hotel reservations should also be made by August 25, 2017

ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. CANCELLATION POLICY

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less a \$10 per person processing fee. Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR’s vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less a \$10 processing fee. Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 4:00pm Eastern Time, excluding holidays. Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation doesn’t cancel your reunion activities.

MEALS / EVENTS CHOICES

Meal Packages are intended only for those staying at the headquarters hotel, The Hilton New Orleans Airport. Please confirm your hotel reservation first, before proceeding with the activity/meal registration.

MEAL PACKAGE 1 \$232

Package includes 4 breakfasts at the hotel on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and dinners on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

MEAL PACKAGE 2 \$162

Package includes 3 breakfast at the hotel on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, along with dinners on Friday and Saturday.

The continental breakfasts include juice, assorted breakfast breads, oatmeal, and coffee. The breakfast buffets include juice, fruit, hard-boiled eggs, sausage biscuits, cereal/milk, and coffee/tea.

CHOICE #3 INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Thursday’s Buffet at \$51 is included in Package 1 but can be purchased separately. Friday’s Rendezvous Dinner at \$40 and Saturday’s Banquet at \$50 can be purchased separately as well, but are included in both packages above.

TOUR OPTIONS

Tours and trips are described on the Reunion Highlights Pages. Prices are listed on the registration form. Driver and Staff gratuities are not included in the tour prices. All trips require a minimum of 35 people. Please be at the bus boarding area five minutes prior to the departure time.



COMING OF AGE

A PURPLE HEART IN THE FAMILY

Ray McCool

As an eighth grade student growing up in 1944-45, the biggest fear that I and my parents had was receiving a telegram that my brother was killed, missing in action, or wounded on a mission over Germany with the Eighth Air Force. On January 16, 1945 that fear was realized. For the 385th Bomb Group it was combat mission #238 but for my brother and his crew it was only mission number 5. This is the story of Lt. McCool and his crew.

The mission for the 385th Bomb Group on that day, January 16, 1945, was the jet engine factories at Dessau. This 800 year old German city on the confluence of the Mulde and Elbe Rivers was the home of the Junker Airplane Works, a major aircraft engine manufacturer. Of the many Junker aircraft developed during the early years of the 20th century, it was the WWII era model JU 87 Stuka dive bomber and the JU 88 medium bomber that were best



known to the Allied Forces. It was the development of the jet aircraft engine at the Junker plant that made this a primary target for the 385th in January, 1945.

The mission itself was described in the personal logs kept by McCool and his co-pilot, Gib Munro. The formation on that morning had clear visibility according to Lt. Munro with no flak encountered



Lt. Ralph McCool and his B-17 crew (January 16, 1945)

Back row, left to right: Bob Lamphere (radio operator), Dick Kober (gunner), Chuck Every (gunner), Bob Reeve (flight engineer)
Front row, left to right: Johnny Grace (gunner), Gib Munro (co-pilot), Ralph McCool (pilot), Jim Frydenlund (navigator/bombardier), Fred Maracich (gunner)

over the target. However, upon the return flight, events changed southwest of Berlin when their B-17, named "Flying Vixen", encountered heavy tracking flak over Schweinfurt. With the formation off course, the flak guns were busy. Flying Vixen took hits in the oxygen system and made the ball turret inoperative. Later reports showed 21 holes in the B-17. But flak into the windshield on the left side of the cockpit struck Lt. McCool, giving him a head wound and throwing several pieces of flak toward Lt. Munro.

Upon the return to Great Britain, and with deteriorating weather conditions at their home base of Great Ashfield, the planes were diverted to an RAF base. Limited fuel remained in the tanks on this nine-and-a-half hour flight.

In a letter home the next day Lt. McCool indicated that he had received the Purple Heart; and that it was the steel flak helmet that prevented a more serious head wound. The squadron medical officer took Lt. McCool off flying status and sent him to a rest and recuperation facility off base for a few days.

Although the crew experienced an early taste of combat with the Dessau mission, the McCool crew went on to complete 28 combat missions in the closing months of WW II.

The Purple Heart is but one visible reminder of the turbulent times when the airmen of the Eighth suffered incredible losses during WW II. May we be ever mindful of those who served our nation when called upon to do so.



Lt. Ralph McCool showing where the flak entered his helmet liner.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations for candidates for election to the Board of Directors of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society must be in the hands of the Secretary no later than May 15, 2017. The following information must be included.

- ☐ Full name and address of the person being nominated.
- ☐ Nominee's 8th AFHS membership number.
- ☐ 8th Air Force unit in which the nominee served, if applicable.
- ☐ Brief resume of the nominee.
- ☐ Nominating member's full name and address
- ☐ Nominator's 8th AFHS membership number and, if applicable, his unit.

The Secretary will relay all nominations to the Nominating Committee. Nominations received by the Secretary after May 15, 2017 or any nominations without complete information will not be considered.

Please read the President's message on page 3. In accordance with the policy noted in the message, nominees are required to submit the following documents (either electronically or by mail) to the Secretary no later than June 1, 2017, in order to be placed on the ballot.

- ☐ A resume or other form of curriculum vitae.
- ☐ If the nominee is in a profession that requires a professional license to practice, a copy of that license.
- ☐ A copy of the nominee's passport.
- ☐ If the nominee was in the military – a copy of the DD214. If the nominee is currently on active duty or in the active reserves or National Guard, a copy of the person's last orders.

Send all nominations & documents to:

Benjamin Jones – 15115 E. Jones Beach Dr., Kent, NY 14477-9780

Email: LimeyBJ@gmail.com

FROM ACRO

Finally In England

By Robert Clarke

Here is a brief follow up story to the article I wrote that was published in the December 2012 edition [Volume 12 Number 4] of the 8th A F News. It was written about my cousin, Walter D. Brewer, who was killed in action on November 21, 1944 involving a mid-air collision between two B-24 Liberators of the 389th Bomb Group stationed at Hethel Field, England.

The two B-24s were forming up, en route to Hamburg, Germany on a bomb run when they collided over Carleton Rode, England, killing seventeen men with only three survivors.

Walter and some of his crewmen are laid to rest at Madingley Cemetery, Cambridge, England.

In conducting my research, I had met a gentleman from England by way of the internet who maintains a website dedicated to aircraft, airfields and memorials

fiancé, Gemma, took us to several different sites over the next two days. We visited Hethel Airfield, where I stood at the runway imagining what it must have been like back during the war. While there we toured the Hethel Museum and made friends there as well. The museum contains many artifacts from the 389th Bomb Group. All of the volunteers have done an excellent job preserving history and educating the public.

We visited the All Saints Church at Carleton Rode, the village where the crash occurred. The church has a wooden plaque inside, inscribed with the names of the men who perished in the crash. We met a wonderful member of the church who gave us a tour. She introduced us to a couple that lives across the street. There we spoke with a lady who, as a young school girl, actually witnessed the aftermath of the crash, seeing one survivor parachute from the sky.

Upon arriving at Madingley Cemetery, which proved to be the highlight of our trip, everything seemed so quiet and somber. The only sound we heard was that of the American flag quietly flapping in the breeze high above



Donna & Bobby at Madingley Cemetery

throughout England. His name is Richard Flagg. We became friends and exchanged many e-mails over a few years. He went to Madingley and Carleton Rode and took photographs for me. He also investigated the crash site and took photographs.

We spoke often about making a trip to England to visit the cemetery and Richard was kind enough to offer us transportation to places we wanted to visit. Several years passed before my wife, Donna and I finally were able to make the trip to England in September, 2013.

Flying into London, we then took a bus to Norwich where we met with Richard the next day. Richard and his



Gemma & Richard Flagg at Madingley, laying flowers on my cousin, Walter D. Brewer's grave.

SS the Pond

the cemetery. Richard guided me to Walter's grave. I cannot describe the feeling that I had inside, to finally see his grave in person. We placed flowers and visited for a while, and before we left, Taps was played over the sound system throughout the cemetery. What a chill that went over us, while looking out at all of the beautiful white Latin crosses and Stars of David in pristine rows.

This was a most memorable trip and we thank Richard and Gemma, who are now married, for making it all happen. The two of them occasionally return

to Madingley to visit and place flowers on my cousin's grave.

It is so comforting knowing that my cousin has not been forgotten, even by someone that never knew him. Thank you Richard and Gemma and to all in England that look after our fallen heroes along with their own.

Since our visit to England, we met with Richard and Gemma in 2014 during their visit to the United States. We are thankful for a lasting friendship from across the pond.

**TO MARK THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE 'FRIENDLY INVASION'
CAMBRIDGE AMERICAN CEMETERY ARE
LAUNCHING 'FACES OF CAMBRIDGE'
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
27, 28, 29 May 2017**

This project was born in 2016, the 60th anniversary of the official opening of Cambridge American Cemetery and memorial in 1956, and was the brainchild of one of the local CAAC members of staff.



2017 marks the 75th anniversary of the arrival of US troops in Britain in May 1942. In what was known as the friendly invasion, approximately 3.5 million Americans passed through the UK from 1942-early 1946. Thus was cemented the special relationship which is still endures today.

As we stand at the flagpole and look over the sea of headstones it is almost impossible to contemplate the lives cut short on such a magnitude. However, if we look at a headstone and remember the one, and the man to his right, then the man to his left, the enormity of it assumes a more human proportion. Adding a picture to the headstone or commemoration on the Wall of the Missing brings the name to life.



It colours in the background of some of those long forgotten heroes, so that we can tell their story. Not everyone is a medal recipient, but without their contribution to the whole, the battle and the war would have had a different outcome. Thus, 'Time will not dim the glory of their deeds'.

There has been a call to action in our hunt for information. There is a 'Faces of Cambridge' private Facebook site. To date, we have 2600 individual photographs out of 8939 individuals commemorated at CAAC. This number is growing daily.

Please come and support this project as we bring these young servicemen and women back to life for a weekend to remember what they did for our freedom and the lives we enjoy today.



Lee Turner
Turnerl@abmc.gov
phone 01954 210350

FROM ACROSS *the Pond*

John Gilbert has been bringing the history of the 8th Air Force and WWII to school children in Great Britain for years. While he was a small boy during the war, he never forgot the impact and presence of the “Yanks”—and has committed much of his adult life to preserving and teaching his experiences and the lessons of history to children in England. The Board of Directors of the Society gave John a grant of \$1000—approximately £800—to donate among 4 of the schools he regularly visits to go towards various items they would not otherwise be able to afford. These letters came from those schools and reflect the wonderful love and respect the teachers and children still have for their “Yanks” from the States...

**To Debra D. Kujawa,
14th December 2016
8th Air Force Historical Society**

Dear Debra,

On behalf of Litcham School, I would like to thank the 8th Air Force Historical Society for their very kind donation of £200, which was delivered to us in person by John Gilbert on Tuesday 13th December 2016.

The money will be used to purchase some soft seating/bean bags for our Year 2 primary classroom, in order to create a comfy reading area. This will be used for quiet time and for project work in a variety of subjects including history. The school has very little extra money to buy such items, and so we really appreciate your support.

We are hoping to invite John Gilbert back when we have purchased the seating, so that he can tell the class all about the 8th Air Force and we will endeavour to take some photos to send to you.

Thank you again for thinking of our school. It is amazing to

think that after all these years, the veterans of the Wendling Air Base and their families are still giving to our local children.

**Kind regards,
Cathy Berry
School Librarian**

**For the Attention of Debra D. Kujawa - Managing Director/
Editor of 8th Air Force Historical Society**

Thank you very much for the extremely generous donation of £200 that you have given to our school.

The money will be used to enhance the outside area of our lovely newly, built early years classroom.

We would like to buy a woodland story throne and woodland leaf stools so that the children can listen to stories outside. We will now be able to put your donation towards this.

John Gilbert will be visiting the school in the new year, so will be able to pass on photos to you of the progress!

Many thanks again, on behalf of all of the staff and children at Beeston

**Primary School.
Caroline Bell
Beeston Primary School
01328 701267**

17.12.16

**Dear Debra D. Kujawa
(Managing Director/ Editor 8th Air Force Historical Society)**

Thank you very much for your kind donation of £200. This will help us with the following projects:

- ☐ *The creation of gallery*
- ☐ *The purchase of a story sign post*

John Gilbert will also be coming to talk to the children in the New Year about the history of the 392nd, which I hope will help the children understand the historical context of the donation.

Best wishes for a good Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Nick King,
Headteacher**

**Tuesday 17th January 2017
Dear Debra Kujawa,**

I am writing to thank you very much for the kind donation of £200 donated to Colby School by the 8th Air Force Historical Society.

We intend to use your donation to buy additional books about the Second World War for our school library and to create a reading area on our playground where children can quietly read and think about things. We will send you photographs of the reading area, once it is set up.

**Thank you again for your donation.
Kind regards,
Christine Mead**

Debra,

Have finally received the last thank you letter from the four schools thanking the 8TH Air Force Historical Society for their kind donations of £200 each. A grand total of £800.

All of the schools are using ideas that are going to help the children to learn and study WWII history in their locality of the 2nd Air Division of the 8TH Air Force History for their schools curriculum and they are very proud to be doing this with your helpful contributions.

**Many, many thanks,
John Gilbert
8th AFHS Representative UK**

In Grateful Recognition

Two members of the Historical Society received special recognition during the recent 2016 Annual Reunion in St. Louis.

Dottie Smith was recognized by both the Veterans' Association of the 493rd BG and The Next Gen Fighting 493rd BG Memorial Association, as well as the 8th AFHS, for her "decades of unwavering service, support, and commitment to the entire membership of the 8th Air Force Historical Society, through her outpouring of personal concern and kindness, no matter what the circumstance" and "her steadfast loyalty, continuing contributions, and

undying support of these organizations." Dottie handles all of the 'Hail & Farewells' for the 493rd BG and has attended 32 of the last 42 reunions, forming hundreds of friendships through the years; staying in touch through cards, letters, and phone calls. Says Dottie, "John and I joined the Society in 1982 and I try to keep in touch with old friends and new ones I meet. These people are my family and I love them all dearly."

Dr. Nancy J. Toombs, past president and current vice-president of the Society, received the Roger A Freeman award "in recognition of years of dedicated service and selfless contributions in promoting and continuing the legacy

of courage, honor, and sacrifice of the men and women of the eighth air force, and who, through her tireless efforts, has assisted hundreds of WWII Veterans in obtaining the prestigious French Legion of Honor medal." Nancy feels that ALL American servicemen who participated in the liberation of France during WWII should have automatically received the FLOH medal, "France made the rules and didn't make it easy," she says. "We fill out paperwork and gather documents and time is not on our side, but I want all our guys who are eligible to get this medal. They deserve it."

Congratulations to both Dottie and Nancy. Thank you for all you do.



BOOK REVIEW NOT JUST ANOTHER WAR STORY

It is the spring of 1942 and as Steve Carmichael celebrates graduating from the University of Florida, it is clear to every young man in America that a war is on. Six months have passed since the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and ordinary citizens stand united, ready to fight against the tyranny of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. Steve, who grew up on a cattle ranch in Kissimmee, Florida, had two passions in life: baseball and flying. At the age of 11, his father, Ray, purchased an old mail-route biplane, and within a year, Steve was soaring with the birds.

It was an easy decision for Steve to join the Army Air Corps and pursue his desire to pilot the B-17 Flying

Fortress. In flight school, Steve meets his future copilot and best friend, Howie Van Dyke. Stationed overseas in Chelveston, England, with the Eighth Air Force, they form the tight-knit crew of Pappy's Pack in the 305th Bomb Group. Action-packed air battles ensue as they fight deadly flak and German Luftwaffe in the skies of occupied Europe. Though they must complete a total of 30 missions before earning a trip back to the States, a young British nurse named Maggie captures the attention of Steve, and he finds himself torn by both the uncertainty of love and the business of war.

Not Just Another War Story is a glowing tribute to the young airmen of World War II. MacDowell writes a powerful story of the hopes, dreams and loves of the B-17

crew members who risked their lives at 25,000 feet in the air.

Not Just Another War Story

Wayne G. MacDowell

Paperback: 326 pages

**Publisher: DocUmeant Publishing
(November 11, 2014)**

ISBN-10: 1937801462

ISBN-13: 978-1937801465

**Available in multiple forms thru
Amazon.com and multiple outlets**



CURTIS W. CAMPBELL

WORLD WAR II SERVICE DOCUMENT



Inducted into the US Army Air Corps 10-29-42 with 14 days to get ready to ship out to Scott Field, Ill. on 11-12-42. Went to Fresno, Calif. Fairgrounds

for 12 to 13 days basic training, then to Curtis Wright Tec. School at Glendale, Calif. for 5 months of Airplane Mechanics School, then to Cadets at Santa Ana AA Base Calif. Washed out 7-1-43. I could not stay conscious at 18,000 ft.

for 10 minutes without oxygen. Sent to Las Vegas gunnery school for about 8 weeks, on to Salt Lake City for crew assignment, then to meet crew at Ephrata, Wash. Flight training on a B-17 bomber. 9-43 a 10 day leave and went home. Then to Walla Walla, Wash. for about 2 weeks more flight training, then by train to Avon Park, Fla. for more crew flight training. To Savannah, Ga. for overseas gear and on to Ft. Hamilton, N.Y. Left our sick co-pilot in hospital, got on boat 1-1-44 going to England. Arrived 1-10-44. Was moved



to a few different camps. Arrived at 91st. Bomb Group 2-23-44. Spent most of the time getting to know base and training. When we were moving into quarters we were told that we won't be there long as those beds were no good. Those were our assigned beds, there were no more vacant. On 3-9-44 my first mission was to Berlin with another crew. Flak over Berlin was terrible, the plane has a lot of damage. 3-20-44 to Berlin, flak heavy (could walk on it) plane 678 "Little Patches". 3-23-44 to Munster light flak drop 500# bombs could see them hit. Burned real bad. 3-24-44 to Schweinfurt, flak was heavy, real heavy. Saw a few enemy fighters. Really blasted hell of that place. 3-27-44 to LaRoche, Fr. hit an airfield, light flak, milk run plane "Little Patches". 3-28-44 to airfield near Reims, Fr. and 15 He 177 planes on ground. Flak was heavy in places no damage, no enemy fighters, our plane was 678 "Little Patches". Co-Pilot Cosgrove was on his way to join us. Sure is good to hear.

Wednesday 3-29-44 To Brunswick, flying plane 506 (a crate). Flak was heavy. A bomb hit our right out board engine, didn't explode. Now we have 3 engines. Our bombs didn't fall out. Our Toggleer goes to bombay to let them out by hand. Was not doing well. Pilot pushed switch and everything falls out but can't get bombay doors closed. Losing our formation position, an enemy fighter goes by and engine on left started to smoke, it must be turned off and feathered. Now we have two engines running and two not or feathered. We are out of formation and must go down on the deck or 6 to 8000 feet. No electricity, standing on flak jackets, ordered to throw everything out we didn't

need, including the ball turret. Doing well. Our pilot sure was able to avoid the flak that was coming up. Then the third engine stopped, couldn't feather it (no electricity). Now we must or are on down hill glide. Over Zider Zee and crashing into the North Sea about 90 miles from England. 4 P.M. 8 of the crew were in the radio room sitting on floor facing to the rear. I was against front wall, knees drew up with hands holding my knees against my chest with 2 or 3 boys in front against me. This is the way we were trained. The plane hit the water 2 times. The first one wasn't too bad but the second hit was a S.O.B. When I came to there was bodies, arms, legs and water. When we tried to stand up there was no floor. The top hatch was open and I held on to that with one hand and let the others step in my other hand so they could get out. When I was trying to get out I couldn't lift myself and I sure was telling the others how to pull. We all got in the 2 small dingies and a little way from the plane when it took its final dive. Life expectancy in the N. Sea at that time of year is 20 minutes. Here we are mad, wet, cold and no plane wondering what to do. We could see other planes going home (England). The waves were high, it was hard to hold the 2 dingys together. AJU 88 (enemy) plane went by about an hour later, when it came back it was aimed at us but that pilot didn't push his thumb down. We didn't have the May-day hand cranked radio. We did have a flare gun and after dark each 1/2 hour we shot up a flare. A boat came by at 9:30 p.m. We could not tell if it was friend or foe. It turned out to be Germans. We were glad to see anybody

because we were going to die if someone didn't come. We were all beat up from the crash, cold and hurting all over. It was very hard to climb their rope ladder. They had the gun and we were all nervous. We were taken to submarine pens and on to civilian jail in Amsterdam. From the boat to the jail we were pushed around with gun stocks and kicked with their hard boots. My back was killing me. That was 3-29-44.

On 4-1-44 we 10 and 2 guards got on a train to go to Frankfurt on the Main. We were put in solitary confinement cell. The cell was very small, a very small window up high. Soup (looked like dish water) was slid under the door once per day, very poor eating. I was there for 13 days. When the officer questioned me, he threatened to turn me over to the civilians and or execute me. Then to a barn like building, dirt floor and full of GI's. No heat, no food for maybe three or four days and nights. Then we were put in box cars, very crowded, for three or four day trip to Stalag XVII B. We were not out of the box car until we got to Krems, Austria. Little soup one time on that trip. The soup had weevil in it also. We walked from the train station about 2 miles, up hill and the guards were wanting us to run all the way, threatening us and beating us. Before we got to the barracks where I was to spend one year under terrible conditions, we got a shower, hair cut, and deloused. This we were doing and trying to keep the mud off our feet. Delousing was a strong, foul smelling chemical. It was dark when we got to the barracks. I was assigned to 32A. The welcoming party was jelly and crackers and a cup of brew furnished by POW's that were

there(they shared) that met a lot, that helped. (Unless you have ever lost your freedom I don't believe you can really understand what freedom really means or is). The first morning in Stalag 17B, I am lost, mad, why me, etc. Often sleeping on a poliass (burlap and a little straw, really a board) This was very uncomfortable, covers were a thin blanket and GI overcoat with fleas and ticks. There was roll call and always a drawn out affair. For breakfast two of our men brought a tub of hot water to 32A and you make out of what you could with it. Mid morning Black bread was brought in with potatoes, carrots, rutabaga or spinach or turnips, always they had sand or dirt with them, or soup of different kind and very little meat or none at all. Soup looked like dishwater with bugs and weevil. Supper was one tub of hot water. 3 or 4 times that year we got Blood Sausage. We got Red Cross parcels. If I got one parcel per week I knew I could stay alive, maybe, and wouldn't starve to death, but I felt like I would starve to death a lot. There were weeks when the parcels were divided by 2 men, 3 men, 4 men... One ten day period one parcel for 5 men. On roll call there was two every day, many times there were 3 roll calls per day. The weather at Stalag 17B in the winter is like Chicago. Sometimes very cold and snow. The roll calls took longer when the weather was at its worst. Then there were 1 day, 2 day, and 3 day searches for tunnels, extra POW's, radios, saws, etc.

One morning I didn't get up when the guards told us to, someone put water in my eye while I was in bed, I jumped out of bed and there was a guard with a gun aimed at me, ready to pull the

trigger. There was another hot shower and delousing while at Stalag 17B. The toilets or Latrine???? was a 20 holer and always running over. A one holer was in end of each barracks for the night service. A wash room with cold water was only on a short time in A.M. at noon and late afternoon. For heating there was a stove with cooking top. Not a heating stove but there was no coal or wood to burn. We were able to take boards off the barracks, that had to stop or there would have been no shelter. You can see that was a no win thing.

April 1945

Rumors of the Russians are coming. What does that mean for me. 4-7-45 we were told to be ready to leave Stalag 17B. On 4-8-45 we left with what we had -- one blanket, overcoat, very little food, a spoon and maybe a dish or Klim can. In 8 groups of about 500 men each. We walked on rough narrow, rocky roads. Up and down hills, some pretty high. In a westerly direction. Went thru Linz Austria, on west to a woods, near Braunau, 180 miles. This march was very, very hard. We did lose some men. There was very little to eat. I have attached article of the force march by Ralph Ernst. I don't know if I was in that group. I don't think our group got that much to eat.

While living in woods it rained, snowed and was very cold, freezing all over. We tried to stay warm and dry by having a fire burning. We stayed close to the fire and smoke for so long we began to lose our eye sight. We found that the green pine tree smoke had tar in it which was causing the blindness. So we had to stay farther from the fire.

I walked to that Factory May 5 or 6.

Field kitchens were set up there. From 5-3-44 I was sick at both ends and all over. Stayed at Factory maybe 4 days. Then we were trucked to an airfield. C-46 or C-47 brought 5 gallon cans of gasoline in and took us to or near Camp Lucky Strike a week or so. Put on a boat for USA. I was very sick on the boat. It was very good to see the Statue of Liberty, we were home at last. Leaving Camp Shanks to go to Ft. Sheridan, III. and home for 60 days. Again it was hard to believe I was really home. It took a lot of adjustment, but sure was good to be home. After 60 days I went to Miami Beach, Fla. for 7 days of testing then to Fort Logan convalescent Hospital at Denver, Co. On Sept. 25, 1945 I was given a Disability Discharge.

Curtis W. Campbell





FRENCH LEGI

Manny Abrams392nd BG
 Stewart Ackerman.....303rd BG
 J R Akin95th BG
 Jay D Allen94th BG
 Andy Anderson.....100th BG
 Ed Anderson453rd BG
 Richard Andrews379th BG
 Albert Arreola100th BG
 Albert Audette385th BG
 George W Bachmann, Jr306th BG
 Orville Baker.....445th BG
 Willis Barney.....379th BG
 William Becker492nd BG
 Richard L “Dick” Bedford ...353rd FG
 Sheldon Beigel.....306th BG
 Caesar J Benigno452nd BG
 Nelson Berger100th BG
 Tony Bezer490th BG
 Leo S Bielinski..... 44th BG
 William D Bodiford.....487th BG
 August C Bolino388th BG
 Bob Bowen398th BG
 James M Bond385th BG
 Gordon Breeding34th BG
 Carl F Brown, Jr4th FG
 Dudley Brown94th BG
 Joe Burdis388th BG
 Ed Burnham.....95th BG
 Donald Casey379th BG
 Clarence F Cherry100th BG
 John Chopelas452nd BG
 Samuel Christiano..18th Weather SQ
 John A Clark100th BG
 James O Clemons484th BG
 Grayson Cocharo492nd BG
 Murray Codman.....447th BG
 Myron Cohen..... 91st BG
 Paul J Collins.....447th BG
 Joseph Connaughton319th BG
 Marbury L Councell, Jr96th BG
 Thomas L Creekmore.....305th BG
 Howard Croner452nd BG
 Robert Culp.....100th BG

John F Curcio458th BG
 Wayne Davis452nd BG
 Steve de Pyssler..... VIII Bomber
 Command
 Eddie Deerfield.....303rd BG
 Louis E Deutsch446th BG
 Harold L Dietz466th BG
 Jack F Disney.....94th BG
 Donald A D’Lugos466th BG
 Jack Dodson.....398th BG
 John H Doyle.....94th BG
 Norman R Dunphe.....448th BG
 George Durgin493rd BG
 Peter Durso493rd BG
 Alfred Dusey.....447th BG
 Harold Dwyer.....34th BG
 Don Echols.....458th BG
 Stanley Edelman 351st BG
 Richard J Eiseman 94th BG
 William “Bill” Eisenhart.....303rd BG
 James H Eshelman.....385th BG
 Dr. James Facos.....388th BG
 Joseph Fischer.....94th BG
 Clifford A Foss29th Troop Carrier SQ
 Donald H Foulk303rd BG
 Donald M Frank.....389th BG
 Herbert Friedlander..... 351st BG
 Joel Friedman.....34th BG
 James E Frolking.....479th FG
 Frank Gaccione 7th Photo Recon
 Joseph Garber.....96th BG
 Ted Gary493rd BG
 William Gerecitano388th BG
 Albert Gese.....20th FG
 Dr. C W “Bill” Getz. 491st BG/2AD SF
 Reuben Glazer445th BG
 Dallas Godsey..... 351st BG
 Stanley Goldstein466th BG
 Hewitt B Gomez.....492nd BG
 George Gorman.....96th BG
 Marvin Graham.....392nd BG
 Sidney Grant.....493rd BG
 Charles J Greenough.....379th BG

Robert Gross34th BG
 Joseph “Joe” Gualano.....493rd BG
 Rudolph “Rudy” Guerrero...493rd BG
 Milton R Gunther487th BG
 Carl Gustafson453rd BG
 Russell W Gustafson.....452nd BG
 Paul C Haedike.....452nd BG
 Percival L Hanson305th BG
 Haas M Hargrave.....493rd BG
 Alfred B Harris.....390th BG
 Robert B Hastie95th BG
 Robert Haynes493rd BG
 Robert Hecker 401st BG
 Walter Hendricks452nd BG
 Lewis E Herron.....100th BG
 John R Hildebran453rd BG
 Robert H Hitchcock303rd BG
 Bill Holden..... 1st B RNR
 Don Holmes.....458th BG
 Dewey A Holst.....448th BG
 Theodore C “Ted” Hood.....306th BG
 James Howell.....447th BG
 Jake Howland Unknown
 Jack C Hubbard306th BG
 David Huckabay.....489th BG
 Blaine Hufnagle.....94th BG
 Melvin Hurwitz.....493rd BG
 Albion Kenneth Hutcherson 95th BG
 Joseph O Ingram, Jr..... 96th BG
 Gustave W Jacobson 94th BG
 Bennie L Jefferies306th BG
 Arthur Jenkins.....390th BG
 David Johnson 1st B RNR
 Martin Jordan..... 351st BG
 Jay Karpin493rd BG
 John Katsaros 401st BG
 Samuel Katz.....389th BG
 George H Keating452nd BG
 Victor Keech 1st B RNR
 Perry Kerr.....466th BG
 John Ketzner.....92nd BG
 Michael D Kindya385th BG
 James King..... 1st B RNR

ON OF HONOR



Russell A Knudson.....303rd BG
 Carroll F Knutson.....447th BG
 Donald L Koons 401st BG
 Donald F Kremper..... 94th BG
 Ralph J Kurka.....93rd BG
 Herbert J Kwart..... 381st BG
 Dean C Larson 401st BG
 William G Lathrop..... 94th BG
 George A Lawson 7 PRG
 John Lemons.....445th BG
 Mathias J Leupold.....385th BG
 Donald D Levine.....453rd BG
 Richard B "Dick" Lewis.....493rd BG
 George R Leyva..... 351st BG
 Robert M Littlefield..... 55th FG
 James L Livingston..... 44th BG
 Robert "Bob" Livingston..... 351st BG
 Stan Loftsgard493rd BG
 Malcolm J Magid303rd BG
 Ken Mason..... 1st B RNR
 Ellis McClintick.....390th BG
 Robert McCormack389th BG
 Elmer "Lucky" McGinty..... 95th BG
 Hugh McGinty.....379th BG
 Jay McIntosh.....94th BG
 B/GEN Seth McKee370th FG
 Russell Madsen.....100th BG
 Elmo Maiden.....466th BG
 David Marshall..... 381st BG
 William Massey..... 401st BG
 Walter M "Boots" Mayberry.....388th BG
 Seward M Meintsma.....466th BG
 Julius M Micek 381st BG
 James Mikusi447th BG
 Charles Mills.....492nd BG
 Rex Mills.....453rd BG
 E E "Mitch" Mischler..... 94th BG
 Lloyd Mitchell.....96th BG
 Kenneth Moulden.....448th BG
 Clayton A Nattier.....306th BG
 William J "Bill" Nevitt.....353rd FG
 John W Newman..... 94th BG
 William J O'Leary384th BG

Allen G Ostrom398th BG
 Frank D Perez..... 401st BG
 LaVerne Peters.....389th BG
 Stanley Peterson 96th BG
 Anthony W Pircio..... 7th PRG
 Wilmer "Will" Plate.....489th BG
 Steven Politis.....97th BG
 Michael H Prestia.....452ndBG
 Vincent J "Bill" Purple379th BG
 Walter "Mike" Quering487th BG
 Albert Rapvano466th BG
 Lauri Rautio447th BG
 Joseph H Reus445th BG
 James A Rich, Jr96th BG
 George Roberts306th BG
 William L "Bill" Roche.....452nd BG
 J Warren Roundhill379th BG
 Jack Rude.....493rd BG
 John Rumancik.....392nd BG
 Peter "Rupy" Ruplenas.....486th BG
 Al Sadowsky34th BG
 Bradford Saivetz.....305th BG
 Jesse Sandlin.....447th BG
 Frank N Schaeffer44th BG
 Walter Schattel.....487th BG
 Carmen Schiavoni447th BG
 Robert Schuberg.....306th BG
 Bob Schuh.....398th BG
 Horace Seyster457th BG
 Horace Shankwiler.....445th BG
 Marvin Silbersher.....447th BG
 Taffe Simon445th BG
 Harold W Smith.....448th BG
 Heber H Smith.....94th BG
 Samuel W Smith.....303rd BG
 Robert W Smothers452nd BG
 Christopher Spagnola44th BG
 Colin D Storey.....94th BG
 William E Stovall.....390th BG
 Herman Stroupe.....390th BG
 Walter Sturdivan34th BG
 John S Swarts351st BG
 John Roger Swihart.....388th BG

Henry E Tessien.....96th BG
 William Thacker, Jr.....457th BG
 William M "Bill" Thorns96th BG
 William C "Bill" Toombs, Sr.....493rd BG
 Robert Tuchel392nd BG
 William "Bill" Varnedoe.....385th BG
 Rudolph Villalobos96th BG
 Jay Walker384th BG
 James H Walston, Jr.....466th BG
 Douglas J Ward305th BG
 Charles Warren..... 351st BG
 Earl E Wassom.....466th BG
 Billy D Welch.....361st FG
 Charles Wheelwright392nd BG
 John M Williams448th BG
 Paul Willson305th BG
 Frank A Wiswall.....96th BG
 Lawrence Wolfson493rd BG
 Richard P Woodson, III96th BG
 James Zographos.....388th BG

*** List current as of press time...**

If you or someone you know
 has received the French
 Legion of Honor,
 but is not on this list, or if
 you would like information,
 please contact:

Dr. Nancy Toombs
(501) 681-3126 or
Chase221@SWBell.net

Application information is
 also available on our web-
 site: 8thAFHS.org



Wisconsin Chapter 8th AFHS Christmas party

WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Cindy Drehmel

President, WI Chapter 8th AFHS

On December 6, fifty members attended our December Christmas reunion and meeting at the 128th Air Refueling Wing in Milwaukee. Chet Gardeski was our featured speaker.

Each member brought a stuffed toy that was donated to a local home for battered women and their children.

[See the story below.]

After our opening pledge of allegiance and prayer, we held a Farewell and Folded Wings salute to honor Cindy's Great Uncle Dick May and newest member Murray Codman. Both will be missed greatly.

Cindy Drehmel, Merle Hayden, Don O'Reilly, and Bob Schuh were recognized for attending the Annual AFHS reunion in St. Louis.

T/Sgt Chet Gardeski gave a talk on formations and flight take off timing of B17s during WWII. He spoke of harrowing instances and made note that B17s were taking off from the runway every 30 seconds! He spoke about the colorful assembly planes that ensured formations were organized in the air. Specific to his presentation, Chet had

member Dawn Amby artistically render the take-off sequence and formations making it an especially unique and interesting presentation.

In October of 2016 our Wisconsin Chapter Vice President 8th Air Force WWII veteran LTCOL Ralph Anderson commented that it would be great to help underprivileged neighborhood children in conjunction with our December Christmas party and meeting. Ralph located Bethany House, a home for battered women and their children. The house is home to 11 bat-

tered women, and 19 children aged 4 months to 12 years.

We put a request in our November state newsletter asking that each Wisconsin Chapter member bring a stuffed toy to our December Christmas party meeting. The response was overwhelming. We received every stuffed toy imaginable.

Walmart donated gift bags and Sam's Club donated tissue paper and a specialty cookie box for each of the seven families we helped. We took the unused decorations from our 8th



Signing in for Dec meeting & Christmas party



TSgt Chet Gardeski gave a talk on getting the B-17s up every 30 seconds without crashing and the development of the formations

AFHS Christmas meeting back to Dollar Tree and exchanged them for fleece lined hats and additional toys!

We had received a list of all of the children's first names so every present was for a specific child and age appropriate. Each child received a large toy and two smaller toys, a hat, lollypop and small candy cane. Each family received a cookie box and every mom received a warm hat.

Tuesday Dec 20, I met with our VP Ralph Anderson (WWII, 8th AF), members WWII Merle Hayden, (WWII 5th AF) Dick De Groot (Vietnam, Army) and our new secretary, Angie

Ficker at Bethany House to have a Christmas party with the mothers and children.

Kudos to everyone in our WI Chapter!

Notable moments included: Merle showed his WWII wallet pic to the directors and mothers. Dick visited one on one with each child in their play area. Angie spoke to all the moms. Ralph spoke with a young tyke (age 5) about his plane.

Some highlights:

King, a 4-year-old, opened his gift



Lots of toys

and squealed as he hugged his new Leo the Lion with a HUGE smile! His mother read aloud the card our 8th AF WWII Chaplain, Harvin Abrahamson attached, "Hello, my name is Leo the Lion and I am coming to live with you. Please take good care of me and give me plenty of hugs."

10-year-old Syncere, when asked her if she liked her gift of momma and baby elephant responded, "When I go to bed, I'm gonna use the momma as a pillow and hold the baby tight."

5 year old Devin, upon opening his gift of the stuffed airplane began flying it around the room and showing it to everyone. He stopped and spoke to Ralph Anderson. Ralph said, "You know I used to fly in a big plane," Devin asked, "What color was your plane? Was it white and orange like mine?" Ralph pointed to Devin's t-shirt, which had the color olive in it and said with a grin, "No, mine was more this color." The boy's eyes grew very wide as he grinned from ear to ear.

Jaheim, a 12-year-old had no siblings at the home, had to leave early to be part of a school Christmas concert. I gave him his gift early and told him he could open it before the others as he had a concert to go to. His response, "Nawh...I'll just wait." I later asked the home director if he was disappointed. She stated, "No, he did the same thing last year. I believe it is because he believes it may be the only gift he will get so he waits until Christmas to open it."—I held back



Group Setting during the Christmas meeting and party.

my tears.

Last but not least, while playing with 10 month old Lincoln in the play area, (who played more like a 2 year old instead of 10 months), I struck up a conversation with his mom. I just had to ask why she named him Lincoln. She stated, "I named him after President Lincoln of course, and his middle name is Newton after the scientist. My son is going to be something special someday." You know, I believe she is right.

A letter from the director of Bethany House:

Good afternoon, Cindy –

I want to thank you, Merle, Ralph, Dick, Angie, and all the members of the WI 8th Air Force Historical Society for thinking of our children and their mothers during the holiday season. Our children LOVED the stuffed animals, the ladies loved the winter hats, and everyone loved the cookies. (You did a wonderful job matching the toys to the children.) I also want to thank the five of you for visiting us on December 20th. The gift of fellowship is a wonderful thing and we really appreciate you coming out on a very cold and icy night. I hope everyone had as wonderful a time as those that live and work here.

As we begin 2017, we want to wish everyone involved with the Wisconsin 8th Air Force Historical Society, as well as their families and friends, a new year filled with peace, health, and a sense of accomplishment. We live in trying times, but when we look at how hard our residents work at overcoming trauma, raising their families, and becoming better women, we know the power of the human spirit. Having supporters like you provides our women with the hope they need to heal and lead successful lives after they leave this sanctuary. Witnessing their strength and determination is a gift we receive every day and we hope



WWII AF Merle Hayden showing our new secretary Angie Ficker the book he received at the National 8th AF reunion in St. Louis

you also find inspiration in their lives.

Once again, we are grateful for the support of the Historical Society and their belief in Bethany Apartments' ability to change the lives of our women and children. Your kindness is invaluable in sustaining our residents' spirits.

Thank you!

**Sincerely,
Catherine B.
Director, Bethany House**

Despite all that these families have gone through, they still have hope and I am so thankful Ralph took the time and energy to find Bethany House. We were truly blessed by meeting them all. Every gift was embraced with love and maybe just maybe we gave them just a little hope and needed extra love this holiday season.

Our Greatest Generation has never stopped giving. They continue to make a difference in the lives of ALL generations.

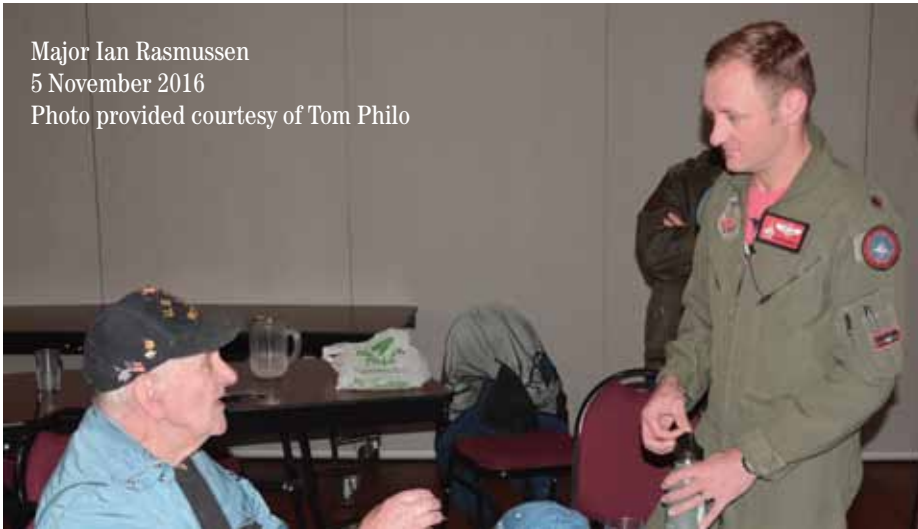
January 23rd, Twenty-two members gathered to surprise former WI Chapter president and 8th Air Force

Buck Sgt Bill Bergner on his 96th birthday. Bill was presented with a cake, balloons, and a P51 replica and cross for his night stand. We thank you for your 13 years of service as our previous president and our newsletter editor. HAPPY BIG 96!

Our next meeting will be Tuesday April 4th and featured speaker is Chaplain Freeze of the 128th Air Refueling Wing who will talk about his deployment in Antarctica. Our very own veterans Harvin Abrahamson and George Michel will also speak. Meet and Greet 10-11am, Membership meeting 11-12:00(noon), 4 course dinner noon-1pm, speakers 1-2:30pm, door prizes 2:30pm. All are welcome to attend but remember: we must provide a list of all attendees to the 128th ARW as it is an active Air Force Base. Call Cindy to register for the meeting at least 10 days in advance (414 573 8520). 128th Air Refueling Wing, Air Force Base at Mitchell Field Milwaukee, 1835 E. Grange Ave. Milwaukee, WI.

Thanks to Bill Streicher for his photographs!

Major Ian Rasmussen
5 November 2016
Photo provided courtesy of Tom Philo



OREGON CHAPTER

Joan Hamilton

Our November speaker was Major Ian “Yahtzee” Rasmussen, an F-15C pilot with the 123rd Fighter Group of the 142nd Fighter Wing of the Oregon Air National Guard. His civilian job is as a Boeing 737 pilot with Alaska Airlines. The following excerpts are from his speech.

“Military Background.

After I was awarded my Navy Wings of Gold in Meridian, Mississippi in January of 2006, I was selected to fly the Boeing F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet. I was then assigned to the VFA-2 Bounty Hunters and had a deployment to Afghanistan and Iraq in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. After I graduated from Top Gun at Fallon, Nevada in March of 2010, I served as the AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile [AMRAAM] subject matter expert at the Strike Fighter Wing Pacific Weapons School. Next, I was assigned to the VFA-192 Golden Dragons as a training officer and served a deployment to Afghanistan. I accumulated about 50 missions over Iraq and Afghanistan and left active duty in January of 2015. I joined the Oregon Air National Guard in Portland, Oregon as an F-15C Eagle Pilot. My civilian job is as a Boeing 737 pilot with

Alaska Airlines.

F-15 Eagle.

The F-15 Eagle was born out of necessity in response to the predicted capabilities of the MiG-25 Foxbat. The contract was awarded to McDonnell Douglas and the first flight of the F-15A was in 1972. In 1975, our F-15As were deployed to strategically valuable airfields in Europe during the Cold War. The F-15 Eagle is a twin-tail, twin-engine, single-seat Air Superiority Fighter 63 feet in length with a 42 foot wingspan and a MACH 2.5 capability. It is powered by 2 Pratt & Whitney FW 100-220 engines with digital engine electronic control. In afterburner, they provide over 23,000 pounds of thrust per engine. At the highest fuel rate, low altitude with the throttles all the way in the left corner, we’re burning about 7.6 gallons per second. The F-15 can climb from sea level to 30,000 feet in 60 seconds and attain a maximum altitude of 50,000 feet. Its thrust to weight ratio is greater than 1:1.

Offensive Capabilities.

Our standard combat configuration loadout would be carrying 6 AIM-120 AMRAAM; 2 AIM-9X infrared guided or IR heat-seeking missiles and 940 bullets shot from a Vulcan Cannon. The heart and soul of the Eagle is the APG-63(V)3 Pulse Doppler

Radar, an electronically scanned array radar which is digitally controlled and electronically beam guides that radar energy to detect threats.

Defensive Capabilities.

We use chaff, flares, Internal Countermeasures [IC], Radar Warning Receivers, helmet displays, and guns that fire at 6000/rounds per minute.

F-15 Eagle Combat history.

The F-15 Eagle is the only aircraft in history to boast a kill ratio of 104:0. 1979-1980 Israeli Eagles shot down over 50 Syrian and Lebanese Fighters. In 1991 Operation Desert Storm Eagles accounted for 36 of 39 Iraqi aircraft downed with no F-15C losses. 1999 Operation Allied Force Eagles downed 4 advanced MiG-29 Fulcrums over Kosovo.

Threat Aircraft.

Our percentage 4th Generation Threat Aircraft and the majority of our time in training is currently spent focusing on the SUKHOI Su-27 Flanker which is 72 feet long with a 48 foot wingspan. It has a Slotback Pulse Doppler Radar and 6 X AA-10-C Alamo semi-active missiles, AA-11 Archer Infrared Heat Seeking Missiles, and (150) 30mm bullets in a GSh-301 cannon. The 5th Generation Threat Aircraft, the Russian SUKHOI T-50 PAK FA and the Chinese J-20 Flying Dragon, are advertised as Low-Observable Aircraft, a capability that we already have with our F-22 Raptor and that we’ll get with our F-35 Lightning too.

F-15C Missions.

We live, breathe, eat, sleep air to air. That’s what we love and care about. The Eagle is meant to gain and maintain air superiority which we do in three ways: Sweep, Offensive Counter Air [OCA], and Defensive Counter Air [DCA] Missions. On Sweep Missions,

it's our job to go into the battlespace, detect threats, shoot them down, and establish and maintain air dominance in that battlespace. OCA is where we execute a close escort mission where the strike package is located nearby and closely behind us and it's our job to push out in front of the strike package, clean up the air-to-air picture, and allow that strike package to get to their intended targets. DCA is the opposite. That's where we are expecting the threat to try to target a high-value asset and keep the threat from getting to the defended asset. We are able to maintain a good visual lookout and

visual mutual support in our standard Eagle 4 ship employment which gives us a total of 4 fire control radars and 24 radar missiles.

142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard.

It is our job to provide air superiority wherever the nation calls us to do so. At any given time at Portland International Airport, there are 2 fully-loaded, fully-armed Eagles with 2 pilots who are ready at a moment's notice to jump in the airplane, light the engines up, take off at maximum afterburners [AB], and intercept any target of inter-

est. We also provide Temporary Flight Restriction which is done, for example, when the President is near an event. Our 142nd Fighter Wing jets provided air coverage and TFR Enforcement for a part of the vulnerability window around Levi's Stadium in the Bay Area for Super Bowl 50.

On behalf of the men and women of the 142nd Ops Group, it has been my privilege and honor to explain how the Oregon Air National Guard continues to fly the F-15 Eagle and provide air superiority both for our nation and the Pacific Northwest."

8th AFHS VIDEOS

1. (New) **American Indians in WWII - The Warrior Tradition**
2016 Reunion Seminar
2. (New) **Donald L. Miller Seminar** Author- "Masters of the Air"
2016 Reunion Seminar
3. **"Start Engines + Fifty Years"**
4. **"Behind the Wire" - the story of American POW's**
5. **Jonna Doolittle Hoppes -Granddaughter of Jimmy Doolittle**
2007 Reunion Seminar
6. **"Return to Attlebridge"** Three veterans return to their old
airbase and meet with locals who were children during WWII

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Alasky, Robert Earl, 95, of Clarksburg, passed away Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at the Louis A. Johnson Veterans Hospital. He was born in Farmington, WV on March 28, 1921, a son of the late Pete, Sr. and Julia (Capet) Alasky of Farmington, WV.

He is survived by his loving wife Joann Aaberg Alasky of 69 years, whom he met at a USO dance in Nebraska while proudly serving in the 8th Air Force, (The 303rd Bombardment Group(H) "Hell's Angels" 427 Bomb SQ) as a Master Sergeant stationed in England. He was a Tail Gunner in the infamous B-17 Bomber with 17 missions completed over Germany. Bob and Joann were later married in May of 1947.

He was preceded in death by his brother Philip Edward, his brother Harry and his wife Lou, and his sister Louise Alasky Shappek and her husband Julius. His surviving brother is Pete Alasky Jr. and his wife Violet (Sherry) Alasky of Farmington, WV.

His is survived by his two daughters Carol Jean Alasky Wyant, The Villages, FL and Julianne Alasky Christafore, Montclair, VA. In addition to his wife and daughters he leaves behind a grandson Major Robert Manuel Christafore (Marine Corp), his wife Heather and their children Michael and Madeline of Monterey CA; Kristen Marie (Christafore) Haken, her husband Michael and their twins Finlay and Emerson (born 9/10/16) of Potomac Shores, VA; Cassidy Jean (Christafore) Rodriguez, her husband Cesar and their child Peyton of Lake Ridge, VA

After World War II he worked as a coal miner, mechanic, and later owned his own business, Alasky's Exxon and Trailer Sales previously located on Old Route 50 West of Clarksburg, WV. He was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, the VFW, Elks, American Legion, Eagles, and the Moose. After his retirement he enjoyed fishing in the Florida Keys, camping at Tygart Lake, gardening, tinkering on home projects and traveling to visit his daughters, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Allerton, Jack Russell, age 91, of Columbus, OH, died of natural causes on December 25, 2016.

Born September 4, 1925 in West Jefferson, OH. Preceded in death by his parents Herbert and America Allerton, his

brother-in-law Frank Cox and son-in-law Tony Valentino.

He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Pat; his daughters, Debi Valentino and Donna Jo Anglin (Gerry); granddaughter, Tiffany Valentino-Rigsby, her husband, Tim Rigsby and

their children, Joseph, David and Tyler; grandson, Greg Valentino, his wife Jodie and their children, Gabriella and Rocky; his sisters, Donna Ater and Phyllis Cox; many nieces, nephews, extended family members and good friends.

Jack joined the United States Army Air Corps shortly after turning 17. As an Aerial Gunner's Assistant in the 303 Bomb Group/359 Bomb Squadron he flew 28 missions, being shot down on the 29th and taken as a prisoner of war. He was part of the Black Hunger March where freed US POWs walked 600 miles from Poland to Germany in 82 days. When he returned home he only weighed 82 pounds and could not even order alcohol since he was not yet 21 years of age. He was honorably discharged as a Sergeant; he earned the Victory Medal, the Air Medal with two Bronze Clusters, the American Theater European African Middle East Campaign Ribbon with two Bronze Stars for Good Conduct and the Purple Heart.

Jack was a lifelong member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War Ohio Chapter #1. He was a dedicated Noble of the Mystic Shrine for Fifty Years and member of the Aladdin Shriners, Columbus, OH. He also was a member of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio for more than 50 years. Jack also participated in the National POW Recognition Day here in Columbus with Mayor Rinehart in 1984.

Following the war, Jack attended Ohio University on the GI Bill. He worked as the personnel manager at David Davies for 20 years, then retired from the Chemical Abstracts Society after 19 years.

Jack and Pat had a second residence in Fairfield Glade, TN. As members of three different country clubs they kept busy planning community dances, fund raisers, and playing golf. At times Jack participat-



Jack Russell Allerton

ed in three different golf leagues a week. In his 80's he hit two Holes-In-One that were certified by the National Hole-In-One Society.

Having visited Europe five times and almost all of the 50 states Jack and Pat were blessed to have experienced so much of the world and had no intention of stopping. He, along with his family were members of St. Timothy Catholic Church for more than 50 years even though Jack was not confirmed into the Catholic faith until 25 years ago.

Austin, William Douglas "Bud", 92, died November 22 in Charlotte, NC.

He was a Flight Engineer on a B-24 in the 492nd Bomb Group, 856th Bomb Squadron, 8th Air Force. His bomber was shot up by flak on August 2, 1944 and crash landed in Sweden. His entire crew got out and were interned in Sweden until July 2, 1945. He was predeceased by 12 brothers and sisters, and the love of his life, his wife Inga-Lisa, whom he met while interned in Sweden. He is survived by two children, four grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Barr, Thomas J., May 17, 1925 - November 6, 2016. Asheville, North Carolina. Thomas was born on May 17, 1925 and passed away on Sunday, November 6, 2016. Thomas was a resident of Asheville, North Carolina at the time of his passing.

At 17, Tom skipped his senior year of high school to enroll in the University of Florida and enlisted as a Private in the Air Corps Enlisted Reserve. He was insulted when the Recruiting Officer said 'Let's swear this kid in' 'after all he was a man going to defend our country! He was called to active duty on June 8, 1943 and completed Basic Training as an aviation student. Tom and his friend, Charles Anderson, received their pilot's wings and commission as a 2nd Lieutenant on August 4, 1944. For 72 years, on the anniversary of getting their wings, Col. Anderson and Col. Barr were in a race to see who could call the other one first on August 4th to commemorate that day. They were both selected for B-17 training (The Flying Fortress), both became pilots and they remained friends for life. The last call was August 4, 2016.

On December 6, 1944, Tom was assigned his flight crew and they served together until the end of WWII. They took the troop train from Lincoln, Nebraska to

TAPS

New York City and boarded the Queen Mary with 20,000 other soldiers headed to England. On March 27, 1945, they arrived at the 303rd Bomb Group (Hell's Angels) at Molesworth to serve in the 427th Bomb Squadron. Lt. Barr, only 19 years old, flew 11 bombing missions in 19 days taking out German airfields, railroad marshalling yards, weapons factories and concrete aircraft hangers hiding German fighter planes. The final mission involved more than 300 B-17 aircraft on a raid to bomb the Skoda armament works and airfield in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. The Colonel retired from the U. S. Air Force in 1974. During his career he flew a total of 5,225 hours: 104 combat hours in the WWII B-17 and 198 combat hours in Vietnam. He earned the American Campaign Medal; the Air Medal; the European, Africa, Middle East Campaign Medal with Battle Star Central European Campaign; the World War II Victory Medal; the Army of Occupation Medal; the National Defense Medal; the Air Force Commendation Medal; the Vietnam Serv.

He was married to Peggy Ramsey Barr. 'The Colonel', as he was affectionally called by his family and friends, was an officer and a gentleman. He was our hero, our friend, our mentor, our cheerleader, our storyteller & comedian, our rock and strength 'a force that will never be replaced but will always be with us. The Colonel will be buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery where his wife, Peggy, is buried.

Betterini, Adolph J., 93, a resident of Berlin passed away Monday, (Sept. 26, 2016) at home. He was the widower of Ruth (Meehan) Betterini who died Jan. 7, 1985. He was the youngest son of Adamo and Apollonia Betterini but the first to be born in America. He was predeceased by his brothers Nazzareno, Peter and Mario. Born and educated in New Britain, he served in Europe during World War II with the Mighty Eighth Air Force as a Flight Engineer for the 392nd Bomber Group. Adolph had a long career and retired from Fafnir Bearing Company. Throughout life, he maintained interests in cars, current events, and UCONN Husky basketball. A faithful member of St. Paul's Church, Adolph is survived by several nieces and nephews, including; William Betterini, Richard Betterini, Roger Betterini; Deborah Golan, and

Patricia Giordano.

Broome, Paul, 96, entered into eternal rest on Monday, September 5, 2016 after a brief illness.

He was born March 5, 1920 in Marion County, MS to father, Nathan Harris Broome and mother, Stella Kendrick Broome.

After moving several times during his early childhood, Paul graduated from high school in Louisiana. He served his country with distinction entering the United States Army 8th Air Force in 1942, serving with the 490th Bomb Group. During World War II, he was stationed in England, and was a gunner on many missions over Germany. He re-enlisted in 1951 during the Korean War conflict. He was discharged from the military in 1953.

Paul graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1957 taking classes at night to obtain his degree. He began a long career with the Social Security Administration in 1958, making stops in Greenville, Dyersburg, TN, Vicksburg and Columbia. He retired from federal service in 1980. He was an active member of the Veterans of Foreign wars (VFW) Post 5397 and the American Legion, Allen B. Carter Post 34 both in Hattiesburg.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, his wife of 59 years, Johnnie Vee Russell Broome; a granddaughter, Heather Broome Snyder, along with five sisters and three brothers.

He is survived by two sisters, Barbara O'Brien of Madison and Connie Murphy of Sumrall; two sons, Geoffrey Broome (Kathy) and Anthony Rex Broome both of Sumrall; one daughter, Teresa Broome George (Michael) of Clinton; three grandsons, Chad Broome of Sumrall, Kevin George of Vancouver, BC and Taylor George of Clinton and one great-granddaughter, Alana Marie Snyder of Sumrall.

Campbell, Curtis Willett "Curt", 92, of Danville, IL formerly of Hoopeston, IL, passed away at 6:30 A.M. Thursday March 27, 2014, at the VA Illiana Health Care Center in Danville, IL.



Paul Broome

He was born October 20, 1921 in Rensselaer, IN, the son of James Haddock Campbell and Helen Marie (Willett) Campbell. Curt married Virginia L. Bush on April 12, 1947 in Williamsport, IN. She preceded him in death.

Curt is survived by one daughter: Donna (Jim) Bushong of Lafayette, IN; one son: C.J. Campbell of West Lebanon, IN; one brother: Kinch (Rita) Campbell of Rochester, NY; three grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, James Myron "Pete" Campbell and one dear friend, Mary Ann Sinclair.

Mr. Campbell entered the military service upon completion of his graduation. He served in the Army Air Corps from October 29, 1942 until September 25, 1945. Curt was a Prisoner Of War for 14 months in Krems, Austria. Curt served his country well and returned to the Prairie Green Township area where he started farming. He also sold Metropolitan Life Insurance for 18 years. Curt was a member of the Prairie Green Township where he served as treasurer and served on the Wellington Unit 7 School board for several years. Mr. Campbell volunteered in the National Service for Veterans and served as an officer, he also was a life member of the Hoopeston American Legion Post #384 and the Hoopeston VFW Post # 4826. His great passion was farming and spending time with his family and friends. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him and loved him.

Crawford, William Wiley (Bill), 94, of Roanoke, Va., passed away on Sunday, September 18, 2016. A long-time resident of North Roanoke County, he was predeceased by his wife of 67 years, Mary Frances Mays Crawford; parents, Minor and Lillian Garman Crawford; and sister, Lois Crawford Davis. Surviving are his sons, Gordon W. Crawford (Cinda) and Arthur F. Crawford (Ann); grandchildren, Suzanne Crawford Hamilton (Paul) and Douglas Wiley Crawford; great-grandchildren, Ellen, Gretchen and Wyatt Hamilton; stepgrandchildren,



William Wiley (Bill) Crawford

Vince Thompson (Kim) and Victoria McKay (Bobby); and stepgreat-grandson, Jaden Piper. Also surviving is a special niece, Karen Davis Cloud (Alan); nephews, David Davis, William Davis (Lore) and Blake Davis (Cheryl); special aunt, Elizabeth Eakins; and many cousins with roots in the Catawba Valley. After graduation from Andrew Lewis High School in 1939, he joined the 246 Coastal Artillery Virginia National Guard Medical Detachment. He was stationed at Fort Story, Va., and shortly after World War II started, he entered flight training with the Army Corps. He saw combat action in Europe from 1944 until 1945 serving as a radio operator with the 8th Air Force, 452nd bomb group, 729th bomb squadron. He was wounded in action in November 1944 and returned to active combat flying status in March 1945. After discharge, he used his communications skills working with the CAA (later FAA) at airports in Danville, Lynchburg, Norfolk and Roanoke, where he worked as an Air Traffic Controller until retirement in 1977. All who knew Bill witnessed the rich and satisfying life he enjoyed with Mary Frances as they traveled this great country, but more importantly how they stayed grounded to the families they came from and the families that expanded under their guidance. Granddaughter Suzanne was the recipient of many of "Pa's lectures" on down to earth living. Plus, Grandson Douglas will be able to use the same "lectures" in his life as he moves through young adulthood. Sons, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and stepgrandchildren are all the beneficiaries of his ethics, including hard work, honesty, caring, a sense of duty and doing the right thing. Those qualities endeared all of us those men and women known as the "greatest generation." Bill represented them well. The family extends heartfelt thanks to many who have cared for and comforted Bill and his family over the years, especially Dr. Clifford Nottingham, staffs of Joseph C. Thomas Center, Pheasant Ridge Senior Care and lastly wonderful professionals of Carilion Palliative Care, who helped us all in Bill's final days. Also, special thanks to Victoria McKay for the immense time and loving care she extended

Chandler, F.C. (HAP) Jr., 95, passed from this life October 10, 2016 with his family at his bedside. Hap was born on

July 28, 1921 in Toccoa, GA. Hap graduated from Toccoa High School in 1938, went on to Wheaton College and later graduated from the University of Georgia in 1947. He is preceded in death by his wife Sarah Margaret Willins Chandler of Edinburgh, Scotland. He is survived by his four children, 5 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren: daughter Heather Chandler Nichols, her husband Jimmy and their three children Jim Nichols and wife Kristin, Paul Nichols and wife Luran, Allyson Nichols Miller and her husband Bartley, daughter Barbara Chandler, daughter Laura Chandler White and her husband Bryan, and son Ricky Chandler, his wife Beth and their sons Carter and Will Chandler. Hap is blessed with 6 great grandchildren: John, Harrison and Reagan Miller, Drew, Jack and Gray Nichols. All of the children and their families live in Atlanta except for Paul and Luran Nichols who live in Davidson, NC.

Hap joined the US Air Force in 1942. After 28 years of active duty, he retired as a Lt. Colonel in 1969. He served in WWII, Korean War and Viet Nam War. He served as a member of the Mighty 8th Air Force, earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, 4 Battle Stars in Europe, 2 Battle Stars in Korea as well as 2 Presidential Unit Citations. His duties took him to 6 continents and all 50 states before he retired from the Air Force in 1969. He took on 2 other careers in Atlanta: Cousins Property Management and later with the engineering firm designing the Atlanta MARTA rail system. Hap continued his love for his USAF becoming the President of the 8th Air Force Historical Society, Founding Committee of Mighty 8th Air Force Museum in Savannah, GA, President of 2nd Air Division Association, Trustee of Mighty 8th Air Force Museum, National Aviation Committee Chairman, Georgia Aviation Chairman, Sandy Springs Veteran of the Year and member of Sandy Springs Rotary Club.

Hap had another great love for his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was an avid sports fan following the



**F.C. (HAP) Jr.
Chandler**

grandchildren's sporting activities for years. He loved following them from Murphy Candler baseball, NYO baseball, golf tournaments, Marist School sporting events and Davidson College football games. Hap was also an avid traveler and returned many times to Edinburgh, Scotland the home of his wife Margaret. He was a member of Peachtree Presbyterian Church and later North Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Chelenyak, John A., a resident of Livonia, passed away on July 22, 2016, at the age of 91.

John was the beloved husband of Rose for 67 years, and the loving father of Mike (Joann) and Gary (Shirley).

He cherished his grandchildren, Mike (Ruth), Laura (Bob), and Jennifer, and his great-grandchildren Chloe, Makenzie and Jade.

He was the dear brother of George, the late Julius and the late Mary.

John proudly served in the US Army/Air Corp during WWII in the 392nd Bombardier Group as a Tech Sgt. He was also a turret gunner. He was a member of the American Legion Post 32 and was honored as "Veteran of the Month". A wonderful article was featured in the Observer paper as well.

John worked at Ford Motor Company for over 30 years. He was a supervisor in the Warranty's Division. He loved to go deer hunting in his leisure time. John and Rose enjoyed going to the casinos together as well.

DeBerg, John Richard, 98, was born in 1918 in Butler County, Iowa, the son of Jacob and Lillian (Bode) DeBerg. In 1929, the family moved to South Dakota, where he farmed. He married Dorothy Berg in 1947, and they farmed in Kampeska Township, Codington County, SD, for 33 years. He had a son and four daughters. In 1980, he retired on Lake Kampeska, and then in Watertown. After Dorothy's death, he married Avis Schafer in 2010, and was at home in Watertown until his death.

John was a veteran of WWII, serving in the Eighth Air Force in England, 385th Bomb Group, for



**John Richard
DeBerg**

the duration. He was awarded the Bronze Star, the Presidential Unit Citation, and The European, The Victory, and Good Conduct Medals.

He was an active and devoted member of Grace Lutheran Church and served on boards and committees there. He was a Mission Builder for the ELCA, helped build new churches in Oklahoma, Oregon, and Sioux Falls, and remodeled a church on the Pine Ridge Reservation. He donated generously to many charitable causes, including building funds to Grace Lutheran Church and Joy Ranch; and scholarships to Kiwanis, 4-H, and four to the Lake Area Technical Institute. Throughout his life, he enjoyed traveling and being active in the community. He loved children and the busy, happy homes in which he lived.

John is survived by his wife, Avis Schafer DeBerg; his sister, Gertrude Jipp; his four daughters, Betty DeBerg, Kathy (Dan) Horsted, Sally Simon, and Amy DeBerg, all of Sioux Falls; one daughter-in-law, Cindy DeBerg of Lincoln, NE; two stepdaughters, Karla (Clarie) Orthaus and Sheila (Cal) Mueller, both of Florence, SD; 12 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy; his son, Gary John DeBerg; his parents; five brothers; and four sisters.

Edelman, Stanley, M.D.

The Henry Nias Foundation is sad to announce the passing of our Chairman, Stanley Edelman, M.D., on December 30, 2016. Dr. Edelman joined the Foundation as the Medical Director and Vice President in 1970 and was elected Chairman of the Board in 1992. Born in Philadelphia, PA, Dr. Edelman became a true New Yorker. He graduated Lafayette High School in Brooklyn, NY, where he was voted Athlete of the Year by his classmates. At age 18, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps as an Aviation Cadet. He earned his aerial gunnery wings in Panama City, FL, and his Bombardier wings in Victorville, CA, and became a Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. He was chosen as one of twelve Bombardiers to go to the new Radar Bombing School in Boca Raton, FL. Dr. Edelman flew 35 combat missions over Germany as a Bombardier with the 351st Bomb Group 511th Squadron of the 8th Air Force. He was awarded the DFC, the Air Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, the

ETO Medal with three Battle Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and a Marksman-ship Medal, and received a promotion to First Lieutenant. In October 2015, Dr. Edelman received France's highest award, the French Legion of Honor Medal, for his service with the 8th Air Force during the Battle of the Bulge. With the assistance of the G.I. Bill, he entered Columbia College at Columbia University. He made the Dean's List, and was on the varsity basketball and football teams. He was admitted to the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Columbia University, and graduated in 1953. His post graduate training in surgery was at Presbyterian, Jacobi and Mount Sinai Hospitals, where he was Chief Resident in Surgery. After a three year Fellowship in Cancer Surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital, he entered into private practice of surgery, retiring in 1993. Since 1974, he was chairman of his medical school class. In 1998, Dr. Edelman was awarded the Gold Medal for Meritorious Service to the College of Physicians & Surgeons and its Alumni Association. In 1999, Columbia University awarded Dr. Edelman the Alumni Medal for Distinguished Service. An Endowed Chair in Surgery was established at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in 1998, named the "Stanley Edelman M.D. Professorship of Surgery." The Columbia College of Physicians & Surgeons awarded him an Endowed Chair in Surgery in 2013, named the "Stanley Edelman M.D./Stephen Jarislowsky Professorship of Surgery." He was a Police Surgeon with the NYPD for more than 42 years, and served as the Surgeons Representative to the Captains Endowment Association of the NYPD. Dr. Edelman started long distance running in 1975, and completed 50 marathons, including those in London, Paris, Athens, Ottawa, Chicago, and 21 consecutive New York City marathons, six Boston marathons, and the Marine Corps marathon. We offer our sincerest condolences to his wife, Ginny, to his children Vicki, Ricky and Cathy, and to his grandchildren, Michelle, Brian, Timmy and Abby, and his great-granddaughter, Madison.

LeMay, Dr. William "Bill" E., died Nov. 30, 2016 at Hospice of Butler/ Warren Counties. He was born June 5, 1924 to Ina B. (née Hurt) LeMay and Milton R. LeMay in Poosey Ridge, KY. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Helen.

They were married on June 30, 1945 following his return from Europe where he was a navigator on a B17 in the US Army Air Corp. He has two daughters Bonnie Larkins of Waynesville and Connie (Ron) Ownby of Gypsum, CO. An older brother died at a very early age. Bill graduated from Kiser High School and Otterbein College. He did graduate work at the University of Colorado in Boulder. He received an honorary Doctorate degree from Otterbein College in 1973. Bill worked in plastics and founded Ohio Sealer and Chemical Corp., Dayton Flexible Products, Phoenix Glove, and Waytek. He had more than two dozen patents. He developed both the disposal surgical and the disposal examining glove, as well as plastic IV bags. He was a problem solver and developed several products used by all of us. Bill was active on several boards and an Otterbein College trustee from 1971 – 2007. He was chairman of the board of trustees for seven years. He received the Distinguished Service to Otterbein Award in 1983, Distinguished Alumni Award in 1997, and Mary B. Thomas Award in 2014. He was a faithful member of the Waynesville United Methodist Church for over 30 years. He was Waynesville Citizen of the Year in 1997. Bill enjoyed gardening, woodworking, and travel. He also enjoyed his years as a Rotary member. He and Helen were owners of the 1776 Inn, Three Centuries Swim Club, bakery, pizza parlor, ice cream parlor, and summer theater at Mill View Park in Waynesville.

Getz, William "Bill" Frederick, 91, of Kokomo, IN, passed away peacefully on Thursday, August 25, 2016 at the home of his daughter with his wife and daughter present. He was born August 9, 1925 in Kokomo, Indiana to the late James L. and Amelia S. (Dehne) Getz. He married Jane Ann (Currens) Getz on February 22, 1947 at First Baptist Church in Kokomo, and she survives.

Bill graduated from Kokomo High School in 1943. He was a kicker for the Kokomo High School Wildkats Football team. Later, Bill attended Southwest Texas State Teachers College and Indiana University Kokomo. He served in the United States 8th Army Air Force, 390th Bombardment, 570th Squadron B-17 Tail gunner 28 missions in Germany. When Bill left for the military, as the train pulled out of Kokomo Train Station, he looked out the

window and the last person he saw was Jane A. Currens. After returning from England, Bill and Jane officially met on a blind date before getting married.

He retired from Delco Electronics as a Production Engineer after 28 years of service. Bill enjoyed fishing, woodworking, traveling, antiques, Colts, Purdue Boilermakers, and the Kokomo Wildkats. He was a member of Parr United Methodist Church and lifetime member of Kokomo VFW Post #1152, Elks Lodge #190, and 390th Memorial Museum.

Surviving is his loving wife of 69 years, Jane Ann Currens; daughter, Amelia M. "Marty" Getz and her companion, James M. Steffy; sister-in-law, Judy James; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Charlene T. Moss, Gladys R. Peacock, Dorothy D. Getz, Lucille B. Eikenberry, and Phyllis M. Clark; and brothers, Victor V. Getz, James Donald Getz, and Robert G. Getz. A special thanks to Dr. Ryan Trauring, Great Lakes Caring, St. Vincent Hospice, Sarah, Mindy, and Julie, and two very special friends, Janet and Susan.

Giesing, Richard, 92, passed away on July 18, 2016. The following is a short account of his enlistment during WWII in his own words...

In September 1942, I began my Army Air Force career at Gunter Field, Montgomery, Alabama, where they were training pilots in BT-13s. My first ever plane ride was in a BT-13.

I was only there for a short time before being sent to Keesler



Richard Giesing

Field, Biloxi, Mississippi to aircraft mechanics school. We went through all phases of aircraft maintenance. You were graded in each phase. My highest grade was in aircraft instruments, so I then went to Chanute Field, Rantoul, Illinois for further training in instruments.

After that, I was sent to Maxwell Field, Montgomery, Alabama where they were just beginning crew training in B-24s. I was there for a time doing instrument testing until being sent to Seymour Johnson Field at Goldsboro, North Carolina. There, we began the process of get-

ting ready for overseas duty. I shipped out from New York City in December 1943. My ship was a former passenger liner named the Capetown Castle. We were in a convoy of many ships. It took twelve [12] days to make the crossing to Liverpool England. This was the first I knew where I would be stationed. I was then assigned to the Eighth Air Force, 392nd Bomb Group, which flew B-24s. The field was near Wendling in Norfolk County.

I was there until June 1945, when we packed up to come home. Our voyage on the way back was on the Queen Mary. That took only four [4] days. There were over 14,000 of us on the ship.

After furlough I was sent to Homestead, Florida until being sent back to Maxwell Field, Alabama for discharge in October 1945.

Grasse, John T., age 95 passed away February 20, 2016. S/SGT. John T. Grasse served with the US Army Air Corp from 1940 through 1945. A crew member on seven different B-17 bomber crews with the 8th Air Force during WWII, stationed in England. John flew 30 missions as a ball turret gunner. 333rd Bombardment Squadron, 94th Bombardment Group (H) AAF 05 Nov 1943 – 25 May 1944. He was the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force combat medal, European Theater Combat Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and a Presidential Citation with one oak leaf. After returning home he spent 43 years as a manager for General Motors Dealers. During this time John also volunteered with the Ohio Highway Patrol Auxiliary for 39 year, attaining the rank of Lieutenant. John was preceded in death by his wife Lois in 2004. The two traveled extensively visiting every state in the United States except Alaska. After her death he traveled to Alaska with his daughter Barbara Grasse Leiby to complete all fifty states.

John was able to attend many of his Military reunions. He also was able to return



John T. Grasse

to Germany with the Greatest Generations to visit many of the areas where he was stationed during the war. He also was able to join an Honor Flight to Washington D.C. He took great pride in his military service.

John did a lot for his community. He was township trustee, member of the Amvets post 22, American Legion Post 397, 65 year member of the Masonic Lodge 503, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Cleveland 32 degree and past Shrine Al Koran. He is survived by son Tom Grasse, daughter Barbara Grasse Leiby, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Duran, Guadalupe, was born May 27, 1925. He was 91 when he passed away on December 25, 2016 in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Guadalupe's nickname was Jolly Wally and on some occasions that was shortened to JW. Wally was one of eight children born to Telesforo and Louisa R. Duran.

During World War II he served in the Eighth Army Air Corp as a turret gunner on a B-17 bomber. When the war ended, he returned to Muskogee where he met his future wife, Oleta Estelle Trout, at a local cafe and married her on March 7, 1948. She preceded him in death on December 19, 2001. They raised two daughters, Karen and Cynthia, and now have three grandchildren and five great grandchildren. His time spent with family is what mattered the most to him. Knowing he had his girls to be proud of and grandchildren to enjoy and spoil made him glad to be there for them all.

Wally graduated from Muskogee Central High School in 1947, attended Muskogee Junior College and then went on to the University of Tulsa to earn his accounting degree in 1965. During the seventeen years he spent acquiring his degree, he filled various positions in the circulation department at the Muskogee Daily Phoenix where he worked as a truck driver, conveyor puller, stuffer and district manager.

He later applied and was hired at the Veterans Administration Regional Office and became a ratings specialist, which was his position



Guadalupe Duran

TAPS

when he retired in 1981.

After his retirement, JW volunteered helping individuals prepare and file their income taxes. He also became a fixture at the Muskogee Federal Credit Union where he volunteered and put his accounting education to work by conducting audits. He served on the credit union board. He enjoyed working at the credit union because the work was interesting and he worked with good, honest people.

Goar, James Vernon Jr., 97, of Frankfort, passed away Sunday, January 15, 2017 at the Indianapolis Heart Hospital. He was born in Kirklin, Indiana, on December 30, 1919, to James Vernon Goar, Sr. and Elma Rebecca (Parker) Goar, who preceded him in death.

Jim was a 1938 graduate of Frankfort High School, and attended

Earlham College until December, 1941, when he left school, spent Christmas with his family, and then immediately enlisted in the armed forces. A Captain in the US Army Air Corps, he served 1943-1945 in the 392nd Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force on a base at Wendling, England, Group Transportation Officer. After World War II, he returned to Earlham to finish his undergraduate degree in economics, and then earned an MBA at Harvard University.

Jim served the Frankfort community as a Realtor for 63 years, taking over in 1954 the business his father founded which later became Goar Associates. He was a member of the Clinton County Board of Realtors, the Indiana Board of Realtors, and the Frankfort Rotary Club, serving in various leadership capacities in those organizations, as well as the Frankfort Development Corporation. He was a member of the First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, serving as a Deacon, Trustee, and Elder. In December, 2015, he was named a Sagamore of the Wabash by Governor Mike Pence for his long years of community service.

In his later years, Jim was President of the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association, and a member of the 8th Air Force Historical Society. In addition



James Vernon Goar Jr.

to his presidential duties, he edited the Group's newsletter for many years. Along with serving as reunion groups, both groups are dedicated to preserving the memory of the contributions of World War II veterans, as well as extending that knowledge to later generations. Jim enjoyed attending reunions, catching up with old comrades and meeting new ones with whom he did not have the chance to serve. He was instrumental in the establishment of the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force in Pooler, Georgia.

He is survived by his wife, Annabelle Garoffolo-Goar, his daughter, Debbie (Mike) Beigh, his son, Robert D. (Janet) Goar, both of Zionsville, two grandsons, Matthew (Megan) Goar, and Patrick Goar, both of Chicago, as well as several nieces and nephews, three step-sons, Gary Garoffolo of Lawton, OK, Tom (Lisa) Garoffolo of Lebanon and Andy (Leslie) Boggs of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, 5 step-grandchildren and 1 step-great granddaughter.

Hawkins, E. Munroe "Mun" of Farmington passed away Nov. 4, 2016, at the Maine Veterans Home in Augusta after a short illness. He went to join his wife in heaven where she is probably waiting for him on the first tee. Mun was born in North Jay on Jan. 5, 1920, the older of two sons to William T. and Irene Munroe Hawkens. His father was a granite cutter and his mother was a former teacher who also played piano for the silent movies.

Mun graduated from Wilton Academy in 1938 and received his teaching certificate from Farmington Normal School in 1941. He taught for one year in Jackson N. H. As soon as his teaching contract expired he proudly enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps hoping to become a pilot. Instead he ended up at navigator training school in Monroe, La. There he met Juanita "Nita" Dear, and after just one date, asked her to marry him. Together they raised a family, golfed, and danced their way through more than 57 years. Juanita passed away on Jan. 21, 2001.



E. Munroe "Mun" Hawkins

After Nita's passing he reconnected with Dora Akeley of Bath whom he had known at Farmington Normal School. They enjoyed a longstanding relationship until his death.

During WWII, while stationed in England, he flew 30 missions as a navigator in a B-24 Liberator for the 8th Air Force 466th Bomb Group, and received the Distinguished Flying Cross as a member of Harold Anderson's lead crew. In later years he was able to attend the WWII dedication in Washington, D.C. with his daughter Pam and visited there again a few years later. He was a life member of the Eighth Air Force Heritage Society and a true patriot, who was very proud to have served his country.

After the war he went to work at the Peoples National Bank and ultimately became the president. He was also past president of the Maine Bankers Association. He was a 63-year member and past commander of American Legion Roderick-Crosby Post 28. He was also a Mason for 69 years and a member of BPOE 2430 in Farmington, Pilgrim Commandery Knights Templar. He was also a member of the Sons of the American Legion, life member of the Farmington Historical Society, and a member of the Henderson Memorial Baptist Church.

He was known statewide for his passion for golf. He learned the game hitting a ball into a tin can in a field. He started playing golf as a caddy and then as a member of Wilson Lake Country Club from its opening in 1931 until earlier this year. This summer he began having health issues but he was always looking forward to getting back on the course. During his golf career, he had 14 holes-in-one and was planning on having number 15.

He will be forever missed by his family: daughters: Karen Schuler and Craig of Industry and his three children and their families and Pamela Poisson and David of Farmington. Because of Paw-Paw and Mimi the family has been increased and enhanced by Karen's sons: Shawn Guest and fiancée Amber McGowan and her family of Woolwich; Shannon Lawton and friend Suzan Beaudoin of Augusta; and Patrick Lawton and Melissa and their children: Aren, Caleb, and Abigail of New York City; Shannon's son Jarod Lawton and his wife Marcela and the first member of the fifth generation, their son Andre of Farmingdale; his brother

Bill and his children and their families and Dora Akeley and her family of Bath. Kami, Mun's "best little buddy" will miss all his love, treats, and backrubs.

Mun was the rock of the family, always there with sage advice to help direct the five generations on the right paths.

Masters, Dr. Vincent, a decorated World War II pilot who survived a crash in the Atlantic Ocean and became a physician who helped create the women's clinic at the University of Georgia in 1973, died Wednesday at his home in Athens. He was 96.

Masters' health had been declining in the recent days, friends said.

In 2014, Masters received the French Legion of Honor medal from the consul general of France during a ceremony at the Georgia state Capitol.

He was also honored in 1944 with the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service in the Regensburg raid into Germany in August 1943.

"We were all blessed to call Vince our friend as he was not only a hero, but also an extraordinarily humble person," friend Bill Cosgrove wrote in a Wednesday email to the Athens Banner-Herald/OnlineAthens.com. Cosgrove is a member of the Witness to War Foundation, which documents the stories of World War II veterans.

Masters' story of bringing his B-17 bomber down in the Atlantic Ocean after two engines were damaged in an air attack is one of the stories chronicled by the Witness to War Foundation. Masters survived 24 hours on a life raft before he was rescued. The plane made a safe landing in a churning sea and stayed afloat while the 11 men on board pulled out two five-man rafts, one which was quickly lost. Four men died in the 24 hours before they were rescued.

"Vince was certain he was going to die that night, but at some point he had a certain peace and he thinks he met his angel. He vowed that if he ever got back he was going to get his medical degree," Master's wife, Judy, said in an interview about the dangerous crash landing when her



Dr. Vincent Masters

husband was honored by the French government. He piloted B-17Gs (385th BG) in his first tour at Great Ashfield Air Base in England during WWII, and then did a second tour piloting P-51s. Commanding officer 3rd AD Scouting Force. Transferred to 3rd AD HQ as Deputy Chief Staff Operations. Transferred to Continental Air Force, Bolling Field, DC to form Scouting Force for 20th AF under Gens. Earl Partridge and Curtis LeMay when the war ended.

After the war, Masters returned to his native state of California and entered medical school at Stanford University. He began a gynecological practice at Redlands, Calif., but moved to Athens in the early 1970s and helped form the women's clinic at UGA.

He retired from UGA at the age of 76 and then worked part-time for about 10 years for the Clarke County Health Department, family members said.

A wine connoisseur, Masters and his wife led the Athens Wine Society for many years and he once wrote a weekly column on wine for the Athens Banner-Herald. During World War II, Masters flew 28 B-17 bombing missions and 25 fighter scout missions, in which he flew a P-51 fighter plane to scout targets for bombers. He flew for the 551st Squadron of the 8th Army Air Corps and the 385th Bomb Group. He reached the rank of lieutenant colonel and was awarded numerous medals for his service in the war.

Masters is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Moushon, R. Dean, 94, of Peoria passed away Thursday, December 15, 2016, surrounded by family.

He was born on February 16, 1922, in Peoria, the son of Richard and Ammorine Woodruff Moushon. He married Dorothy Kirchgessner in Peoria on September 18, 1943. She preceded him in death on October 7, 2009. He later married Karen Langjahr in Peoria Heights on September 3, 2011. She survives.

Dean is also survived by his children, Bob (Lynn) Moushon of Washington, Denny (Debbie) Moushon of Washington, Terry (Kristi) Moushon of Peoria and Connie (Marty) Layer of Chillicothe; one step-son, Brad (Barb) Langjahr; 11 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Ray and Bill Moushon; one sister, June Hubert; and one infant daughter.

Dean was a printer at Peoria Journal Star for 47 years. He attended Peoria Heights Congregational Church.

He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Army Air Corp. Dean was a member of American Legion Post #2.

Platten, Eugene Richard,

March 15, 1924 - January 13, 2017

Gene was born March 15, 1924, to Bert William and Hazel Bordner Platten, in Seneca Falls, NY, died January 13, 2017 with loved ones

near at Windsor Memory Reflections, in Lakewood Ranch, FL. A graduate of Mynderse Academy, he was a

four-letter man and a gifted athlete. He enlisted in the US

Army Air Corps in 1942 and served as a second lieutenant

in the 489th Bomb

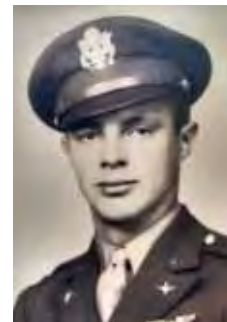
Group - 8th Air Force. He piloted the B-24 Liberator based out of Halesworth, England in his tour in Europe. Returned to the United States and trained to pilot the B-29 the summer of 1945, but war with Japan ended before the group left the United States.

He married his high school sweetheart, Elizabeth Masten, on September 17, 1943.

After serving thirty-three years as Chief Engrossing & Revision Clerk of the Assembly in Albany, NY, Gene retired. Bette & Gene moved to Sarasota, Florida and spent thirty-seven years in retirement.

They enjoyed the weather & golf year around. They were church members at St. Martha's, Sarasota & Queen of Martyrs, Bradenton, Florida. Also active members of Palm Aire Country Club, where Gene was the club champion in 1982. He also recorded a hole-in-one on their old home course, Seneca Falls Country Club.

Gene Platten was predeceased by his parents and his sister, Joan Platten Cooley. Surviving are his wife, Elizabeth, sons J. Gregory (Kathryn), Tyler, TX, and Robert (Patricia), Cape Cod, MA, and daughters Mary Jo (Nicholas) Barbi, Washington Crossing, PA; Elizabeth (Gregory) Amidon, Portage, MI; Barbara (Robert) Lash, Burke, VA; and Nancy (Terrence) Hinchey, Hebron, CT; thirteen grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; one niece;



Eugene Richard Platten



Major Leo Ruvolis

and two nephews. **Ruvolis, Major Leo, USAF Retired**, 96, passed away Saturday, December 10, 2016 at SpiriTrust Lutheran, Sprengle Drive.

Leo was born July 13, 1920 in Easton, PA but spent most of his youth in the small coal mining

town of Plymouth, PA. He was the son of a Lithuanian immigrant, the late Leon Ruvolis and the late Julia Pavolas Ruvolis. He grew up during the Great Depression which forever influenced his life choices including eating all the food on his dinner plate, working hard and honoring the traditional values he grew up with. The youngest of four children, he was the only one to graduate from high school and went on to earn a master's degree.

Leo entered the USAAC in 1939 at the age of 19 and rose from a private to the rank of major. He became a B-24 pilot and was shot down on his 22nd bombing mission over Germany spending 10 months as a POW. After WW II Leo attended college on the GI Bill and remained in the Air Force Reserves for a total of 20 years of service. He retired from York College of PA where he was the Director of the Computer Center and Associate Professor of Computer Information Systems.

Leo and wife, Margaret, spent many years traveling the USA in their motor home. They enjoyed crabbing in Maryland and driving the Skyline Drive. In his early working career he was able to visit The Grand Ole Opry and collected several scrapbooks filled with the autographs of most of the performers of the era. Leo and Margaret were regular members of the senior exercise classes at the Dover YMCA and credited those classes with their good health lasting into their eighties.

Leo was a proud member of the "Greatest Generation". He was a wonderful example of what that membership meant by his service to his country and family. He was a recipient of a Purple Heart among other medals.

Leo is survived by his wife of 72 years, Margaret Griggs Ruvolis, York; daughter, Cheryl and husband, Mike O'Brien, Do-

ver; granddaughter, Amber Toomey, York; great-grandchildren, Jovan and Johara; two special nephews, Charles Ruvolis and wife, Joyce, Salem, VA, John Ruvolis, Bangor, PA; and son-in-law, Roger Knisely, York. He was predeceased by two brothers; one sister; and twin daughters, Katherine Ruvolis and Kathleen R. Knisely.

Heartfelt thank you's to the staff of SpiriTrust Lutheran Sprengle Drive, Red Oak Memory Support Care, for their kindness and the care given to Leo.

Seamans, James S., of Buckingham, Pa., passed away Thursday, Dec. 29, 2016, in Aria - Jefferson Health Torresdale Campus, Philadelphia, Pa. He was 94. Born in Scranton, Pa., he resided in Scranton before moving to Buckingham Twp. 24 years ago.

Jim graduated from Scranton Central High School and Keystone Junior College of LaPlume, Pa. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps at the start of World War II and served as a pilot of a B17 Bomber in the

European theater of operations. Jim completed 30 combat missions and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with an Oak Leaf Cluster and five Air Medals.

He was formerly employed with United Gilsonite Laboratories of Scranton for 38 years and was the marketing manager before retirement.

In 1985, he was ordained into the ministry of the Grace Reformed Episcopal Church of Scranton and served as assistant pastor for six years, prior to moving to Buckingham. Jim was actively involved with the church during his adult life and held several positions. He was a current member of the Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church of New Hope, Pa.

He was the past president of the N.E. Scranton Little League, a member of the N.E. Scranton Kiwanis Club, N.E. Pa. Advertising Club, and served two terms as chairman of the local SCORE Unit assisting persons hoping to become business owners.

Jim was the beloved husband of 68 years to the late Marjorie S. Seamans; devoted



James S. Seamans

father of Diane Laughlin and husband, Dr. David Laughlin, of Pittsburgh; James S. Seamans Jr. and wife, Donna, of Newtown, Pa.; loving grandfather of Jonathan (Rachel) Laughlin, Elizabeth (Kenny) Smith, Andrew (Laura) Laughlin, Daniel (Kara) Laughlin, Jessica (Tim) Phelan and Megan (Brad) Miller; cherished great-grandfather of Sadie, Gabe and Charlie Laughlin, Rowan, Sawyer and Adam Smith, Ramona, Astrid and Reuben Laughlin, Lucas and Benjamin Phelan, Mason and Emerson Miller.

Smith, Charles William, age 91, passed away at Hillcrest Convalescence Center on January 8, 2017. He was born on June 13, 1925, in Fayetteville, NC to Col. Homer Smith and Juanita Harper Smith. Charlie moved to Hawaii as a child but returned to Fayetteville where he graduated from Fayetteville High. Charlie received an appointment to attend West Point but turned it down in order to serve his country in World War II, where he was a lieutenant and served as a navigator in the 303rd Bomb Group of the 8th Army Air Force, the original Hell's Angels. Stationed in Molesworth, England, he flew 20 missions over occupied Europe and was promoted to lead navigator of his group. Charlie's service to his country was a very important part of his life and he continued to keep up with members of his Bomb Group, including reunions and a trip to the Czech Republic 50 years later.

After the war, Charlie attended Duke University, where he was a member of the Kappa Alpha Order fraternity and where he met his wife of 63 years, Mary Wright Smith. He graduated from Duke University in 1949 and went on to co-found Allenton Realty and Insurance in Durham and later, Charles W. Smith and Associates. He was a former president of the Durham Board of Realtors, a member of the Kiwanis Club and was awarded both the MAI and the SRPA designations of the Appraisal Institute. He was also a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church and Hope Valley Country Club.

Charlie never met a stranger and believed in enjoying



Charles William Smith

life and laughing. He could always make people laugh or smile. To quote Shakespeare he was "a fellow of infinite jest." An avid golfer, gardener, fisherman, and die-hard Duke fan, Charlie loved spending time with his family and friends, music, and the beach.

Charlie is preceded in death by his parents, his wife Mary Wright Smith, a brother Gene Smith, an infant son Charles William Smith, Jr., and a daughter Carol Smith Balaskey. He is survived by a brother Julian Smith, a sister Cindy Smith McCutcheon, two sisters-in-law, Pat Smith and Gabriele Smith; a brother-in-law, Mac McCutcheon; a daughter, Mary Helen Williams (Curtis) of Ashland, VA, two sons, David Allen Smith (Jan) of Durham and Charles Balaskey Smith (Georgea) of Raleigh; grandchildren Justin Curtis Williams (Heather), Daniel Scanlon Williams (Maggie), Elizabeth Williams Bowles (Clay), Adair Wright Smith, Michael David Smith, Georgia McKinley Smith, and Mary Greaves Smith and great-granddaughter Harper Lane Bowles.

Vold, Morris L., age 95, died at the Veterans Home in Fergus Falls, MN on April 18, 2016. He was born in Osseo, WI on March 11, 1921, to Hans and Bertha (Hadland) Vold, recent immigrants from Norway.

He was raised on a dairy farm and at an early age worked as a farm hand. Following two years in the Civilian Conservation Corps, and two years herding sheep in Montana, Morris joined the Army Air Force in September 1941. After graduation from the Air Corps School in Denver, Co he was stationed at Napier Field in Alabama and Elgin Field in Florida. In December 1943, he was transferred to the 303rd Bomb Group in England and served there until the end of World War II.

Upon returning to the United States he married Lorraine L. Olson in Eau Claire, WI on July 28, 1945.

Following his discharge from the armed services in 1945, Morris worked as a milk man for Dolly Madison Dairy and as a City Bus Driver in Eau Claire. In September 1952, he enrolled at Lutheran Brethren Seminary in Fergus Falls, MN and was ordained in the ministry in 1956. In the later 1950's, Morris served as first administrator and chaplain at Broen Memorial Home in Fergus Falls. He and

Lorraine served Lutheran Brethren congregations in Osakis, MN, Blue Earth, MN, Westby, WI, Lake Mills, IA and Joice, IA.

Morris retired from parish ministry in 1986, and he and Lorraine moved to Eau Claire where he served six years as Safety Director for Student Transit and as a Visitation Pastor at Bethesda Lutheran for nine years. During this time he also served as interim Pastor at Evanger and Lookout Lutheran Churches in Eleva, WI. In 2002, Morris officially retired and he and Lorraine moved to Fergus Falls until their deaths.

Vriklakas, Robert Anton "Bob" known as "Smokey", passed away on December 6, 2016. He was born in Proberta, Calif., Oct. 28, 1918, to George Vrilakas, of Rethymno, Crete, Greece, and May Topping, of Delevan, Wis. He attended Red Bluff Union High School and Sacramento Junior College.

After graduation, the looming storm of WWII thrust him onto an unexpected course. He was drafted into the Army and soon found himself piloting the top fighter airplane of the time, the P-38 Lightning, in the famed 94th Hat in the Ring Squadron, 12th A.F. He flew 51 missions in the Mediterranean Theater. Stationed in Portland after the war, he met Jane Ann Good, and they were married on July 6, 1946. They would enjoy 68 years of marriage before Jane's passing in 2014. She and his family were the love of his life, but flying a P-38 came in a very close second, followed by a game of golf (he played his last game at age 97), and a dry martini. He made the Air Force a career after being recalled to service during the Korean Conflict. In 30 years of his career, he piloted many types of planes all over the world, and had tours of duty in Korea, Okinawa, Colorado, Germany, Delaware, California, Florida,



**Robert Anton
"Bob" Vriklakas**

Virginia, and Vietnam. He retired from service as a full colonel in 1973, by which time he had earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Presidential Unit Citations, nine Air Medals, three campaign ribbons, and two Bronze Stars. He settled in the Portland area (now Happy Valley). He opened a machine shop, Driveline Service of Portland, with his two sons in 1974. In 1980, he turned the successful business over to his sons. Never one who could be idle, when he retired from the Driveline shop, he wrote a critically and popularly acclaimed book, "Look Mom, I Can Fly: Memoirs of a WWII P-38 Fighter Pilot". He is survived by his children, Roger Alan Vrilakas of Portland, Cynthia May Vrilakas Simons (Richard Jay Simons) of Castro Valley, Calif., Bradley Eugene Vrilakas (Susan Yamamoto Vrilakas) of Portland, and JoAnn Vrilakas of Gresham; grandchildren, Eric Allen Simons, Nicholas Robert Simons, and Iris Rebecca McGuckin; great-grandchildren, Eleanor August Simons and Margaret Robin Simons, and one on the way. He was predeceased by his brothers, Mark Vrilakas and John Vrilakas; and sister, Harriet Vrilakas Vaniotis. All four children were with him in the days before he died. He was dearly loved and admired and will be sorely missed. represented by the iconic "Hat in the Ring" insignia.

"Look, Mom — I Can Fly" follows Vrilakas from his small town in northern California, where he was in awe of airplanes flying overhead, to his own flight training and 51 combat missions against the German Luftwaffe and Italian Air Force in the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations in WWII. He spent 32 years in the armed forces, retiring as a command pilot with more than 9,000 hours of flying time and multiple decorations for his service.

Vrilakas retired in 1973 and opened a specialized machine shop in Portland, which his sons took over in 1980.

Woodson, Richard Peyton III, born March 1, 1923 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, only son of Richard Peyton Woodson, Jr.



**Richard Peyton
Woodson III**

and Katherine McMillen Woodson died January 5, 2017 in Raleigh, NC. Peyton grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico and attended Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. He was honored to serve his country in World War II flying 26 missions as a B-17 pilot in the Eighth Air Force in the air war over Europe. While experiencing life changing events, the most memorable for him was the mission one week before VE day. Operation Chowhound flew over The Netherlands to drop crates of food for the starving Dutch masses who were still suffering under German occupation. In June 2016 the French Government "with endless respect and affection, in recognition of (his) noble contribution during World War II" honored him with the Legion of Honor medal. After the war, Peyton returned to Princeton and in 1949 graduated cum laude. He then attended Stanford Business School where he was elected President of his class. After his father's death, Peyton was called upon to return to Albuquerque to run the family grocery business. There he met and married Martha Avison. They soon moved to Raleigh, where he took

a role in the family insurance business of Occidental Life Insurance Company of North Carolina and British-American Insurance Company, Ltd based in Nassau, Bahamas. He spent more than thirty years in the insurance industry. His greatest honor was to serve as the chairman of LOMA, the life insurance industry's largest professional association. Peyton served on many boards and committees in Raleigh and the Triangle: Shaw University, NC Symphony Society and it's Foundation Board, United Arts, Chairman of the Triangle Community Foundation board, Triangle Foundation Investment Committee, West Raleigh Rotary Club, Chairman of the "Mayor's Committee" on Community Relations to bring about the peaceful integration of Raleigh's public spaces and services. For close to three decades, he served on the board of FHI360, a company that has tackled the challenges of family planning and the spread of HIV/AIDS in more than seventy countries around the world. Several of the years were spent as chairman, as well as serving on the Family Health International Foundation Board. In 2013 Peyton was honored to be inducted into

the Raleigh Hall of Fame. He has been grateful for the opportunities to give back to the community as thanks for the many blessings of family, friends and a fulfilling life.

Peyton's wife, Martha Avison Woodson, originally of Greenfield, MA, predeceased him in 2011 after 58 years of marriage. He is survived by his daughter Sheila W. Horine (Stace) of Asheville, NC; son Richard P. Woodson IV (Susan); daughter Martha W. Dunnagan (Clay), both of Raleigh; seven grandchildren, Margaret K. Horine, Katherine P. Horine, Hannah W. Horine, and William Jessup (Lauren), Alex J. Hughes (Josh) and Peyton R. Dunnagan, and Evelyn F. Dunnagan; three great grandchildren, Emma A. W. Horine, Peyton G. Hughes, M. Addison Hughes; and Millie Sanchez, Albuquerque, NM and Katherine Roe, Santa Fe, NM, the two daughters of his first cousin.

The family wishes to express their sincere appreciation to the staff at Springmoor Health Center and most especially Dr. Wells Edmundson for their outstanding care.

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October 5-8, 2017 in Indianapolis, IN. For info, contact 306th Secretary Barbara Neal at barb-306neal@gmail.com or leave a phone message at (435) 655-1500 cell phone, for a return call.

100TH BOMB GROUP FOUNDATION

October 19-22, 2017
Hyatt Regency Dulles, 2300 Dulles Corner Blvd,
Herndon, VA 20171 (703) 713-1234

See www.100thbg.com for reunion information, registration & hotel reservations group link
Contact Nancy at reunion@100thbg.com or (414) 339-2818 with questions (email will get quickest reply!)

43RD ANNUAL 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REUNION

Hilton New Orleans Airport
September 27 – October 1, 2017

YOU ARE IMPORTANT

In a creative writing class, a young student came up with and wrote on the topic: "Why I am important to the universe." Good thought!! This got me to thinking... "What on earth am I doing here?" Even with the vastness of our solar system with our own planets and our own "milky-way, the size of the universe with our little sun and planets pale in comparison to the totality of creation. Mankind (you and I) are here in the vastness of all of this as a mere speck but we are a part of it and we must have a role to fill. Call it a gift or talent, we all have something to contribute.

The men and women born in the 1920's, the so-called "greatest generation", along with their loving children and family, have lived in and have been a part of history. We have seen many presidents come and go serving their term of office. Some have been effective, others were not so good. We as a country have just experienced another election. The old President has completed his tenure of office, a new one has taken over the reins of our country. We now have another past-president and now, a newly elected one. This election has been controversial... dubbed by the political establishment, the press and the pundits as an event unprecedented in the annals of our country. It has been a unique and a one-of-a-kind political event. We have lived through the tenure of several presidents of the United States each with their personal agenda geared to make the country better. We have just completed another presidential cycle. The candidate of some voters "won" in the recent election. Some voters "lost".

We were reminded of this unique event by our pastor the Sunday following the election. He clearly pointed out that we have a new president. He stated that he may or may not have been our choice but he is our President. Pray for him. If you don't like him, pray for him and the weaknesses which you feel are in him will be corrected according to God's will. If your candidate won, ask the almighty to give continued wisdom to him which in turn

will make him a better President. Pray for him! If we pray for him, for what should we pray? To find out, we could ask him if we were given this chance to go into the oval office. We could address him and say, "Mr. President, what is on your mind, what are some of the issues and decisions you must make. I want to help you, I want to pray for you." Now we are all smart enough to know that this will never happen. We don't even rate a pass to get into the White House Grounds, let alone get into the Oval Office. One thing is certain, our leaders need wisdom and understanding. For this we must pray.

Just as our Nation operates under the Constitution, a set of rules of law under which we live, so the universe God creation was designed to function under a system of natural, physical and spiritual laws. There are millions of galaxies like our own Milky Way, each with its millions of stars orbiting around its sun and held in place by natural and physical laws. Our God created it all and He himself operates within the laws he established. It may rain or snow, it may be sunny or cloudy, peaceful or raging, nothing supernatural about it. The natural and physical laws are merely functioning. God does not often supersede those laws. God also looked over His universe and declared "it is good". In addition, God chose to make Man in His own image. This was "good" as well. The earliest history of mankind states, that "the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul." (Gen 2:7 NKJ) In doing this, the Lord introduces Spiritual Laws into his creation. The first two deal with natural and physical laws, then spiritual laws were introduced. God created man to be like Himself and now has the capacity to be a spiritual being living under spiritual law. Mankind is now given the capacity to discern the difference between "Good and evil", right from wrong. He was given intellect to learn and prosper, to understand the world in which he is living, to talk to God and carry on conversation with him....to relish the opportunity to have communion with his creator. Living under the provisions of Spiritual Laws, mankind



Earl Wassom

is privileged to communicate with God and God in response, answers man. And as we pray, our faith makes it possible for God do his will in our lives. Talking to God is an individual matter, one-on-one. Each one of our requests is personalized. No one else can claim credit or receive the blessings. Man "...is filled with all knowledge and wisdom". (Rev.5:12 NKJ). Therefore we may "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds and to him who knocks, it will be opened." (Matt 7:7-8 (NKJ)).

The young writer mentioned earlier is indeed "important to the universe". He has access to God through prayer. He is not alone. Across time, millions and millions of people like you and me have learned the secret of communion with God. Countless millions are praying but your prayer is unique No one else will pray like you. That is why God has put you in the circumstances in which you find yourself. That answers the question, "What on earth are you doing?"

Earl Wassom
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