



MARCH 2019

8TH AF NEWS

Volume 19 Number 1 Voice of "The Mighty Eighth"

THE 'MAD' RUSSIAN



IS YOUREE Crew - 423rd
Michael Roskovich ro, Wm Wilkinson g,
s Melillo g. Mid: Kenneth McClure bt,
aker tg, Robert Trenary e. Bk: Harold
in N, Youree, Gerald Hopkins CP,

SPECIAL 2019 REUNION ISSUE



March 2019

8th AF News

Voice of "The Mighty Eighth"

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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

Let me preface my words by saying I absolutely welcome and respect those of you who call, email, or write notes to me. I'll admit I especially enjoy seeing the positive comments and sweet greetings, but now and again I will get notes asking why I do something—particularly regarding the magazine.

Recently, I received such a note from a really nice gentleman—long-time member of the Society—who was concerned that I was printing some rather lengthy obituary notices in TAPS.

He felt that a simplified 'death notice' would be far better, and he went on to say he had already written his obituary—for when the time came—and it was very brief. He felt everyone should follow suit.

Full disclosure...I have a confession to make. When I first became editor a few years back, I was in pretty much full agreement with the gentleman who penned the note. I didn't

really think we needed to use up so much space in the magazine for well, a death notice. But something happened to make me change my mind.

As I began reading the obits in depth, trying to figure out where to trim words and sentences here and there to achieve brevity, I realized something that really affected me.

These veterans were more than just members of a flight crew, ground personnel, or

any position in which they may have served. For most of them, their time in the military ended with the war. But their lives went on far beyond their last mission.

These men came home to wives, girlfriends, family, school, jobs. Many finished high school, went on to college, or took over the family farm or business. The fact is: these men

continued their lives far beyond the boundaries of war. They became successful in so many ways. They raised amazing families and became community leaders and public servants. The list goes on.

Bottom line: I cannot in good conscience truncate the life of a man which in many cases, didn't really get started until after the war. We all need to know and appreciate that the horrors of war that most of these men experienced, did not defeat them. It strengthened them to pick up and live every moment they could for as long as they could. And they did. And they still do.

Hope to see you all in St. Louis!

Deb



"Happiness is not a goal...it's a by-product of a life well lived."

~ Eleanor Roosevelt



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



First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

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Zip/Postal Code: _____ Country: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ 8th Affiliation/Interest [optional]: _____

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(912) 748-8884

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Jeff Hawley, 44 Belle Isle Crescent, Brampton, CAM PE28 4SJ
014804 13503

JOIN ONLINE: www.8thAFHS.org

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Benjamin J Jones
President

Plans are well underway to bring you another great reunion in the mid-western city of St. Louis. As St. Louis is where the personnel records have been archived by NARA, it's shaping up to have a lot of emphasis and focus on researching the history on individuals of those who served. Debra has been working hard on securing key figures involved with the Archives, as well as the official USAF 8th Air Force Historian to give a presentation.

February marked the 77th anniversary of today's Eighth Air Force, whose lineage has its roots from VIII Bomber Command. Seventy-seven years and the legacy is still continuing today.

Just recently there was an incredible story that had gone viral of a gentleman, Tony Foulds, who had witnessed a B-17 crash as an 8 year old boy. The aircraft belonged to the 305th BG based out of Chelveston. It was returning from a mission when it flew directly overhead of young Tony and crashed close by, killing all its crew. Tony has been visiting the site and tending the memorial that was erected in the 60's, three times a week for nearly 75 years! During a chance encounter recently with a local reporter out walking his dog, Tony's story has been

told to the world. What an incredible story of keeping the memories alive of those who were killed in this one crash.

While Tony's example gained worldwide attention, and even had governments organizing fly pasts in a matter of days to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the crash, it highlighted the impact of what he's been doing for 70+ years.

Like Tony, there are literally thousands of volunteers around the world who tend memorials, donate countless hours in museums, give presentations to local groups, and so much more. While the majority of them don't get the attention that Tony has, each and every one of them play an important and key role in remembering those who served in the 8th and all for the same reasons...to perpetuate the incredible legacy of those young men of the 8th Air Force.

*I am looking forward to seeing all of you
in St. Louis!*

Ben



384th BG Reunion September 2019 [TBD] Cambridge, England

Activities include:
IWM Duxford "Battle of Britain" airshow, Grafton Underwood,
Cambridge American Cemetery at Madingley, and much more.

Everyone invited!
Please contact:
Carol Alfter
1306 Adams Way
Beavercreek, OH 45434-7098
FJAlfter@gmail.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

Anne Marek
Treasurer



As Treasurer of the Society, I'm including the year-end financial statements, both the Profit and Loss and the Statement of Financial Position, for your information. Please note that we had a profit of \$20,235.00 for the year. This is partially due to the cost-saving measures your Board has

implemented as well as Debra's assumption of all the duties involved with the Magazine, but also because we had a nice profit from the Dayton reunion and the 493rd Bomb Group returned their \$23,000 grant. The latter occurred in early December, and the funds were deposited directly into our Oppenheimer account which explains the increase in that account balance.

The Eighth Air Force Historical Society Profit & Loss January through December 2018	
	Jan - Dec 18
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4000 - Income	
4010 - Member Dues Annual	60,714.50
4019 - Donations	40,693.26
4057 - UK Account	185.00
Total 4000 - Income	101,492.76
4050 - Investment Income	
4058 - Portfolio Dividends & Interest	5,587.75
4059 - Realized Gain(Loss) on Invest	6,970.86
4060 - Unrealized Gain(Loss) on Invest	-28,923.59
4061 - Investment Management Fees	-2,033.72
Total 4050 - Investment Income	-18,398.70
Total Income	83,094.06
Expense	
5100 - National Administration Expense	
5103 - Officers/Directors Meeting Exp.	705.10
5104 - Awards, Gifts & Grants	150.00
5111 - Corporation Charges	70.00
5121 - BAF History Projects	2,751.73
Total 5100 - National Administration Expense	3,676.83
5200 - Magazine Expenses	
5210 - Printing Expenses	10,938.62
5220 - Postage Expenses	3,720.47
5240 - Layout/Design	865.00
5260 - Sales Tax	180.37
Total 5200 - Magazine Expenses	15,704.46
5300 - National Office Expenses	
5303 - Telephone/DSL	600.00
5304 - Supplies	487.27
5305 - Abila Software/ Computer Exps	1,824.98
5306 - Accounting Support	2,820.00
5307 - Office Rent	1,200.00
5308 - Insurance	1,175.00
5312 - FICA-SAFHS portion	3,327.73
5313 - Payroll/ Office Management	43,500.00
5314 - Local Travel/Miscellaneous	28.62
5315 - Postage & Shipping	1,860.60
5316 - Bank Charges/ Returned checks	168.41
5317 - Dues Collection Expense	983.42
5320 - Annual Fees	106.00
5323 - Merchant Account Usage Fees	1,034.34
5325 - Miscellaneous Expense	54.99
5326 - Payroll processing fees	1,307.83
Total 5300 - National Office Expenses	60,469.19
Total Expense	79,850.48
Net Ordinary Income	3,243.58
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
6550 - Annual Meeting Revenue	
6551 - Event Registration	16,565.00
6553 - Fundraising	1,400.00
6554 - Meals	48,738.00
Total 6550 - Annual Meeting Revenue	66,703.00
Total Other Income	66,703.00
Other Expense	
7100 - Annual Meeting Expenses	
7101 - Supplies & Items for Sale	716.18
7103 - Hotel Expense/Catering	48,243.28
7106 - Reimbursements	330.40
7109 - Guest Expenses	422.22
Total 7100 - Annual Meeting Expenses	49,712.08
Total Other Expense	49,712.08
Net Other Income	16,990.92
Net Income	20,234.50

The Eighth Air Force Historical Society Statement of Financial Position As of December 31, 2018	
	Dec 31, 18
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1017 - Oppenheimer & Co	154,533.85
1040 - Bank of America Checking Acct.	2,360.47
1042 - Bank of America Savings Acct.	17,516.26
Total Checking/Savings	174,410.58
Total Current Assets	174,410.58
TOTAL ASSETS	174,410.58
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2050 - Payroll & Taxes Payable	
2051 - Payroll payable	2,896.57
2052 - FICA & withhold taxes payable	1,263.22
Total 2050 - Payroll & Taxes Payable	4,159.79
2500 - Accrued Expenses	3,024.72
Total Other Current Liabilities	7,184.51
Total Current Liabilities	7,184.51
Total Liabilities	7,184.51
Equity	
3200 - "Unrestricted Net Assets	146,991.57
Net Income	20,234.50
Total Equity	167,226.07
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	174,410.58

Our Oppenheimer account executive, Mr. Gavin Natelli, made several changes in our investments. You will note that there were no investment management fees indicated because Oppenheimer takes their 1 ½% commission before the amount is deposited into our account.

In 2019 I plan to incorporate that into my reports. If anyone is interested in what was incurred for 2018, I can put that information together since I have the "confirms" for each transaction. Just send me an email, and I'll be happy to comply. There should be few transactions in the future because Mr. Natelli is satisfied with the portfolio's performance. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne
See you in St. Louis!

NOTEWORTHY

*Please submit ALL articles, etc. at least 30 days PRIOR to the date of the next issue of the 8th AF News! Remember: submission does NOT guarantee publication. Due to size constraints of the magazine, I am very limited in publishing non-solicited material, however, I will review for consideration. Please submit materials via email [preferred] with hi-res photos attached in jpg format. NEVER send originals--they may not be returned. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. I appreciate your help immensely. DDK

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations for candidates for election to the Board of Directors of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society must be in the hands of the Secretary no later than **May 15, 2019**. The following information must be included.

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

The Secretary will relay all nominations to the Nominating Committee. Nominations received by the Secretary after **May 15, 2019** or any nominations without complete information will not be considered.

In accordance with policy, nominees are required to submit the following documents (either electronically or by mail) to the Secretary no later than **June 1, 2019**, in order to be placed on the ballot.

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

Send all nominations & documents to:

Eleesa Faulkner
58 Drake St.
Pueblo, CO 81005
Email: ekf58@aol.com

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Interviews with local residents who share their childhood memories of living near the base during WWII and their friendships with Americans

Return to Attlebridge
Three veterans return to their airbase to meet local residents and pay tribute to lost comrades on Memorial Day

All titles available for \$20 each including postage
Contact: Bill Curtis e-mail bcurtis419@juno.com
Phone: (785) 766-3351



486th/487th BG Association 2019 Reunion
July 16-21, 2019
Omaha, NE
Must book by July 1, 2019

Reunion Hotel: Omaha Marriott
10220 Regency Circle
Omaha, NE 68114
Contact:
Deb Denbeck

(402)490-7506 or email ddenbeck@p4k.org

Where can I get a sticking plaster?

Suzie Harrison

American Battle Monuments Commission
Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial



*Exterior view of a
British-built passenger bus converted
into a mobile dental laboratory by
US Army Ordinance.
Picture taken in England
in 1943.*

On a war footing, British medical patients were evacuated away from the bombing. London hospitals, above ground, moved below ground and operated, literally around the clock in the warren of basement corridors. During the day, Green Line country buses converted to ambulances (later valued by the Americans), carried patients to the network of old Victorian psychiatric hospitals that ringed the capital. The long term patients who had lived there were transported away deep into the peace of the countryside. Young doctors and nurses who worked in London hospital basements at night, lived by day in the market towns surrounding the city, where it was safer. I should know because my father, as a young doctor, was billeted in St Albans, Hertfordshire on a local family called Smith. They had one daughter, Daphne...and, the rest, as they say, is history!

It was into this environment that the US military forces were dropped when America entered the conflict. The 'special relationship' notwithstanding, finding space was not going to be easy.

General Hawley was ETO Chief Surgeon. His principle objective was to prepare not only for a long stay in Britain and cater for everything from broken wrists, to major accidents and surgery; but also the care of soldiers from the looming 'invasion' of Europe. Competing against projects from other military Divisions, he was able to ring-fence funds to construct over 100 hospitals in Britain, with the staff, fittings and supplies to run them. 'Hawley ... [then] ... forged hospitals and transportation into an evacuation chain able to handle swiftly, yet gently, a steadily increasing flow of sick and wounded soldiers. He established a theatre evacuation policy that attempted to balance patient

News from Across the Pond...



welfare against ETO manpower needs...No mean feat.

His program to create these medical facilities stuttered along through 1943 and indeed increased to accommodate a proposed 95,000 beds. Some of the station and general hospitals were expanded with 'convertible troop camps', which housed troops up to the invasion.

It was hard going, especially as the British were able to offer little in the way of 'concrete' help due to lack of resources because to their own needs.

Even then, another 50,000 beds were needed by D-Day for battle casualties, so some units took up residence alongside existing hospitals.

Built to accommodate bomb victims from the city of Bristol, Frenchay Hospital, was not used until the arrival of the Americans in 1942 (as a sort of reverse Lend-Lease). Based there, were variously the 2nd and 77th

Evacuation Hospitals; the 152nd Station Hospital; the 298th General Hospital. However, after D-Day, and under the control of 100th and then 117th General Hospitals, the processing of casualties became very slick indeed.



Other medical facilities were created from scratch, and sprang up in the parklands of the stately homes of England. A good example of this was the 163rd General Hospital based at Wimpole Hall. Many of the local village children were born there.

In 1943 the British army requisitioned land from the owners of Wimpole Hall, the Bambridges, for £33 8s. 2d, per year. The owners complained

bitterly, it being a case of, 'not in my backyard', but they were forced to comply by the War Office. Once the hospital was built, the furious Bambridges, would not allow staff to walk through the grounds.

Some smaller, but none the less substantial houses were requisitioned for convalescent

homes, like Thriplow Hall. It served the 78th Fighter Group at Duxford (now IWMD). There was an excellent dispensary at the base, but any personnel



needing longer term care, were moved to Thriplow Hall for rest and recuperation.

General Hawley and his staff ran the non-clinical side of the hospitals on military lines; to such an extent that people coined a new phrase for the ETO....'European Theatre of Inspections'! Yet, this extreme organization paid off as center commanders were encouraged to source and rationalize hospital

News from Across the Pond...



requirements in order to free clinicians from administrative tasks. He also created hospitals as specialist units for neurosurgery, burns treatment and so forth. In a very short space of time he had created a network of medical facilities ready to treat the casualties from D-Day and beyond.

Cometh the hour, cometh the man...come D-Day. Medics arrived, under fire on the beaches, alongside the fighting men and set up aid stations. Wounded might receive emergency treatment on hospital ships. However, until treatment could be safely established in Europe, the injured, unable to return to duty immediately, were sent to the

rear – in this case, Britain.

The LSTs did not return empty, but full of huge numbers of the seriously wounded, who would, in many cases be transported across the English Channel to the south coast and triage. A vast and complex set of arrangements swung into action to give the best treatment to each man. Decisions were made as to when they returned to their units, or if they must be evacuated to larger, specialist facilities, mostly by train. Some were mortally wounded and some 100 of those who stormed the Normandy beaches are now bur-

ied at Cambridge American Cemetery.

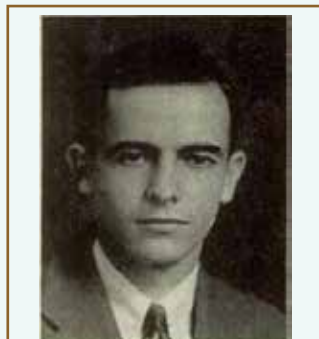
Some of the staff who manned

these medical facilities, succumbed themselves to illness or accidents. They too - nearly 30 - are buried in the cemetery at Madingley.

Photos: preceding page top, M/Gen Paul Ramsey Hawley, Medical Corps, US Army. Middle, left--Thriplow hall then. "Duxford Diary", East Anlian Aviation Society, reprint, 1975. Right--Thriplow Hall now. Thomas W Whitehead. This page top: Bricked buildings used as wards during the 100th General Hospital's time at the Frenchay Park facility, Bristol, England. WWII US Medical Research Centre.



Lt Martha Zych
303 STA HOSP
D-7-101



PFC Curtis W Risley
12 MED HSP CEN
F-3-6



2Lt Mary Chubb
181 MED DESP/AVN
F-3-53



Maj Irving I Shure
94 GEN HOSP
E-4-54



One of the Last: The Story of Sgt. Joseph De Cusati

Review by Dr. Walter Powell

This well written and illustrated 112 page book tells the story of Sgt. Joseph De Cusati, radio operator with Lt. Eugene Mill's crew of the 732nd Squadron, 453rd Bomb Group, who was killed on 30 March 1945 as the group was returning from a mission to bomb the submarine pens at Wilhelmshaven. Joe had just celebrated his 22nd birthday, and was the only member of his crew and the squadron killed that day. As it happened, he would also be the last airman killed in the 732nd Squadron for the remainder of the War.



This book chronicles the author's 29 year quest to learn more about his cousin "Joe" and the crew with whom he served. A Marine Corps veteran, Mr. De Cusati notes: "After the War his body was returned to the United States and laid to rest in his home-



town of New Haven, Connecticut.

Over the years, Joe's name and story slipped into oblivion. The more I thought about it the more I felt I owed him something. We shared blood, we shared a name, and we shared service to the country—

but Joe's service had cost him everything."

As one of many "Baby Boomers," the author has been deeply affected, and changed, by the stories some of Joe's crewmates and childhood friends related during his research.

Readers of the 8th Air Force news will find this narrative both familiar and a deeply poignant reminder of the sacrifices of the "Greatest Generation."



The book is available only from the author (suggested donation--\$15, including postage) at the following address:

**Andrew De Cusati
43 Crossview Trail
Fairfield, PA 17320**

Slipping the Surly Bonds One Final Time: Vince Losada's Last Flight

by Russell Minor & Joshua Jordan



For those of you who have not heard the incredibly sad news, one of our priceless WWII Vets and Soaring Valor friends, Vince Losada, was tragically killed when the modified P-51D Mustang that he was riding in went down right after taking part in the Living History Re-enactment at the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg on Saturday, November 17, 2019.

Vince had a spirit about him that was absolutely contagious. I would be hard pressed to find another soul as kind...as caring...as loving...and as unbelievably inspiring as our buddy Vince. There are a couple of things that I know for sure: He is finally up there with his beloved Elenora (probably loading up the RV right now with both arms), and our precious friend will be profoundly missed and never, ever forgotten.

May God bless and comfort Liz (Montalvo), who was really the only family that Vince had in San Antonio. And he would be the first to tell you that very fact and how incredibly much that she added to

his final years.

Vince was the bombardier on a B-17 Flying Fortress, "*The Big Drip Jr.*", assigned to the 8th Air Force, 487th BG, 839th BS stationed in Lavenham, England during World War II. Here is the unaltered journal entry of Boyd Smith, the crew's waist gunner, which he wrote that very evening following the day's events—when Vince's war ended:

March 15, 1945----25th mission---
-Target: Oraniensburg, Germany.
Bomb load: 15 – 500 pound
General purpose with delayed
fuse this trip up to 36 hours. In
enemy territory 4 hours and 30
minutes. We formed at 7,000
feet and bombed at 22,000 feet.
Temperature -35 C and clouds 1/10
with haze all the way in, making
it hard to see the ground, yet they
seemed to see us OK from the flak
we encountered. Went in through
"Zider-Z" on the Berlin route and

hit the target on outskirts of Berlin. Flak was intense and very accurate. One burst, right after we dropped our bombs

and hit Vince (our bombardier) and severed his right arm up above the elbow and a couple more serious wounds on his rear end. Another hit 'Tooth' (our navigator) on his right shoulder but wasn't too bad, just bruised it luckily and scratched the skin a couple of inches. I went up to the nose and was doing all I could for Vince and he kept motioning to me to his rear end but I couldn't figure out what he meant. Noise level was so great you couldn't even shout to one another and understand what you were saying anyway so I was giving him morphine etc. The plane suddenly nosed down for the ground in a dive and I thought we were going down so I started trying to get his chute on but centrifugal force was so great you couldn't lift an arm hardly. About time I got us ready to go out, the plane leveled out. What a good feeling. Turned out we were over a flak train and

they were taking evasive action to dodge this accurate flak. It got our waist and wings pretty bad as it was and if I hadn't been in the nose, would probably have killed me as a large piece tore through the waist where I usually stand, tearing hell out of things. Vince kept consciousness in spite of all the morphine I gave him and I put him on pure oxygen and tried to keep him as comfortable as possible, but you know he had more grit than I --- he's quite a guy!! Soon as we reached the "Zider-Z" we broke formation and headed for 487th runway in an effort to save Vince's life if possible by getting him to hospital soon as possible and some blood transfusions.

I seemed to be so helpless in treating him on way home and it appeared to be 10 thousand miles back to the base, but I dressed his wounds and did all I could for him but that didn't seem to be enough. It seemed he lost a lot of blood, but

they immediately gave him blood plasma soon as we landed. Teare (pilot) had called ahead and had it ready for him. We toyed with the idea of going to Russia for his sake, was closer than back to our base, but all of us figured he would have a better chance if we could get him back to England which we did and we hope for the best. I think he will pull through. He has a lot of grit and Thank God for letting us get him back. Surely hope nothing like this happens again to us and I'm sorry for Vince, he was so good-natured and all of us thought the world of him. Two other ships went to Russia and one went down

on way back. Sure a rough mission for us today and we don't need any more of these missions. 7 hours. 30 minutes.

In Vince's own words: "It was a 2,000 bomber raid mission and our group, the 487th, was the lead group of that mission, and in the lead in the group, in our group, in the lead plane, we had a Brigadier General by the name of Frederick Castle. That was his first command mission, and our bomb group sent up 39 planes. It was a bad mission. We lost 13 planes. We lost the general, he was killed in that mission, and it was a mission that you just can't forget it. It's etched in your

was hard.

"I watched some of them. It takes quite a while to land the whole bomb group, but we'd watch some and we'd go to the mess hall and get something to eat or something, but all the talk was about how bad the mission was. There was one other thing that happened December 24th, the bomb group had scheduled a Christmas party in Lavenham, for all of the school kids in that whole area. The big talk was they had to cancel the Christmas party because of what happened that day with our group, but some of the enlisted men insisted that the party should be held because the kids were expecting it and they

wanted to complete their commitment to the kids. So they had their Christmas party. Last year I met one of the kids that was at this Christmas party, and he's now in his 80s. He was telling us how much they appreciated that Christmas party, and that that was the first time he had ever seen or eaten ice

cream.

"We didn't have ice cream at that time, but the cook decided that he could make up a batch of ice cream for the Christmas party. So he mixed a batch of ingredients to make ice cream. He put it in a B-17 and sent it up for a practice mission, and they got it up high enough where the ice cream froze—about two or three hours. They brought it back and they served ice cream at the Christmas party. It was a crazy deal, but that's what happened."

Pictured on preceding page: Vince and long-time friend, Liz Montalvo. On this page, P51D "Pecos Bill", piloted by Cowden Ward, also killed in the crash.



mind. It was just crazy.

"I was not in that mission. Our crew did not fly in that mission, because on all missions, even maximum missions, all the bomb groups had four squadrons, and they were only allowed three squadrons to fly in any mission. They always kept one squadron back as a reserve. Our squadron, the 839th, was the reserve that day. So we did not fly, but we were there as support while they were taking off, and when they were coming back it was a sad, sad event. Just listening to the tales and knowing that you lost so many planes there. You knew some of the crew members and it was hard. It

Michael ‘Rosky’ Roskovich

AKA: THE MAD RUSSIAN

by Willlliam Lane Callaway
Historian, 8th Air Force and
Joint Global Strike Operations Center



On 5 April 1943, VIII Bomber Command (Mission #50), dispatched 104 bombers, a mixed force of B17s and B24s, to strike the Erla Aero Engines Company factory in Antwerp, occupied Belgium. Moderate damage was done to the target area and four bombers were lost. This mission was noted for two “firsts” in the Eighth Air

Force: One of the “firsts” was a protest from the Ambassador to the United States from occupied Belgium for inaccurate bombing by Eighth Air Force bombers allegedly killing civilians in Antwerp. It is not known if the Belgium Ambassador was carrying out Nazi propaganda as part of a misinformation campaign or

indeed if bombs had inadvertently hit a civilian area of Antwerp.

The other “first”—this mission marked the first enlisted bomber aircrew member in the Eighth Air Force to complete the magic number of 25 air combat missions. The honor went to TSgt Michael “Rosky” Roskovich, born 22 August 1922 in Fayette City, PA and assigned as a B17 radio operator in the 306th Bomb Group. Due to his Russian ancestry he

When General Doolittle assumed command of Eighth Air Force in early 1944, he changed the tour of duty for bomber aircrews to 30. He advocated for 35 air combat missions.

was known in the unit by the nickname “The Mad Russian.” Upon returning from the 5 April mission to

home station at Thurleigh, TSgt Roskovich’s fellow aircrew members helped him celebrate. Exiting the B17, Rosky was stripped down to his skivvies by his fellow crew members with “25 MISSIONS” painted on his bare back. Getting into the celebration, Rosky “borrowed” a nearby bicycle ridden out to planeside by a ground

crewman and rode the bike around Thurleigh airfield wearing only his boots, underwear, and a smile knowing he had made history.

TSgt Roskovich volunteered to extend in the 306th BG to become a gunnery instructor with the grade of 2nd Lieutenant. In short order he became dissatisfied being an instructor and volunteered to join another 306th bomber crew,



subsequently flying eight more air combat missions. Sadly, Lt. Roskovich met his fate a few weeks later on 4 February 1944 when B17 42-31715, taking off for a cross country training flight, crashed. Rosky did not survive and was laid to rest in Cambridge American Cemetery in the United Kingdom.

Welcome to St. Louis, MO

45th Annual 8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion



Sights of St. Louis (City Tour) **Thursday, October 17, 2019**

Sit back and enjoy the amazing sights of St. Louis as your guide expertly traces the history of St. Louis beginning with the city's original settlement, Laclede's Landing. It is now a nine-block historic district filled with renovated turn-of-the-century buildings housing shops, eateries and offices.

We will visit the famous Gateway Arch, the Nation's tallest monument, which commemorates the gateway to the west for thousands of 19th century pioneers. We'll take a tram ride to the top of this 630' stainless steel architectural wonder and get a unique, bird's-eye view of St. Louis. If you're not quite up to those heights, you can enjoy "*Monument to the Dream*," the film documenting the construction of the Arch.

Enjoy the view of Old Cathedral, the oldest cathedral west of the Mississippi. Across the street is the Old Courthouse, the setting for cases involving slavery, the fur trade and equal rights. Of these cases, the Dred Scott Freedom Trial is perhaps the most notable. We will pass Busch Stadium, home of the 2011 World Champion St. Louis Cardinals. Continuing west on Market Street, we will pass several of St. Louis' civic buildings and plazas, as well as Citygarden, a unique urban oasis blending art, architecture and landscape. St. Louis Union Station, once the busiest rail terminal in the world, has undergone a magnificent renovation and is home to a luxury hotel and restaurants.

At the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, also known

as the New Cathedral, we will see one of the largest collections of mosaics in the world—84,000 square feet in 8,000 shades of tiny pieces of color! The tiny pieces of tesserae and glass portray scenes from both the Old and New Testaments, the life of Saint Louis IX, King of France, and many men and women prominent in the history of St. Louis.

9:00am board bus, 2:00pm back at hotel.
\$65/Person includes bus, guide, and gratuities.
BOX LUNCH INCLUDED!

Keep the Memory Alive Tour **Friday, October 18, 2019**

Boeing James S McDonnell Prologue Room

At our first stop on this experience, we will learn the history of the Boeing Company and the companies with which it shares a common heritage paralleling the excit-



ing history of humankind learning to fly. The men and women of the Boeing Company and the aircraft they have built—from the first cloth-and-wood airplanes to today's sleekest fighters and jetliners—have played a pivotal role in shaping the history of aerospace. The James S. McDonnell Prologue Room in St. Louis tells this panoramic story of nearly eight decades of aviation progress, from biplanes to bombers to space travel. Scale models, dioramas, paintings, and photographs depict such important events as the first flight around the world in 1924, the first take off of a jet fighter from a US Navy carrier in 1946, the first aircraft to land at the South Pole in 1956, and the first manned spacecraft to orbit the Earth in 1962.

Holocaust Museum and Learning Center

Our next stop is the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center. The work at the Learning Center focuses on building a community of defenders. Even in the face of



this world's history of genocidal injustices perpetrated in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and most recently, Darfur, we cannot lose hope that the next generation will hear, understand, feel compassion, and take action to end such tragedies.

The museum contains eight different installations that you can wind your way through. Begin at the Introductory Room which contains pre-World War II photographs of the survivors who immigrated to St. Louis, continuing through the Rise of Nazism in Germany among many other exhibits.

9:30am board bus, 1:30pm back at hotel
\$26/Person includes bus, guide, and gratuities.
Lunch/snacks on your own.

Sights and Shops in St. Charles Tour
Saturday, October 19, 2019

Enjoy a visit to St. Charles, the oldest town on the Missouri River. Founded as Les Petites Cotes (The



Little Hills) by French Canadians, St. Charles has carefully preserved its heritage as a river town that has been welcoming visitors since 1769. Thousands of pioneers replenished supplies here on the awesome journey west. St. Charles is a source of multiple historical encounters: the Lewis and Clark Rendezvous, Missouri's First State Capitol, and the origin of the Boone's Lick Trail. We'll take a driving tour of Main Street—a nine block historic district filled with 80 restored buildings dating from 1790 to 1900. This cobblestone street is known for its array of gift, antique and craft shops.

If you wish, you will have time to explore Missouri's First State Capitol* or the Lewis & Clark Nature Center* on your own during this tour. The Capitol has been completely restored and furnished as it appeared during the period of 1821-1826 when the Missouri State Legislature met in St. Charles. The lower level of the Nature Center houses replicas of the three boats of the Lewis & Clark Discovery Expedition. Upstairs, the Nature Center is a "hands-on" museum following the adventures of Lewis and Clark into the wilderness of the West. Take in the various displays of Native American tribes, the men of the expedition with their equipment and artifacts, and a walk through the forest as it was during Lewis and Clark's expedition.

12:00pm board bus, 4:00pm back at hotel.
\$26/Person includes bus, guide, and gratuities.
Lunch is on your own.**

**If you wish to visit the First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site, admission is \$4.50/Person and is NOT included in the cost of this tour.*

Also, you may choose to visit the Lewis & Clark Boat House and Nature Center, admission is \$5.00/Person and again, is NOT included in the cost of this tour.

***A list of restaurants will be provided for your convenience.*



45th ANNUAL 8th AFHS REUNION

Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet, St. Louis, MO
October 16-20, 2019

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

STOP!

◇ RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM **FIRST!**

The reunion hotel has a liberal cancellation policy—in the event you are unable to attend the reunion, you will be able to cancel your reservation without penalty within 48 hours of your scheduled check-in time. However, if you wait until the last minute to book your room reservation, you may not receive the reunion rate or rooms may no longer be available at the reunion hotel. Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that our vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less a \$5 processing fee.

Canceling your hotel reservation does NOT cancel your reunion activities.

◇ COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill out the registration form completely.

- ⇒ Fill out your name as you wish it to be on your name tag—and for any others registering with you. If you are a WWII veteran, and/or affiliated with a bomb or fighter group, please indicate which group.
- ⇒ ALL meals are priced separately—INCLUDING breakfast. Make sure to indicate [X] on your registration sheet which mornings you want breakfast and the total # of people on your registration sheet who will be having breakfast on each day. Be sure and select your entrée if you plan on attending the Saturday evening gala.
- ⇒ There are three [3] tour options available during the reunion. Please read the information [here in this issue] on each tour and then make your selection on the form. **The Sights of St. Louis Tour INCLUDES** a box lunch.

◇ MAIL IN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM

Once you have completed your registration form, please total up the amount owed and include a check, money order, or complete the credit card information on the form, payable to the **8th AFHS** and mail to:

**8th AFHS
68 Kimberlys Way
Jasper, GA 30143-4769**

Or you may **SCAN** your registration form [*if paying by credit card*] and **EMAIL** to:
ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org

ALL registration forms **MUST** be received by **September 25, 2019** in order to guarantee your place. If you have any questions or problems in completing your registration, please contact:

**Debra Kujawa
Managing Director
8th AFHS
912-748-8884
ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org**

ALL reunion information and forms are available on our website: 8thAFHS.org



45th ANNUAL 8th AFHS REUNION

Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet, St. Louis, MO
October 16-20, 2019

HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

888-627-7066 or ONLINE registration on our website!

(Reference Sheraton Westport 'CHALET' and 8th AIR FORCE for group rate)

Location

The Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet is located in Westport Plaza, (191 Westport Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63146) which features 18 shops, popular restaurants, and entertainment venues like the Westport Playhouse, The Funny Bone Comedy Club, Jive and Wail Piano Bar, and Backstreet Jazz and Blues. Guests will enjoy convenient access to popular destinations and attractions. We're located just 10 minutes from historic St. Charles, 15 minutes from Forest Park, home of the Saint Louis Zoo, Science Center, Art Museum and the History Museum. We're also close to the world-famous Gateway Arch, the St. Louis Cardinals baseball stadium, Six Flags® and Missouri's Wine Country.

Shuttle Service

For those of you flying into St. Louis, there is complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport to the hotel. Go to Baggage Claim/Hotel Shuttle exits—the shuttle runs every half hour.

Upscale Amenities

Enjoy complimentary wireless High Speed Internet in all public areas, concierge service, plus signature amenities you'll only find at Sheraton. Wake up energized after a restful night's sleep in a plush Sheraton Sweet Sleeper® Bed. Sheraton Club rooms and suites provide guests with special access to the Sheraton Club Lounge, offering complimentary breakfast, evening hors d'oeuvres, and a variety of beverage options. Stay connected at our lobby's connectivity hub, the Link@Sheraton™ experience with Microsoft®. Stay fit with a visit to our Sheraton Fitness center, programmed by Core Performance™.

Dining Options Aboard

The Terrace Restaurant and Lucerne Restaurant feature a wide variety of menu items served in a friendly, casual atmosphere. There is also a private dining area perfect for intimate gatherings. In the summer, enjoy poolside refreshments every weekend at the Tiki Bar, serving snacks, beer, wine and frozen drinks. We also offer guests the convenience and privacy of in-room dining service. Stroll through the Westport Plaza Complex and visit any one of their many casual and fine-dining options, from seafood restaurants to specialty cafés.

RESERVATION INFORMATION

Group Name: 8th Air Force Historical Society

Reunion Dates: October 16-20, 2019

Rate: \$122 + tax (currently 17.863%) Rates are offered 3 days prior and 3 days post reunion based on availability.

Cut off Date: 9/15/2019

Cancellation Policy: All reservations have a 48 hour cancellation policy, or attendee will be charged one night room rate plus tax.

WHEELCHAIR RENTALS

ScotAround: (888) 441-7575 or ScotAround.com

HOSPITALITY SUITES

This year, the 8th AFHS is pleased to announce that we are again offering **HOSPITALITY SUITES** to groups at **NO CHARGE**. The number of suites is limited, so we ask that you reserve your suite as soon as possible. Suites are located in close proximity to one another and most are large enough for two or more groups to share space.

In order to guarantee your suite,
please call or email ASAP:

Debra Kujawa

Managing Director

912-748-8884

ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org



45th ANNUAL 8th AFHS REUNION

Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet, St. Louis, MO
October 16-20, 2019

Wednesday, October 16

1:00pm — 6:00pm	Reunion Registration open
6:00pm — 7:00pm	Complimentary Welcome Reception, followed by dinner on your own
7:00pm — 9:00pm	8th AFHS Board Meeting
7:00pm — until	Hospitality Suites remain open throughout reunion

Thursday, October 17

7:30am — 8:30am	Breakfast
8:00am — 12:00pm	Reunion Registration open
9:00am — 2:00pm	Sights of St. Louis (City Tour)*
1:00pm — 6:00pm	Reunion Registration open
2:15pm — 3:00pm	Curator's Corner
3:15pm — 5:00pm	<i>"Researching the Past: Step-by-Step"</i> —David Schmitt, Lane Callaway, & others
6:00pm — 9:00pm	Cash Bar Open
7:00pm — 9:00pm	Buffet dinner and program: <i>"Op Frantic" & Mission Update</i> , Lane Callaway

Friday, October 18

7:30am — 8:30am	Breakfast
8:00am — 12:00pm	Reunion Registration open
8:00am — 9:15am	Group Meetings
9:30am — 1:30pm	Keep the Memory Alive Tour (includes Holocaust Museum)*
1:00pm — 6:00pm	Reunion Registration open
1:45pm — 3:00pm	Historical Presentation: "Eighth Airfields as Wartime Homes"
3:15pm — 4:30pm	Q & A WWII Vets
6:00pm — 9:00pm	Cash Bar Open
7:00pm — 9:00pm	Rendezvous Dinners

Saturday, October 19

7:30am — 8:30am	Breakfast
8:00am — 12:00pm	Reunion Registration open
8:45am — 10:15am	General Membership Meeting
12:00pm — 4:00pm	8th AFHS Board Meeting
12:00pm — 4:00pm	Sights and Shops in St. Charles Tour*
1:00pm — 6:00pm	Reunion Registration open
6:00pm — 9:00pm	Cash Bar Open
7:00pm — 10:00pm	Gala Dinner and Program

Sunday, October 20

7:30am — 8:30am	Breakfast
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***It is important that you be in the bus boarding area
at least ten [10] minutes prior to the scheduled departure times.
All tours require a minimum of 45 participants, unless otherwise stated.
Driver and Staff gratuities ARE included in the tour prices.**



REGISTRATION FORM

45th ANNUAL 8th AFHS REUNION

Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet, St. Louis, MO
October 16—20, 2019

CUT-OFF DATE IS September 25, 2019	Price p/p	# of People	TOTAL
<u>DUES</u>			
The principal attendee MUST be a member of the 8th AFHS to register for this reunion. If you are NOT a CURRENT member, please pay your yearly dues here:	\$ 40	#	\$
<u>REGISTRATION FEE</u>			
Includes meeting expenses and other reunion expenses.	\$ 45	#	\$
Registration fee for children ages 8-16 attending more than 1 function & staying at hotel:	\$ 30	#	\$
<u>BREAKFAST BUFFET (please indicate below and place totals to the right)</u>			
Please indicate [X] which days you would like buffet breakfast and quantity: Thursday ___ # ___ Friday ___ # ___ Saturday ___ # ___ Sunday ___ # ___	Price per breakfast: \$ 23	Total # of breakfasts: #	\$
<u>DINNERS</u>			
Thursday, Oct 17 — EVENING DINNER BUFFET Roasted Pork Loin & Grilled Chicken Breast	\$ 48	#	\$
Friday, Oct 18—RENDEZVOUS DINNER Chicken Marsala	\$ 48	#	\$
Saturday, Oct 19—GALA BANQUET (Please select entrée)			
Sliced London Broil with Bordelaise Sauce	\$ 48	#	\$
Pan Seared Salmon with Balsamic Reduction	\$ 48	#	\$
Vegetarian plate(s) Please indicate [X] : Thurs ___ # ___ Fri ___ # ___ Sat ___ # ___	\$ 48	#	\$
<u>TOUR OPTIONS:</u>			
Thursday, Oct 17: Sights of St. Louis Tour— INCLUDES BOX LUNCH	\$ 65	#	\$
Friday, Oct 18: Keep the Memory Alive Tour—Lunch on your own	\$ 26	#	\$
Saturday, Oct 19: Sights and Shops in St. Charles Tour—Lunch on your own	\$ 26	#	\$
Total amount payable to: 8th AFHS			\$

Please PRINT. If registering a WWII veteran here, please list their name first.

MEMBER NAME (for name tag): _____

WWII Veteran _____ BG/FG Affiliation (for Rendezvous Dinner seating): _____ POW: _____ (Korea, Vietnam, etc.): _____

SPOUSE or PERSON attending: _____

ADDITIONAL GUESTS: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DAYTIME PH #: _____ EMAIL: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____ PH #: _____

PLEASE INDICATE ANY PHYSICAL OR DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: _____

IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD —M/C; VISA; or AmEx (**a 3% convenience fee will be added**):

CARD #: _____ EXP. DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ *Your contact information will only be shared with attendees.*

MAIL completed form with check or credit card info to: 8th AFHS ~ 68 Kimberlys Way ~ Jasper, GA 30143-4769



FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR AND

Manny Abrams**	392nd BG	Wallace E Cowan*	487th BG	Stanley Goldstein	466th BG
Stewart Ackerman	303rd BG	James D Cox*	303rd BG	Ralph Goldsticker, Jr.**	452nd BG
J R Akin	95th BG	James W Cox, Jr*	94th BG	Hewitt B Gomez	492nd BG
Vernon G Alexander**	493rd BG	Salvatore Cracolici	96th BG	George Gorman	96th BG
Jay D Allen	94th BG	Thomas L Creekmore	305th BG	Marvin Graham	392nd BG
Andy Anderson	100th BG	Leo R Croce*	398th BG	Sidney Grant	493rd BG
Ed Anderson	453rd BG	Howard Croner	452nd BG	Wesley Grayer	493rd BG
William H Andrew*	493rd BG	Robert Culp	100th BG	Charles J Greenough	379th BG
Richard Andrews	379th BG	John F Curcio	458th BG	Bruce F Gregg*	487th BG
William Junior Arnold*	303rd BG	Wayne Davis	452nd BG	Robert Gross	34th BG
Albert Arreola**	100th BG	Steve de Pyssler	VIII BC	Joseph "Joe" Gualano	493rd BG
Victor G Aubry, Jr*	493rd BG	Victor DeCaria**	446th BG	Rudolph "Rudy" Guerrero	493rd BG
Albert Audette	385th BG	Eddie Deerfield	303rd BG	Laurence R Gulick**	466th BG
George W Bachmann, Jr	306th BG	Louis E Deutsch	446th BG	Milton R Gunther	487th BG
James A Baker*	339th FG	Harold L Dietz	466th BG	C Norman Gustafson	384th BG
Orville Baker	445th BG	Richard Dinning	351st BG	Carl Gustafson	453rd BG
Willis Barney	379th BG	Jack F Disney	94th BG	Russell W Gustafson	452nd BG
Oliver L Bashor	303rd BG	Donald A D'Lugos	466th BG	Paul C Haedike	452nd BG
Andrew L Bates*	436th TCG	Jack Dodson	398th BG	Adolph R Hanslik* 124th SC	Radio Intel
John Wesley Beaver*	92nd BG	John H Doyle	94th BG	Percival L Hanson	305th BG
William Becker	492nd BG	John J Dunnigan	351st BG	Haas M Hargrave**	493rd BG
Richard L "Dick" Bedford	353rd FG	Norman R Dunphe	448th BG	Alfred B Harris	390th BG
Sheldon Beigel	306th BG	George Durgin	493rd BG	Howard G Harris*	Veteran
Caesar J Benigno	352nd BG	Peter Durso	493rd BG	Morton Harris	95th BG
Nelson Berger	100th BG	Alfred Dusey	447th BG	Glenn A Harrison**	96th BG
Tony Bezer	490th BG	Eugene Dworacz*	448th BG	Charles E Harter*	3rd Army
Leo S Bielinski	44th BG	Harold Dwyer	34th BG	Robert B Hastie	95th BG
Jack F Blackham*	34th BG	Don Echols	458th BG	Robert Haynes	493rd BG
William D Bodiford**	487th BG	Stanley Edelman	351st BG	Robert Hecker	401st BG
August C Bolino	388th BG	Richard J Eiseman**	94th BG	Walter Hendricks	452nd BG
Bob Bowen	398th BG	William "Bill" Eisenhart	303rd BG	Lewis E Herron	100th BG
James M Bond	385th BG	James H Eshelman	385th BG	John R Hildebran**	453rd BG
Frank T Bostwick	466th BG	Dr. James Facos	388th BG	Temple Hix Hill	392nd BG
Robert L Brandt	452nd BG	George Farrar*	384th BG	Robert H Hitchcock	303rd BG
Gordon Breeding**	34th BG	Joseph Fischer	94th BG	Bill Holden	1st B RNR
Carl F Brown, Jr	4th FG	Harry Mundy Fisher*	467th BG	Don E Holmes**	458th BG
Dudley Brown**	94th BG	Robert Fisher**	384th BG	David Holst*	448th BG
Harvey Brundage*	91st BG	John C Flora*	482nd BG	Dewey A Holst**	448th BG
Joe Burdis	388th BG	Clifford J Foss	29th TCG	Theodore C "Ted" Hood	306th BG
Ed Burnham	95th BG	Donald H Foulk	303rd BG	Charles S Hopla*	447th BG
Charles F Byrd*	493rd BG	Donald M Frank	389th BG	William F Houlihan*	306th BG
Paul E Calkin**	100th BG	Paul Frank*	96th BG	Wayne E Howarter*	34th BG
Douglas S Canant*	1st SAD	Herbert Friedlander**	351st BG	James Howell	447th BG
William R Carlile, Jr.	306th BG	Joel Friedman	34th BG	Jake Howland	91st BG
Frank Casey*	487th BG	James E Frolking**	479th FG	Jack C Hubbard	306th BG
Andrew D Caswell**	91st BG	Frank Gaccione	7th PRG	David Huckabay	489th BG
Clarence F Cherry**	100th BG	Henry C Gagnon	385th BG	Blaine Hufnagle	94th BG
Guy Chookoorian**	94th BG	Anthony J Gallagher*	100th BG	Melvin Hurwitz	493rd BG
John P Chopelas**	452nd BG	Joseph Garber	96th BG	Albion Kenneth Hutcherson	95th BG
Samuel A Christiano**	18th WSQ	Ted Gary	493rd BG	Joseph O Ingram, Jr	96th BG
George E Clark*	3rd Army	Robert Genesky	493rd BG	Gustave W Jacobson	94th BG
John A Clark	100th BG	Stoddard B Gerald*	55th FG	Bennie L Jefferies	306th BG
John J Clark*	452nd BG	William Gerecitano**	388th BG	Arthur Jenkins	390th BG
James O Clemons	484th BG	Gerald Gerston	392nd BG	David Johnson	1st B RNR
Grayson Cocharo	492nd BG	Albert Gese	20th FG	Martin Jordan	351st BG
Myron Cohen	91st BG	Dr. C W "Bill" Getz**	491st BG	Jay Karpin**	493rd BG
Paul J Collins**	447th BG	Joe Glasser	94th BG	Edward J Kastanek*	493rd BG
Joseph Connaughton	319th BG	Reuben Glazer	445th BG	John Katsaros	401st BG
Marbury L Councell, Jr	96th BG	Dallas Godsey**	351st BG	Samuel Katz	389th BG
Jay Dee Cowan*	490th BG	Irving Goldstein*	439th TCG	George H Keating**	452nd BG

JUBILEE OF LIBERTY RECIPIENTS



Victor Keech	1st B RNR	Bernard Mirotznik*	452nd BG	Donald L Seesenguth**	457th BG
Perry Kerr	466th BG	E E "Mitch" Mischler	94th BG	Horace Seyster	457th BG
Howard Keskitalo	388th BG	Lloyd Mitchell	96th BG	Horace Shankwiler	445th BG
John Ketzner	92nd BG	Kenneth Moulden	448th BG	Ambrose C Shaw	493rd BG
Michael D Kindya	385th BG	James D Mynatt, Jr**	490th BG	Harold W Smith**	448th BG
James King	1st B RNR	Clayton A Nattier	306th BG	Heber H Smith	94th BG
John H "Jack" Kleinsorg**	92nd BG	Warren G Nelson**	398th BG	John A Smith*	493rd BG
Russell A Knudson	303rd BG	William J "Bill" Nevitt	353rd FG	Samuel W Smith	303rd BG
Carroll F Knutson	447th BG	John W Newman**	94th BG	Robert W Smothers	452nd BG
Cornelius A Kohlman	452nd BG	Henry J Nykamp**	93rd BG	Christopher Spagnola	44th BG
Donald L Koons**	401st BG	Art Nystrom	445th BG	Leland C Spencer**	93rd BG
Joseph T Kozak*	94th BG	George M Ogle*	487th BG	Orange D Steffey, Jr.*	493rd BG
John F Kraeger	466th BG	William J O'Leary	384th BG	Willard Stelling	34th BG
Donald F Kremper	94th BG	Allen G Ostrom	398th BG	Louis J Stoffer	398th BG
Ralph J Kurka	93rd BG	William "Bill" Overstreet, Jr	357th FG	Colin D Storey	94th BG
Herbert J Kwart	381st BG	Frank Parkinson, Jr.	448th BG	William E Stovall	390th BG
Harold Langfeldt*	690th FA Bn, Army	Nels Pedersen*	44th BG	Herman Stroupe	390th BG
Dean C Larson	401st BG	Frank D Perez	401st BG	Walter Sturdivan**	34th BG
Paul W Latenser*	389th BG	LaVerne Peters	389th BG	John S Swarts	351st BG
William G Lathrop	94th BG	Stanley Peterson	96th BG	Robert V Swegel**	44th BG
George A Lawson	7th PRG	Philip M Petterson*	305th BG	John Roger Swihart	388th BG
Franklin H Lemonds, Jr*	389th BG	Anthony W Pircio	7th PRG	Paul Swope, Jr**	353rd FG
John Lemons	445th BG	Nicholas Plackis*	390th BG	Edward J Tatro**	100th BG
Mathias J Leupold	385th BG	Wilmer "Will" Plate**	489th BG	Henry E Tessien	96th BG
Donald D Levine	453rd BG	William Podolsky*	93rd BG	William Thacker, Jr	457th BG
Sherman Levitt*	491st BG	Howard Polin**	352nd FG	Dennis E Thompson	487th BG
Richard B "Dick" Lewis	493rd BG	Steven Politis	97th BG	William M "Bill" Thorns**	96th BG
George R Leyva**	351st BG	Robert H Preller*	384th BG	Robert J Toeppe*	445th BG
James L Livingston**	44th BG	Michael H Prestia	452nd BG	William C Toombs, Sr**	493rd BG
Robert "Bob" Livingston*	351st BG	Vincent J "Bill" Purple	379th BG	Jimmy J Traupel*	379th BG
Stan Loftsgard	493rd BG	Walter "Mike" Quering	487th BG	Robert Tuchel	392nd BG
Lester Lyall*	401st BG	Albert Rapvano	466th BG	Seymore E "Jack" Vann**	388th BG
Ralph Lynn, Jr*	466th BG	Seymour Ratner*	306th BG	William "Bill" Varnedoe	385th BG
Dallas V Madland*	446th BG	Lauri Rautio	447th BG	Alfred C Villagran**	306th BG
Russell Madsen	100th BG	Lester Reekers	490th BG	Rudolph Villalobos	96th BG
Malcolm J Magid	303rd BG	Jesse A Reese	96th BG	Adolph L Visconti*	306th BG
Elmo Maiden	466th BG	Edward G Reuland**	379th BG	Charles F Von Der Leith*	357th INF
Warren B Marsh*	493rd BG	Joseph H Reus	445th BG	Robert H Voss	94th BG
David Marshall	381st BG	James A Rich, Jr	96th BG	Jay Walker	384th BG
Burnia Martin	384th BG	Charles J Richardson**	390th BG	James H Walston, Jr	466th BG
Richard Martin	398th BG	Wilbur Richardson	94th BG	Douglas J Ward	305th BG
Ken Mason	1st B RNR	William H Richeson, Jr.*	392nd BG	Charles Warren*	351st BG
William Massey	401st BG	Wendell R Ringheim	92nd BG	Earl E Wassom**	466th BG
Samuel Mastrogiacono	445th BG	George G Roberts**	306th BG	Harry Watson*	401st BG
Walter M "Boots" Mayberry	388th BG	Mort Robinson	94th BG	Mark B Weber*	389th BG
Ellis McClintick	390th BG	William L "Bill" Roche	452nd BG	Billy D Welch**	361st FG
Robert McCormack**	389th BG	Kenneth E Rohde**	457th BG	Berton Werth	492nd BG
James McCutcheon*	392nd BG	J Warren Roundhill**	379th BG	Charles Wheelwright	392nd BG
Elmer "Lucky" McGinty	95th BG	Robert Rowland**	398th BG	James E Wicker, Sr*	7th PRG
Hugh McGinty	379th BG	Jack Rude	493rd BG	William O Wilbur, Jr*	448th BG
Jay McIntosh	94th BG	John Rumancik	392nd BG	Douglas C Willett	94th BG
B/GEN Seth McKee	370th FG	Peter "Rupy" Ruplenas	486th BG	John M Williams	448th BG
Birch G McVay	95th BG	Al Sadowsky	34th BG	Paul R Wilson	305th BG
Leon G Mehring	305th BG	Jesse Sandlin	447th BG	Robert W Wilson*	313th TCG
Seward M Meintsma	466th BG	Walter Schattel	487th BG	Frank A Wiswall	96th BG
Julius M Micek	381st BG	Carmen Schiavoni**	447th BG	Lawrence Wolfson	493rd BG
James Mikusi	447th BG	Robert F Schlack*	356th FG	David L Wolman*	100th BG
Donnell "Don" Miller**	493rd BG	Fred Schonwetter**	55th FG	Richard P Woodson, III	96th BG
Charles Mills**	492nd BG	Robert Schuberg	306th BG	James Zographos**	388th BG
Rex Mills	453rd BG	Bob Schuh	398th BG	[] FLOH; [*] FJOL [**] BOTH MEDALS	

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Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society A Tribute to Jack Cramer by Joan E. Hamilton

Instead of our usual article highlighting one of our chapter meetings, we wanted to share with everyone the passing of one of our own...

Jack Cramer, our dear friend, passed away on January 11, 2019 at the age of 95. He was part of a pioneering Oregon family that had trudged across the Great Plains in a line of covered wagons and settled in the fertile Grande Ronde Valley.

Jack's father was a noted educator who served as the first president of Portland State University. *Cramer Hall* bears his name.

His immediate family is no less remarkable. His gracious wife, Mary is an intelligent, strong and talented woman who once held the post of president of the City Club of Portland. One son, Tom, is a premier Portland artist. Another son, John, today a Critical Care Physician in Seattle, played on the great Harvard football team in the Crimson's legendary 29-29 'win' against Yale in 1968.

His three daughters have also posted distinguished careers. Seldy, is an agent for classical musicians. Anne performed as a violinist with the Vancouver, BC symphony orchestra. And Betsy, the former Director of Development at Reed College currently

serves on the Board of OPB and the Nature Conservancy. Obviously, Jack had very much to be proud of.

Jack's own accomplishments are no less impressive. During childhood, his courage manifested itself early.



While only an eighth grader he and his brother Bill endeavored to swim across the Columbia River at The Dalles (prior to the construction of the Bonneville Dam). The river was only about a quarter-mile wide at that spot, but the water was incredibly swift and cold. Once they reached

the other side, they were exhausted... and they had the good sense not to try swimming back!

When the United States entered World War II, he vividly recalls his mother weeping as the family listened to the radio reports of the Pearl Harbor attack. She knew

well that her two sons would soon go off in harm's way.

Jack had graduated from Eugene High in June, 1941 and had begun his studies at the University of Oregon. He entered the Army Air Force



Crew of "Goin' Jesse": Jack Cramer is 2nd from right on back row.

cadet program and was eventually trained to fly as a navigator aboard the famous B-29 *Superfortress*. His aircraft, dubbed the *Goin' Jessie*, (depicted on its nose as a gray, sprinting rabbit) flew 35 uninterrupted combat missions over Japan from their base on Tinian Island in the Northern Marianas.

During the course of these missions the crew was credited with delivering the two millionth ton of ordnance used against enemy targets in WWII. On another mission, over Nagoya, the eleven men of the *Goin' Jessie* crew voted unanimously to proceed to complete their bombing mission after having lost one engine and therefore much airspeed. (Few combat missions were conducted so democratically) Because of their decreased airspeed, enemy gunners "led us by too much" he recalled. The *Goin' Jessie*, miraculously suffered no damage and returned safely to Tinian. For their valor, every member of the crew was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Much later, the Commemorative Air Force honored the men of the *Goin' Jessie* by inducting them into the CAF Hall of Fame.

After hostilities ended, Jack returned to the University of Oregon and earned his law degree. As a life-long Portland attorney, he was known as superb practitioner; skilled, hard-working and popular with fellow lawyers. His word was his bond, his integrity absolute.

We met with Jack for coffee nearly every Wednesday morning. During these 'klatches' every topic under the sun was discussed. All of us came away with a nearly-complete understanding of what life was like for airmen who served in the Northern Marianas. Politics was also hotly debated... Jack's razor-sharp mind, wit and fantastic recall of facts impacted our viewpoints much more than we impacted his. By 8:30 in the morning while the rest of us had barely had time to prepare a pop-up waffle, Jack had already read the *NY Times*, *The Oregonian*, *The Portland Tribune* and had viewed several news programs.

It is a vast understatement to say that Jack will be missed...not just by us but by all who knew him. He was not only the last member of the crew of the *Goin' Jessie*; he was one of the Last of The Greatest, as well.

Don Bourgeois, Greg Wooldridge, John Calvin, Don Young, Mark Story.

Florida Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society A Tribute to William "Bill" Uphoff by Kathy Sreenan



In place of our chapter news, we sadly must share that our long-time chapter president, William "Bill" Uphoff, 99, passed peacefully in the company of his daughters on December 25, 2018.

A World War II veteran, he proudly served his country under General Patton. He then earned his wings as a B-17 pilot and flew 34 missions over Germany in the 91st Bomb Group. After the war he began a career in aircraft engineering for the U.S. Dept. of the Navy followed by 20 years as an Air Traffic Controller in Wilmington, DE.

He devoted himself to promoting recognition and

1919 in Philadelphia, PA. As a young man, he was greatly influenced by two experiences: attending Boy Scout camp on the Delaware River and watching the first B-17's delivered to Langley Field where the pilot gave him a tour of the cockpit.

His life was an anthem to giving back and doing the right thing. He had a strong relationship with nature and took his family on many camping adventures, became a Boy Scout leader for 15 years and spoke out for environmental protection. He was a craftsman and could fix just about anything. He hand-built a beautiful cedar house at the Jersey Shore.

Bill was always there to lend a helping hand and tell a story or joke to friends, family or anyone in need. He is survived by his wife of 67 years Kathryn, daughters Linda and Dianne, brother Jack, sister-in-law Dolores, seven nieces and nephews and granddaughters Jessica and Julia.



A Celebration of Life Service was held February 17 in Jupiter, Florida.

Photos: top of page clockwise- Bill Uphoff; daughter Dianne, Kathryn (wife, seated), daughter, Linda on right; center l-r, Jim Hart, president, Kathy Sreenan, secretary, Sean Reif, treasurer, David Traill, board member; bottom left, the Tequesta American Legion Post 271 supplied color guard and taps.



remembrance of the important role of the 8th Air Force through the 8th Air Force Historical Society, Florida Chapter and served as President from 1985 until his passing. Bill was born July 2,



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NY Southern Wing Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society by David C. Levitt (and photos)

On Sunday, November 18, 2018, we had another successful luncheon meeting at the Holiday Inn in Plainview, Long Island, NY. There were 28 people in attendance, including 3 Army Air Force veterans and several next gens!

Our event opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by chapter president, Joseph 'Pat' Keeley. Followed by our candle lighting ceremony. Our chapter treasurer, Antonio "Tony" Capobianco, passed away last year, so Tony's daughter Lisa, her husband Richard, and their son Eric, lit a candle in Tony's memory.

We took time to remember Tony's easygoing, personable, and warm personality, along with his encyclopedic knowledge of all things 8th Air Force, especially about D-Day. Tony was an invaluable part of our chapter and we will always remember him.

Next, Chapter member and Persian Gulf War veteran, Joe Domhan, gave an update on the American Airpower Museum of Farmingdale, Long Island, where he is a volunteer. The museum, housed in a hangar formerly used in the production of P47s at Republic Airport, is obtaining a flying P51-D. Also, the Yankee B17 will be flying in for the Memorial Day weekend program.

As always, the highlight of our meetings is when our attendees introduce themselves and share personal memories with us. Irving Goldstein and his daughter, Hope Friedman, were very enthusiastic! Irving was a C47 crew chief with the 439th Troop Carrier Group in the Ninth Air Force. Airborne crew chiefs not only did all their aircrafts' maintenance and repairs themselves, they also flew



combat missions.

Irving gave a brief overview of his experiences dropping paratroopers and towing gliders for D-Day as well as other combat missions. He regularly airlifted C47s filled with 5 gallon "Jerry cans" of gasoline to the front lines to keep the American tanks and other vehicles moving. The C47s were also used to evacuate wounded soldiers, POWs (who had been released), and concentration camp survivors to places of



safety and hospitals where they could receive proper medical care.

Irving shared his personal moments about the tender, compassionate side of war. As a son of Jews who fled Poland during the Russian Revolution, he had close relatives trapped in Europe during WWII.

Most perished during the Holocaust. After Belgium was liberated, Irving got a letter from his parents informing him that his aunt and uncle had managed to stay one step ahead of the Nazis by hiding out



with a family on a Belgium farm. Irving located them in an emotional reunion.

One of our long-time members, Joseph 'Joe' Minton and his lovely wife Norma, were also at our meeting. Joe was an engineering officer who ran one of the hangars at SAD2 (Strategic Air Depot), part of the 1st AD. Thanks to Joe, B17s that came through his hangar with severe battle damage and mechanical problems continued to fly missions against the Germans.

Another 8th Air Force veteran, Gerard Opitz and his grandson Sean Powers were with us. Jerry was a photographer in the 389th BG. His photographs enabled his bomb group to fly in precise formation. The Eighth's B24s and B17s built their group formations around retired-

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from-combat bomber 'formation ships' over England before heading out to targets over Europe.

A photo of Jerry kissing the ground upon returning to the US after VE-Day at Bradley Airfield in



in attendance was Thomas Dowler and his uncle Kevin Ryan. These WWII enthusiasts have older relatives who served in WWII.

Yet another member of the 'third' generation to attend our luncheon was Sergey

Connecticut, appeared in *Life* magazine!

Joyce Gay, once again returned to join us with others from her local British Veterans group. It is always a delight to have Joyce and her group with us. They have been in attendance the past four years, commemorating the close relationship between the 8th Air Force and the people of Great Britain. Joyce's husband, Andrew, is a British veteran of the Cold War era.

We were thrilled to have three generations of the Weinberg family at the luncheon. Stewart Weinberg brought his mother Joan, and daughter Shira. A recent college graduate, Shira dual-majored in biology and history, writing her thesis on strategic bombing!

Another multi-generation family

Kadinsky. Originally from the former Soviet Union, Sergey teaches college history and is a talented journalist who is bilingual in both English and Russian. During the luncheon he interviewed Irving, Hope,



and Shira. His beautiful tribute was then published in the *Queens Jewish Link*, an online newspaper. Both of Sergey's grandfathers served in the Soviet army during WWII.

Several widows of our veterans were also at our luncheon. Renée Greene attended with Don Cohen.

Her late husband David served with the 392nd BG, then became a highly decorated career officer. He also served as vice president of our chapter.

Teresa Ambrosia attended with her son, Mike, Jr. Her late husband Mike, Sr., was a radio operator in the 8th.

With our luncheon being just days away from Thanksgiving, David Levitt, gave a talk, "Thanksgiving 1942: The 8th AF and the Allies Turn the Tide Against the Germans and the Japanese." After a dismal late 1941-early 1942, Allied victories provided reason to give thanks by November 1942. David wove an 8th AF thread through the time period of spring to fall, 1942 victories. He spoke about how the Tokyo B25 raids bombing Japan in April of 1942 were led by then Col Jimmy Doolittle. Shortly afterwards, he was promoted to brigadier general and his promotion to major general followed quickly. In 1942 he again was promoted, this time to lieutenant general, and he became commanding general of the 8th Air Force.

When the Twelfth Air Force was formed in North Africa, $\frac{3}{4}$ of its aircraft and crews came directly from the 8th. During the Battle for North Africa which began in November 1942, most of Germany's JU52 transport aircraft were shot down by the 12th. Without these aircraft available to supply the German military with fuel and other supplies, the German armies there collapsed and surrendered.

Pat Keeley spoke about the 8th AF mission flown on the same date as our luncheon, but in 1944. Pat also honored the WWII veterans in attendance with chapter medals.

As always, we closed our luncheon with a raffle!

We invite those of you who may

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be in our area to attend our June luncheon meeting, scheduled on June 2, 2019. We will be commemorating the 75th Anniversary of D-Day [June 6, 1944] to include the following:



* WWII veterans of the Eighth Air Force as well as veterans from other branches of the military, including Allied countries, sharing their experiences—living history in gripping detail.

* An awards presentation of the Jubilee of Liberty medal and certificates to veterans who served during Operation Overlord in WWII, as well as presenting the New York State Medal for D-Day Service to eligible American and Allied veterans.

* We will continue to present our regular luncheon activities including talks on 8th AF history and aviation, socializing, and viewing a wonderful exhibit of 8th AF memorabilia curated by Pat Keeley and his wife Andrea, daughter of our former president, Gustave “Gus” Nathan, who served with the 486th BG.

Again, we invite old friends and new to join with us not only during our meeting, but to consider a week-end visit where you can stay at the Holiday Inn (location of our luncheon) and visit other area attractions

such as: the American Airpower Museum, the Cradle of Aviation Museum, the Museum of American Armor, and the USS Intrepid—and of course numerous parks, beaches, and other attractions of Long Island and the New York City area.

Be sure and check our website: <http://blogs.ny8thswcafhs.org> or contact, Joseph “Pat” Keeley directly. His contact info is on p.2 of this issue of the 8th AF News magazine.

Photos: p. 24--top; l to r, Renee Greene, Kathy Dowsett, Andrea Keeley, Don Cohen, Pat Keeley, Eric Capobianco, Lisa (Capobianco) & husband, Richard, Joe Domhan. Middle; l to r, Stewart Weinberg, Shira Weinberg, Irving Goldstein, Hope Friedman. Bottom; Tony Capobianco (2014). p. 24--top; Sean Powers (l) and Gerard Opitz (r). Middle; Sergey Kadinsky (r) interviewing Irving Goldstein and Hope Friedman. Bottom: Pat Keeley (center) presenting Irving Goldstein (l) and Joe Minton (r) with Chapter medals.

This page: David Levitt (top left) speaking to attendees.



**Wisconsin Chapter
8th Air Force Historical Society
December Meeting & Dinner
by Cindy Drehmel, President**

The Wisconsin Chapter again celebrated Christmas with a meeting featuring our own Sgt Bob Birmingham speaking, a great Christmas dinner and door prizes galore! Sgt Bob Birmingham, WWII B24 Nose Gunner, 458th BG, spoke of his service as an 8th Air Force nose gunner. After only five missions, his plane



was shot down over Germany. The crew of the crippled plane was barely able to maneuver it into Swedish territory and bail out, parachuting just five miles into neutral territory.

Bob's service began on my 18th birthday Dec. 4, 1943 when he enlisted in the U.S Army Air Force rather than wait to be drafted. On December 11, 1944 Bob flew his first mission, bombing a railroad yard in Hanau, Germany. Just after Christmas 1944 the skies cleared and were soon filled with bombers and fighters to help drive the Germans back. Birmingham's crew flew missions three days in a row, January 1st, 2nd and 3rd. On January 17, 1945 on a mission to an oil refinery at Hamburg, Germany Bob's B 24 was hit by an anti-aircraft shell and a lot of flak. Continuing their mission, Bob's crew dropped their bombs.

While dropping the bombs, a 20 mm shell entered the open bomb bay and lodged in the main gas tank but it did not explode. The flak knocked out two of the B24's four engines and hydraulic system causing gas to enter the open bomb bay. It was

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immediately determined that the crew and B24 could not make it back to England so they headed to the nearest neutral country, Sweden. A book, entitled 'Red Dog,' published in 2000 in Sweden, talks about Bob's crew's harrowing experiences, and internment in Sweden.



Operation Christmas Became Full of Heart

To continue on the tradition first begun by our late Vice President, LtCol Ralph Anderson, the Wisconsin Chapter members at our December 4 meeting donated stuffed toys. Additional funds collected went for games for older children as well as hats, mittens, and scarves for both children and mothers of the Bethany House. This specialized apartment building houses abused women and their children.

Unfortunately, residency in the apartments was quite low so the director asked us to bring the toys Valentine's weekend. This could not have been a better time for the residents.

Many of the residents commented that they felt special and not forgotten. Upon opening her gift Jane, mother of two, with tears welling up in her eyes commented, *"This is the first Valentine I have ever received. Thank you for making me feel special!"*

Shana was the first to open her

gift. Excitedly she pulled out a large blue wolf with big blue eyes and sparkly ears. She exclaimed, *"How did you know I love wolves, they are my favorite!"* She promptly squeezed him tight and showed him her wolf hat that she had brought with her that day. (What are the odds? That was the only wolf toy out of the 40 toys we brought!)

Vicky quickly opened hers to find a large fuzzy bear and lip gloss, which she promptly donned.

Ten month old, baby Cam squealed with delight when playing with his barn with 4 stuffed hens and a rooster inside.

Tears, in her eyes Jacqueline said, *"How did you know I'd be here?"* (We made an extra goodie bag in case there might be a new resident). *I only arrived yesterday. For the first time I feel unconditionally loved. I know I made the right decision coming here.* (Jacqueline had been rescued from a cult in a neighboring state).

Lastly, mom Lorna stated, *"You know this empowers me to do great things. To be loved and thought of makes all things possible!"* Since her stay at Bethany she has now become an advocate helping others at the house and goes to the capitol to lobby against abuse.

Special moments included Vicky (age 7) totally beating Cindy Drehmel and Mike Schirmer in a board brain game. Mike and Cindy stated, *"There can't be any more words that can be found here."* Vicky simply lined up the letters and spelled **"LOGIC."** Beaten by a 7 year old!

Additional moments included Dawn Amby showing baby Cam the fuzzy froggy and hens and roosters in their stuffed barn while mom looked on endearingly. Also, Sally Schirmer circulated among the mothers and single women learning each woman's story with a listening ear of support



and an occasional hug.

After opening their gifts and playing, all joined in for yummy valentine cookies and cupcakes with cups of hot cocoa to wash it down.

On a holiday, for which many in the Bethany house would have felt left out, I like to think we gave a little warmth and heart giving them hope for a more loving future.

(Note names of mothers and children have been changed to protect their welfare.)

Come join us for our April 2 meeting and dinner: 11am to 2:30pm at the 128th Air Refueling Wing at Mitchel Air Field in Milwaukee. **We will be electing seven (7) Board members during this April 2019 meeting.**

Members must be paid up to date Wisconsin Chapter members in order to be eligible to vote during our April 2, 2019 Spring Meeting and may do so ahead of time via proxy. Proxies must be received between the dates of December 4, 2018-April 1, 2019. Proxies are sent to PO Box 370765, Milwaukee, WI 53237, write *"proxy"* on the back of the envelope. Proxies will not be opened until the time of the voting.

Photos: preceding page shows Bob Birmingham speaking to the group and being interviewed by NBC station; this page shows toys collected for children and group enjoying the fun!

Alexander, Dr. V. Gayle, 97, passed away Sunday, December 30th. He was predeceased by his wife of 59 years, Betsy Radford Alexander, a son Thomas Gayle Alexander and an older brother Harry



S. Alexander. He was a native of Lexington, Kentucky, graduating from Henry Clay High School and attended the University of Kentucky making many lifelong friends as an SAE. He enlisted in the Air Corps on Dec 12, 1941. After passing through pilot training, being assigned as a fighter pilot instructor and finally being called to fly heavy bombers for the Mighty Eighth, he lead the 493rd Bomb Group, and the 34th Bomb Squadron on 19 missions deep into France and Germany. As lead pilot he was also assigned the mickey ship or Pathfinder, flying with the first radar used in wartime. He was shot down on his 19th mission over Merseberg, Germany, captured and held in a prison camp for three months before beginning the 550 mile march in one of Germany's coldest winters. Stalag Luft III was liberated in late April '45 by Patton's tank brigade. As Captain he earned the Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Distinguished Unit Badge, The Purple Heart, The European Service Medal, Irving Air Chute Caterpillar Club (bailing out of a burning bomber), the Prisoner of War Medal, French Knight of The Legion Of Honor, and the Jubilee of Liberty Medal. Upon returning to the U.S. he attended Ohio State University graduating as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. He returned to Lexington and opened Blue Cross Small Animal Hospital on South Broadway where he practiced for 25 years before retiring to manage his own farm and cattle operation. He enjoyed fishing and boating on Herrington Lake, a good fall dove hunt and traveling with his wife throughout the world finally settling in Naples, FL. for their winter retreat.

Dr. Alexander was also most recently one of the 8th Air Force veterans featured in the HBO documentary, *The Cold Blue*. He is survived by daughter Carolyn A. Gago (Lexington), son Cyrus (Dana) R. Alexander, four grandchildren, Thomas (Diana) Oakes (Chicago), Cyrus (Ashleigh) G. Alexander (Paris, Tn.), Wesley T. Alexander, Benjamin R. M. Alexander, two great grandchildren, Parker and Henry Oakes, and two nephews, Wayne and Steve Alexander (Foley, Al).

Christiano, Samuel A., 96, of Livingston, NJ, passed away on September 21, 2018. Born in Orange, N.J., Samuel graduated from West Orange High School in 1939. He interrupted his



college studies when he enlisted in 1942 in the United States Army Air Force. After technical training as a weather observer at Chanute Field in Rantoul, IL, Christiano was assigned to the 18th Weather Squadron and attached initially to the 4th Fighter Group of the U.S. 8th Air Force at Debden Aerodrome in Essex, England. He then joined the headquarters staff of the United States Strategic and Tactical Air Forces (USSTAF) in London (code-named "Widewing"), where he helped to provide weather support for offensive American air operations over occupied France, over Normandy for the Allied invasion, and over Nazi Germany itself. Following the D-Day invasion in 1944, he moved to USSTAF Weather Central at Saint-Germain-en-Laye in France.

Christiano attained the rank of Staff Sergeant in the Army, with five overseas service stripes. In addition, he received the Army's European - African - Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, with two bronze service stars. He also received the Distinguished Service Medal from the State of New Jersey. Among his awards from France were membership in the Legion of Honor,

with the rank of *Chevalier* (Knight), "for services rendered to France or to the ideals that it upholds," and the Jubilee of Liberty Medal. After the war, Samuel worked in a factory during the day and enrolled in law classes at night. He received the degree of LL.B. from Fordham University School of Law in 1949, and spent the next forty years practicing law in New Jersey. During the last thirty he was the attorney for the West Orange Board of Education. At the same time he took an active role in community affairs, assisting the local board of the Selective Service, serving as the Commander of the Glennon-Sayers Post 376 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in West Orange, as president of both the Roseville (Newark, N.J.) and West Orange Lions Clubs, as vice president of the West Orange Democratic Club, and as a trustee of the West Orange Public Library. Samuel was a devout Roman Catholic and a parishioner of St. Joseph's Church in West Orange, where he also was a trustee. For his service to the Catholic Archdiocese of Newark, he was recognized in 2000 with the Jubilee Award *Pro Meritis* Medal. Samuel was the beloved husband of 56 years to the late Mary P. "Pat" Christiano (née Greene); father of Stephen Christiano and his wife Adele; Kevin Christiano; Patricia Christiano; Maureen Christiano; and Donna Campisano and her husband James; adoring grandfather of Carolyn Christiano, Cynthia Emporellis and her husband George; Angela Christiano, and Samuel and Luke Campisano; brother of the late John Christiano; and dear friend of Diane Hanley.

Cowan, Wallace "Wally" Edgar, 94, died October 24, 2018, in Dallas, TX. Wally was born January 28, 1924 in Hoboken, New Jersey. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Airforce during World War



II. He served with the 487th BG from 1942 - 45 as pilot of a B17. Wally flew his plane, "Ticket Home", 37 missions over France and Germany. Wally received The Air Medal with Silver Oak Leaf Clusters - a distinction for war service and heroism, returning his entire crew [Frank Rogers Co-P; Isaiah Douglas Nav; Daniel "Red" Rock, Bombardier; Andy Anderson, Eng; Dan Bodiford, R/O; Cliff Lionbarger, WG; R. L. "Dick" Goedde, TG; and Robert Burton, BTG] and plane back safely after each mission.

After his service, Wally graduated Magna Cum Laude from New York University with a BS in Accounting and Harvard Law School Cum Laude in 1950. He joined the law firm Stroock, Stroock & Lavan in New York City and worked for 44 years as an Associate and then Partner. He was on the Board of Directors and Secretary to Ametek, Inc. for 24 years.

Wally served the township of Teaneck, New Jersey as the Chairman of the Advisory Board for Parks, Playgrounds, and Recreation for 31 years. He was considered the 'savior' of a 200-year-old Red Oak tree in Teaneck. Wally was a Board Member of the Hackensack River Walkway for many years. He received a Bergen County, New Jersey Distinguished Service Award in 1994 and the Bergen County Distinguished Achievement Award in 2001. Wally was active in his synagogue, Congregation Beth Shalom in Teaneck, and served as President for 3-years.

Wally was predeceased by daughter, Dr. Laurie Cowan, (Mark Lewittes) of Wilmington, Delaware and is survived by wife of 71 years, Ruth nee Daitzman, and children Paul "Yirmi" (Chaya) Cowan of Israel, and Judy (Jeff) Kogutt of Dallas, Texas. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. His hobbies included bird-watching, world-travel, photography, and hiking. Wally will be remembered by family and friends for his life-long service, dedication to family and community, and his infectious laugh and warmth.

Hendricks, Walter D., 92, passed on June 18, 2018.



He was born on July 23, 1925 in Elyria, Ohio. Mr. Hendricks honorably served his country in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII, 452nd

Bombardment Group, 731st Squadron, Air Force Station #142, 1944 to 1945 at Deopham Green, Norfolk England and was a recipient of the French Legion of Honor Medal. He was a member of the 452nd Bombardment Group and 8th Air Force Historical Society. Walter was a former employee of Cadillac Tank Plant; Technical Writer for Aero Jet; McDonald Douglas Air Craft; NCR; Frigidaire; White Consolidated and the Moraine Truck & Bus plant until his retirement. Preceded in death by his wife in 1993 and his eldest son in 1977. He is survived by 2 sons and 1 daughter, his sister, 5 grandchildren, & 6 great grandchildren. A regular attendee at 452nd BGA reunions and 8th Air Force reunions, in later years family accompanied Walter so he could attend.

Walter served as a Ball Turret Gunner, completing 9 missions, two of which were way too memorable in February 1945. Surviving crew member at time of Walter's passing: Bill Roche.

Feb. 06, '45, All 9 crew members returned to duty; hit by flak, and landing gear problems, pilot landed on muddy hill near village of Assigny, France. #43-37695 Lucky Lady III. All returned but Lucky Lady was stuck. Feb. 26, '45, Heading back to home base after mission to Berlin. Flying lead BS, aircraft took a direct flak hit on #4 engine & losing fuel, they tried keeping up with formation. Pilots decided to fly to emergency fields in Poland. A formation of Mustangs & one Mosquito escorted them for a while. Continuing flight east, they circled & landed at Lisziki, Poland, & were surrounded by Russian soldiers. There were many strange behaviors by the Russians. Finally, following

months of interrogation they traveled, from Poland, to Kiev, to Odessa, Naples, then Caserta (Allied Control). Corsica, Sardinia, Marseilles & finally Fontainebleau. Crossed channel to Newcastle. They made it back to Norfolk, (Snetterton, not DG?) & sailed home on the Queen Mary, sleeping on deck for 4 nights.

Losada, Vincent, 93, was killed,



November 17, 2018 in the crash of a vintage P51 Mustang. He was born on May 2, 1925 to the late Perfecto and Elisa Losada in Cleveland, Ohio. In

addition to his parents, Vincent was preceded in death by his beloved wife and son, Eleanor and Roy Losada, his grandchildren, Vincent Lee Losada and Christopher Lawrence Losada, and siblings Frank Losada and Emily Weigle. When Vince was 18, he joined the US Army Air Corps and after training in various locations across Florida and Texas was assigned to the 487th Bomb Group as a bombardier on a B-17 named "The Big Drip, Jr." Vince flew 25 missions with his crew before being wounded in combat on a mission over the outskirts of Berlin on March 15, 1945. Vince was a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Air Medal Recipient amongst other campaign decorations. He continued to serve in administrative functions in the Army until retiring with full honors in 1947. Vince married Eleanor in 1946, and at the conclusion of his service worked in the Insurance industry in San Antonio. Vince retired in 1969 and pursued his passion for travel with Eleanor in cross country trips in their motorhome. Vince was a proud and active advocate of the veteran community in San Antonio, and for philanthropic groups who supported amputees and WWII Survivors. Vince is survived by loving nieces and nephews, Frank Losada (Kathleen), Bryon Weigle (Tracy), Michelle Dugdale (Richard), Stacy Weigle and great nieces and nephews Frank Losada

(Kelly), Kristin Losada, Michaela Dugdale, Brett Weigle, Sara Weigle and countless friends, advocates, and supporters in the San Antonio and WWII Veteran's communities.

Mastrogiacono, Samuel, 96 of



Edgewater, Florida, passed away Friday, Nov. 2, 2018.

Sam was born in Philadelphia, PA and moved to the area in 2001 from Sewell, NJ. He served in the U.S. Army during WW II and retired after 33 years of service as Master Sergeant from the Army Air Corps, 8th AF, 2nd Air Division, 445th BG, where he was a tail gunner on a B-24 Liberator. Sam was also an aircraft machinist at the Philadelphia Naval Yard for 30 years. He was a member of Bella Vista Baptist Church, American Legion Post #285 and Am Vets Post #2, all in Edgewater. He was also a member of the 8th Air Force Historical Society, the Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division and the American-Italian Club of New Smyrna Beach. Survivors include his wife, Joan; three sons, Sammy and Mark Mastrogiacono, both of Edgewater and Nelson (Julie) Brown of Newnan, GA; four daughters, Brenda (Joe) Hanby of Vero Beach, Sherry (Fred) MacLeod of Vineland, NJ, Julie (Rich) Elefante of Cumming, GA and Jill (David) Smith of Dallas, GA; two brothers, Mike Mastrogiacono of Philadelphia and Anthony (Mary Lou) Mastrogiacono of Edgewater and ten grandchildren.

Plate, Wilmer A., 99, of Jacksonville,



AR and former longtime resident of Kingston, Oklahoma, passed away Tuesday, January 1, 2019. While growing up, his family homesteaded in New

Mexico and then moved to Crane, Texas. Will worked alongside his father at the family gas station, followed by the family dairy. After his father passed in 1938, Will took over the primary responsibilities at the dairy. He had so many great stories of his days on the dairy farm, including drunk roosters and "wind broke" horses! He met the love of his life, Helen, and they were married in 1940. They had two daughters, Eleanor and Mary. After 71 years of marriage his bride passed away in 2011.

On June 2, 1942, he enlisted in the US Army and after training was assigned to the Eighth Air Force, 489th BG. Will and his crew completed 31 missions on September 27, 1944. After his combat missions were completed, he flew gasoline to General Patton. He met the maximum number of points for discharge and left the service in September 1945. After ten months, he re-enlisted in the Army retaining his commission in the Army. He served in the Training Command, Germany, and Sheppard Air Force Base until his selection as Warrant Officer in 1957. He then transferred to the Space and Missile System facility at Los Angeles Air Station as the Maintenance Officer. In 1962, he was assigned to Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, as the Chief of Maintenance for the 54th Air Rescue Squadron. He was reassigned to Los Angeles Air Force Base, located in El Segundo, California, as the staff maintenance advisor to General Bernard (Bennie) Schriever, Commander, Air Force Ballistic Missile Division.

In 1971, after 30 years of service, he retired from the Air Force as a Chief Warrant Officer 4. Sixteen months later he retired from the Air Force Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Wilmer authored three books. Will penned a memoir, *"The Storm Clouds of War: Reflections of a World War II Bomber Pilot"*. This book was published in September 2014, when Wilmer was only 95 years old! His words will give future generations insight into the challenges faced by

our Greatest Generation. The third book, a compilation of short stories and vignettes will be published this year. Besides writing, Will also enjoyed boating, water skiing (until he was nearly 80 years old), fishing, RVing, golfing, and wood working. In addition, at the age of 99, Will still worked out with a personal trainer at the Air Force Base Gym twice a week. He received his High School diploma from Crane High School in 2016 because he did not take his GED test until after he retired from the Air Force. He said that he always felt like he was missing something without his high school diploma. The town of Crane and local media from Midland/Odessa made quite a big deal about their oldest graduate!

He was awarded the following medals: French Legion of Honor, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, Air Medal with Three Oak Leaves, Air Force Commendation Medal with One Oak Leaf, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, European Africa Middle Eastern Campaign with Four Battle Stars, World War Two Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, National Defense Service Medal with One Bronze Star, Air Force Longevity Service Medal with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Silver Hour Glass. He spoke with Veterans of all wars and made presentations to school children from elementary to high school. He was a member of St. Stephens Episcopal Church, and several organizations.

Wilmer is survived by his daughters; Eleanor Isaacsen (Bruce), Mary Engel (Richard). Grandchildren; Karla Wheeler, Sharon Isaacsen, Eric Engel (Athena), Dustin Engel and Captain Heidi Engel, twelve great-grandchildren and seven great-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen (Logue) Plate, father William Plate, mother Lucy (Riedesel) Plate, brothers Francis and Henry, sister Eleanor and grandson Bruce Isaacsen.

HOW ABOUT IT!

What's in *YOUR* mirror?

Earl Wassom 466th BG, Chaplain 8th AFHS

The American patriot, George Mason (1725-1792), once stated "All men are by nature born equally free and independent." That may be true philosophically, but ask the coal miner working underground in a dangerous environment for low pay and living in sub-standard housing and a lousy environment in which his little family will grow up and whose favorite song is the ballad made famous by Tennessee Ernie Ford, "...you load sixteen tons and what do you get? Another day older and deeper in debt. Saint Peter don't you call me 'cause I can't go, I owe my soul to the company store." That miner sitting in a dimly lit, dingy room in a rickety crude chair certainly could not agree with George Mason ...He is neither free nor independent. Yet, every living creature on this planet does have something in common. There are more ways to determine the achievement of an individual than so-called freedom or independence.

We live in a world of sports. We can learn a lot of valuable lessons from sports. Keep your head in the right place. Enter your life with the right attitude, be honest, humble, open to new ideas, be prepared, give it your best shot, prepare and practice and practice over and over again.

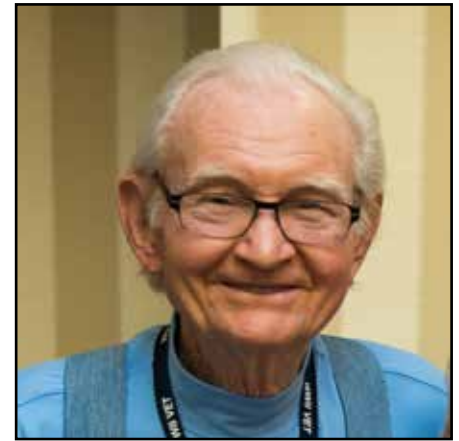
When you are knocked down (and you will be) get up, calmly learn from your failure and go on and live your life and enjoy yourself! Every lover of sports and every human being who has lived on this planet has one thing in common, 'time.' There are no exceptions. The greatest thing you will ever possess is time, you have it 24 hours a day, seven days a week, twelve months a year, a

decade, a century for as long as time exists! What is the best way to use it?

Start your daily 24 hour vigil by going to the bathroom, look in the mirror, the image you see is you. The greatest challenge that person has is how to cope with the 24 hours waiting to be used. The greatest temptation you have is to look back and either rejoice over your successes or lament your failures. Now, you have 24 hours directly in front of you. Search for what is right and weed out what is wrong. It takes a tremendous amount of courage to do this. Self improvement comes from this process. In our rapidly changing society you must ignite your hidden abilities and just go higher! Your stance will be challenged, intimidated, bullied; your patriotism will be questioned. Don't give up. Use common sense.

Will Rogers, one of my favorite Oklahoma home-spun philosophers was a writer, humorist and gifted speaker. His common-sense approach to his adversaries was: (1) never slap a man who's chewing tobacco, (2) never miss a good chance to shut up, (3) always drink upstream from the herd, (4) if you find yourself in a hole, stop digging, (5) good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment, (6) when the chips are down, the buffalo are empty.

Let's look in the mirror. You are going to recall some unpleasant events that happened, some things you wish would go away! Paul the apostle described man's self-improvement program where he declares, "*Put to death....whatever belongs to your earthly nature, sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil*



desires, and greed which is idolatry. You must rid yourself of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language. Do not lie..."(Col.3:3-9 NIV).

In the same mirror, these words will also appear: "*Therefore... clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience... Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another...Forgive... and the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.*" (Col.3:12-15 NIV).

What a challenge!!!! And each of us has a level playing field with our time divided into 24 hours allocated to us to work it all out.

Will Rogers is quoted as having said, "*I never met a man I didn't like.*" That is a remarkable statement but I have been around a lot of folks who have known Will Rogers along with countless other Oklahomans who would not dispute his claim! How can this be? In all likelihood, he saw in his mirror some, if not all, of the positive characteristics listed above. Good things like compassion, kindness, gentleness, forgiveness and love, will enable us to build such characters that it will make our world a better place in which to live. Paul summed it all up when he said, whatever true, noble right is, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy. Think about such things...put them into practice and the God of peace will be with you. (Phil.3:4-9)

What's in *your* mirror?



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18 APRIL 1942



The B-25 and their aircrews (all volunteers) for the Doolittle Raiders came from the 17th Bomb Group assigned to a young Eighth Air Force. Only 16 of the 20 B-25s of 17th Bomb Group could fit on the flight deck of the USS Hornet.

However, all 20 aircrews deployed on the Hornet with the four crews without aircraft designated as backup. The flight deck of the USS Hornet was 809 feet in length. The first B-25

only had 467 feet of flight deck to work with and Lt Col Doolittle was on board this first B-25. Today, two of the bomb squadrons which made up the Doolittle Raiders bomber force - the 34th and 37th - are assigned to 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth AFB, part of Eighth Air Force's bomber force.

Editor: Many thanks to Lane Callaway, Historian for 8th Air Force & Joint Global Strike Operations Center for text and photos.