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

388th Lt Arthur M. Codding Crew Monument
(continued page 3)
Greetings 388th family!

Happy New Year to you all and I hope your 2019 is off to a healthy and prosperous start thus far.

Plans are shaping up for an exciting Reunion in St. Louis! We’ll be visiting the iconic Gateway Arch where our group will have the opportunity to explore the new museum at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial and see where Lewis & Clark began their expedition. For an additional fee (pricing and restrictions outlined in the Reunion Registration Form on pg. 6) you’ll also have the chance to ride their tram to the top of this 630 foot Arch. We’ll also spend some time at the largest archeological site in North America, the Cahokia Mounds. In addition to offering an incredible museum touting the remarkable findings around the 2,000+ acres of self-guided hiking trails, our very own 388th Veteran, original member and Illinois local, Charles “Woody” Woodford was an active docent at the Mounds.

Also, on our agenda is a visit to Scott Air Force Base, as well as a sightseeing tour down the Mississippi aboard a 19th century paddle boat. For anyone in our group who would like to extend the fun on Thursday, a tour of the Anheuser-Busch Brewery is also being offered – complete with a visit to see the Budweiser Clydesdales!

Our Reunion team has been hard at work researching and organizing activities, so be sure to keep an eye on the website and our future newsletters for more details as they emerge. You can also take a look at the amazing plethora of activity suggestions for Family Free Time while in St. Louis – curated by our St. Louis local, Terry Woodford-Thomas, on pg. 8-9! In the meantime, get a head start by booking your room(s) with our hotel – Four Points by Sheraton Fairview Heights (more details on pg. 10) and start brushing up on your Poker Face for our Hospitality Room game nights!

As this amazing new year progresses, I’m continually grateful to be a part of such an incredible group
of folks who’s mission it is to share and uphold the legacy of our 388th Bomb Group Veterans, their spouses, and their families. To those immensely brave men and their unwavering families, thank you. Thank you for your sacrifices, your selflessness, and your commitment to never faulter no matter the circumstance. Without you, these reunions and gatherings of fun and enjoyment, literally, wouldn’t be possible and I hope we keep that at the forefront of our minds as we gear up for St. Louis. Thank you!

As always, we’re eager to hear from our members, so please feel free to reach out to us and let us know how you’re doing. Let’s continue to make it a great year!

Take care of yourselves and one another,

Kim

Mission 376, Battle Over The Relch 28 May 1944

I hope that the members of the 388th Bomb Group Association appreciate that on May 28, 2014 a monument was unveiled in commemoration of the crew of Lt Arthur M. Codding, who belly-landed their badly damaged B-17 in a meadow near Groenekan, the Netherlands, exactly 70 years earlier.

On May 28, 1944 the 388th Bomb Group was assigned to bomb a factory in Konigsborn, Germany. The crew of Lt Arthur M. Codding was on their 13th combat mission, except for radio-operator Clyde Waite, who had missed some due to sinusitis and was on his 7th. After an uneventful flight to the target area, problem started when one of the engines failed, either through mechanical issues or flak damage. With only three engines running and the fourth propeller, Lt Codding decided to leave the formation. Due to German fighters in the area and the absence of any cloud cover hiding them from German anti-aircraft guns, the crew elected to ‘hit the deck’ and try to get back to England at very low level. Unfortunately they were over a German airbase in the Netherlands, riddled with shells especially the nose area. Navigator Donald L. Delmar D. McBeth, in the rear of the ship several crew members were hit, right waist gunner Thomas L. Roskowick was severely injured when a bullet entered from the side under his body armour. In addition to the feathered propeller on the number one engine, a fire started in the right wing. There was no way the aircraft was able to reach England and Codding and his co-pilot Roger Withers decided to make a belly-landing. Minutes later they performed a perfect landing in a meadow near Groenekan. When the aircraft came to a stop, it burst into flames. The surviving crewmembers leaped out the bomber, taking Thomas Roskowick with them. To escape bullets whizzing by, as ammunition was exploding in the burn-
COMING SOON!
Your 388th PX will be available online with many new items at www.388thbga.org under the store tab.

All merchandise INCLUDES postage!

“City of Savannah” Polo Shirts
$31
“B-17 Flying Fortress” WWII Hats
$25
388th Rhinestone Pins
$12.75
B-17 Pins
$12.75
Koozies
$3.75
388th Lanyards (not pictured)
$2.75
Bumper Stickers
$1.75

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.

we accept:

My father was one of the Dutchmen coming to the aid of the crew and it was his story that prompted me to start researching this piece of family history in the early 1980s. It started my lifelong interest in the 8th Air Force and led to the publication of ‘Mission 376, battle over the Reich, 28 May 1944’ in 2004. That book describes all events on that single day. The original hardcover is still available and in 2012 Stackpole books decided to publish a paperback version as well. In 2012 I was approached by locals from Groenekan as they had plans to erect a monument to commemorate the sacrifices of Codding’s crew. I soon joined their effort and in May 2014 the monument was ready to be unveiled. It was funded by the local community, both companies and individual households. The base of the monument, which should ‘weather’, shows the typical lay-out of the Dutch meadows. The monument itself shows the easily recognizable tail section of a B-17, with the correct markings of the B-17G 42-102485 that dropped into the community in 1944. On a separate wing segment the names, functions and ages of the crewmembers are ‘cut out’. The local elementary school adopted the monument. All of the seven survivors
have passed on since the war, but for the unveiling of the monument no less than 15 ‘second generation’ family members came to the Netherlands. They visited the Margraten military cemetery during the Memorial Day ceremonies and laid flowers on the grave of Thomas Roskowick, the only one of the crew to be still buried in the Netherlands. And on May 28, unfortunately in poor weather, the monument was unveiled by Darrel Waite, the son of radio-operator Clyde Waite. The local elementary school adopted the monument. To have a permanent reminder in their school building they received a display case, with an enlarged print of a fragment of a map that was found in the wreck, surrounded by photos of the ten crewmembers. In the display case is also a bomb shacke, one of the very few items of B-17G 42-102485 that still exists. In addition to the monument a brochure called ‘we will remember them’ was published. Overall, it was a moving ceremony for all taking part. Since 2014 the monument is used in the local ceremony on our annual ‘Memorial Day’, that in the Netherlands takes place on May 4. The efforts of our American friends for our freedom are not forgotten!
The 388th Bomb Group Association
70th Annual Reunion Registration
St. Louis, MO
August 28-September 1, 2019

CUT-OFF DATE FOR REGISTRATION IS July 19, 2019

To cancel and receive a full refund, contact Ann Turley before the cut-off date of July 19. Cancellations received after July 19, but before July 31, will forfeit tour payments and registration fee. No refunds will be made for cancellations received after July 31.

Thursday, Aug 29
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
We'll visit St. Louis' iconic Gateway Arch – tram rides are available to the top of this 630-ft. marvel (please note: the tram is not accessible, stairs must be climb able to enter tram). Also enjoy their new museum at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. We'll then hop aboard a 19th century paddle-wheel boat for a narrated tour down the mighty Mississippi – boxed lunches will be provided.

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
(Optional Excursion): For those in our group who would like to keep the day of fun going, we're also offering a General Tour of the Anheuser Busch Brewery for an additional $5. During the tour, you'll get to see the Budweiser Clydesdales and observe the 7-step brewing process (tour open to all ages).

Friday, Aug 30
8:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Experience Cahokia Mounds, the largest archeological site in North America; the remains of an ancient Native American city covering more than 2,000 acres and offering an array of self-guided trails to the mounds, as well as a wonderful museum.

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Following our tour of the Mounds, we’ll visit Scott Air Force Base. Scott Field was one of thirty-two Air Service training camps established after the United States entered World War I in April 1917.

Saturday, Aug 31
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Business Meeting

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Social/Cocktail Hour

6:00 PM – 10:00 PM
Dinner, Raffle, President's Address
(cash bar open through dinner)

Reservation form for 388th Bomb Group Association Reunion, August 28-September 1, 2019

NAME______________________________________________________________________________
PHONE ____________________________________EMAIL ADDRESS __________________________
STREET ADDRESS ___________________________________________________________________
CITY/STATE/ZIP ______________________________________________________________________
GUEST(S): Full names please

REGISTRATION FEE REQUIRED FOR ALL ATTENDEES
Thursday Gateway Arch, Riverboat Tour & Lunch (NO Tram Ride) $43.00 X _______ = $ _____________
- with Tram Ride $35.00 X _______ = $ _____________
- Anheuser Busch Tour $51.00 X _______ = $ _____________
Friday Cahokia Mounds, Scott AFB & Lunch $32.00 X _______ = $ _____________
Saturday Banquet (includes tax & service charge)
Herb Marinated Chicken $42.00 X _______ = $ _____________
Roasted Pork Loin $45.00 X _______ = $ _____________
Vegetarian Meal $42.00 X _______ = $ _____________
Chicken Tenders (kids 10 & under) $21.00 X _______ = $ _____________
REUNION T-SHIRT (S M L XL) $15.00 X _______ = $ _____________
MEMORY BOOK $12.00 X _______ = $ _____________
DONATION (optional) $ _____________

TOTAL $ _____________

Write check payable to 388th Bomb Group Assn. Mail check and registration form to:
Ann Turley – 4083 East Luther Road
Floyds Knobs, IN 47119
(Phone 812-728-8060; Email turleya99@yahoo.com)
PRE ORDER YOUR REUNION T-SHIRT!!

(Select size and quantity on Registration Form)

Don’t worry if you’re not ready to buy yet – we’ll have some available for purchase at the PX in our Hospitality Room during the Reunion. Pre-ordering will guarantee we have your size and you’ll receive your shirt upon check-in at our 388th BGA Reunion Registration Desk.
IDEAS FOR FREE FAMILY TIME

See the St. Louis Cardinals Play at Busch Stadium

Friday Aug 30 7:15 PM Busch Stadium - Saint Louis, MO
Cincinnati Reds at St. Louis Cardinals (2004 National League Champions Beer Stein Giveaway)

Saturday Aug 31 6:15 PM Busch Stadium - Saint Louis, MO
Cincinnati Reds at St. Louis Cardinals (Adult Road Gray Embroidered Jersey Giveaway)

Visit Boeing Aircraft

See the James S. MacDonnell Prologue Room; an air and space history exhibit. From biplanes to spacecraft, the Prologue Room portrays milestone events and displays models of aircraft and spacecraft that played pivotal roles in shaping the history of aerospace. Visitors can view actual-size Mercury and Gemini capsules, large-scale models of some of today’s military aircraft, including the Eagle, Hornet, Apache, and Air Force One, as well as rockets and missiles, and commercial jetliners. Hundreds of scale models, dioramas, paintings, photographs and videos tell the story of the companies that make up The Boeing Company.

The Historic Aircraft Restoration Museum: Involved in the requisition, restoration, display, and operation of antique and vintage aircraft. The museum is primarily focused on but not limited to, aircraft and related items from what many refer to as The Golden Age of Flight, roughly 1920 to 1939. The museum’s collection is housed in four main display hangars that currently hold a combined total of forty-nine aircraft. However, some of the planes in the collection are under restoration and are not housed in the main hangars.

Lots to do at Forest Park: Once home to the 1904 World’s Fair, this is one of the largest urban parks in the United States. It attracts 12 million visitors a year with world-class attractions and scenic walking and biking trails. Other points of interest include the Jewel Box, a beautiful greenhouse filled with magnificent floral displays, the golf courses and the World’s Fair Pavilion, the Saint Louis Science Center, the Saint Louis Art Museum, the Saint Louis Zoo, the Missouri History Museum, the Muny Theater, the nation’s largest outdoor amphitheater dedicated solely to musical theater, and more. All free to throughout the park.
Discover your inner child at the City Museum

Explore the City Museum’s unique all-ages playground filled with caves, slides and climbing apparatus made from recycled and found objects. Visitors can interact with over 10,000 sea creatures in the World Aquarium, venture through the Museum of Mirth, Mystery and Mayhem and wander through the Elmslie and Sullivan architectural exhibit. Stop in for circus-themed food, parties and educational circus classes and workshops held daily. Create your own masterpiece in Art City, take notes with the world’s largest pencil and enjoy the view while grabbing a bite at The Roof Top Cantina.

Stroll through the Missouri Botanical Gardens

Explore 79 acres of lush gardens, landscape architecture, greenhouses and conservatories at the oldest Botanical Garden in the United States. Wander through collections of botanical and horticultural plants among beautiful fountains and statuary. Visit the Climatron for a real rainforest experience featuring magnificent waterfalls, tropical birds and exotic plants like bananas, cacao, coffee trees and orchids. Other points of interest include the serene Japanese garden and the interactive and educational Children’s Garden.

Walk down the Delmar Loop

Make a day of it at the Delmar Loop near Washington University. This six-block entertainment and shopping district is packed with hip bars, eclectic restaurants, live music venues, vintage clothing boutiques and a Hollywood-inspired walk of fame featuring St. Louis celebrities. Catch a show at the historic Tivoli Theatre. Shop for quirky gifts or souvenirs and grab a bite to eat at one of the dozens of restaurants and outdoor cafés, from Turkish and Thai delights to Mexican and American classics. Blueberry Hill is the home of the late rocker Chuck Berry! The Walk of Fame, famous people born in St. Louis, lines the sidewalk in the Loop. Old trolley car there as well.

Essential Foods beloved by St. Louisans:

Ted Drew’s frozen custard (a concrete), toasted ravioli’s, St. Louis-style pizza, Gooey Butter Cake, fried catfish nuggets, St. Louis style ribs, slingers, BBQ pork steaks, Gus’ pretzels, Bionic apples, Mayfair dressing, Riplet potato chips.
FOUR POINTS SHERATON – FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS
AUGUST 28 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2019
319 Fountains Pkwy, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208

Call or go online today to book your room for the 70th Annual 388th BGA Reunion! Our hotel is conveniently located with easy access to all the group activities we have planned, a quick 15 minutes to downtown St. Louis, and less than 1 mile from tons of familiar shopping hubs and restaurants.

Visit https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1553876829074&key=GRP&app=resvlink to book directly from their website! This will take you to our Group Page with our special rates and options.

Note: Our Group Rate is available (3) days pre/post our Reunion Dates, in case you’d like to stay a little longer!
Applications for the 2019 388th-Bombardment Group Association Scholarship Program are now being accepted.

If you are 16-20 years old, related to a 388th BG Veteran and/or Association member, and in the college selection process, or in your first year in college, you are eligible to receive a $1,000 scholarship. We support and encourage you to embrace your future, wherever it takes you.

The awardee selection is based upon an essay you submit on:

“The 388th: Past and Present- Answering Our Nation’s Call.”

Essays will be reviewed and judged by a selection committee that includes WWII 388th veterans, 388th association members, active and retired military personnel and history teachers.

Contact Terry Woodford-Thomas for information and an application today! tthomas@danforthcenter.org or 314-587-1436.

The deadline to submit application and essay is May 31, 2019.
388th Bomb Group 69th Annual Reunion in Dayton, Ohio
Charles Bruce Miller

Charles Bruce Miller, died peacefully at his home in Richmond on August 29, 2018, with his daughters Barrie and Lindsay at his side. He was 97 and a half. Born in Richmond on February 5, 1921, he was the son of Charles Otway Miller and Amanda Bruce Locke Miller. A few years ago, Charlie wrote his own obituary. It reveals what was really important to him. “Charles always considered himself lucky, lucky enough to get out of a whirlpool when he was a pre-teenager swimming in the James during high water; lucky enough to have been a member of Boy Scout troop 35 with Mr. Pat Brown; lucky enough to graduate from VMI with the class of 1942; lucky enough to survive 25 missions flying B-17s over Europe; lucky enough to marry Anne Folkes on December 16, 1944; lucky enough to complete 29 missions flying B-29s over Japan; lucky enough to survive an emergency parachute jump when the chute opened at the exact moment he hit the ground; lucky enough to have a nice sister, Nancy Phillips; lucky enough to have two wonderful daughters, Lindsay Miller, living in Cambridge, Mass. with her husband, Peter Ambler, and Barrie Miller Sutton, living in Virginia Beach; lucky enough to have Barrie’s three children, Alex, who lives in Acworth, Ga., Jeff in New Orleans and Maryanne in Virginia Beach; lucky enough to have three great-grands, Wesley, Olivia and Wyatt, children of Alex and his wife, Rachel; lucky enough to have a lovely niece, Judy Phillips and nephew, Henry Philips and his wife, Martha; lucky enough to retire from the Air Force Reserve as a Colonel; lucky enough to enjoy the people he saw every morning running on Grove Avenue; lucky enough to enjoy the many friends at the Country Club of Virginia tennis and fitness facilities; lucky enough to be at Concrete Pipe & Products as Chief Engineer; lucky enough to have lived 55 years with the nice people in Hillcrest; lucky enough to be able to move to Westminster Canterbury with many old and new friends; lucky enough to have 68 years with Anne; and lucky enough to marry Mary Easterly on February 11, 2013.” Marrying Mary at the age of 92 brought new joy into Charlie’s life. It also enlarged his small family with her four children, Cap, Frank, Tighe and Natalie; her 13 grandchildren and 18 great-grands. She died on March 20 of this year. Charlie was happy many family members came each summer to enjoy the house at Virginia Beach he rented for the last 30 years. Very few, however, could beat him at Rummi Kub, even last June. Mary encouraged Charlie to tell his life’s story, which she wrote with the help of Wendy McSweeney and Charlie’s daughter, Lindsay. Charlie chose the title: “Lucky Me.” In October 1943, at the age of 22, when Charlie arrived at the Eighth Air Force Base in England as a newly-trained B-17 bomber pilot, he was told it was statistically impossible to survive 25 combat missions. He did, and went on to fly 29 missions over Japan. For his service in the 388th Bomb Group in the European Theater and the 39th Bomb Group in the Pacific, Charlie received four Air Medals with three Silver Oak Leaf Clusters and four Distinguished Flying Crosses with three Bronze Oak Leaf clusters. Charlie loved staying connected. Just 10 days before he died, he went to lunch with his group of ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out). He was at the August gathering of local VMI alumni. He served for many years as agent for his VMI class. This year, he made the list of VMI’s 10 oldest alumni. He enjoyed wearing the same uniform he had when he arrived at VMI in 1938 to every reunion through his 75th. At his 70th, he got cheers from the Cadet Corps for climbing to the top of the sentinel box in Old Barracks. Charlie enjoyed growing roses and giving bouquets to his neighbors. He enjoyed staying in shape, playing tennis and doing Royal
Canadian Air Force exercises into his nineties. For many years, people set their clocks by his daily run from his house in Hillcrest to an early morning tennis game. Charlie’s mock obit had him dying on his 100th birthday, hit by a bus while jogging on Grove Avenue. Charlie’s family gives special thanks to Clarice Woodridge, Pam Spruill, Joy Stuhr and Teresa Echols, who cared for him so tenderly in the last two days of his well-lived life. He has donated his body to the Virginia State Anatomical Program for scientific study.

Bruce William Riehart

Bruce William Riehart, 95, of Pampa, died May 8, 2018 in Pampa. Mr. Riehart was born September 14, 1922 in Collinsville, Oklahoma. At the age of 15, he graduated from Collinsville High School and was valedictorian of his class. He attended Tulsa Business School for a year before going to work for Frank’s Manufacturing in Tulsa. In 1943, Bruce joined the Army Air Corps, serving during World War II as a waist gunner on a B17 and reached the rank of Master Sergeant. He was honorably discharged in 1945. When Bruce returned home, he enrolled in the University of Tulsa, graduating in the top of his class with a Bachelor’s degree in accounting.

He met Ruth Parker while working at Frank’s in 1949, and they later married on June 19, 1953. He continued working for Frank’s and transferred to Pampa in 1955 when he began working for Cabot Corporation. Bruce worked for Cabot for 42 years in the accounting department, retiring in 1982. He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church where he held many different offices through the years. He was a past member of both the Pampa Kiwanis Club and the Pampa Rotary Club. Bruce served as treasurer for the Community Concert organization for several years. He served on the City of Pampa Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and was an officer with the Top O’Texas Knife & Fork Club. He enjoyed playing golf, traveling with Ruth, and he loved spending time with his family, especially being “Grandpa” to his grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth Riehart of the home; three daughters, Laura Lum and husband Stephen of Prosper, Sara Rogness and husband Dr. John Rogness of Lexington, Kentucky, and Anna Taylor and husband Dr. Robert Taylor of Pampa; eight grandchildren, Paul Logsdon and Tamela Bangs, Emily Yancey and Wayne Brown, Eric Rogness and wife Katie, Ben Rogness, Brice Hopkins and Susan Stormer, Shanda Roberts and husband Beau Martin, Ashlie Hastings and husband Cameron, and Abbi Wilson and husband Dakota; and three great-grandchildren.

Bruce was preceded in death by a son, Eric Bruce Riehart in 1962, a brother and a sister.

Annita (Louise) Vann

Annita (Louise) Vann, age 93, passed away on April 8th, 2018. She was born in Morgan, Georgia to the late Charlie and Eunice Hilton on January 31st, 1925. Louise has many relatives in Edison, Georgia and the small towns surrounding it, whom she loved dearly.

Louise was a homemaker, devoted mother, grandmother, and wife. She was a longtime member of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fl., where she taught Sunday school and sang in the choir for many years. She attended Bayless Highway Baptist Church after moving to Bradford County.

Louise is survived by her husband of 73 years, Jack Vann, her son Basil Vann (Joann), and daughter Jackie Gardner (David). She is also remembered by her grandchildren; Jennifer Lorenzo (Nic), Joe Vann, Charlie Gardner (Lisa), and great grandchildren; Jackson, Avery, Tatiana, Dominic, and Luca whom she loved so much and sister Betty Ivey.

She is preceded in death by her son Ronald Mark Vann, and several brothers as well as a sister. Louise will be greatly missed by her family and friends.
Date _____________ Name ____________________________________________________________
Wife/Husband _______________ Phone _______________________________________________
Street _________________________________________________________________________________
City ________________________ State ____________________________ Zip Code ___________
Email Address __________________________________________________________________________
Squadron _______________Position ___________________________________ Aircraft Name________
Pilot ____________No. Missions ____________ POW (Date) ______STALAG LUFT ________________
☐ New Lifetime Membership ($75.00 one time payment)

How would you like to receive Newsletter: ☐ Email (FREE) ☐ Mail ($8.00 per year)

Name of relation who is/was in the 388th ___________________ Relationship to you______________
☐ (☐ box if you have prior military service.)

Please fill in known information above, Squadron through POW information, for relative.

RENEWAL and DONATIONS: ☐ Annual Dues ($20.00) ☐ Donation

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION (make changes above for update) ☐ Address ☐ Email ☐ Phone

Mail to: Ruth Castleberry, Secretary, 388th Bomb Group Assn., Inc.
2 Beaver Ridge, Conway, AR 72032-8229 Email: secretary@388thbga.org or rcastleberry.fcds@gmail.com