



SEPTEMBER 2018

# TH AF NEWS

Volume 18 Number 3 Voice of "The Mighty Eighth"



*Art by Roger Stuch*



September 2018

# 8th AF News

Voice of "The Mighty Eighth"

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*On the front cover: Missing in Action Schweinfurt 14/10/43 with Bill Bisson, Navigator: George Young, Bombardier: Joe Lukens, Flight engineer/top turret gunner: Ed Osep, Tail gunner: Thompson Wilson (5 Killed in Action); Co-pilot: Chas Stafford, Radio Operator: John McLellan, Ball turret gunner: Dick Vader, Waist gunner: Peter Giovanni, Waist gunner: Constantine Lamb (5 Prisoner of War); Flak knocked out two engines and fighters riddled the tail, crashed Hoehefeld, 15 miles W of Wurzburg, Ger. Missing Air Crew Report 817. FIGHTIN' BITIN'.*  
*Back cover: Mission report 14/10/43.*

### THE 8TH A F 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 in 1975, and Editor of the "News" for sixteen years. It is published quarterly and is the official news magazine of the Society, a 501(c)3. The 8th A F News is distributed to members of the Society and is not for public sale.

Home offices are located at:

**68 Kimberlys Way  
Jasper, GA 30143-4769**



# EDITOR'S NOTES

*"Life is not a brief candle, it is a splendid torch that must be made to burn as brightly as possible before it is handed on to the next generation."*

~ George Bernard Shaw

Like many of you, I am captivated by the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games. No matter which country is host, since the beginning of the games nearly 3,000 years ago, a flame is kept burning and a runner shares the flame, via a torch, with each successive Olympiad.

Our WWII veterans carry a similar torch. Not one honoring athletic prowess and ability, but a torch brilliant with memories, determination, and the honor of having served our country during a time of global war. And they were boys. Many, still teenagers. They eagerly enlisted by the thousands and sadly, many died by the thousands as well.

The world nearly succumbed to the evil and darkness of the Third Reich during WWII. Had it not been for the "Greatest Generation" willing to sacrifice themselves without hesitation, we can only imagine...



This September marks 73 years since the official end of WWII. While there are ceremonies planned to celebrate these upcoming milestones, only a handful of veterans will be in attendance—for obvious

reasons. It will be up to ALL of us to not just remember, but vigorously grasp the torch that every single veteran has carried all these years, and keep the flame alive, so their legacies continue.



*"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."*

~ President Harry S Truman

Hope to see you all in Dayton!

*Deb*



**Please JOIN the Eighth Air Force Historical Society  
TODAY!!!**



First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/County: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ 8th Affiliation/Interest [optional]: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Annual Dues: \$40 or £30 GBP**

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**JOIN ONLINE: [www.8thAFHS.org](http://www.8thAFHS.org)**

# PRESIDENT'S PEN

**Benjamin J Jones**  
**President**

One of my favorite quotes is, "To most people the sky is the limit. To those who love flying, the sky is home." It's been that way for me as long as I can remember. This year, more so, the sky has been my home than my actual home on the ground—having graduated from two separate flight schools.

As each year passes, my checklists for my jobs seem to get longer and longer. There is an old saying that "Checklists are written in blood" as we learn from mistakes made from fellow aviators before us...

Every day is a new adventure in the world of aviation, and every day I honor those who have paved the way to allow me to fly safely and return home.

Every generation of aviators defines the next by pushing the limits and boundaries. The 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force was no exception. What those aviators had to endure, one cannot even begin to imagine in today's world of flying.

There were 18-20 year old kids being trained to

fly over occupied Europe, many of them never returning home, and those who did return, had become men in a very short period of time. What they witnessed was horrific, and we must never lose sight of why they suffered such death and destruction.

Next time you take to the skies, quietly pause and thank these brave 'young' men who gave all, so that we may fly in friendly skies today!

Nancy and Debra have been very busy coordinating the final details with Donna Lee to ensure another successful and fun-filled reunion. We're all looking forward to welcoming you to Dayton!

*Ben*



## IN SEARCH OF... "DERE I WUZ"

Greetings from Tom Colones. I am searching for anyone who might know about the origin of the A-2 jacket: "DERE I WUZ." I am having the jacket recreated by a very talented jacket painter in The Netherlands, Anneke Helleman.

I am hoping that someone, somewhere out there, might see this article and know the background of this jacket. The more eyes on this, the better! I have included some examples of the A-2 I saw on a film clip taken in Switzerland by a camera crew as flight crews came to reclaim US bombers that made landings in Switzerland during the war.

Thanks so much for your help.

**Tom Colones**  
**tcolones@yahoo.com**  
**864-381-5929**



# TREASURER'S REPORT

Anne Marek  
Treasurer



As Treasurer I have completed the Society's Profit and Loss and Statement of Financial Position documents through the second

quarter of 2018. As requested by the membership, they are printed here in detail to keep all informed of our finances. As noted, we still maintain a small profit balance which is primarily the result of cost-saving measures the Board has implemented. The most important being Debra's assumption of the duties of layout and design of the magazine, a

pleted and submitted our 2017 Form 990EZ when it was due in May, 2018. The cost for his services remained at the 2017 level which again contributes to our continued profit balance.

The Society's investment portfolio has been transferred from Morgan Stanley to Oppenheimer & Co. This was finalized at the end of June. Our financial adviser, Mr. Gavin Natelli, continues to honor his agreement of a 1.5% investment advisory fee which is an additional cost-saving measure.

Profit & Loss January through June 2018	
	Jan - Jun 18
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
4000 - Income	
4010 - Member Dues Annual	48,018.07
4019 - Donations	6,985.89
<b>Total 4000 - Income</b>	<b>55,003.96</b>
4050 - Investment Income	
4058 - Portfolio Dividends & Interest	934.59
4059 - Realized Gain/(Loss) on Invest	7,118.96
4060 - Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Invest	-9,729.82
4061 - Investment Management Fees	-1,273.51
<b>Total 4050 - Investment Income</b>	<b>-2,949.78</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>52,054.18</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
5100 - National Administration Expense	
5104 - Awards, Gifts & Grants	150.00
5111 - Corporation Charges	70.00
5121 - 8AF History Projects	1,662.98
<b>Total 5100 - National Administration Expense</b>	<b>1,882.98</b>
5200 - Magazine Expenses	
5210 - Printing Expenses	4,532.34
5220 - Postage Expenses	2,354.86
5240 - Layout/Design	500.00
<b>Total 5200 - Magazine Expenses</b>	<b>7,387.20</b>
5300 - National Office Expenses	
5303 - Telephone/DSL	300.00
5304 - Supplies	283.69
5305 - Abila Software/ Computer Exps	908.99
5306 - Accounting Support	2,795.00
5307 - Office Rent	600.00
5312 - FICA-8AFHS portion	1,663.86
5313 - Payroll/ Office Management	21,750.00
5315 - Postage & Shipping	853.52
5316 - Bank Charges/ Returned checks	85.91
5317 - Dues Collection Expense	959.64
5320 - Annual Fees	99.00
5323 - Merchant Account Usage Fees	703.22
5326 - Payroll processing fees	738.83
<b>Total 5300 - National Office Expenses</b>	<b>31,741.66</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>41,011.84</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>11,042.34</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>11,042.34</b>

Statement of Financial Position As of June 30, 2018	
	Jun 30, 18
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking/Savings	
1017 - Morgan Stanley/Oppenheimer & Co	146,985.38
1040 - Bank of America Checking Acct.	1,694.67
1042 - Bank of America Savings Acct.	13,513.65
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>162,193.70</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>162,193.70</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>162,193.70</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Other Current Liabilities	
2050 - Payroll & Taxes Payable	
2051 - Payroll payable	2,896.57
2052 - FICA & withhold taxes payable	2,864.98
2050 - Payroll & Taxes Payable - Other	(1,601.76)
<b>Total 2050 - Payroll &amp; Taxes Payable</b>	<b>4,159.79</b>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>4,159.79</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>4,159.79</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>4,159.79</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
3200 - *Unrestricted Net Assets	146,991.57
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>11,042.34</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>158,033.91</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>162,193.70</b>

position once held by Ms. Donna Neeley, and the reduction in rent and telephone expense for the National Office. In addition, while it has always been a voluntary choice, Directors are being encouraged to absorb as much of their expense as possible to attend Reunion board meetings. Our most recent meeting was a "Skype" meeting.

Mr. Gary Brand of Brand Ferland Advisors submitted the Accountant's Review Report and Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2017. Further he com-

The Society has a total of 1700 members with approximately 80% being current with their 2018 dues. The remaining 20% or 340 members are in arrears. This represents additional income of \$13,600. If you have NOT paid your dues, please do so at your earliest convenience. This will be the last issue of AF News you will receive if you are still delinquent in October.

My next report will appear in the December issue. Those of you attending our reunion will receive an advance copy of our financial statements in your registration packet. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, any time.

Anne  
See you in Dayton!



# NOTEWORTHY

## Candidates for the Board



**Harold E. Jansen**  
Member # 11731980

Harold is the Historian of the 446<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association.

A Dutch native, he served, after his education, in the Dutch Royal Army and after his discharge, joined the Mobil Oil Corporation. After a career spanning 15 years in the Offshore Industry, he pursued a career in the legal field and then returned to the Oil & Gas World in 2006.

In 1976 Harold started researching the fate of a B-24 which crashed in September 1944 in Holland. The event was witnessed by his parents, then teenagers. In 1985 he published his first book in Dutch called "*Flight 648*" an in-depth reconstruction of what happened to this particular bomber and crew.

In 1985 he was asked by the 446<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association to write the group's history, which he completed in 1989. He continues to research the group's history and various other topics of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force, including developing a strategic partnership with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency: DPAA.

In 2009, Harold and his wife moved permanently to the US where he served as the CEO of a major Oil & Gas company. Most of his spare time is devoted to 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force research and he currently curates one of the largest private collections of 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force research in the United States.

**Nominated by Helen Farrington**  
Member # 11728870



**Eleesa Faulkner**  
Member # 14

Eleesa Faulkner is a retired educator with 31 years experience, who continues to work with students and educators in grade levels K-12.

Her father, Lt. Col Leroy "Lee" Faulkner, regularly attended the 303<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group reunions for over 20 years until 2007 when the chapter closed. She began attending 8th AFHS reunions with her father in 2007 and has continued to do so even after his passing in 2015.

Lee always looked forward to spending those precious few days with his fellow veterans and their families. Eleesa continues to enjoy spending time with the veterans, some of whom have become her second family. She is extremely proud of her father's 23 years of service. After his passing she assumed his membership # 14.

Eleesa's goal is to keep the memories, stories, and accomplishments of our veterans going. She will work toward developing initiatives focused on increasing membership; encouraging all family members, interested groups and individuals, and especially generations to come, to join and become active members of the 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS.

She adds, "These brave men and women deserve to be remembered, their sacrifices for us respected, and their legacy kept alive."

**Nominated by Nancy J Toombs**  
Member # 762550



**Albert "Al" Pela**  
Member # 38463

Al has been a member of the 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS since 2007; and an active member of the local Birthplace Chapter. Starting in 2009 he was elected to the Birthplace Chapter Board and subsequently served as vice-president. This Chapter cooperates with the Georgia Chapter. Al established the BP Chapter hospitality room for the 2013 AFHS reunion in Savannah.

His dad flew in the 100<sup>th</sup> BG and was shot down and captured on 11 September 1944. His POW experience included a 650 mile "stroll" through Germany. It's for him and the other 350,000 brave souls in the 8<sup>th</sup> that Al seeks a position on this board.

A charter member of the D-Day Museum (now WWII Museum), 100<sup>th</sup> BG Memorial Museum (UK) and the 100<sup>th</sup> BG Foundation, he also volunteers at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force.

Al spent 30 years in the petroleum/petro-chem industry in engineering and management with Hess Oil, ARAMCO (Saudi Arabia), Mobil and ExxonMobil engineering headquarters in New Jersey. Before Hess Oil he spent 2 years at an Indiana Naval Depot. In college (Mississippi State) Al worked as a co-op engineer for 5 years with NASA contractor GE (Saturn V launch vehicle for Apollo program).

**Nominated by Robert "Bob" Buck**  
Member # 361800

# News from Across the Pond...



For several years now, John Gilbert, who volunteers as one of our amazing representatives in the UK, and also serves as a director with the 392<sup>nd</sup> BGMA, has been working with several schools in and around Norwich. While he has interacted with students in a variety of coaching and sports events, he feels his most important efforts have been focused on sharing with them the history and legacy of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force.

Over the past few months John has been extremely busy setting up the iconic 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS backdrops the Society created in four of the schools as part of their history studies.

In addition to the backdrops, John presented photographs from his personal collection of memorabilia as well.

As a side note from John in explaining some of the connections of the individuals in the photos:

*"Frances Roche was Princess Diana's mother. Lord Fermoy and his wife and two daughters were invited to the christening of Birdie Schmidt's painting on the B24. Unfortunately, Lord Fermoy's wife was unable to attend due to other commitments.*

*Many years later I was speaking with my local doctor, Dr. Harrison, and mentioned this event to him. To my surprise he told me he*

September 2018 (18-3)



*was the physician to Lord and Lady Fermoy at Sandringham. That is where Princess Diana was born!"*  
~ John

## BEESTON SCHOOL



Dear John,

*Thank you so much for your visit today to Beeston Primary School on behalf of the 8th AFHS and 392nd Bomb Group.*

*We are very grateful for the generous gifts to the school in the form of the very poignant roll of honor and the display board and actual photos from the period (with clear descriptions). The children of Beeston Primary School are very lucky to have these wonderful resources to support their history learning and to continue the links with the US and the village of Beeston.*

*Please pass our thanks onto*

[www.8thafhs.org](http://www.8thafhs.org)



*Debra Kujawa for funding these gifts and to Bob Books for an excellent idea.*

*We will get back to you with a visit date before half term.*

Kind regards

Victoria Norris

Head of School

Beeston Primary School  
Chapel Lane

Beeston  
PE32 2NQ

*Photos: Clockwise above top left; John Gilbert, John with Glyn Hambling Unity Education Trust chief executive and children Tegan Childs, Archie Wiseman, Katy Barrett and Alfie Garrard at Beeston. John, Victoria Norris, and Glyn Hambling holding Roll of Honor book. John as a student sparring. (One of the photos John donated to the school library.)*

*Story continues on next page...*



# News from Across the Pond...



21<sup>st</sup> May 2018

Dear Debra Kujawa and Bob Books,

I am writing on behalf of Litcham School to thank the historical society for the magnificent Roll of Honor of the 8<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force, the photographs, and the wonderful display banner that you had made especially for our school. It was a wonderful surprise and a great privilege for us to receive it. It is very poignant to see the names of all the servicemen who laid down their lives to help the allies win the war, and to whom we owe so much. It really brings home the sacrifice that was made and we are really grateful to have this amazing record of American bravery.

World War Two forms a major part of our history syllabus at Litcham School. We will use every opportunity to ensure that our students have an in-depth appreciation of both the Roll of Honor and the display of the 8<sup>th</sup> Army Air force squadrons.

Thank you again for your kindness and generosity to our school. We will endeavor to take great care of this important historical document so that future generations realise the human cost that has been made on their behalf.

With our very best wishes,

Cathy Berry



25<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Mr J Gilbert  
42 Chapel Street  
CAWSTON  
Norfolk NR10 4BG

Dear John

Please could you pass on thanks from Colby School to Debra Kujawa and Bob Books for their kind donation of memorabilia, photos and the stand.

We had the display in the hall for all to see.

Thank you for your continuing support of our school.

Kind regards

*Christine Mead*

Mrs Christine Mead

COLBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Website: [www.colby-norfolk.sch.uk](http://www.colby-norfolk.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs Christine Mead



Scarning

Dereham

Dereham

[www.scarning.suff.sch.uk](http://www.scarning.suff.sch.uk)

email: [office@scarning.suff.sch.uk](mailto:office@scarning.suff.sch.uk)

21.5.18

Dear John,

Good to see you again today.

Please pass on to Debra Kujawa and Bob Books our immense gratitude for the roll of honour, banner and wonderful photos.

These gifts will form the centre piece of our new 'museum' room which we are setting up in January 2019 - following completion of our current building project. We think that they will be an eye-catching addition to our school and will remind children for years to come of the extraordinary times that led to the airbase being formed just a mile or two down the road.

We will definitely inform you when this room is up and running.

Best wishes,

Nick King,  
Headteacher



Thank you letters from schools John regularly visits: top of page, Litcham School, John is with Mr. Rob Martlew; vintage photos in collage; above, John with Christine Mead of Colby School; left, John and Nick King of Scarning, all proudly holding the Roll of Honor books they were presented.



# News from Across the Pond...

## One of our eagles is *missing!*

Suzie Harrison - Interpretive Guide  
Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial



There has been a golden eagle atop the CAAC flagpole since the cemetery was built 1949-54 (officially opened in July 1956). It faced along the reflective pools toward the Memorial Building, and was made of copper hammered out over a mould and gilded with gold leaf.

In the early 1990s, scaffolding was erected around the 72 ft flagpole to aid the re-painting project. One night, someone climbed up the scaffolding to reach the eagle at the top. It was wrenched off the golden orb, leaving its feet behind, carried down and stolen from the site. The police were informed and an incident report made out.

A new eagle was commissioned and installed.

Fast forward 25 years to 2018 and the morning of 5 July. The Security Guard came in at 7:30 to find a golden eagle balanced on one of the plinths at the main gate. He reviewed the CCTV and at 00:30 saw a car drive up. A man got out and

placed the eagle on the stonework, and then stood back to take photographs, occasionally rearranging the eagle. He then sat back in his car and waited about 10 minutes before driving off slowly.

Peter Bonfield, groundskeeper, who was here when it was stolen, said, "That's our eagle!" as soon as he saw it. We also realized that when it was returned to CAAC it was still actually 4 July Independence Day in the US.

This is a mystery solved, but we would still like to know where it has been for the last few decades. It is in good condition, and must have been looked after. We suspect that someone was clearing out their attic or garage and came across this evidence of a youthful indiscretion. A guilty conscience meant that they were unable to just throw it away, so they brought it home, for which we are very grateful.

We hope to exhibit the eagle in the Visitor Centre and tell the story of its unique journey.



# In My Father's Footsteps

Anne Marek

On May 25, my husband, Rick and I arrived in England for my first visit to Debach and the Cambridge American Cemetery at Madingley. It was an amazing experience. Darren Jelley, the Debach archivist, was most gracious and took us around the base. It was a very emotional day for me, and I spent the great majority of it in tears.

When we approached the control tower I was so overwhelmed by emotion that I said to Darren, "Do I have to go in?" His response was "Absolutely!"

As I walked up the cement stairs, the first thing I saw was a picture of the 8 command pilots. There was Dad (Victor G. Aubry, Jr.), second from the right, looking back at me. It was as if he was with me on my tour. We went to the runways where he would have been in his B-24, "*Old Sack*", waiting to take off, then to the place where the "*Old Sack*" would have sat on the tarmac. We went to "Snipe Farm" which was the house where he and 3 of his fellow officers lived off base, and to where the mess hall would have been. We literally had the base to ourselves. Richard and Prilly



Taylor, owners of Grove Farm, which became home to the Fighting 493rd BG at Debach during WWII, came out to meet us. It's a wonderful thing that they have been active in the restoration of Debach, Station 152. This all happened on Saturday, May 26. Darren also took us to the place where the official 493rd memorial is located and the old 'headquarters' building. Dad



jacket with his ribbons, major's insignia, and his overseas cap. I also brought Mel Hurwitz's jacket and when Prilly saw it she exclaimed, "How wonderful, it will go with his A-2 jacket!" She was thrilled to have it. I also took over two uniform shirts and 2 more overseas caps which Nancy Toombs had properly identified. Mel and Dad's jackets are now in their forever home in the base museum where they should be. Darren has promised that he will send me a picture of "Veterans Corner" in the museum when they have been properly displayed by Prilly.



spent a lot of time there being chief operations officer; he also called it "the molehole", probably because it had no windows.

I brought over my Dad's

We had beautiful weather - bright blue skies and warm temps. We ended the day with supper at "The Dog" restaurant in Grundisburgh which was a





Memorial Day ceremony. I was honored to represent the 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS during the wreath laying portion at the Wall of the Missing. Brian Ward laid the wreath representing the Fighting 493<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group. After the services, we headed to Helen and Gordon Thomson's home for a wonderful lunch. Helen is Darren's assistant in his archival duties. We had a splendid time meeting everyone and spending time in East Anglia. It's a beautiful area. We left bright and early on Tuesday for London

will return for another visit. This one was so emotionally charged that it clouded my appreciation of the base and its restoration. During the next visit I hope I'll be able to see through a clearer pair of eyes.



favorite hangout for Dad. He spent many hours and drank a lot of liquor there. We met the owner's mother who was thrilled to know that I had a father who frequented "The Dog" 74 years ago. She also wanted us to put together a picture of Rick and me with "Old Sack" and Dad to hang in the restaurant. Darren promised that he would do that for me and also for David Schmitt whose father would also have hung out there. That was really the icing on the cake!

We went to Debach's "Open Day" on Sunday. We rode in Richard's restored WWII jeep with David and Linda as the convoy wound its way around the farms. Again, it was another beautiful day. The people of East Anglia are very patriotic and appreciative of what the American Flyboys did so long ago. Lots of them came out and stood along the route waving and cheering.

On Monday, we headed to Madingley and the Cambridge American Cemetery for the annual



and the "chunnel" train to Paris. We took a Viking River Cruise to Normandy and had another moving experience there at the American Cemetery. I really got in touch with what Omaha Beach must have been like on D-Day 74 years ago and what our fighting men had to endure, but that's a story for another time.

Rick and I

*Photos:  
Preceding page clockwise top Darren Jelly, Anne, and Rick on balcony of Debach control tower, view of control tower; Darren, Anne, Prilly Taylor, Linda and David Schmitt. This page top: Anne laying wreath at American Cemetery; the piper; crew of "Old Sack"; bottom: Anne with UK representative Jeff Hawley, and Denis Grant.*



# 44TH ANNUAL 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REUNION

## OCTOBER 10 - 14, 2018

### DAYTON, OH

8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OCTOBER 10 - 14, 2018  
CROWNE PLAZA - DAYTON, OH

**As of this date, ALL hotel rooms are strictly on a space available basis and may not be included in our block.**

#### Location of Designated Overflow Hotel

The Crowne Plaza Dayton is **SOLD OUT!**

**Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Dayton Southwest** is brand new and conveniently located at:

2140 South Edwin C Moses Blvd, Dayton, OH 45417

*This is only a few minutes south of the Crowne Plaza.*

#### Reservation Information:

**(877) 666-3243**

**[www.hiexpress.com](http://www.hiexpress.com)**

Please call the number above and reference the 8th Air Force Historical Society or please go to:

**[www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2018](http://www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2018)**

and click on the hotel reservation link at the top of the page. The hotel will allow no more than two reservations per call (or click). Reservations should only be made for yourself and/or a family member. Separate names will be required for each room reservation.

***Please encourage friends and family to make their own reservations instead of holding multiple reservations as a 'just in case.' This caused a premature need for overflow hotels in the past.***

**Group CODE: A F R [Air Force Reunion]**

**Reunion Dates: October 10-14, 2018**

**Rate: \$110.94 + tax (currently 13.25%) for 1-2 people (\$10 add-on per night, per person for 3rd and 4th person).**

#### Rate includes hot breakfast each day.

Rates will be offered three days before and after official reunion dates, with advanced reservation notice and subject to group block availability.

Cut-off Date: 09/7/18. Late reservations will be processed based on space availability at a higher rate.

Cancellation Policy: All reservations must be accompanied by a credit card guarantee. Reservations can be

12

cancelled up to 6pm on the day of arrival. No shows and late cancellations will be charged.

#### Parking & Shuttle Information

The hotel offers complimentary self-parking for guests staying at the hotel. Unfortunately, there is no shuttle service available at this time at the Holiday Inn Express. Both Lyft and Uber car services are available in Dayton, as well as several local taxi services.

#### Wheelchair Rental

**ScootAround** rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call **(888) 441-7575** or visit **[www.scootaround.com](http://www.scootaround.com)** for details or to make reservations.

#### Location of Reunion Headquarters Hotel

##### **Crowne Plaza Dayton**

33 E. 5th Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402

Ideally located near the Dayton International Airport and situated in the heart of the city, near the Oregon Arts District, guests can enjoy shopping, dining, and entertainment just minutes away.\*

**\*If you would like to be placed on a waiting list for possible cancellations at the Crowne Plaza, please contact Donna Lee, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. at [DonnaLee@afri.com](mailto:DonnaLee@afri.com) immediately. Please include your name, phone number, WWII Group, dates needed, bed type (only if absolutely necessary), and whether or not the occupant is a WWII Veteran. WWII Veterans will be accommodated first.**

***The Society has secured the overflow hotel--if you have questions regarding the Holiday Inn Express, please contact Debra Kujawa: (912) 748-8884 or [ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org](mailto:ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org).***



# 44TH ANNUAL 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REUNION

## OCTOBER 10 - 14, 2018

### DAYTON, OH

#### 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

##### OCTOBER 10 – 14, 2018

##### CROWNE PLAZA – DAYTON, OH

#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

##### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

- 1:00pm - 6:00pm Reunion Registration
- 6:00pm - 7:00pm Welcome Reception with Cash Bar and Snacks, followed by dinner on your own
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm 8th AFHS Board Meeting
- 7:00pm - Until Hospitality Suites open

##### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

- 7:00am - 8:30am Complimentary Breakfast Buffet for 8AFHS overnight Crowne Plaza Hotel guests
- 8:00am - 11:30am Reunion Registration Open
- 9:00am - 2:00pm DAYTON CITY TOUR (description follows)
- 1:00pm - 6:00pm Reunion Registration Open
- 2:10pm - 2:50pm Curator's Corner
- 3:00pm - 5:00pm Seminar on Crash Site Excavations, Uwe Benkel, renowned German researcher\*
- 6:00pm - 9:00pm Cash Bar Reception
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm Buffet Dinner and World Premiere, *"The Cold Blue"* by Erik Nelson & Peter Hankoff \*

##### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

- 7:00am - 8:30am Complimentary Breakfast Buffet for 8AFHS overnight Crowne Plaza Hotel guests
- 8:00am - 11:30am Reunion Registration Open
- 8:00am - 9:15am Group Meetings
- 9:30am - 2:30pm NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
- 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, OCTOBER 13

- 7:00am - 8:30am Complimentary Breakfast Buffet for 8AFHS overnight Crowne Plaza Hotel guests
- 8:30am - 11:30am Reunion Registration Open
- 8:45am - 10:15am General Membership Meeting
- 10:30am - 11:30am Heritage League Meeting
- 11:30am - 12:00pm Box lunches available for pick up (*pre-purchase only*)
- 12:00pm - 3:30pm 8th AFHS Board Meeting
- 12:30pm - 4:45pm CARILLON HISTORICAL PARK / PACKARD MUSEUM (description follows)
- 5:00pm - 5:30pm Reunion Registration Open
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm Cash Bar Reception
- 6:30pm - 6:45pm WWII Veteran Group Photo (Tentative timing. Please check final schedule for update).
- 7:00pm - 10:00pm Gala Dinner and Program

##### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

- 7:00am - 8:30am Complimentary Breakfast Buffet for 8AFHS overnight Crowne Plaza Hotel guests

**\*SPEAKERS ARE CONFIRMED AT THIS TIME.**

# 44TH ANNUAL 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REUNION

## OCTOBER 10 - 14, 2018

### DAYTON, OH

#### 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM – OCTOBER 10 – 14, 2018

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will participate in each event and 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. **All registration forms and payments must be received on or before September 7, 2018. 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: 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS**

#### OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inputted \_\_\_\_\_ Nametag Completed \_\_\_\_\_

#### CUT-OFF DATE IS 9/7/18

	Price Per	# of People	Total
<b><u>DUES</u></b>			
The principal attendee must be a member of the 8AFHS to register for this reunion. If you are not a member, please pay your yearly dues here.	\$40		\$
<b><u>REGISTRATION FEE</u></b>			
Includes meeting expenses and other reunion expenses.	\$45		\$
Reg. Fee for children ages 8-16 attending more than 1 function & staying at hotel	\$30		\$
<b><u>MEALS</u></b>			
Thursday, 10/11: Dinner Buffet (Chicken w/ Honey Brie Dijon Sauce & London Broil w/ Chimichurri sauce)	\$42		\$
Friday, 10/12: Rendezvous Dinner (Rosemary Lemon Chicken)	\$38		\$
Saturday, 10/13: Box Lunch (sandwich, chips, cookie, water)	\$16		\$
Saturday, 10/13: Banquet (Please select your entrée below)			
Herb-Roasted Prime Rib	\$45		\$
Grilled Salmon w/ Creamy Leek Sauce	\$45		\$
Chef's Choice of Vegetarian Entrée	\$45		\$
<b><u>TOURS</u></b>			
Thursday, 10/11: Dayton City Tour	\$38		\$
Friday, 10/12: National Museum of the US Air Force	\$38		\$
Saturday, 10/13: Carillon Historical Park / Packard Museum	\$54		\$
Total Amount Payable to <b>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</b>			\$

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

MEMBER NAME (for nametag) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 8AF VETERAN    ☐ OTHER VETERAN    ☐ NEXT GEN    ☐ HERITAGE LEAGUE    ☐ 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/FG, not BS/FS) \_\_\_\_\_

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).

HOTEL RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE CONFIRMED BEFORE SUBMITTING THIS FORM. PLEASE CHECK YOUR CONFIRMED HOTEL:

☐ CROWNE PLAZA DAYTON    ☐ HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS DAYTON SW    ☐ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_



# 44TH ANNUAL 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REUNION

## OCTOBER 10 - 14, 2018

### DAYTON, OH

#### **DAYTON CITY TOUR**

Thursday, October 11

The birthplace of aviation, Dayton was once home to powered flight inventors Orville and Wilbur Wright. Your guide will narrate the significance of the many interesting sites along this tour, including Oregon District, the city's oldest suburb; the Civil War Monument; the Flyover, an award-winning sculpture of flight; the Korean War State Memorial; and Memorial Hall, where veterans are remembered. Learn the history of the Miami Valley from the first settlers in 1796 to the influence of such entrepreneurs as Patterson, Deeds, Kettering, and Frazee. These notables and others made immense contributions to aviation, the arts, sports, government, and industry. There will be a short stop at the Esther Price Candy Store, now a successful candy distributor, which opened 50 years ago in Mrs. Price's basement. Enjoy lunch on your own at Dayton's upscale shopping and restaurant district, The Greene – featuring Cheesecake Factory, Chipotle, Panera, Subway, and many other dining choices.

**9:00am board bus, 2:00pm back at hotel**

**\$38/Person includes bus and guide. Lunch on your own.**

#### **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE U S AIR FORCE**

Friday, October 12

The National Museum of the U S Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is the oldest and largest military aviation museum in the world. The Museum tells the exciting story of aviation development from the days of the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk to the Space Age. Exhibits include over 300 aircraft and missiles, plus historically interesting aeronautical displays. The newly refurbished B-17 Memphis Bell, one of the most recognizable symbols of WWII will be on permanent display at the museum. In addition, the Presidential Gallery is located here featuring a collection of presidential aircraft, some of which you can walk through. The museum also features an IMAX theater showing each hour on the hour (admission on your own). Have lunch at your leisure in the cafeteria on the second level. The

buses will shuttle back to the hotel at 12noon, 1pm, and 2:15pm.

**9:30am board bus, 2:30pm back at hotel**

**\$38/Person includes bus and escort.**

**Lunch and IMAX on your own.**

#### **CARILLON HISTORICAL PARK / PACKARD MUSEUM**

Saturday, October 13

Carillon Historical Park celebrates the history of invention, transportation, and pioneer life in Dayton and the Miami Valley. It is home to a variety of collections, which document the area's history. Check out Newcom Tavern, Dayton's oldest standing building; view the Wright Flyer III; and board a 1903 Barney & Smith Parlor car. Antique automobiles, a working 1930's Print Shop, and vintage bicycles are some of the other exhibits you will see along the way. Continue the tour and step back in time at America's Packard Museum, where the Packard Motor Car Company comes to life again. Located in the original Packard Dealership Building, which was built in 1917, the museum has officially taken the name of the original dealership - The Citizens Motorcar Company - but has become known as "America's Packard Museum". View the world's largest collection of "Packard only" automobiles in the actual showroom. This unique museum showcases "the world's finest motor car" from its beginnings in 1899 to its demise in 1956.

*Note: This tour may be limited to the first 100 people, or different schedules may be followed. A lunch break is not included on this tour, so consider **pre-purchasing the box lunch** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel to eat before departure.*

**12:30pm board bus, 4:45pm back at hotel**

**\$54/Person includes bus, escort, and admissions.**

**All Trips require a minimum of 35 people.**

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

**Driver and Staff gratuities are not included in the tour prices.**

# BRINGING HOME

## National Museum of the United States Air Force

May 17-18



During WWII, William Wyler volunteered to serve as a major in the United States Army Air Forces and directed a pair of documentaries: *The Memphis Belle: A Story of a Flying Fortress* (1944), about a Boeing B-17 and its U.S. Army Air Force crew; and *Thunderbolt!* (1947), highlighting a P-47 fighter-bomber squadron in the Mediterranean. Wyler filmed *The Memphis Belle* at great personal risk, flying over enemy territory on actual bombing missions in 1943; on one flight, Wyler lost consciousness from lack of oxygen. Wyler's associate, cinematographer Harold J. Tannenbaum, a First Lieutenant, was shot down and perished during the filming.



Photographer Craig Dubishar with Richard 'Buzz' Davis, 93BG, Hardwick Air Base, 35 missions, tail gunner.



Dozens of veterans came from near and far, and celebrated the re-homing of the 'Memphis Belle'.



# OF THE 'BELLE'

States Air Force ~ Dayton, OH  
9, 2018



Robert K. Morgan, Jr., son of Memphis Belle pilot, Bob Morgan, was on hand for all of the festivities.



and from multiple bomb groups, to welcome and "Belle" during the 3 day event.

**"And in my heart, it still belongs to me.  
My name is Robert Morgan.  
I was the pilot of the *Memphis Belle*."  
~ Col Robert Morgan, USAFR, Ret.**



Vincent J. "Bill" Purple, 94, of Petersham, MA, pilot with the 379th BG, seated center in the photo to the left, among a group of WWII re-enactors, was invited to attend the private unveiling and then spent 3 days at the Museum talking with visitors and sharing stories of life as a B-17 pilot.

## It's All About CHARACTER

Steve Bowman



Too often, the stories of 8th Air Force veterans speak of valor, the frequent heartbreaks, but little about what made them who they are and their lives after the war. Some were ordinary men before the war and after it, who had this remarkable history in their lives. Some were damaged beyond repair. Others, like John A. Clark were exceptional before and after their time in the Mighty Eighth. This is his story.

Lt. John Clark's service as a pilot in the 100th Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force, September 1944 – March 1945 is well documented. Less is known about his life before and after Thorpe Abbots. After a few conversations with him, it appears a thread was woven into his life early on, reinforced in England and in the skies over Germany. I searched for words as we talked - Character is the only one that seems to fit.

Childhood dreams are often overlooked as a source of inner strength and determination. John Clark grew up with dreams of

flight, being a pilot. He built model aircraft used in the First War and studied the history of the Aces: British, French, Germans as well as Americans. Nothing could seem more distant, unachievable, than the dream of flying. John's



family struggled like many in the depression of the 30s, more than many perhaps. He describes his childhood home for seven people as a four-room tarpaper shack, *"We never thought of ourselves as poor."* There was a *"Wealth of Life Principles"* as he puts it, *"My parents were honest, hardworking, strict, yet loving. Although we didn't go to church (his father*

*worked on Sundays) my parents had fervent spiritual values taught at home by my mother."* Based on these values, high expectations and honorable conduct were a given.

The seeds of character were sown in the five children from the beginning.

After high school, while attending the Laurence School of Technology in Detroit, he acted as a draftsman, working on specialized machines for tank production and the Pratt Whitney R-2800 engine for the Army Air Corp. While could have had a work related deferment in a critical war industry, a

sense of moral obligation demanded more. By the fall of 1942, he was an eager First Alternate for a highly coveted appointment to West Point. The appointment did not happen. *"I was extremely disappointed at the time, but in the end, it turned out to be one of the best things in my life."* Instead, John became an Air Corp Aviation cadet. *"In my wildest dreams, I*



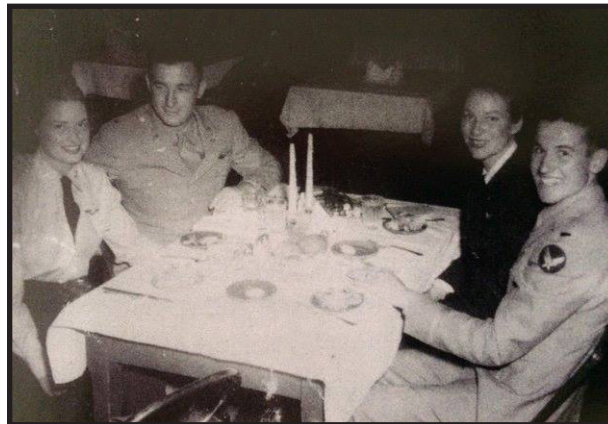
*always imagined being a pilot."* Given his upbringing, failure was not an option....John was commissioned and received his wings in April 1944. The dream had come to pass.

As fate would have it, John arrived in May 1944 for B-17 training at the Army Air Force base at Las Vegas. At the Officer's Club, he met a dashing, beautiful woman pilot, a WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilot) who was instructing pilots among other flying duties. They only had three weeks together, yet John knew. Marie Mountain was the woman of his dreams. The decision to serve guided him to the most important person in his life. They married in July 1945 and remained so for 63 years. (See Women With Wings for more about Maria Clark)

His 32 mission combat tour had many memorable twists, and overly exciting turns such as the January 1945 crash landing in Belgium when his B-17 ran out of fuel returning from a Frankfurt mission. Visibility was terrible as they closed in on an RAF landing strip that was not long enough for aircraft like the B-17. On the final approach they narrowly missed an apartment building. The last drop of fuel was spent at this point. As John puts it, *"We were a 32 ton glider during those last 1,000 yards."* Then there's the December 24, 1944 mission during the Battle of the Bulge. His group encountered a flack barrage by an unknown and uncharted massed column of Tiger tanks equipped with 88mm cannons (standard flak guns) capable of firing on aircraft. The December  
September 2018 (18-3)

24th mission remains to this day the largest air armada in history: about 2,000 bombers and 960 fighter aircraft.

Perhaps the most telling is the November 2, 1944 Merseburg mission, one of the bloodiest of the war. The Leuna synthetic oil plant was the most heavily defended target in Europe. The Merseburg /Leipzig interlocking flak field could put up around 5,500 rounds per minute. *"As we turned for the bomb run it seemed like a Fortress went down every few seconds."* (In reality, while in the kill box, a



bomber was lost about every minute or two.) It was easy to think about dying. He recalls a "Cosmic Event." *"There was this voice. I recall it clearly, 'Don't worry. You will get through this.' I was very calm after that and never questioned what would happen."* His crew ran the gauntlet unscathed.

I asked John about the life lesson from the 8th Air Force he carried throughout his life. With no hesitation, *"Personal Responsibility. When you're up there, it's up to you. There is no one else to blame if something avoidable goes wrong on that aircraft."*

The course of a life based on Character was galvanized by the time he left England. The achievements of Professor John Clark listed in Who's Who in America since 1974 are numerous. (See the footnote below.) I asked John what character means to him, *"Do the best you can, always. Train well. Always be honest with others and especially yourself. Be a straight shooter and do what's right for all, not just you personally. And of course develop a keen sense of personal responsibility."*

Well done, Lt. Clark. Carry on.

~  
*Photos: Top of preceding page, John today; John (kneeling left) with his Crew, Marie and John in Las Vegas.*

Some of John's many achievements:

Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering, University of Michigan; Masters and Doctorate degrees MIT, Assistant Professor, MIT; University of Michigan Professor of Mechanical

Engineering, Department Chairman for two terms; Senior Life Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; Published approximately 150 peer reviewed technical papers; 2016 Inductee Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame.

Military decorations include: Air Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters, European Theater Ribbon with 3 Battle Stars, Presidential Unit Citation with one Oak Leaf Cluster; the French Croix de Guerre with one Palm Leaf, French Legion of Honor rank of Chevalier (Knight) The military uniforms of John and Marie Clark are on permanent display at the Yankee Air Museum at the Willow Run Airport in Michigan.





# FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR AND

Manny Abrams**	392nd BG	Marbury L Councell, Jr	96th BG	Herbert S Gold**	446th BG
Stewart Ackerman	303rd BG	Jay Dee Cowan*	490th BG	Stanley Goldstein	466th BG
J R Akin	95th BG	James D Cox*	303rd BG	Ralph Goldsticker, Jr.**	452nd BG
Vernon G Alexander**	493rd BG	James W Cox, Jr*	94th BG	Hewitt B Gomez	492nd BG
Jay D Allen	94th BG	Salvatore Cracolici	96th BG	George Gorman	96th BG
Andy Anderson	100th BG	Thomas L Creekmore	305th BG	Marvin Graham	392nd BG
Ed Anderson	453rd BG	Leo R Croce*	398th BG	Sidney Grant	493rd BG
William H Andrew*	493rd BG	Howard Croner	452nd BG	Wesley Grayer	493rd BG
Richard Andrews	379th BG	Robert Culp	100th BG	Charles J Greenough	379th BG
William Junior Arnold*	303rd BG	John F Curcio	458th BG	Robert Gross	34th BG
Albert Arreola**	100th BG	Wayne Davis	452nd BG	Joseph "Joe" Gualano	493rd BG
Victor G Aubry, Jr*	493rd BG	Steve de Pyssler	VIII BC	Rudolph "Rudy" Guerrero	493rd BG
Albert Audette	385th BG	Victor DeCaria**	446th BG	Milton R Gunther	487th BG
George W Bachmann, Jr	306th BG	Eddie Deerfield	303rd BG	C Norman Gustafson	384th BG
James A Baker*	339th FG	Louis E Deutsch	446th BG	Carl Gustafson	453rd BG
Orville Baker	445th BG	Harold L Dietz	466th BG	Russell W Gustafson	452nd BG
Willis Barney	379th BG	Richard Dinning	351st BG	Paul C Haedike	452nd BG
Oliver L Bashor	303rd BG	Jack F Disney	94th BG	Percival L Hanson	305th BG
Andrew L Bates*	436th TCG	Donald A D'Lugos	466th BG	Haas M Hargrave**	493rd BG
John Wesley Beaver*	92nd BG	Jack Dodson	398th BG	Alfred B Harris	390th BG
William Becker	492nd BG	John H Doyle	94th BG	Howard G Harris*	Veteran
Richard L "Dick" Bedford	353rd FG	John J Dunnigan	351st BG	Morton Harris	95th BG
Sheldon Beigel	306th BG	Norman R Dunphe	448th BG	Glenn A Harrison**	96th BG
Caesar J Benigno	352nd BG	George Durgin	493rd BG	Robert B Hastie	95th BG
Nelson Berger	100th BG	Peter Durso	493rd BG	Robert Haynes	493rd BG
Tony Bezer	490th BG	Alfred Dusey	447th BG	Robert Hecker	401st BG
Leo S Bielinski	44th BG	Eugene Dworaczek*	448th BG	Walter Hendricks	452nd BG
Jack F Blackham*	34th BG	Harold Dwyer	34th BG	Lewis E Herron	100th BG
William D Bodiford**	487th BG	Don Echols	458th BG	John R Hildebran**	453rd BG
August C Bolino	388th BG	Stanley Edelman	351st BG	Temple Hix Hill	392nd BG
Bob Bowen	398th BG	Richard J Eiseman**	94th BG	Robert H Hitchcock	303rd BG
James M Bond	385th BG	William "Bill" Eisenhower	303rd BG	Bill Holden	1st B RNR
Frank T Bostwick	466th BG	James H Eshelman	385th BG	Don E Holmes**	458th BG
Robert L Brandt	452nd BG	Dr. James Facos	388th BG	David Holst*	448th BG
Gordon Breeding**	34th BG	George Farrer*	384th BG	Dewey A Holst**	448th BG
Carl F Brown, Jr	4th FG	Joseph Fischer	94th BG	Theodore C "Ted" Hood	306th BG
Dudley Brown**	94th BG	Harry Mundy Fisher*	467th BG	Charles S Hopla*	447th BG
Harvey Brundage*	91st BG	Robert Fisher**	384th BG	William F Houlihan*	306th BG
Joe Burdis	388th BG	John C Flora*	482nd BG	Wayne E Howarter*	34th BG
Ed Burnham	95th BG	Clifford J Foss	29th TCG	James Howell	447th BG
Charles F Byrd*	493rd BG	Donald H Foulk	303rd BG	Jake Howland	91st BG
Paul E Calkin**	100th BG	Donald M Frank	389th BG	Jack C Hubbard	306th BG
Douglas S Canant*	1st SAD	Paul Frank*	96th BG	David Huckabay	489th BG
Guy Chookoorian**	94th BG	Herbert Friedlander**	351st BG	Blaine Hufnagle	94th BG
Donald Casey	379th BG	Joel Friedman	34th BG	Melvin Hurwitz	493rd BG
Frank Casey*	487th BG	James E Frolking**	479th FG	Albion Kenneth Hutcherson	95th BG
Andrew D Caswell**	91st BG	Frank Gaccione	7th PRG	Joseph O Ingram, Jr	96th BG
F C "Hap" Chandler	491st BG	Henry C Gagnon	385th BG	Gustave W Jacobson	94th BG
Clarence F Cherry**	100th BG	Anthony J Gallagher*	100th BG	Bennie L Jefferies	306th BG
John P Chopelas**	452nd BG	Joseph Garber	96th BG	Arthur Jenkins	390th BG
Samuel A Christiano**	18th WSQ	Ted Gary	493rd BG	David Johnson	1st B RNR
George E Clark*	3rd Army	Robert Genesky	493rd BG	Martin Jordan	351st BG
John A Clark	100th BG	Stoddard B Gerald*	55th FG	Jay Karpin**	493rd BG
John J Clark*	452nd BG	William Gerecitano**	388th BG	Edward J Kastanek*	493rd BG
James O Clemons	484th BG	Gerald Gerston	392nd BG	John Katsaros	401st BG
Grayson Cocharo	492nd BG	Albert Gese	20th FG	Samuel Katz	389th BG
Murray Codman	447th BG	Dr. C W "Bill" Getz**	491st BG	George H Keating**	452nd BG
Myron Cohen	91st BG	Joe Glasser	94th BG	Victor Keech	1st B RNR
Paul J Collins**	447th BG	Reuben Glazer	445th BG	Perry Kerr	466th BG
Joseph Connaughton	319th BG	Dallas Godsey**	351st BG	Howard Keskitalo	388th BG

# JUBILEE OF LIBERTY RECIPIENTS



John Ketzner	92nd BG	Clayton A Nattier	306th BG	Ambrose C Shaw	493rd BG
Michael D Kindya	385th BG	Warren G Nelson**	398th BG	Marvin Silbersher	447th BG
James King	1st B RNR	William J "Bill" Nevitt	353rd FG	Taffe Simon	445th BG
John H "Jack" Kleinsorg**	92nd BG	John W Newman**	94th BG	Harold W Smith**	448th BG
Russell A Knudson	303rd BG	Henry J Nykamp**	93rd BG	Heber H Smith	94th BG
Carroll F Knutson	447th BG	Art Nystrom	445th BG	John A Smith*	493rd BG
Cornelious A Kohlman	452nd BG	George M Ogle*	487th BG	Samuel W Smith	303rd BG
Donald L Koons	401st BG	William J O'Leary	384th BG	Robert W Smothers	452nd BG
Joseph T Kozak*	94th BG	Allen G Ostrom	398th BG	Christopher Spagnola	44th BG
John F Kraeger	466th BG	William "Bill" Overstreet, Jr	357th FG	Leland C Spencer*	93rd BG
Donald F Kremper	94th BG	Frank Parkinson, Jr.	448th BG	George W Starks	92nd BG
Ralph J Kurka	93rd BG	Nels Pedersen*	44th BG	Robert J Starzynski	306th BG
Herbert J Kwart	381st BG	Frank D Perez	401st BG	Orange D Steffey, Jr.*	493rd BG
Dean C Larson	401st BG	LaVerne Peters	389th BG	Willard Stelling	34th BG
Paul W Latenser*	389th BG	Stanley Peterson	96th BG	Louis J Stoffer	398th BG
William G Lathrop	94th BG	Philip M Petterson*	305th BG	Colin D Storey	94th BG
George A Lawson	7th PRG	Anthony W Pircio	7th PRG	William E Stovall	390th BG
Franklin H Lemonds, Jr*	389th BG	Nicholas Plackis*	390th BG	Herman Stroupe	390th BG
John Lemons	445th BG	Wilmer "Will" Plate**	489th BG	Walter Sturdivan**	34th BG
Mathias J Leupold	385th BG	William Podolsky*	93rd BG	John S Swarts	351st BG
Donald D Levine	453rd BG	Howard Polin**	352nd FG	John Roger Swihart	388th BG
Sherman Levitt*	491st BG	Steven Politis	97th BG	Paul Swope, Jr*	353rd FG
Richard B "Dick" Lewis	493rd BG	Robert H Preller*	384th BG	Edward J Tatro**	100th BG
George R Leyva**	351st BG	Michael H Prestia	452nd BG	Henry E Tessien	96th BG
Robert M Littlefield	55th FG	Vincent J "Bill" Purple	379th BG	William Thacker, Jr	457th BG
James L Livingston**	44th BG	Walter "Mike" Quering	487th BG	Dennis E Thompson	487th BG
Robert "Bob" Livingston*	351st BG	Albert Rapvano	466th BG	William M "Bill" Thorns**	96th BG
Stan Loftsgard	493rd BG	Seymour Ratner*	306th BG	Robert J Toeppe*	445th BG
Lester Lyall*	401st BG	Lauri Rautio	447th BG	William C Toombs, Sr**	493rd BG
Ralph Lynn, Jr*	466th BG	Lester Reekers	490th BG	Jimmy J Traupel*	379th BG
Dallas V Madland*	446th BG	Jesse A Reese	96th BG	Robert Tichel	392nd BG
Malcolm J Magid	303rd BG	Edward G Reuland**	379th BG	Seymore E "Jack" Vann**	388th BG
Warren B Marsh	493rd BG	Joseph H Reus	445th BG	William "Bill" Varnedoe	385th BG
Ken Mason	1st B RNR	James A Rich, Jr	96th BG	Alfred C Villagran**	306th BG
Ellis McClintick	390th BG	Charles J Richardson**	390th BG	Rudolph Villalobos	96th BG
Robert McCormack**	389th BG	Wilbur Richardson	94th BG	Adolph L Visconti*	306th BG
James McCutcheon*	392nd BG	William H Richeson, Jr.*	392nd BG	Charles F Von Der Leith*	357th INF
Elmer "Lucky" McGinty	95th BG	Wendell R Ringheim	92nd BG	Robert H Voss	94th BG
Hugh McGinty	379th BG	George G Roberts**	306th BG	Jay Walker	384th BG
Jay McIntosh	94th BG	Mort Robinson	94th BG	James H Walston, Jr	466th BG
B/GEN Seth McKee	370th FG	William L "Bill" Roche	452nd BG	Douglas J Ward	305th BG
Russell Madsen	100th BG	Kenneth E Rohde**	457th BG	Charles Warren*	351st BG
Elmo Maiden	466th BG	J Warren Roundhill**	379th BG	Earl E Wassom**	466th BG
Warren B Marsh*	493rd BG	Robert Rowland**	398th BG	Mark B Weber*	389th BG
David Marshall	381st BG	Jack Rude	493rd BG	Billy D Welch**	361st FG
Burnia Martin	384th BG	John Rumancik	392nd BG	Berton Werth	492nd BG
Richard Martin	398th BG	Peter "Rupy" Ruplenas	486th BG	Charles Wheelwright	392nd BG
William Massey	401st BG	Al Sadowsky	34th BG	James E Wicker, Sr*	7th PRG
Samuel Mastrogiacomio	445th BG	Bradford Saivetz	305th BG	William O Wilbur, Jr*	448th BG
Walter M "Boots" Mayberry	388th BG	Jesse Sandlin	447th BG	Douglas C Willett	94th BG
Seward M Meintsma	466th BG	Frank N Schaeffer	44th BG	John M Williams	448th BG
Julius M Micek	381st BG	Walter Schattel	487th BG	Paul R Wilson	305th BG
James Mikusi	447th BG	Carmen Schiavoni**	447th BG	Robert W Wilson*	313th TCG
Donnell "Don" Miller**	493rd BG	Robert F Schlack*	356th FG	Frank A Wiswall	96th BG
Charles Mills**	492nd BG	Fred Schonwetter**	55th FG	Lawrence Wolfson	493rd BG
Rex Mills	453rd BG	Robert Schuberg	306th BG	David L Wolman*	100th BG
E E "Mitch" Mischler	94th BG	Bob Schuh	398th BG	Richard P Woodson, III	96th BG
Lloyd Mitchell	96th BG	Donald L Seesenguth**	457th BG	James Zographos**	388th BG
Kenneth Moulden	448th BG	Horace Seyster	457th BG	[ ] FLOH [*] FJOL [**] Both medals	
James D Mynatt, Jr**	490th BG	Horace Shankwiler	445th BG	Program ending 12/31/2018	



# CHAPTER NEWS



## **New York State Southern Wing Chapter David C. Levitt**

In May 2017, the New York State Southern Wing Chapter held another successful luncheon meeting at the Holiday Inn of Plainview, Long Island, New York. There were approximately 25 people in attendance, including three 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force WWII veterans.

Chapter president, Joseph "Pat" Keeley, led the Pledge of

Allegiance and a touching candle lighting ceremony. As part of the theme of the build up to D-Day, Pat reported on the 8<sup>th</sup> AF mission that had taken place in 1944 on the same day as our luncheon. It never ceases to amaze how dangerous each mission was, and how dedicated and brave the air crews were.

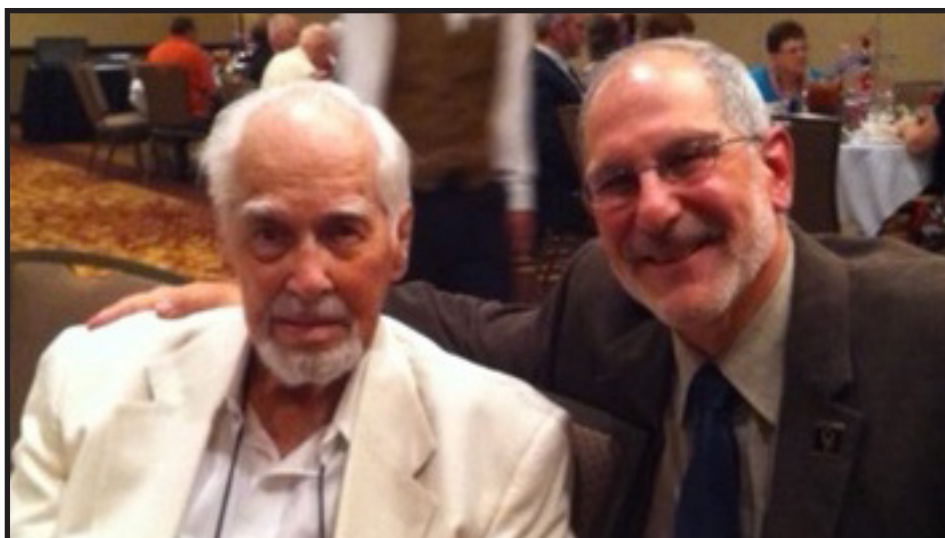
As always, a highlight of the meeting was when each person got to introduce himself or herself to the group, and give a brief description of his or her connection

to the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force. We got to hear from new members Bruce Nocera and Bruce Smith. Both "Bruce's" fathers were in 8<sup>th</sup> AF bomb groups. Bruce Nocera is the secretary/treasurer of his father's bomb group association, the 351<sup>st</sup>. Bruce Smith wrote a lovely article about his father Harold Smith, a 448<sup>th</sup> BG navigator who received the French Legion of Honor in a ceremony at his nursing home.

B17 pilot, Si Spiegel, gave a gripping account of his flights with his air crew. Si conveyed how dangerous ice and other weather and mechanical problems can be for an inexperienced air crew flying to England, even prior to entering combat over Europe.

We also had the pleasure of seeing and conversing with the members of a British veterans group from Long Island, New York, who now come regularly to our luncheon meetings.

Our new membership manager, David C Levitt, spoke about the build-up to D-Day and beyond from the ground crews' perspective.



# CHAPTER NEWS

David's father was a B24 mechanic in the 491<sup>st</sup> BG. The ground crews went 70 hours straight servicing their squadron's bombers with only meal breaks and cat naps on the aircrafts' hardstands.

We are currently planning a luncheon meeting at the Holiday Inn of Plainview on a Sunday in October 2018—after the Dayton, OH 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society Reunion. Veterans of all ages and wars/conflicts and branches of the military, are welcome, as well as their family members and friends, and anyone who is interested in the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force, WWII, and/or military history. The theme of this meeting will be a celebration of Veterans Day (November 11<sup>th</sup>).

During the meeting we plan to commemorate New York State 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Week, which we remember each October, paying tribute to the crews of the 100 heavy bombers that were shot down and lost during the week of October 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 1943.

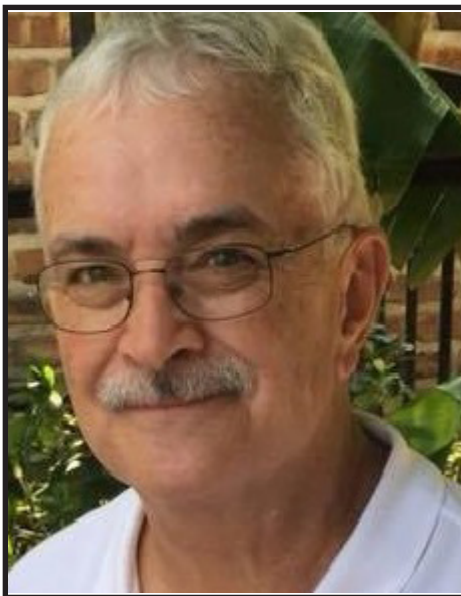
In remembrance of VJ-Day (Victory over Japan—September 2, 1945) we are working on a presentation about the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force influence in winning the war in the Pacific. Aspects of this may include how General Curtis LeMay and then Col. Paul Tibbets (and others) served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force with distinction in England, and then transferred to the Pacific Theater where they continued to play decisive roles. We also hope to have a speaker from the Air Force base at Okinawa, Japan, to discuss the history there. (*Okinawa was invaded and captured after a hard fought, bloody battle there in the spring of 1945.*) The 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force was to be deployed there the following fall, however, WWII ended after

the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan in August 1945.

The New York State Southern Wing Chapter welcomes all veterans, their family members and friends, and all who are interested in the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force and military history. During our luncheon meetings, in a friendly and interesting atmosphere, we hope to perpetuate knowledge of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force and the legacy of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force today and for generations to come.

For more information about the New York State Southern Wing Chapter, and/or about the upcoming luncheon meeting, please visit our chapter's website: <http://blogs.ny8thswcafhs.org> or contact Joseph "Pat" Keeley (*contact info on p.2 of this issue!*)

*Photos from preceding page top: candle lighting ceremony during NY Southern Wing Chapter meeting; bottom: l-r pilot Clint Hammond with speaker, Bruce Nocera. Below: Joseph "Pat" Keeley, president of NYSW Chapter and Secretary & Chapter/Unit Liaison for 8th AFHS.*



## Oregon Chapter 12 May 2018 Joan E Hamilton

Our May speaker was Fighter Pilot Richard M. "Dick" Heyman, Jr., whose highest rank was Colonel. He is a Veteran of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam and served in the military for 32 years before retiring in 1973. During



WWII, Dick served with the 364<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, 8<sup>th</sup> AAF and flew P-38 Lightnings and P-51 Mustangs. He served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron during the Korean War and flew B-26 Invaders. He flew B-47 Stratojets with the 100<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing. During the war in Vietnam, he served in Thailand with the 355<sup>th</sup> and 388<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wings and flew F-105 Thunderchiefs. His awards include the Silver Star. His wife, Barbara, is from Ipswich, Suffolk, UK and they have been married over 55 years. *In photo above: Richard M. "Dick" Heyman, Jr. and his wife, Barbara (with our historian and photographer, Tom Philo in the background)*



# CHAPTER NEWS



## Florida Chapter Kathy Sreenan

The Board of Directors of the Florida Chapter of the Mighty 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society met on Saturday, July 21, 2018 to discuss business procedures, plan the next luncheon and vote on a new scholarship offered by the group for high school students.

Attending board members were: President Bill Uphoff, Secretary Esther Cheriff, Treasurer Sean Reiff, Nicoloas Apostol, David Traill and Kathy Sreenan. The meeting was held at the residence of Bill Uphoff and began with the pledge of allegiance.

Discussions centered on how to keep the chapter alive and gain interest in the mission of continuing the legacy of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force for future generations. The idea of showing “*Bagels Over Berlin*”, a documentary celebrating Jewish veterans serving

in the Army Air Corps in WWII, was introduced in order to spur interest, with a Q & A following and an 8<sup>th</sup> AF member present to answer questions. Chapter members are currently finding a venue and gaining permission to show the video.

The idea of an 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS



Scholarship was brought up in the past, which will also inspire future generations to learn about the legacy of the 8<sup>th</sup> AF. David Traill, who is a high school history teacher, submitted parameters of the scholarship contest

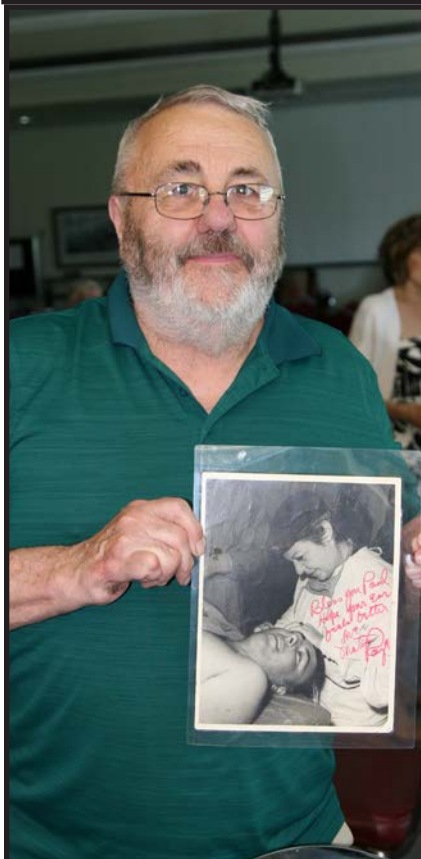
and the board voted to present one \$500 winning scholarship and one \$250 runner-up scholarship for high school seniors to use for furthering their education. Students would research and write an essay of not more than 1000 words on the following: “*Explain what challenges were faced by the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force in World War II and which one in particular you would have found most difficult and why.*” Due date for the essay would be February 1, 2019.

The next Chapter luncheon was discussed and planned for Saturday, October 27, 2018. In order to further the mission of the organization, efforts will be made to secure a guest speaker who served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force.

For any questions on this chapter’s efforts, please contact Kathy Sreenan at [kathysreenan@bellsouth.net](mailto:kathysreenan@bellsouth.net) or 561-758-0722. Above photo of Board members, center: Bill Uphoff, president.



# CHAPTER NEWS



## Wisconsin Chapter Cindy Drehmel

Paul McCartney was our featured speaker for our July meeting, where he shared many of his experiences during his military service in Vietnam. Photos from top, clockwise: Paul speaking to the group; Peter Murray and Chet Gardeski; Kathryn Ratenski, Paul McCartney, Cindy Drehmel, and Henry Ratenski; Korean War vet John Rogala and Cindy; members viewing memorabilia Paul brought; left, Paul displaying photo autographed by Martha Raye.





**Anderson, Ralph.** Passed away on 12 May 2018. Born in Racine, Wisconsin to Ralph N. and Gertrude "Walrath" Anderson. He married Mary Jane Bieneman in 1947. She passed in 2007.



Ralph served with the 467<sup>th</sup> BG from March through September of 1944, but his entire military service was February 1943 to the 22nd of February 1970. He was awarded several medals including the Distinguished Flying Cross, four Air Medals, and retired a LTC. As a believer in the value of education, I am proud to note that I graduated from Washington Park High School in 1943 and obtained my B.S. degree from Marquette University in 1949. Ralph was a lifetime member of the following organizations: Knights of Columbus, Military Officers Association of America, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In June 2014, I was honored to be inducted into the Washington Park High School Hall of Fame. Ralph worked for GAB Business Services, Inc of New York, New York, a subsidiary of UAL, serving as the secretary for the company for 20 years in New York City. Ralph and Mary Jane retired to a small cattle ranch in Guadalupita, New Mexico, before relocating to Racine, WI. In addition to his wife, parents, brothers Lawrence and Donald, he was predeceased by a son, Richard. He is survived by his 2 sons, Robert and Ronald. (All three served as officers in the military.) One grandchild, Colin Anderson of New York, NY.

**Braun, Marvin C.,** 94, of Coldwater, Ohio, died May 5, 2018 at Briarwood Village in Coldwater. Born July 22, 1923, in Coldwater to the late Leo and Barbara (Rammel) Braun. He



married Helen Vondrell in 1946. She died in 2016. Marvin was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Coldwater Eagles, Legion and V.F.W. He was a B-17 pilot with the 379<sup>th</sup> BG and flew 35 missions over Germany. He was honored that his name and brief history of his service to his country is included in a legacy data plate at the entrance to The Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio (thanks to the efforts of his nephew, William Braun). A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, he enjoyed gardening, family get-togethers, cook-outs, and taking many fishing trips to Canada. He was a finish carpenter who created and repaired furniture and many other items for his children and grandchildren. He is survived by three sons: Gary (Rebecca) Braun, Joe (Mary) Braun and Charles (Pat) Braun; two daughters: Kathy Braun and Connie (Tim) McGrady; nine grandchildren: Greg (Cameo) Braun, Luke (Lyndsey) Braun, Mindy (Carl) Serr, Jerry (Tony) Buschur, Amy Meyer, Adam (Suzanne) Braun, Candice Braun, Aaron McGrady, Shauna (Jimmy) Wilson; twelve great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother Don Braun, brother-in-law: Don Stammen; sisters-in-law: Eileen Braun, Alberta Braun, Linda Braun, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by six brothers, Fred, Louis, Adrian, Bob, Stanley, Paul, and his only sister, Rita (Carlo) Tosti.

**Christiansen, Irving,** 97, passed away on April 18, 2018. On Dec. 22, 1951, he was united in marriage to the late Shirley Ann (Hansen). Irving served as a second Lieutenant



and co-pilot with the 94th BG. He completed 30 missions before May 1945. During his service, Irv earned numerous Air Force medals and citations.

Irving was a graduate of Racine Park High School and following WWII, the University of Wisconsin- Stout with a degree in Industrial Education. He spent most of his years of employment in Industrial sales beginning with Quaker Oat Co., followed by Young Radiator, Modine Mfg. and ending his long sales career in 1996, with Tramont Corp.

Irv was a lifelong member of First United Methodist Church. He enjoyed weekly golfing and traveling the world with his wife Shirley. He is survived by his three children, Rick (Jane) Christensen, Cathy (Tom) Coughlin, Sue (Dave) Shea; six grandchildren Matt (Heather), Steve and Sarah Coughlin, Andrew (Gina) Shea and Emily (Andre') Gagnon, Carrie Christensen; four great grandchildren, Lillian and Ryan Coughlin, August Shea, Cecilia Gagnon; nieces, nephews, other relatives and many dear friends including Eve Sorensen and Doris Pirk.

In addition to his parents and wife, Shirley, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Hazel Melik, Grace Konnak, Myrt Morissey and Joan Dietze.

**Collins, Earl Chester,** 92, passed away April 14, 2018. Raised in Stockton, CA. Earl enlisted at 17 in the 8<sup>th</sup> Army Air Corps, serving as a radio specialist with the 486<sup>th</sup> BG. He was based in Liverpool



England for 1 ½ years and traveled to other locations in Europe. He was in London on a 3-day pass on VE-Day, May 8, 1945 and celebrated with the locals in Trafalgar Square. Earl attended college at the University of the Pacific and obtained his Masters at George Williams College in Chicago. He married Joyce Wood in 1949 and they had two daughters. Earl became a YMCA director after college, serving as Executive Director at California Y's in Santa Barbara,

Sacramento, Woodland, Newport Beach, Long Beach and Monterey as well as Seattle, WA and Rome, Italy. Earl and Joyce spent 3 ½ years at the Italian YMCA based in Rome, starting camper exchanges, youth hiking groups in the Dolomites and promoting summer camps on the island of Sardinia, among other things. Daughters Christy and Jill participated in all Italian activities, learned the language, attended school, and the family traveled all over Europe on holidays and summer vacations. After retirement from the YMCA in the mid-80s, Earl and Joyce returned to Europe annually. Earl pursued interests in photography, became a HAM radio operator, built a cabin in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and served as a volunteer for the Forestry Service for 22 years at campgrounds in California and at the Ranger Station at REI in Seattle. Earl played trumpet in 2 Seattle bands and was actively involved in the community he and Joyce moved to 4 years ago. Joyce passed away in late 2016.

**Connelley, Herbert “Mack”, 93,** died April 29, 2018. The Connelley family moved from Colorado to Borger, Texas during the 1930’s; Mack graduated from Borger High School in 1940. Mack served



with the 305th BG as a pilot, flying 31 missions over Germany. During his tour he was shot down twice and rescued. Mack’s flying career endured for over 70 years. After his discharge from the Army Air Force he began a 37-year career as a pilot for United Airlines. During this time he owned and operated his own airplane operating out of Centennial Airport and subsequently he owned a hangar at the Platte Valley Airport. Mack had a construction business and built over 1500 houses in the Denver area and owned and operated several apartment buildings.

After retirement from United Airlines and the construction industry he owned a cattle ranch near Loveland, Co. Mack was very involved in community activities. He was a Mason, belonged to the Scottish Rite Temple and the Shriners. He was member of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Association and the Retired United Airline Pilots’ Association. Mack met Barbara Noorda who was a United Airline flight attendant and they were married March 21, 1948. They had one daughter Carol. Mack was preceded in death by his wife Barbara, daughter Carol, and two sisters Beverly Davis and Phyllis Connelley. Mack is survived by brothers Ray Connelly, Mike Connelley, sisters Billie Jacobini, sister, Melba Connelley, and Flora Pittard.

**Cutler, Verne C., 92,** passed away June 18, 2018. He was the son of the late Jesse C. Cutler and Mabel Cutler. In 1943 Verne worked as a draftsman for Boeing, joining the Air Force in 1944 as an aircraft mechanic in the 8th Air Force in England. After VE-Day he transferred to the 9th Air Force in Germany.



Back in the U.S. he attended Wichita University 1946-48, Kansas State 48-51 with B.S. and M.S. degrees in Civil Engineering. He joined the Mechanics Department of the University of Wisconsin as an instructor in 1951 where he taught full time, worked on a PhD in Mechanics, built a house in Indian Hills living in the basement with his wife of 55 years, Norma, and 5 children while building above, and received a PhD in 1960, and appointed assistant professor. In 1963 he moved to UW-Milwaukee as associate professor and Chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering & Mechanics. He became a full professor in 1967 and

served as chairman for 10 years. Verne retired in 2001 as professor emeritus of Civil Engineering and Mechanics. He also served as a consultant and expert witness for the UW-Milwaukee Retired Faculty Association as a Director for the Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants. He was fortunate to marry again, Charlene, a veterinarian, who added a dog and three cats to the household. Verne was long time member of the Wisconsin 8th AFHS Chapter and is survived by his loving wife, Charlene (Yaunke), sons Robert and David (Sabrina), daughters, Janice Pratt and Diane (Bill) Braun, grandchildren, John, Jr. and Daniel Pratt (Devin), and Christopher and Stephanie Cutler, and great grandchildren, Melanie and Mason Abel and Eliza Pratt. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Susan Ann Cutler, and his wife, Norma.

**Jefferies, Bennie Lee, 95,** died June 4, 2018. He was born August 31, 1922 in Harper County, KS, the son of Benjamin Harrison Jefferies and Iona Belle (Burdue) Jefferies. He was a retired farmer and



auto salvage owner. He served in World War II as a tail gunner on a B-17 in the 306<sup>th</sup> BG. He was a member of the Church of Christ, the VFW of Wellington, KS and the 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS. He married Twila Marie Gleason on October 25, 1942. She preceded him in death on March 27, 2004. He is survived by two sons, Lawrence Wayne Jefferies (Donna), and James Alan Jefferies (Gladys); one sister, Elma May Freeman; five grandchildren; 17 great grandchildren; seven great great grandchildren; and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife; parents; and a sister, Faye Yoder Tilson.



**Katz, Samuel**, 97, passed away April 25, 2018. He was an electrical engineer. During WWII, he served with the 389<sup>th</sup> BG as navigator, completing 25 missions. He was the recipient of the French Legion



of Honor Medal in 2016. He also appeared in the documentary *"Bagels Over Berlin"* about Jewish Army Air Corps Veterans.

Beloved husband of the late Leatrice (Rosenzweig); beloved father of Lynn (Bob) Benjamin, Michael (Paula) Katz, Cecilia (Harold) Frankford and Sheryl (Arthur) Goldenberg; beloved brother of Nora Bugis, Marsha (Albert) Peckler and the late Celia Schattner, Rose Cohen, Goldie Burgis, Dorothy Weiss, Joseph Katz and Abraham Katz; beloved grandfather of Roseanne Benjamin, Daniel (Samantha) Benjamin, Ari (Natalia) Benjamin, Zev Benjamin, David (Shayna) Frankford, Joel Frankford, Saul (Shira) Frankford, Brandon Katz, Emily Katz, Miranda Katz, Holli Goldenberg and Rachel Goldenberg; beloved great-grandfather of Asher, Liora and Elias Modell, Rina and Ilana Frankford and Katerina and Eliana Benjamin. Also survived by loving nieces and nephews.

**Kremper, Donald Francis**, 94, Lexington, KY, died May 25, 2018. He was the son of Clara Snow and Henry Kremper of Kingston, NY. He served in the 94<sup>th</sup> BG, from 1942-1945



and was shot down on a bombing mission, becoming a POW for 18 months. He survived the "Long Black March" in the winter of 1945. Don was an active life member of the American Ex-POW Association. He also served 20 years, five as Chief, with the Volunteer Fire Service in Fayette County. Retired from IBM after 34 years, Don and his wife, Catherine, moved to Florida in 1982 and returned

to Lexington in 2005. Don was pre-deceased by his brother, Robert, sister-in-law, Gloria; son, David Andrew; and grandson, Seth Lane. A devoted husband and father, he is survived by his wife, Catherine Myers Kremper; son, Michael (Caria); daughters, Suzanne (Mark) Lane, Donna (Richard) Boyajy, and Lynn (Keith) Ross, two nieces, two nephews; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

**Lacy, LTC (Ret.) Jasper "Wray"**, 95, passed away November 24, 2017. Wray was born in Canton, Georgia to Walter and Suzie Lacy, second-youngest of seven children.



At last count there are eight living relatives named in his honor.

Wray married his wife Natalie in 1958, who preceded him in death in 2009. He is survived by their daughter Natalie Beth Sims, and grandchildren Brian Wray and Kelly Rebecca. In addition, he was blessed with two step-children, Mignon Blair (children: Nichole, Shana, Andrew, Phillip and Emory) and Phillip Baird (child: Nathan).

Wray was a combat veteran of both WWII and Korea, earning several medals in each, including the Distinguished Flying Cross as a lead navigator on D-Day, and multiple awards of the USAF Air Medal. Wray continued his Air Force career becoming one of only three *Expert Arctic Navigators* during the Cold War (in the days prior to computers and GPS). He worked in special weapons requiring top secret clearance, and in typical fashion, he would note "I just knew what screw to turn" He served in the USAF over 24 years. After retiring in 1966, he had a 2nd career as a civilian employed at the Orlando Naval Training Center for another 16 years. Wray and his wife Natalie were active over 25 years as drivers for the Meals on Wheels program, and respite care-givers for families with members

suffering from Alzheimer's disease. LTC Lacy seldom spoke of his military or community contributions, merely stating his gratitude to have had the opportunity to serve his country and his fellow man. His navigational skills were not just a gift to his military brothers, nor limited to the air. Wray Lacy helped untold numbers navigate through life with his wisdom, kindness and strength.

**Lindberg, Victor L.**, 92, of Plymouth, Michigan, passed away on April 23, 2018. He was the son of Carl F. M. Lindberg and Effie (Nelson) Lindberg. Victor graduated from Valparaiso High School a semester



early in order to join the Army Air Corps in December of 1943. He served as a tail gunner with the 385th BG Flying 19 combat missions before volunteering to be a gunner on a radio relay plane, which he did until VE-Day. After the end of the war in Europe he volunteered to fly on B-29s in the Pacific, however the war ended before he completed that training. He was awarded a number of medals, including the Air Medal. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Valparaiso University where he met his future wife, Edith Benedict. They married in 1948.

After graduation Victor went to work for the Ford Motor Company at their Scientific Research Lab in Dearborn, Michigan. Later, he spent 4 years in Washington, DC, at the National Highway Traffic Administration, but returned to a research job at the Ford Glass Division in 1974 as an optical physicist where he was awarded numerous patents during his years at Ford.

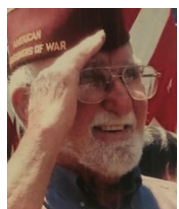
Victor and Edith retired to Chelsea, Michigan in 1988. Combining his love of golf and glass, he spent many hours developing a glass putter, which he also patented. He was a happy handyman, restoring and maintaining one of the pretty village houses in Chelsea. In his later years, he completed memoirs

of his WWII experiences. In a regular column for *The Reporter*, the newsletter at the Chelsea Retirement Center, and in articles for the newsletter at Independence Village of Plymouth, he introduced science to lay readers, often with a touch of whimsy.

He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Chelsea for over 25 years and joined St. John's Episcopal Church on moving to Plymouth in 2015.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his brother, Charles Harold Lindberg, and a granddaughter, Emma Sandberg. He is survived by his wife, Edith Lindberg, daughter and son-in-law Sara and Eric Sandberg; son and daughter-in-law Peter and Janie Lindberg; daughter Barbara Lindberg; grandchildren Elin Sandberg, and grandson Peter Sandberg; his twin sister Victoria Conover and his older sister, Signe Christopher, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

## **Mayberry, Walter "Boots", 94,**



passed away on July 25, 2018. Boots was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas to Walter and Edith Richter Mayberry. Boots was a movie fan, a member of the Pine

Bluff Zebra marching band and, with his brother "Bud", he enjoyed fishing and bird hunting. Drafted in 1943, Mayberry volunteered for the Army Air Corps and served in the 388<sup>th</sup> BG as a waist gunner; he flew 9 successful missions over Germany before being shot down and captured by German forces; imprisoned until liberated at the end of the war. Boots received many awards for his wartime service, including the Purple Heart and the French Legion of Honor Medal.

He met and married Marion in 1949 and raised three girls. Boots went to work as an air traffic controller in El Dorado where he rededicated his life to Christ and began a lifelong journey of caring for and helping others. After moving to Harrison in

1972, the Mayberry's became faithful members of Kairos, a prison ministry. A sought-after speaker, Boots shared stories of war and peace, many of which are recorded in the book *"POW, Promises Kept"*. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and on the editorial staff of the Jefferson County Quarterly.

Walter was a graduate of Pine Bluff High School and North Arkansas Community College. He served his church as a lay minister, lay Eucharistic minister, and a member of the choir and vestry. St. John's Episcopal Church is graced with the bell from the liberty ship that returned Mayberry home from the war.

An avid golfer, Boots played his final game in the last week of his life and won by 3 strokes. He frequently made the rounds in his city blessing and praying for many he encountered. He was meeting new friends and sharing the love of Christ on his last day here. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marion; his parents; two sisters, Virginia and Dell; and one brother, Edward. Survivors include three daughters and their husbands, Jill and Gary Davis, Robin and Stanley Conway, and Edith and Ian Balmer; one brother, Jack Mayberry; 11 grandchildren, Kelly Schelts, Walter Davis, Chris Davis, Julie Amerson, Katy Conway, Greg Rhyne, Heather Haygood, George Crownshield, Jon Shatwell, Tessa Horn, and Charity Shatwell; 29 great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

## **Millar, Donald Stapleton "Don",**



91, passed away May 14, 2017. He was born to Howard Leo and Margery Merle Millar on October 1, 1925 in Nanaimo, Canada. Don graduated from Vancouver

High School with the Class of '43. He attended Washington State College and received his college degree in Psychology at the University of Portland. During WWII, Don and his friends were eager to sign-up for

military service. In 1943, Don joined the Army Air Force and served in the 379<sup>th</sup> BG as a tail-gunner. In April of 1945, his plane was shot down. He returned to the US and was discharged in February of 1946. Don remained close friends with all of his surviving crew members and their wives. On May 22, 1948, Don married Mary Jean Clow. Don was the owner/agent of Atkinson-Millar Insurance until his retirement in 2008. Don was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Rotary, Elks, VFW#14, the Clark County Historical Society, the 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS, Royal Oaks Country Club, Dawnbreakers, the Class of '43 Group, and the "Coffee Group". Don is survived by Mary Jean and their immediate family: Mary Susan Morrisette-Smith (Larry), Curtis John Millar (Diane), and Jeannette Louise Dwight (Jerry); their grandchildren and spouses, Eric Morrisette (Alyssa), Mandy Morrisette, Heather Gibson (Troy), Andrew Millar (Erin), Jenny Dwight, and Jason Dwight; their great-grandchildren, Barry Morrisette, Toby, Brianna, Adam and Micah Gibson, and Emmitt and Samantha Millar; extended family, Kiska (DJ) (Kian and Hadley) Smith; and Leysly Avila; his brother, Thomas J. Millar; thirteen nieces and nephews and all of their families; as well his childhood friends, Calvin Olson and Carl Stutz. Don was preceded in death by his daughter, Julia Ann Millar; and by his brother, Stacy McPherson Millar.

## **Schuberg, Robert E. "Bob", 92,**



passed away on May 20, 2018. He was born in Elgin, Ill., to Hazel (Winegar) and Samuel H. Schuberg. In February 1944 'Red' Schuberg left high school mid-way

through his senior year to enlist in the U.S. military. He flew 18 missions with the 306<sup>th</sup> BG, as a B-17 tail gunner. He also served with the 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force during WWII. After the war, Bob reconnected with



Marilyn Pflaum. They both attended the University of Illinois where Bob received a BS in Education.

Bob and Marilyn married in 1948 and moved to Portland in 1949 where Bob taught at Ainsworth Elementary School. Bob and Marilyn raised their children John, Jill and Mary in Vermont Hills. Bob and Marilyn were married for 67 years until her death in 2015.

Bob earned a Masters of Education in School Administration from The University of Oregon and actively worked for Portland Public Schools for 34 years.

'Bowtie' Bob Schuberg volunteered with numerous civic and national organizations and was an active member and volunteer at the First United Methodist Church. Bob was a Boy Scout leader, coached little league and ran marathons. Bob climbed Mt. Hood four times, South Sister, Adams, St. Helens and Longs Peak (CO). He was a Master Gardener, member of the Sierra Club, Multnomah Athletic Club and Tryon Creek Photo Club. Bob and Marilyn supported the American Jewish Committee's Anne Frank Exhibit. Bob spoke at Portland public schools about his WWII experience. He received the French Legion of Honor in 2016. In 2016 Bob met Sue Beardwood. They became a fun-loving couple who traveled together and enriched each other's lives immensely. Bob was preceded in death by his daughter, Mary Pennicooke; brother, Don; and wife, Marilyn. He is survived by his son, John Schuberg and daughter-in-law, Maggie Skenderian; daughter, Jill Manetas; granddaughter, Eleni Laughlin; grandson, Alexis Manetas (Cassie); great-grandsons, Theodore and Easton; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and his partner, Sue Beardwood and her family.



**Schuh, Robert Joseph**, 93, died on May 1, 2018. He was the son of Nick and Anna (Denk) Schuh. On September 15, 1951, he married

Angeline Shimek and together they had three sons.

Robert served with the 398<sup>th</sup> BG, flying 35 missions as a waist-gunner. He was a member of the VFW and 8th AFHS. He taught freshman English for 30 years at Chilton High School. He is remembered fondly by many of his former students. He was an avid sports enthusiast and "stat man" at football, basketball, and track events. Besides umpiring and coaching various sports, he loved to "putz around" as he watched his sons do all the heavy lifting.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Angeline; his son, Gerald; his brothers: Leonard and Roger; and his sisters: Lorraine Massman, Rosie Cain, Marilyn Kelp, Germaine Neunfeldt, and Gail Armbruster. Robert is survived by his sons Gregory and Mark (Rosa) Schuh; his grandchildren: Olivia, AJ, and Dominic; and his brother, Allen (Pat) Schuh.

**Stedman, Jerry**, 93, passed away March 29, 2018.

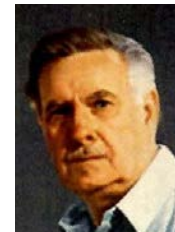


Jerry was born in Springfield, Massachusetts and attended Norwich Military College. He graduated from the University of

Pennsylvania School of Finance and was a graduate student in marketing at Harvard University. In 1944 and 1945, he served as a bombardier with the 93rd BG where he flew 17 missions. He flew most missions as Lead Crew Bombardier and was qualified as navigator, radar bombardier, pilot, radar instructor and B-29 radar observer. In 1965 he and his business partner, Richard A. Hoose, developed the Top of the Mart on the 33rd floor of the World Trade Center. They were also charter members of the Plimsoll Club and the 1984 Louisiana World Exposition. Jerry was heavily involved in the LA Restaurant Association, New Orleans Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau, Louisiana State Department

of Tourism, Hospitality Education & Networking Association, Tour Guide Association of Greater New Orleans, Preservation Resource Center, and the WWII Museum. In 2002 he received the Hall of Fame Award from the Louisiana Restaurant Association. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 67 years, Janet M. Stedman. He is survived by his sons, Charles M. Stedman (Dianne), Peter M. Stedman (Robin) and his daughter, Jocelyn S. Pring (Jim). He is also survived by six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Wilson Sr., Robert Windsor**, 96



passed away April 11, 2018. Born in Springfield, OH he was the son of the late LeRoy A. and Eva Brown Wilson. He was the widower of Marjorie L. Lambert

Wilson, a retired Major with the US Air Force, and a renowned artist. Wilson received the Silver Star in 2007 for action that he took in completing a mission and returning his crew and severely damaged plane safely home. He served with the 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 48<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron. Survivors include one daughter, Barbara Lynn Tucker of Woodruff; four grandchildren, Lori Thomas of Columbia, Alisa Rogers of Woodruff, Sharon McAbee of Woodruff, David Rogers of Simpsonville and nine great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his son; Robert W. Wilson Jr. and two sisters and two brothers.

*Please forward all TAPS to:*

*ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org*

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# HOW ABOUT IT!

## THE GREATEST SHOW

*Earl Wassom 466th BG, Chaplain 8th AFHS*

The greatest show on earth? Really? Who said so? Was it spoken as truth by some unknown individual and if so, by what authority does he speak? Would his choice for the greatest show have been yours or mine? In all likelihood, the answer would have been: NO.

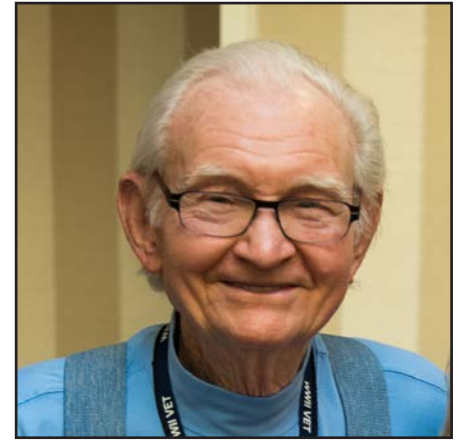
Well, in speaking for myself, I can tell you what show impressed me as the biggest, best, and most stupendous performance event ever!!!! I witnessed that show many years ago when I was a kid. One morning standing in the yard, I saw my dad talking with two men. When their conversation ended, one of men handed my Father a few small printed cards. Papa grinned, they shook hands and were gone! A couple of days later, a delivery truck showed up. Two or three men got out of the truck and began unloading equipment, large buckets, long-handled mops, some pasty-looking liquid, and a large stack of folded papers. "What's up?" I asked myself.

These men had come to our house to put up a sign on the side of our barn. They unfolded packages of paper, put paste on each of them and with long-handled brushes lifted these pieces up in the air and stuck them to the side of our barn. Soon, the message was clear. It read: **"Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey, The Greatest Show On Earth."** As each panel was placed on the side of our barn, the message: the circus was coming to town! The big day arrived.

People by the hundreds lined up and down Main Street. A shout rang out as a line of men carrying flags smartly marched in front of a small brass band. A parade of beautiful horses pulling colorful circus wagons, clowns, exotic animals and acrobatic teams performed right there on the street. The finale to the parade was a steam calliope making loud wheezing mournful sounds, followed with clanging symbols urging all of us to come to the show.

That evening with his free tickets, Papa led us into the five ring circus arena. There were performances of all kinds, cages with wild animals, clowns galore, daring young men on their flying trapeze, elephant marches and monkeys performing their antics, horses and riders galloping full speed around the arena. The band blared out its final number and the "Greatest Show" came to an end!!!! Everyone returned home very excited but very tired! The next morning I returned to the place where all of the action had taken place last night.....there was nothing left. Everything was gone, the big tent, the bleachers, the colorful wagons, the animals, the loud music, the circus workers, Nothing was left except memories and an empty field. Yesterday, I had attended an event and it was over. From this day forward, it will become part of an experience for me to be lived on and on.

The ancient Biblical writer wrote *"To everything there is a*



*season, a time for every purpose under heaven..." (Ecc. 3:1 NKV)* and the writer lists a number of considerations that are obvious and unchanging. *"A time to be born, and a time to die...A time to plant and a time to pluck...A time to weep and a time to laugh...A time to mourn, And a time to dance...A time to love and a time to hate...A time of war and a time of peace."* He further states..."He has made everything beautiful in its time." Also, he has put eternity in their hearts, except no one can find out the work from the beginning to end. I know that nothing is better than to rejoice and to do good in their lives. I know that whatever God does it shall be forever. Nothing can be added and nothing can be taken away, God does it so that man should fear before Him."

And so in retrospect, I realize that my "Greatest Show" is temporary. It was good to enjoy the splendor but it is past. So what about your "Greatest Show"? It too is past, but the memories linger on. This is good says the writer of Ecclesiastes. "So I perceived that nothing is better than that a man should enjoy his own works" (Ecc. 3:22).

So, let these Golden years be enriched by the memories of our experiences of a lifetime.





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**VIII Bomber Command Mission 115:** 229 of 291 B-17s hit the city area and ball bearing plants at Schweinfurt, Germany in 2 group; the first group bombs at 1439-1445 hours, the second group at 1451-1457 hours; they claim 186-27-89 Luftwaffe aircraft; 60 B-17s are lost, 7 damaged beyond repair and 138 damaged; casualties are 5 KIA, 40 WIA and 594 MIA. The attack, which causes great damage and interference with production, results in German reorganization of the bearing industry. Fierce opposition of great numbers of fighters, many of them firing rockets, accounts for the 60 US aircraft shot down. As a result of these heavy losses, daylight bombing against strategic targets deep in Germany is discontinued for a short period.