

# FORTRESS FOR FREEDOM

## 388th Bombardment Group (H) Association



8th Air Force, 3rd Air Division, 45th Combat Wing  
Station 136, Knettishall England, 1943–1945  
333 Total Missions



306 Combat Missions, 19 Aphrodite Missions, 5 Chowhound Missions, 1 POW Mission, 2 Revival Missions

### 388th Bombardment Group Headquarters

Station 136 Weather Detachment, Fersfield Air Base (Aphrodite Project), 434th Headquarters Squadron, 860th Squadron, 684th Squadron, 434th Air Service Group, 1211th Quartermaster Company, 1284th Military Police Company, 273rd Medical Dispensary, 1751st Ordnance Supply and Maintenance Company, 2019th Engineering and Fire Fighting Platoon, 452nd Sub Depot, 29th Station Complement, 587th Postal Unit, 877th Chemical Company, 214th Finance Detachment  
560th Bombardment Squadron, 561st Bombardment Squadron, 562nd Bombardment Squadron, 563rd Bombardment Squadron

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## *From the President's Desk*

Dear 388BG Family and Friends,

Paul and Frances Ammons did an outstanding job on the reunion at Hill AFB near Layton Utah. Many members took time to share how much they liked this year's reunion. Col. Landrum and the committee on base put together a program that was interesting, exciting and educational. We got a tour of an F-16 and its armaments and got to watch a munitions crew load weapons on the F-16 similar to what they would do if deployed. We also observed an air traffic controller training in a rather active simulation involving up to eight aircraft at a time. Then we went up into the air traffic control tower to watch F-16s training for combat missions. Flights of four taking off and landing in close order practicing for when they are deployed. The 388 Fighter Wing continues the legacy of the 388BG. They were the first to receive the F-16s, they will be the first unit to receive the F-35A aircraft when issued next year and they are the first to be deployed when the need arises. It is easy to see how dedicated the men and women of the 388FW are to serving our country. After we had lunch and time to rest a 'Warriors Call' convened in the hospitality room. This was an opportunity for the personnel of the 388FW to visit with our original members. It was scheduled from 4:00 to 6:00, however it was still in full swing at 8:00PM. Young and old, families and original members all seemed to enjoy the visit.

Friday we went to Antelope Island across the causeway to see Bison, Antelope and how the settlers lived. After lunch those who wanted to went to the Hill Aerospace Museum. Those who wanted to rest returned to the hotel. The banquet was fun with the personnel from the 388FW joining us for dinner and the festivities. Col. Landrum recognized the accomplishments of each of our original members as he spoke after dinner. Each of the original members received a small packet of mail which caught up with them in Utah. They were grinning like school kids as they read the letters.

The 2015 reunion will be in Washington DC where we will have a ceremony at the World War II Memorial to recognize the scrafice of all who flew on



B-17s; the ones who returned and the ones who made the ultimate sacrifice. For the 2016 reunion we are trying to connect with a flying B-17.

This year we are working on a Scholarship, the graphics for the Kiosks, making the PX more available, our 2 websites and 2 Facebook sites; 388thBG.org, 388BG.org, <https://www.facebook.com/388th> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/388th/> (secret site).

I saw the Electronic Newsletter this year for the first time and would urge everyone to send us your email address so that you can see it in color and with extra material. It is impressive. You can receive both paper/email if you desire. For everyone that we have an email address for we are going to start sending a sample electric newsletter. Once you see the electric you will leave the paper behind.

*Rick Thompson*

## Scholarship Fund

One of our members suggested that we investigate making the Memorial Fund self-perpetuating. The board of directors thought this is a good idea. Currently we rely on donations to take care of the memorial at Knettishall, England. We are about half way to the amount required to make the fund self-perpetuating. We need between \$15,000 and \$20,000 to meet our goal. Since we are a charitable organization and have a 501.c.19 tax status, ALL contributions are tax deductible. You can make donations 'out of pocket', or you could leave a bequest in your will. If you have a living trust you could set it up to make a donation after you are gone. There are a number of ways to make donations and as I said they are tax deductible.

If we get more money than what is needed for the memorial fund the board decided that the excess would go into the Scholarship Fund. I believe Terry is getting a committee together to set up the fund, the protocols for how it will operate including the selection process. The discussion so far has been to grant a \$1000 scholarship to a high school student who is entering college initially and to look at all college students as the fund matures into an ongoing thing.

## NEW MEMBERS

### 560th Squadron

JoAnn (Judy) Frazier  
daughter of Joseph E. Ford

### 562nd Squadron

Steve Harris  
son of Ross Harris

### 563rd Squadron

Alex Drastel  
grandson of Thomas F. Linzee

### 388th Fighter Wing

Colonel Lance Landrum

### 388th

Gordan Snow

## DONATIONS

Paul Ammons

Steve Butner

Ruth Castleberry

Jim Cotton

Henry & Betty Curvat,

In Memory of Thomas A Dennis Sr

Wayne Daniels

Tom & Barbara Dennis

Ben Forrest Jr

Terry Harris

Steven Head

Elizabeth and Jack Heinz

Robert Leto

Elizabeth Linzee

Charles Meyer

David Miller

James Morrow

Mike and Petie Peller,

In Memory of Thomas A Dennis Sr

Harold Rosenn

Ginny Schabacker

Maxine Smith

Anthony Smith

George Staley

David Stewart

Ruth Tabor

Jory Vandrburg

Carol Walker



## 388th PX



**HATS**  
**\$15.00 each**



**POLO SHIRTS**  
**\$25.00**



**KOOZIE AND  
LANYARD**  
**\$2.00 each**



**RHINESTONE PIN**  
**\$12.50**

Each of the above items is plus shipping costs.

All items above are available for order from Christy Wammack. I encourage all of you to send Christy an email (xxxxclw@yahoo.com) or call her (928-581-1010) and let her know what other items you would like to see in our PX or to place an order. Also many of you saw Col. Long's wife, Staci, with a 388th pin. It is now available as shown.



**COIN \$8.00 each**  
**KEYCHAIN \$10.00 each**  
**VELVET BOX \$4.00 each**  
**Shipping \$3.00/up to 5 coins**  
**\$8.00 for 6 coins or up to two gift boxes.**

Make checks out to: 388th Bomb Group Assn

Mail to:

Greg Staples

4715 W. Larchwood Court, Spokane, WA 99208

*All profits go to our Memorial in Knettishall.*

We would like to have a couple of people with an education background to work on the committee. There was some talk about the selection process however at this point everything is preliminary. If you are interested in working on the group please email Terry at [President@388thbg.org](mailto:President@388thbg.org).

## Re-enactment Group

Dick Henggeler recently suggested that we have some people dress in vintage clothing at the reunion. The natural progression of this excellent idea would be to work on some re-enactments of different situations from that time. Down the road as these are polished up we could tape them and include them on our web sites. Most of the Civil War re-enactments are not using 150 year old clothing. We could find out where they are getting the garments and or how to make garments. There may be some museums that have more clothing than they can display that would be willing to donate some to the association. Some of our members may still have some uniforms stuffed away in a closet. We are looking for somebody who would be interested in heading up and/or working on this project. Please contact me at [rickthompson388@gmail.com](mailto:rickthompson388@gmail.com).

## B-17 "City of Savannah"

The Dedication of the B-17 "City of Savannah" will be held at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force in Pooler, Georgia at 1:00 pm on 28 January 2015. This will be a memorable occasion for the Association, its veterans, and its members. I encourage all who are able to make plans now to attend the dedication ceremony. The Association and many of you veterans and members have contributed generously to the restoration fund for the "City of Savannah" and now is your opportunity to see the realization of the years-long restoration efforts. I hope to see many of you there.

Jim Morrow

388th BG liaison to the Museum



## LIAISON REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE 388th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING IN LAYTON, UTAH

### National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force

I had a good talk with Henry Skipper, President and CEO of the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force and he gave me an update on the status of the "City of Savannah." The restoration is nearly complete at this time. All parts needed for the restoration have been secured and the ball turret and nose turret have been installed and are now operational. The only turret not fully operational is the top turret and that will be completed in time for the scheduled dedication ceremony.

The "City of Savannah" dedication ceremony is scheduled for January 28, 2015. The son of pilot Ralph Kittle will be present for the ceremony. I asked about the participation of the 388th Bomb Group Association in the ceremony and was told that final arrangements for the involvement of other groups and individuals have not been made. Henry asked me to contact him when I return from our reunion and said that we would work together to determine the role of our Association in the dedication ceremony. I was assured that the part played by the 388th Bomb Group in the story of the "City of Savannah" would be significant. I hope that our Board of Directors and members of the Association will advise me on the role they think we should play in the dedication. I will share the recommendations and wishes of our Association with Henry Skipper when I meet with him after our reunion.

Vladimir Lacina, a citizen of the Czech Republic, contacted the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force recently and asked for help in gathering information about the crew of the 388th Bomb Group's "City of Savannah," which crashed in Czechoslovakia on March 5, 1945. Mr. Lacina and some of his friends who live near the site of the crash wish to erect a memorial to those crew members on March 5,

2015, the seventieth anniversary of the crash. Dr. Vivian Rogers-Price, Research Center Director at the Mighty Eighth Museum referred Mr. Lacina to me for information on the crew of the "City of Savannah."

I am in touch with Mr. Lacina and am providing him with all the information I can gather. I have contacted Irwin Boxer, nose gunner on the "City of Savannah," and am attempting to contact the son and daughter of J. E. Watkins, navigator of the "City of Savannah." Robert and Margaret Watkins met with me during our reunion in Oklahoma City last October and shared with me some of the memories of their father. Irwin Boxer is the last living member of the crew and has provided me with some information also. I also have information provided to me by Harold Johnson, a pilot in the 563rd. Bomb Squadron and a good friend of Ralph Kittle, pilot of the "City of Savannah." Harold was present at Hunter Army Air Field in Savannah when the Kittle crew took off in the "City of Savannah." Unfortunately, Harold died recently.

Regards,  
Jim Morrow

### U.K. Memorial

The 388th Memorial Trustees Committee is comprised of five members: Tony Goff (chair), Dave Sarson, Deborah Sarson, John Wallace and Percy Prentice. Dave Sarson is also curator of the 388th Collection at Hillside Farm, a two-building museum in Coney Weston which houses artifacts and memorabilia of the 388th Bomb Group.

The committee's primary focus is the perpetual care and upkeep of the 388th Memorial, located in Coney Weston at the crossroads of Fen Street and The Street. The grounds are regularly swept and mown, and the annual insurance payment is made each March.



The Committee also ensures that the Association is represented at the Memorial Day Remembrance held annually at the Cambridge American Cemetery at Madingley, and looks for opportunities to promote the memory of the 388th Bomb Group within the region. In July an illustrated talk on the group was given at Hardwick by Clive Stevens, a local historian and friend of the Trustees. Tony Goff has also been asked by the publican of The Dolphin in Thetford to put together a montage of historic 388th photos for permanent display.

Since last year's report, the 388th Collection received two visits from children of 388th men. In September 2013 they played host to Bryan Gross and Stephanie Coleman; his late father John Gross was an adjutant in the 561st Squadron. A portion of Gross' follow-up note to the Sarsons read: "Thanks to you the memories of the 388th live on with actual pictures and artifacts that can be seen and appreciated by those with an interest in that era ... and for those of us with actual "ties" (physical and emotional) to that time. There are not many people who would take the time, money and effort to do what you do."

In July 2014 Andy and Corrine Kaufman, traveling with Association Historian Dick Hengeler, spent a few days in the area and were able to take in, among other things, an air show at RAF Duxford. Andy's father, Paul, was a bombardier in the 560th Squadron.

In accordance with a vote of the Board at the 2007 general meeting in New Orleans, funding is provided both for Memorial and 388th Collection expenses. The \$536 earmarked for the Memorial is used for insurance, maintenance and ancillary expenses including a wreath for the Memorial Day ceremony; the 388th Collection receives \$500 for insurance and/or security purposes (such as upkeep of its 24-hour surveillance camera).

A small cushion has been built into these amounts to offset regular fluctuations in exchange rates which is, at this writing, 1.69); however, that cushion does not take into account bank transaction fees, which are higher

for check-cashing and considerably lower for electronic transfers. In order to minimize the bite from transaction fees, Association Treasurer Tom Dennis, Jr. has, at the Trustees' request, been making electronic transfers of \$1,036. In years when the exchange rate is favorable, a small surplus accumulates in the Trustees' account, allowing for small contingencies should they arise. This surplus also compensates during years when the exchange rate is particularly high.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Pack

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## Hill Aerospace Museum

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In preparation for our deliberation at the 388th Bomb Group Association Reunion on Wednesday, August 27, attached is the description of the 388th Display Project at Hill Aerospace Museum, which contains the responsibilities of all the persons involved. Also attached are three proposals for purchase of a kiosk, which have assembled for our consideration. Please study these documents, with the thought in mind of taking actions leading to the expenditure of funds for one of these proposals.

Getting together at the reunion is on Wednesday at 4:00 PM is our opportunity to move the project from planning into action. A meeting with the other players in the project, Jory Vanderburgh, the Historian of the 388th Fighter Wing Aaron Clark, the Director of the Hill Aerospace Museum, and a representative of the Hill Aerospace Museum Foundation is planned on Friday, afternoon at 2:00 PYM.

This project follows from the approval by the Board of Directors in 2012 of actions to enhance our ability to tell the story of the 388th Bomb Group in World War II, through an interactive kiosk, to be install at our display in the museum, (Phase one of this project). Also approved was support of action to enhance the ability to tell the story of the 388th from



the Bomb Group of World War II to the Fighter Wing of today. This will include the 388th Bomb Group part of a static display, and to the extent funds are available, to the purchase of an interactive kiosk, (Phase 2 of the project).

The reunion affords us an opportunity to move this project from planning into action. We will meet at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, the 27th in Rick Thompson's quarters, with the objective of making a decision on the kiosk to purchase for the 388th Bomb Group display. Then, on Friday at 2:00 PM we will meet with the other primary players in the project, Jory Vandenburg, the Historian of the 388th Fighter Wing, Aaron Clark, the Director of the Hill Aerospace Museum, and a representative of the Hill Aerospace Museum Foundation.

In the meantime, I will talk with you to get your thoughts or questions, and will forward any new inputs.

Thanks,  
Wayne Daniels

## Trending WEB Links

### 2014 Reunion Videos

<http://www.388thbg.org/2014reunion/2014.htm>

### 2014 Reunion TV Interview

[www.ksl.com/?sid=31341901&nid=148&fm=latest\\_videos](http://www.ksl.com/?sid=31341901&nid=148&fm=latest_videos)

### Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/388th>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/388th/>  
(secret site, private)

### Websites

[www.388thbg.org](http://www.388thbg.org)  
[www.388bg.org](http://www.388bg.org)

### Museums

[www.mightyeighth.org](http://www.mightyeighth.org)  
[www.hill.af.mil/library/museum](http://www.hill.af.mil/library/museum)

### Hill Air Force Base

[www.hill.af.mil](http://www.hill.af.mil)  
[www.facebook.com/hill.af.mil](http://www.facebook.com/hill.af.mil)

Tom Dennis found some nice books about WWII and the flying B17 fortress while going through his father's things (Major Tom Dennis, 561st squadron) after his death in July. He brought them to the reunion in Layton to share with the members in the hospitality room. At the end of the reunion, after the Saturday night banquet, he noticed Colonial Landrum's son, Luke, seemed especially interested in them. His eyes lit up when Tom asked if he would like to have them.



Do we see a budding pilot here?



## Local veterans now 'knights' for their service



NATICK - Seventy years after Allied troops stormed the beaches of Normandy, the French Consul General bestowed the Legion of Honor, his nation's highest award, on 11 area veterans during a moving ceremony in the World War II Museum in Natick.

Addressing the "dear veterans," Consul General Fabien Fieschi said, "It is our duty to honor the brave men who liberated France and Europe. At dawn on June 6, 1944, soldiers of the United States, England, Canada and Free French forces began one of the greatest military operations of all time that became a turning point of World War II," he told an audience of about 50 veterans, relatives, military personnel and public officials.

As Fieschi spoke, standing before Old Glory and the flag of Free France, the aged veterans, accompanied by wives and family, listened intently, as if lost in private reveries of their service that momentous day.

"So many soldiers lost their lives and rest in cemeteries around Normandy," he continued. "It is my honor and great privilege to pay tribute to the heroes who helped restore our freedom. We will never forget them."

The veterans – some using canes or oxygen devices – walked to the podium where Fieschi, speaking in French as tradition requires, pinned medals which bear the words "Honneur et Patrie" – Honor and Fatherland - on their lapels and embraced them.

Established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the Legion of Honor, received by the veterans, confers the title "Chevalier," or knight on them.

Harry Baker of Weston, who served in France and Germany, was not able to come due to health problems. Later in the day at the

Hyannis Port Yacht Club, six Fieschi awarded the Legion of Honor to six veterans.

Using a cane to make his way through the audience, Eugene Blake Hughes of Newburyport stood ramrod straight and, after receiving the medal, spoke quietly to Fieschi.

Before the ceremony, Framingham veteran Arthur Cotton said, "I'm really looking forward to this. After 70 years, it's really amazing to be honored this way."

Still trim at age 89, Cotton, a Navy Seabee who pulled several Americans from the ocean while serving on a pontoon barge that ferried tanks to the beaches, recalled, "The only thing I remember is I had no fear at all. That's why governments make young men soldiers. I was 19 and to me it was like taking part in a movie."

Earlier that morning, Kenneth W. Rendell expressed gratitude to the French Consulate of Boston for choosing the museum he founded and directs to present the awards.

He said the Allied invasion of Normandy "changed the direction of the war," leading 11 months later to the surrender of Nazi Germany and the end of war in Europe. "If the Allies had not succeeded and been pushed back into the sea, Germany wouldn't have had to shift its armies back from Russia. The D-Day invasion of Normandy changed everything," he said.

Later, Rendell addressed the veterans, "Seventy years ago, you made the world safe from Nazi Germany. ... You made the difference. You fought on the beaches, from your foxholes and through the hedgerows across Europe. You saw the terror of war first hand."

State Sen. Karen Spilka, D-Ashland, presented a Senate Citation to Cotton, whose courageous service deserved "a debt of thanks, gratitude and awe" from Americans.

After the ceremony, several veterans spoke of their varied activities that day with a mix of pride and grief, sometimes verging on tears.

Retired pharmacist James Zographos, of





Westborough, said memories of lost comrades came flooding back that morning when he saw a television scene of “rows of white crosses” in a French cemetery for the war dead.

A 94-year-old former bombardier who flew 50 missions on a B-17 bomber over Europe, he remembered seeing German fighter planes machinegun American paratroopers in midair. “I saw good and bad things. I remember playing cards with buddies. Some got shot down on their next mission,” said Zographos. “Sometimes, it seems like a dream and I wonder, ‘Could all this have happened.’”

Hughes, who earned a Bronze Star and French Croix de Guerre while fighting across Europe, expressed hope younger people don’t forget the sacrifices his generation made in the name of democracy and freedom.

Albert Berard, 89, of Taunton, said he had “bittersweet” recollections of D-Day when his landing craft carried tanks under fire to the beaches.

“I put out of my memory the gory details of the horrors of war,” he said. “This is a joyous occasion.”

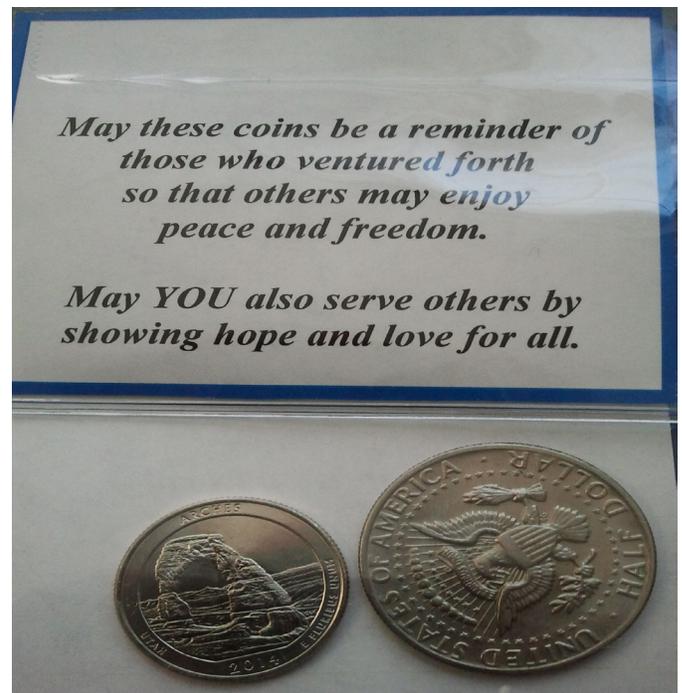
Looking back 70 years, Joseph Murphy, 88, of Dedham, said the amphibious landings on five beaches were “absolutely necessary” to turn the war’s tide despite the heavy losses. He recalled being frightened during a “horrendous shelling” by German artillery after coming ashore.

“We lost a lot of good people,” said the retired sales executive. “I would hope schoolchildren learn what really happened on D-Day. It’s a part of America’s history that should never be forgotten.”

## The Coins, The Rest Of The Story

B. Jory R. Vanderburg  
388 Fighter Wing Historian

Attendees of the 388 Bomb Group Association 65th Annual Reunion received a special coin pack as exemplified in the photograph. The coins represent the strength and courage of those who answered the call to fight for freedom, worldwide, for all conflicts. The shiny coin comes from the National Park Quarter series, specifically, the Utah State coin for the Arches National Park. The Rainbow Bridge is perhaps the most notable landmark from the Park. Its pristine shininess exemplifies those who conquered and returned in victory. The other coin, either a half-dollar, or, for the Veterans, a Euro coin, tarnished and worn, exemplifies those who made the ultimate sacrifice and did not return.



May you cherish these coins and share their story. May you further the instruction at the end: “May you also serve others by showing hope and love for all.”



## 2015 Washington DC Reunion



mentary hotel shuttle from Reagan International Airport. The hotel shuttle will also take you to the DC area Metro which will take you anywhere in the city if you have some personal travel plans.

The hotel is VERY excited to host the 388th Bomb Group and we're sure you'll be pleased with the accommodation.

It is time to let you know about our 66th Annual Bomb Group Assoc. Reunion in Washington, D.C. The dates will be September 2, 2015 to September 5, 2015. There will be more information to come about making your reservation. But if you want to get a head start making your hotel reservations simply tell them you're with the 388th Bomb Group Reunion to receive the Assoc. rate. It should be every bit as good as the hotel and food we enjoyed in Savannah.

We will be staying at the Double Tree by Hilton, Crystal City. It's a great hotel, only about 10 minutes from Ronald Reagan National Airport, DCA, if you're booking your airline tickets. Of course you can also fly into Baltimore, BWI, or Dulles, IAD, if it's more convenient. We'll be publishing some information later about a shuttle service from either of these 2 airports which will offer the 388th members a 10% discount. There is a daily breakfast included with your hotel stay each day. For other meals, lunch or dinner, you may want to go up to the Skydome Lounge & Restaurant on top of the hotel. It revolves in a 360\* circle every 45 minutes giving you breathtaking views of all the monuments & city.

You can take advantage of their compli-

Some special entertainment is planned for the Hospitality Room and it is only a few steps outside the elevator doors.

We'll share more details in the upcoming issues about activities. They'll start Thursday with a trip to the Udvar-Hazy Aerospace Center. It's an incredible museum to visit and boasts some exhibits like a Space Shuttle, Concord, and much more. Once the coach's are loaded for departure we'll make a stop at the W.W. II Memorial for a special ceremony dedicated to the real hero's, our Original Members. An event you won't want to miss!

Then on Friday you'll be free to tour DC at your own pace. Arrangements will be made for discounts on one of the On-Off shuttles allowing you to see the sights you are most interested in. They make over 50 different stops so you can see all those special places you want to go.

So mark your calendars and start making plans to visit and celebrate our nation's capital as well as those who gave us the freedom to do so. See you there!

388th Bomb Group Reunion Planners



**Income and Expense FY Ending 6-30-2014**  
**7/1/2013 through 6/30/2014**

**INCOME**

Donation	
General Fund	2,954.50
General Fund:Dues	<u>980.00</u>
TOTAL Donation:General Fund	3,934.50
Memorial Fund	<u>50.00</u>
<b>TOTAL Donation</b>	<b>3,984.50</b>
Interest Inc	36.65
PX	
Challenge Coin	
Receipts	277.73
TOTAL Challenge Coin	277.73
PX:Purchase Expense	(701.98)
Sales Revenue	<u>1,234.50</u>
<b>TOTAL PX</b>	<b>810.25</b>
Reunion Registration 2013	<u>18,692.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>23,523.40</b>

**EXPENSES**

Hill AFB Display	583.00
Memorial	
Insurance & Maintenance	<u>2,602.55</u>
<b>TOTAL Memorial</b>	<b>2,602.55</b>
Misc.	
Bank Charges	50.50
Other	<u>293.64</u>
<b>TOTAL Misc.</b>	<b>344.14</b>
Newsletter	
Postage	1,617.73
Printing	<u>2,804.00</u>
<b>TOTAL Newsletter</b>	<b>4,218.33</b>

**EXPENSES Continued**

Reunion 2013	
Bar	399.75
Bar Donations	(712.00)
Events	
Events:Saturday Dinner	3,763.29
Events:Transportaion	<u>8,132.00</u>
<b>TOTAL Events</b>	<b>11,895.29</b>
Hospitality Room	219.37
MemoryBooks	139.03
Misc	604.52
Refunds	<u>1,126.00</u>
<b>TOTAL Reunion 2013</b>	<b>13,671.96</b>
Reunion 2014	
Events	
Events:Transportaion	<u>350.00</u>
TOTAL Events	350.00
<b>TOTAL Reunion 2014</b>	<b>350.00</b>
Reunion 2015	
Site Evaluation	<u>1,768.60</u>
<b>TOTAL Reunion 2015</b>	<b>1,768.60</b>
Shipping	192.40
Supplies	
Printer Ink	<u>35.00</u>
<b>TOTAL Supplies</b>	<b>35.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>23,969.38</b>

**NET Fical Year Ending 6-30-2014**      (445.98)



## Mission Number 10

May 29, 1944

### Target: Leipzig, Germany

I had been briefed for this target twice before, and now it caught up with me. It should be a dilly, for once again, Sam Catalano and I were goin out on the same raid. When those joes in the barrack saw Sam and I both get up, how they groaned. That's not much of a compliment, but it seems that when Sam and I go out on the same raid, all hell breaks loose...it's always a nightmare. Today, however, was the pay-off, we were both flying the same ship... the "Wolf Wagon", with Danny Houghton and his boys. This crew contains the nuttiest bunch of hotrocks this side of Potsdamplatz.

At first we didn't think we'd get off the ground, as number three engine loused up on warm-up. But damn it, it was fixed, and off we went to try and catch up with the formation. Houghton caught them but how he ever got into that formation to take his position is a mystery that will go down in the annals of combat. One minute we were outside the formation, and the next, zip, we were inside. How those wing men must have cursed him. He flew so tight, that for a while it looked as though our top turret would touch the ball turret of the ship above us. But I felt pretty safe with him, for that boy can fly. He'll even tell you so if you asked him. But that's the beauty of it, he can prove it.

Looking out, all I could see was wave after wave of forts. This was not just a raid, but a planned assault. The entire Eighth was out today, and all going in the same direction. About Mid-Channel, I started to test fire the gun in the Radio Room, but it was off. All she'd do was brrup, and stop, brrup and stop. The oil buffer was cockeyed. So, I ripped out the guts, and fixed it. Now it fired like to was intended to. I got into the camera hatch as we crossed the enemy coast, and took several pictures, also of the route in. It was a long ride, and our escort was in with us. However, they left us for just a few minutes, came up to work us over. But they didn't bother us too much, and as our next escort picked

us up, "jerry" left quite suddenly.

In due time, we hit the I.P., and the flak started coming up. It was heavy stuff, and damn accurate. Too add to that, we were getting ground rockets thrown up at us, and every time I'd see one of those white trails of smoke, my scalp would crawl. I don't know how anyone else felt about that particular stuff, but it sure scared hell out of this boy. One of those damn things ever blow in a formation, and its sure fire curtains for somebody. I'd rather see my insurance lapse, than me. Then "Bombs Away" and I started to grind away. Our bombs fell into the city, and I got some good shots of it all. But that flak was just thumping the hell out of our bottom, and felt like it was ripping the ship apart. Then bomb bay doors closed, and "LETS GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE." But that stuff just tracked us all over the sky, and only when we were out of range did we shake it. Looking back, I could see just a solid wall of black, and how anything got though it was still a mystery. But we payed our price of admission, and left some of our ships behind.

During all that time, the conversation over the intercom was really something to hear. Houghton was telling Gus Gelino (Navigator) all about "Penny". That's Danny's material. So the argument continued, and gradually broke into a conversation on the "weaker sex" in general. This is crazy. Later on, as we were nearing the Channel, the radio op tuned in on the German Broadcast Band, and we heard "Command Performance". Then Axis Sal came on to spiel about the raid. That babe must have her head up and locked, for according to their figures, we must be a ghost with every mission thru the courtesy of Bomber Command. It's not too bad, but how in the hell can you make Bouillon upstairs? Oh well, better days coming...Manana.

Then England, and Home, after a damn long day.

Sid Golden  
Photo Gunner



## DEDICATION

My Dad Benjamin F. "Tony" Forrest, Sr. passed away on Wednesday June 11, 2014.

I know I am very fortunate to have had him around as long as I did.(91.5) He was my best friend and great mentor throughout my life even though he was properly in the hardass mode through college.

He was the best guy in the world to talk about guy stuff, particularly when you got him around a bunch of military guys. He was a freshman at Lafayette College when the Japanese attacked Pearl. He and pretty much the whole house emptied the next day to enlist. He and his mates were terrorized on most of his B-17 missions over Europe, with a 50% loss rate for a while, yet they performed honorably in some very difficult scenarios. Just manning up the aircraft on a cold, foggy 4AM English winter morning took mettle. After take-off, seeing a flash in the distance after a midair was a norm as they formed up in the dark with up to 500 aircraft.

The blanket of Flak leading to and over the target after a 5hr ingress, the flak stinging his back as it hit the armor on his ball turret on the bottom of the jet. Fighters attacking before the IP and on the way home. Forts going down, parachutes burning from vaporized fuel from a burning aircraft.

He arrived in England as an armorer, ground crew. After being there a month, his entire squadron was shot down, September 6th 1943, over Schweinfurt. He volunteered after as a replacement air crewman and ended up in the Ball Turret. He survived 28 missions and 3 sorties on D-Day when they flew over Omaha Beach at 3,000ft just before the first wave of amphibs landed. He flew two more sorties that day and was witness to the carnage on the beaches as they headed inland.

After completing his duty in England he returned to the states and volunteered for flight training with the intention of fighting the Japanese. He wanted to fly the A-26.. He was soloing in an AT 6 when the war ended.

For just his courageous service to



his country, I honor and respect him. For his efforts with my Mom as a team raising 4 successful kids I am very thankful.

I believe stepping up, surviving the war, gave him a perspective that is shared by many of his generation.. Laugh when you can, laugh at adversity, laugh with friends regularly.. There is much more but I hope I can come close to his pure integrity, honor, patriotism and artistry fixing the perfect martini.

*Ben Forrest*

## TAPS



### HAYWARD T. CHAPMAN

The Rev. Hayward Tyler Chapman, 91, passed away July 19 in Crestview, FL, which he had called home since 1994.

He flew 31 missions between March and June 1944 as a waist gunner on Arthur Moreland's 562nd Sqd. crew, primarily in the aircraft The Silver Lady. He later participated in the Berlin Air Lift and flew cargo during the Korean Conflict.

Rev. Chapman began preaching in 1948. Throughout his ministerial service he pastored 16 churches, five of which he built in the U.S. or other countries. He also founded "The Chapel" in Crestview.

Predeceased by his first wife, Hazel; he is survived by his wife Jane, son Charles, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Graveside services were held at Shady Grove Cemetery in Baker, FL.

### WILLIAM J. DE MANINCOR

William J. "Pere" de Manincor, formerly of Redford Township, MI and the Philadelphia, PA area, passed away January 17, 2013 at age 90.



The youngest of 13 children born to Tyrolean immigrants in Mount Carmel, PA, Mr. de Manincor worked at the Ford Motor Co. plant outside Philadelphia prior to enlisting in the Army Air

# TAPS



Corps. While stationed at Knettishall, he worked as an armorer in the 562nd Sqd.

Following the war, Mr. de Manicor returned to the Ford Motor Co., where he worked for 40 years until his retirement as a mechanical maintenance engineer.

Mr. de Manincor is survived by daughters Faith de Manicor, Denise Dodson, Lois Ditmar and Nanette Good; sons Bill, Richard and Mark; 13 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandson. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ann and daughter Ann ("Nina").

A Mass of the Resurrection was held at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Brighton, MI.

## THOMAS A. DENNIS, SR.

Thomas Aaron Dennis, Sr., former editor of the 388th BG Assn. newsletter, and a past President, died July 12. The Norco, CA resident was 92.



Dennis

Born in Santa Monica and raised in El Segundo, CA, Mr. Dennis enlisted in the Army Air Corps at age 20. After receiving his pilot's wings he was assigned to the 561st Squadron, 388th BG and flew his first mission, to the German airfields at Poix and Abbeville, on August 16, 1943. By his 24th mission he had been promoted to Captain and was flying as lead pilot.

After completing a first tour of 33 missions and rotating back to the States for a rest period, he returned to the 388th and was assigned to 561st Sqd. Operations, flying another 13 missions as command pilot (group leader).

In December 1944 Capt. Dennis married Army Nurse Patricia Loechner at a Catholic Chapel in Thetford. Dismayed that the sergeants in his crew would be unable to attend his wedding reception at the officers club, he appealed to Lt. Col. Chester Cox to waive the officers-only rule. Noting the dangerous precedent, the base commander refused; but found a way around the rule by assigning the ser-

geants "waiter duty" at the reception.

Promoted to the rank of Major in late spring 1945, he flew the last of his 48 missions as a regular pilot; in Operation Chowhound on May 2, and in the POW repatriation flight of May 16. Following the war Mr. Dennis enjoyed a lengthy career as an airline pilot with Western Airlines.

Mr. Dennis is survived by sons Thomas, Jr., Richard and William; nine grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandson. He was predeceased by Patricia, his wife of 59 years, in 2004.

Following a Mass of the Resurrection at St. Edward Catholic Church in Corona, CA, Mr. Dennis was interred with full military honors at Riverside National Cemetery.

## IVER C. FITSCHEN

Iver Clarence Fitschen, Lt. Col. USAF (Ret.), passed away June 20. A resident of Vero Beach, FL, he was 96.



Fitschen

Born and raised in Red Wing, MN, Lt. Col. Fitschen completed a year of college prior to enlisting in the Army Air Corps in 1941. As navigator on the Mario George crew in the 561st Sqd., he flew 27 missions between November 1943 and March 1944, primarily in the B-17 Jeannie. At the end of their tour, when the rest of the crew returned to the States, Lt. Fitschen requested transfer to pilot school and received his wings. He also participated in weather reconnaissance flights in the days leading up to D-Day.

He remained in service following the war and, in 1947, became the Assistant Air Attaché to the American Embassy in Wellington, NZ. Returning to the States, he was assigned to SAC, flying B-47s. He participated in the Korean War flying missions and assisted in the closing of bases. During the Vietnam War, he was stationed at Kadena AFB in Okinawa, Japan, overseeing and commanding supply missions.

Lt. Col. Fitschen received an accounting degree from the Minnesota School of Business

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and a BA from the University of Maryland.

Survivors include his wife Aylsa, daughter Linda Diseati, and three grandchildren. Memorial services with military honors were held at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Vero Beach; interment at Arlington National Cemetery has been arranged.

## ALVIN S. LEWIS

Alvin S. "Al" Lewis, 90, passed away August 14 in Kettering, OH.

Assigned to a replacement pool early in 1945, Mr. Lewis flew four missions in February, March and April as a waist or tail gunner for 562nd Sqd. pilots Roland Sears, Samuel Pettigrew and Richard Taylor.

After retiring from Newco, Inc. in Dayton, OH where he had worked for many years as an electrician, Mr. Lewis began a second career at Routsong Funeral Home, also in Dayton.

He was a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, VFW Post #9927, American Legion Post #598, the International Brotherhood of Electric Workers, and was a past president of Dor-Wood Optimist Club.

Mr. Lewis is survived by his longtime partner and special friend, Iris Williams; daughter Martha Lychock; son Doug; seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Martha in 2001; and daughter Kathryn Shipley in 1996.

Burial was held at David's Cemetery in Kettering.

## GENE C. PETERSON

Gene Charles Peterson, 93, passed away June 11 in Salt Lake City.

A pilot in the 561st Sqd., he flew his first mission on D-Day, and the last of 36 missions on October 2, 1944. He was awarded the DFC with two oak leaf clusters and the Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters.

After the war Mr. Peterson attended



Lewis



Peterson

Utah State University, graduating with a BS in 1947. He spent 33 years in the Agricultural Dept. of Utah Idaho Sugar Co. in Gunnison, Delta, Richfield and West Jordan, UT as well as Toppin-ish and Kennewick, WA. He served in the Salt Lake City general office as general superintendent.

A member of the LDS Church, he was involved in the Boy Scouts, Lions Club and 4-H Club, and was a recipient of the Junior Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award.

Mr. Peterson is survived by his wife Donna; daughter Sandra Lee; son Paul; stepchildren Janet Cain, Carolyn Jaussi, Richard and Robert Shipley; two grandchildren, 24 grandchildren, 84 great-grandchildren and 13 great-great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his first wife, Phillis; and by a daughter, Jeanne.

Services were held at Valley View Stake Center in Salt Lake City.

## CLIFFORD R. TURNER

Clifford R. Turner, 89, died July 30 at Rosewood Care Center in Peoria, IL.

Mr. Turner grew up in and around Brookfield, MO and joined the Army Air Corps shortly after his high school graduation in 1943.

As a waist gunner on the Charles McGehee crew in the 561 Sqd., he completed 35 missions between January and April 1945 in the planes My True Love, My Lil Baby and Dear Mom II.

Following the war he attended business college in Chillicothe, MO. After hitchhiking to Peoria, IL in search of employment, he got a job at Caterpillar, Inc. He worked there until his retirement in 1986.

Survivors include his wife Dinah; daughter Debra Fulton, two grandsons, and a great-granddaughter. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Thelma and son Darryl.

Burial was held at Lutheran Cemetery in Peoria following services at Trinity Lutheran Church, where Mr. Turner had been a member.



Turner

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