Happy Holidays

The 388th BG Board
From the President’s Desk

It is November 11th, Veteran’s Day, as I write this message— the day for celebration of all our living war veterans. We are so honored to have a significant number of WWII 388th BG veterans with us. I am thinking of all those who, roughly 70 years ago, put their lives on hold, the lives that they knew at the time, to serve and protect our country’s freedom and that of others. It is not just today, but daily, that we also think of those who are currently serving in the armed forces and all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. We honor and respect all those in our membership who have served our great country, both in wartime and in peace. We encourage our members to remain in contact with our friends and colleagues in the 388th Fighter Wing at Hill AFB who made us so welcome at our last reunion and generously spent time with us.

As the President’s gavel was passed to me at our 65th 388th BG reunion banquet in Layton, Utah this past September, I was still lingering on the fine words of Colonel Lance Landrum, Commander of the 388th Fighter Wing, in his address. What an honor this is and I am very grateful for this opportunity. Thanks also to those who have come to my side to assist. I pledge to do my best to perform my duties, guide the association, and sustain and grow our programs. I want to acknowledge Rick Thompson for his fine leadership and for doing such a terrific job this past year as President, as well as the Board of Directors, association officers, reunion organizers, and everyone who works behind the scenes to help make us strong.

Let this be a great year for the 388th Bomb Group Association with all of its current members and those new individuals that we bring into our organization. In January, we look forward to the dedication of the City of Savannah B17 aircraft at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Pooler, Georgia that has been restored using donations from our association. We are energized about the development of a new 388th BG kiosk at the Hill Air Force Base Museum, the creation of a new college scholarship fund for our young people on behalf of the 388th BG, and more. In addition, it is our wish to build up our funds to perpetually sustain our 388th

http://www.388thbg.info (Database)
http://www.388thbg.org

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Knettishall Memorial in England, and I encourage all of our members to contribute generously to our Knettishall Memorial Fund for the future.

This year promises to be exciting and eventful. We appreciate your involvement and continued support.

Warm wishes all around,

Terry Woodford-Thomas

SPREAD THE WORD

New 388th BG Association Scholarship Program

In January 2015, applications will be available for high school students who are sons, daughters, or grandchildren of 388th Bomb Group Association Members to win a $1,000 scholarship for the college or university of their choice. One award will be given every year. The purpose of this program is to bring young people into closer connection with the (1) the history of the 388th during WWII, our 388th veterans, their missions, their patriotism, their courage and their sacrifices made in the name of freedom, and (2) to better understand the valor and dedication shown by servicemen and servicewomen in the armed forces on the global front and at home.

Who is eligible? High school juniors and seniors who are family of 388th BG Association members, and planning to attend an institute of higher education within the next 2 years.

What is required? A three-page, ~1,500-word essay on the topic, “The 388th: Past and Present- Answering Our Nation’s Call” to be submitted in both hard copy and electronic form. A cover letter is advised. As you think about your writing, there are many areas to explore and include in your essay. Zero in on something that is meaningful to you and your family. You may want to research about a specific crew, a base or base event, specific targets, specific sorties, the roles of the air and ground crews, B17
388th PX

- **HATS**
  - $15.00 each
- **POLO SHIRTS**
  - $25.00 each
- **KOOZIE AND LANYARD**
  - $2.00 each
- **RHINESTONE PIN**
  - $12.50 each

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.

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plane mechanics, what a mission briefing was like, or compare 388th aircraft today with those used during WWII, just to give a few examples.

**What are the evaluation criteria?** More details will be sent to you, but briefly, the highest scoring essays will be written with personal integrity, creativity, originality, clarity, and accuracy, with appropriate references, citations, and sources given, using a variety of media and resources. Communication with 388th BG veterans and active duty 388th FW servicemen and servicewomen is very strongly encouraged.

**How will the selection be made?** A dedicated scholarship committee composed of internal and external reviewers including 388th veterans, association members, and secondary and post secondary level educators, will read and score the essays, and make the final selection. During this process, the writer’s name will not appear on the final copy of the essay.

**When will the award be presented?** The scholarship award will be announced during the summer preceding the Annual 388th BG Reunion, which this year, will take place in the Crystal City, VA/Washington DC area. The presentation will take place at the reunion banquet to which the recipient will be invited and honored. Attendance of the awardee will not be required, but is highly encouraged.

**How do I start?** Contact Terry Woodford-Thomas with your inquiries and intentions, and an application and further details will be sent to you. The deadline to receive all applications and essays will be April 2015.

Terry Woodford-Thomas
President, 388th Bomb Group Association, Inc.
104 Arundel Place
St. Louis, MO 63105
Tel: 314-587-1436
tthomas@danforthcenter.org
SAVE THE DATE:

SEPT 2nd thru the 5th, 2015

We’re heading to Washington D.C. to celebrate and honor our Veterans at the Memorial that was built to honor all of them.

So come one, come all... Veterans, wives, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren! We have great plans for your visit...and a few surprises too! Let’s make the 388th 2015 Reunion the best yet! And what a great place to do it. Educational for kids, informative for adults and FUN for all! See you there!
one of the low groups in the 15-group bomber stream, and with the others flew through marginal weather to get to the target. The group met little opposition en route, with escort fighters brushing off early enemy fighter attacks. But later anti-aircraft fire, beginning at the Initial Point (IP) and into the target area at Stuttgart, accounted for at least two of the group’s B-17 losses; one fell to flak just short of the target.

Clouds obscured the Stuttgart area, and the lead group led the stream on a circuitous course trying to find a break in the clouds to identify the target. After four bomb runs, twenty of the group’s 21 Flying Fortresses dropped their bombs on a target of opportunity at the lead group’s signal; unfortunately due to the weather the results were poor, and the mission didn’t get any better, especially for the 388th.

Fighters began attacking in earnest around the IP, and mercilessly hammered the bombers after they finally hit the target and turned for home. Most of the group’s losses were to enemy fighters; 388th veteran Ed Huntzinger wrote that there were “… about 150 enemy aircraft attacking our formation, consisting of FW190’s, Me109’s, Me110’s, and Me210’s with a few Ju88’s.” Four more 388th aircraft came down in Germany, while five more fell across France.

One aircraft flew to Dubendorf in neutral Switzerland rather than hazard a return across deadly, fighter-infested skies. All six aircraft from the group’s 563rd Bomb Squadron were lost - wiped out in its position as the low squadron position in a low group. In return, the 388th was later credited with 15 enemy fighters shot down. The Stuttgart mission was costly; of the 45 heavy bombers lost, some 17 percent of the attacking force, 11 were suffered by the 388th Bomb Group. Gone were the Flying Fortresses named “Impa-
tient Virgin II,” “In God We Trust,” “Lone Wolf,” “Pa-
tricia,” “Shack Up,” “Shedowanna,” “Silver Dollar,”
“Sky Shy / “Wenatchee Special,” “Slightly Danger-
ous,” “Wolfpack,” and one other ship. Of the more
than 200 men who flew this mission, 108 were
initially reported as missing in action.

The day after the painful Stuttgart raid, the group
received this message from Headquarters, VIII
Bomber Command:

“The 388th Bombardment Group suffered heavy
losses yesterday. The spirit of the Group in bear-
ing these losses and coming back with fighting
hearts is a matter of great gratification to me. I
wish you would give the Group Commander
my commendation to the 388th Bombardment
Group for their excellent spirit and confidence in
the greatness of the task they are now perform-
ing.”

The message was signed by Major General Ira C.
Eaker, Commander, VIII Bomber Command. It was
endorsed by Colonel Curtis E. LeMay, Command-
er, 4th Combat Wing, who added his own encour-
agement to the group.

Subsequently, it was determined that 30 men
were killed in action; six more were listed as MIA
or otherwise unknown in status. Some 60 aircrew
were taken prisoner, and ten were prisoners of
another kind, interned in Switzerland; four airmen
were able to evade capture and eventually
returned to friendly territory. Of all those men
earlier reported missing, apparently only one re-
 mains so today, 2nd Lt. Elmer F. Schulz, a co-pilot
in the group’s 560th Bomb Squadron.

Aside from the graves of those lost that day, few
 traces of “Black Monday” remain today. How-
ever, there is an outstanding monument to the
five members of the Karnezis crew who were lost
aboard “Slightly Dangerous,” in the little French
village of Champigny sur Yonne, about 60 miles
southeast of Paris. Also remembered is the one
civilian casualty on the ground from the
fallen Fortress, Ms. Marie Dumant. Of the Karne-
zis crew, three airmen were taken as POWs, two
successfully evaded capture, but the five who
didn’t make it rest together near one another in
the village’s cemetery, their graves neatly kept
and their sacrifice commemorated every Septem-
ber 6th by grateful French citizens. This burial of
the Karnezis crew in Champigny is the exception
to the rule, for most American battle casualties
of 20th century wars buried abroad are interred
overseas in large American Battle Monuments
Commission cemeteries.

As we commemorate our Prisoners of War and
those Missing in Action on this POW/MIA Day,
let us remember the dozens of POWs and one
man yet MIA from the 388th Bomb Group’s “Black
Monday” mission to Stuttgart. May their courage
and sacrifice inspire those who serve today, as we
remember that freedom isn’t free.

Photos of this story can be found at:
asp?id=123425940
Welcome to the 388th Bomb Group 65th Annual Reunion!

70 years ago, they helped save the world

The day that changed World War II – from local men who were there
Hill Air Force Base
Hill Air Force Base

Hill Museum
Banquet
Hospitality Room
Minutes of the 388th Bomb Group (H) Association
65th Meeting of the General Membership
August 30, 2014
Layton, UT

Opening comments and Flag salute led by President Rick Thompson
Invocation: James Cotton

A. Reports from Liaisons
   1. Jim Morrow liaison with Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, present, updated the membership on the status of the renovation efforts on the City of Savannah B17. It is nearer completion and a dedication ceremony will be held at the Mighty Eighth AF Museum, Savannah, GA., on January 28, 2016. All are encouraged to attend.
   2. Jan Pack Singer liaison with our 388th Memorial Trustees in England was unable to attend this year’s reunion but submitted a written report which was entered into the record.
   3. Wayne Daniels liaison with the 388th Fighter Wing and other 388th successor units was able to attend and submitted a written report which was entered into the record.

B. PX Report – Product sales continue to increase and support the BG association treasury. If there are items that you would like to see offered through the PX, please notify Christy Wammack.

C. 2015/2016 Reunions
   1. Update for 2015 Reunion Washington, DC.
   2. Discussion of sites for 2016 Reunion. Seeking a host city in which a B17 is located.
   3. Elizabeth Ann Turley, daughter of Bill Turley 563rd squadron, has agreed to become a reunion planner and begin planning the 2016 reunion.

D. Reports from Officers and Directors
   1. Secretary – Interim Betty Curvat
   2. Treasurer – Tom Dennis, Jr
   3. Newsletter Editor – Steve Butner
   4. Senior Director – Ben Forrest Jr.
   5. Director-at-Large – Jim Zographis (absent)
   6. Corporate Agent – Rickard Sundblad (absent)
   7. Historian – Dick Henggeler (absent)
   8. Parliamentarian – Kelly Moore (absent)
   9. Vice-Presidents - 1st Terry Woodford-Thomas
   10. Vice-Presidents – 2nd Scott Long

E. Old Business Items
   1. Efforts to update original members contact data.
   2. Follow up with Hill Aerospace Museum and 388th Fighter Wing Historian on Enhancements to 388th BG display with interactive Kiosks.

F. New Business Items
   1. Elected 1st Vice-President, Scott Long, 2nd Vice-President, David Miller, Secretary, Carol Drastal. All other officers were re-nominated and elected for another year.
   2. To seek contributions for England Trust Fund and invest the current funds so that the association’s England Memorial Fund will survive in perpetuity.
   3. A motion was made and approved that the association would establish a Scholarship fund. The first scholarship would be awarded at the 2015 Annual reunion in Washington DC. Donations were received to fund the first three years of the scholarship fund.
   4. Funding was approved to extend an invitation to the trustees of the England Memorial and Museum to help deferred the cost of having them attend the 2015 Reunion if possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10am
Come See Us in Our Nation’s Capital

It’s hard to believe that 2014 is near an end and it will be only 8 short months before we are all together again in Washington DC for the 388th Bomb Group Associations 66th consecutive annual reunion. That hasn’t happened by accident. It is the fun, joy, and happiness that we all feel in our own way of paying tribute to the Original Members.

In the next issue you will get the Registration Form to fill out and begin preparations for another outstanding year of fun and entertainment. The Saturday evening banquet will be another wonderful event. An invitation has been issued to the Trustees of the England Memorial and Museum in Knettishall. While nothing is confirmed yet we are hopeful that some if not all will be able to make it. Can you imagine a reunion between Percy Prentice and all the Original members that were stationed on the base? As soon as we know if they can make it you will too!!!

This past year at the annual meeting approval was received to establish a new Scholarship Fund for children & grandchildren of members. During the banquet the 1st Scholarship will be awarded to the winner. Terry Woodford Thomas, the 388th Bomb Group Associations 1st female President, has been hard at work finalizing the requirements and review committee members that will be choosing the winner.

In part, Article I of the bi-laws of the 388th Bomb Group Association state that the purpose of the Association is “To preserve for all time the history, friendships, memories and incidents of the members of the 388th Bombardment Group (H) during World War II”. Every year when each of us begins planning to attend the annual reunions we are taking part in that preservation of the heroic history these men lived. Through the Knettishall memorial, museum, and volunteers in England, “City of Savannah” B-17 at the Mighty 8th AF Museum in Savannah, GA., the 388th Bomb Group Associations display in the Hill Aerospace Museum, the newly adopted Scholarship Fund, to the current day servicemen & women that carry on the legacy of the 388th at Hill AF Base in the Fighter Wing, we too have a chance to share in their history. It’s an honor to have that privilege. So start making plans to be in our Nation’s Capital Sept. 2-5, 2015. Bring YOUR children and grandchildren and savor the moment making some of your own family memories!

SEE YOU IN WASHINGTON DC
POW: Promises Kept
by Walter Boots Mayberry
as told to Linda Apple

A huge black cloud filled with metallic splinters burst under the bomber and caused it to rock violently, tearing holes in the aluminum fuselage. Two bursts hit close. The third hit the in-board engine on the right wing and it burst into flame. All was searing smoke and screaming metal and roaring flame.

Boots bailed out of the disintegrating plane, falling head first. When he pulled the ripcord it jerked him up with such force it shattered two vertebrae in his neck. His hands were paralyzed and he couldn't guide his parachute. Boots floated helplessly to earth under the billowing thirty-foot silk canopy.

All around him was a cacophony of anti-aircraft fire. Shrapnel and wreckage from destroyed airplanes hurtled past him. Fear and dread filled his mind. What if this wreckage hits me or my parachute and drags me down to certain death? In the deafening noise of all this melee, he cried out, “God, help me!”

What Boots endured in the German POW camps would test the limits of any man. But near death, he finds hope at his most hopeless and discovers the strength to survive. Through his life, the promises he kept gave meaning and purpose to his life and inspired countless others.
388TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION (THE)
P.O. BOX 270147
FLOWER MOUND, TX 75027

*ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED*

388TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Date ___________ Name ____________________________________________________________
Wife/Husband ____________________ Phone ______________________________________________
Street _________________________________________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State ____________________________ Zip Code ___________
Email Address __________________________________________________________________________
Squadron _______________Position ___________________________________ Aircraft Name________
Pilot ____________No. Missions _________POW (Date) ______STALAG LUFT ___________________

☐ Annual Dues ($10.00) ☐ Lifetime Membership ($50.00) ☐ Donation
☐ Associate Annual Dues ($10.00) ☐ Associate Lifetime Membership ($50.00)

If paying for an Associate Membership:

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.

Mail to: Carol Anne Linzee Chan, Secretary, 388th Bomb Group Assn., Inc.
1266 Dawnridge Drive, El Cajon, CA 92021 Email: secretary@388thbg.org or Cadrastal@gmail.com