Bronze Memorial of 1889 Land Run Oklahoma

64th Annual Reunion Oklahoma City
THE 388th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION INC

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928-210-1392 Reunion@388thbg.org

Links to 388 Bomb Group Association Inc
http://www.388bg.org (Database)
http://www.388thbg.org

From the President’s Desk

Reflections

It is interesting to reflect on those of us that have the good fortune to still have a 388th veteran to talk to. My Dad, Ben Sr. is now a nonagenarian having had a very well attended family celebration in January where he was jovial, thankful and as animated as he has been since his stroke last summer.

He is now a resident at a fine facility in Edmonds WA staffed by a very patient, friendly group.

Dad is located a short distance from family members giving us the blessing of unfettered access and ability to visit and talk anytime we wish.. There is even a bar that allows us to share one of Dad’s joys, an afternoon martini.

He can still describe the procedure to enter the ball turret and prepare his beloved dual air cooled fifties for battle and the story of Lt Chuck Neff, bombardier, that flew and navigated their ship home after being hit over Berlin, both pilots severely wounded. The miracle of returning to base 2 hours after the rest of the group landed and Chuck Neff touching down five times before coming to a safe stop in the grass, after performing the first ever landing of a B-17 on autopilot.

I can hear that story a hundred times, and the others and not grow weary. Of course that is not a problem, because Dad will keep retelling…..*

We are all blessed to still have these survivors available and so thankful. We are humbled when we hear of their passing. Dad, for one has said for some time he is just happy to wake up and still be alive, but he is completely at peace and happy with a full life.

One of my favorite experiences is visit Dad in the morning and wake him up. He has this great smile on his face.

If you are lucky like me to still have your hero around, stop by to say hi as often as you can.

By the way, please sign up early for the reunion so we can get a good handle on the number of attendees.

Ben Forrest Jr.
The Lighter Side

FEAR WINS OUT!

While practicing an evacuation exercise in case of a crash landing, a co-pilot (whom shall remain nameless), was supposed to go out his side window during the drill. Unfortunately, due to his size, he knew he wouldn't be able to fit, so instead he exited through the radio room hatch.

One day, while taking off, the #3 engine caught fire. Orders came to shut everything down immediately and evacuate the plane.

To the surprise of the co-pilot he was 200 yards from the plane and still running when he realized he went through that side window!

MORAL: Bravery aside, you can do anything if you’re scared enough!

New Members:

James R Bradshaw Original 388th 560th Squadron
Brig General Scott Dennis former Commander 388FW
William H Harrell Jr. son of Wm H Harrell 563rd Sq
Henry D Holland nephew of Davis Ratcliffe
Robert R Leto brother of Oreste Leto 560th Sq
Jesse Markham grandson of Arthur Neumann 560th Sq
Richard Obenschain son of Richard Obenschain 563rd Sq

Thank you for your donations

Tom Bartnik
E. Ellison Beck
James R Bradshaw
Betty Curvat
Donald Davis
Marin Ennis
Edison D Jeffus
Irene L Kisatner and Family - IMO
George C Kistner, Sr.
Mrs Vincent Parker (Veronica)
Mrs John Pond (Daphne)
John M Russell
Blake C Schroeder
Martha and Donald Scott
Neil Walker
Mrs Clarence D Willingham (Erna)

Sale of Polo Shirts at Mighty Eighth AF Museum Gift Shop for "City of Savannah" B17 restoration

If I missed anyone that made a donation I apologize. Please notify me and I will be sure you are included in the next issue.


On page 34, he found this photo. It states that it is a "creative self expression on the wall of a crumbling hut at Knettishall, home of the 388th Bomb Group.

Perhaps someone in the organization is familiar with this drawing. If anyone can shed light on who may have painted it, on what building and about when, please send an email to Tom Dennis: Newsletter@388thbg.org and we will run a follow-up in a future Newsletter.
Unlucky Bastards
By Dick Henggeler, Historian

This year is the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. It is remembered as a great battle but more importantly as part of a great struggle that threatened our country. But for the sacrifice of so many of them, we would not have this great country of ours today.

Last year the 388th Memorial Rededication Ceremony at Knettishall remembered the special sacrifice of our own. The ceremony was highlighted by the official unveiling of two stones listing the members of the 388th that died during WWII. I was honored to give my remarks on the occasion and chose to read the Gettysburg address. In a way that memorial honors those heroes just as the National Cemetery at Gettysburg honors their forbearers.

The young men of the 388th who died must have studied the Gettysburg Address just a few years earlier in high school. Many of them would have even memorized and recited it in front of their class. Little did they know then that soon they would earn those words of eternal gratitude and honor.

Just like the men who died on Little Round Top, these men did not ask for their lives to be disrupted nor did they wish to learn to wage war. But when the emergency came and their country called, they did their duty and joined the ranks of the brave. In England, they faced the danger along with their comrades not knowing who would become a Lucky Bastard and who would not. In the end they never received their certificate.

388th PX

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Make checks out to: 388th Bomb Group Assn.
Mail to: Greg Staples
4715 W Larchwood Ct.
Spokane, WA 99208
All profits go to our Memorial in Knettishall
Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape.

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks...they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn to much.

Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's OSS) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were. When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1) A playing token that contained a small magnetic compass
2) A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
3) Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set...by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWS who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another was.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honored in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail Free' card!
388th BG

64th Autumn Reunion

October 2-6, 2013

HOTEL INFORMATION

Wyndham Garden Oklahoma City Airport
2101 South Meridian Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
Telephone 405-685-4000 (you may call collect)

Cut-off date for reservations:
September 1, 2013

After 9/1/13 Wyndham will continue to accept reservations from 388th's attendees: at the prevailing room rate and subject to availability.

*$99 using the 388th Group Rate!
*Breakfast is provided everyday, every person!
*Complimentary Shuttle:
  To & From Airport
  To & From Surrounding Areas (1 mile)
*Complimentary Wifi throughout the hotel!
*Complimentary Parking!

Pet Friendly!

THURSDAY, October 3, 2013:
“Let’s See OKC” Tour

FRIDAY, October 4, 2013:
Military Tour

Oklahoma City Land Run
# 388th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

## Registration Form

**64th Annual Reunion**  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
October 2 – October 6, 2013

**CUT-OFF DATE FOR REGISTRATION IS SEPTEMBER 1ST**

To cancel contact: Jennifer Wammack 928-210-1392, jlwammack@hotmail.com  
Cancellations received after September 1st will forfeit all payments.

## Registration:

| ATTNDEE #1 FULL NAME: ___________________________ | MEMBER: LIFE / ASSOC. / NOT |
| Phone: (___) ______________________ | E-Mail Address: ___________________________ |
| Mailing Address: ___________________________ | |
| City: ___________________________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________ |
| YOUR B-17 CREW MEMBER NAME: ___________________________ | WHAT IS YOUR RELATION TO HIM: ___________________________ |
| **Gov’t Issued ID No.: ___________________________** This is required only for attendees that are participating in Friday’s Military Tour. |

| ATTNDEE #2 FULL NAME: ___________________________ | MEMBER: LIFE / ASSOC. / NOT |
| YOUR B-17 CREW MEMBER NAME: ___________________________ | WHAT IS YOUR RELATION TO HIM: ___________________________ |
| **Gov’t Issued ID No.: ___________________________** This is required only for attendees that are participating in Friday’s Military Tour. |

| ATTNDEE #3 FULL NAME: ___________________________ | MEMBER: LIFE / ASSOC. / NOT |
| YOUR B-17 CREW MEMBER NAME: ___________________________ | WHAT IS YOUR RELATION TO HIM: ___________________________ |
| **Gov’t Issued ID No.: ___________________________** This is required only for attendees that are participating in Friday’s Military Tour. |

| ATTNDEE #4 FULL NAME: ___________________________ | MEMBER: LIFE / ASSOC. / NOT |
| YOUR B-17 CREW MEMBER NAME: ___________________________ | WHAT IS YOUR RELATION TO HIM: ___________________________ |
| **Gov’t Issued ID No.: ___________________________** This is required only for attendees that are participating in Friday’s Military Tour. |

If you would like to become a 388th BG member please fill out the Membership Application / Renewal on the back of the newsletter, and follow those instructions.

## Registration Fee:

- Required for all attendees: $40.00  
- X _____ = ____________

### Thursday (3 October)

- Let’s See OKC! Tour  
  9:00am – 4:00pm  
  Lunch at Persimmon Hill located in the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. $59.00  
  X _____ = ____________

### Friday (4 October)

- Military Tour  
  9:30am – 3:00pm  
  Tinker AFB / Lunch at The Tinker Club / 45th Infantry Museum  
  **Gov’t Issued ID is required for attendance. Please provide the number for each attending member 18 or older.** $46.00  
  X _____ = ____________

### Saturday (5 October)

- Banquet at Wyndham Garden  
  6:00pm – 10:00pm  
  Filet of Chicken Breast $30.00  
  X _____ = ____________  
  London Broil $30.00  
  X _____ = ____________

- Memory Book  
  Enjoy reminiscing about OKC! Book $16.00  
  X _____ = ____________  
  CD $5.00  
  X _____ = ____________

## Donation:

Write check payable to 388th Bomb Group Association, Inc  
Mail check and registration form to:  
Jennifer Wammack, 10131 E. 35th Pl, Yuma AZ, 85365  
**TOTAL** = ____________

*Please fill out the questionnaire on the back of this form, and return it with the registration*
388th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

Questionnaire for Future Reunions

Your opinions are important to the Association.

It helps us plan the most exciting and entertaining annual reunions possible.

Please help by answering the following questions.

What time frame would you like reunions to be planned? _____ Anytime Between August & October

_____ Early to Mid August  _____ Early to Mid September  _____ Early to Mid October

_____ Mid to Late August  _____ Mid to Late September  _____ Mid to Late October

_____ Near Labor Day Weekend

Do you have suggested locations for a reunion?

Eastern United States (2015): ______________________________________________

Central United States (2016): _____________________________________________

Western United States (2017): _____________________________________________

Do you have suggestions or comments for future reunions? ____________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Are you or a member of your family interested in helping with the 388th Bomb Group Association’s reunions? Time, talent or treasure are all welcome and needed!

Name: __________________________________________________________________________

Phone: ( ____ ) __________________ E-Mail Address: _____________________________________

Please specify if necessary (i.e., a certain city, a certain year, a certain job, any contacts that may be helpful, etc...):________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________
Mail Call

Thursday January 31, 2013 96:50PM
From: "Terrence Popravak, Jr"
<terrylin105@yahoo.com>
To: President@388thbg.org
Subject: Noted 388TFW Pilot Heads West

Hello, Folks,

In commemorating the heritage of the 388th Bomb Group (H), it’s also worth noting the accomplishments which the 388BG’s successors have achieved on behalf of our nation.

In this spirit, I want to let you know of the passing yesterday, 30 Jan 2013, of Ed Rasimus, a remarkable Vietnam era pilot who flew 250 combat missions in two tours of duty in Southeast Asia, both with the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing, from Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base in Thailand. He was born in the same year as the 388th Bomb Group.

Ed was perhaps first featured in the public eye in a 1966 USAF documentary titled "There Is A Way." He was one of a number of F-105 Thunderchief pilots interviewed about their perspectives on the air war in Vietnam. His sense of humor and wit was notable even then.

See the video at:
http://archive.org/details/gov.ntis.ava04597vnb1

From Col. Scott Long Hill AF Base

"The 388th FW is still strong and representing you well. We recently passed our Higher Headquarters major inspections with flying colors, and we are postured in South Korea with Airmen and aircraft ready to defend the people of South Korea.

We look forward to meeting the challenges around the globe with disciplined Airpower. The men and women of the 388th FW hope you enjoyed an excellent Veteran's Day, and we took time to reflect on your contribution to keep this Nation and Europe free. Thank you for your amazing service and sacrifice.

We look forward to your upcoming visit to Hill AFB in 2014, and we stand ready to make it an exceptional event. Take care, God Bless, and stay in touch!

Col Scott Long, Commander, 388 FW."

SCOTT C. LONG, Col, USAF
Commander, 388 FW

Airpower is the Power of Airmen!

Office: (801) 777-3881
DSN: 312-777-3881
BB: (801) 430-7658
iPhone: 305-773-1268
E-mail: scott.long.2@hill.af.mil
BYRON L. BLAND
Byron Lanier Bland, 88, of Georgetown, GA, died January 10. Bombardier on the Billy K. Faurot crew in the 560th Sqd., he flew 13 missions between March and April 1945, and participated in one of the May 1945 Operation Chowhound missions. He was discharged from the service on his 21st birthday.

Mr. Bland received a BS in Agricultural Engineering in 1949 and, after a year of graduate study and teaching, returned with his wife and family to Eufaula, where he had lived as a child. There he partnered with his brother in Bland & Sons, an agricultural supply company started by their father. He raised Black Angus cattle, grew peanuts and corn, and provided local farmers with custom hay baling and combining.

Affiliations included the Georgia Farm Bureau, National and Barbour County Wild Turkey Federation, and Pataula E.M.C. A member of the First Presbyterian Church of Eufaula for more than 65 years, and served his church in many capacities including Deacon, Elder, and Superintendent of the Sunday School.

Survivors include Bettie, Mr. Bland’s wife of 67 years; sons Byron II and James; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Funeral services were held January 12 at the First Presbyterian Church of Eufaula.

JACK M. CLEMER
Jack M. Clemer, former parliamentarian of the 388th BG Assn., died January 23 in Kerrville, TX at age 90.

Mr. Clemer served as tail gunner on the David Thayer crew in the 561st Sqd., flying 30 missions between April and July 1944. Awards included the DFC, Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Silver Star and three Battle Stars. After receiving his law degree from the University of Texas, Mr. Clemer was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1947. He practiced law for 38 years in Houston, Corpus Christi, and Robstown, TX before retiring to Kerrville. He was city judge in Robstown from 1964 until 1980.

He was a founder of Robstown Community Action and served as a director of the Robstown Chamber of Commerce. He was vice president of the Corpus Christi Jaycees while living in Corpus Christi and served as a director of the Robert Moore Community Center in Corpus Christi. He also served as a director of the Robstown Industrial Foundation, as a board member of the Nueces County Unit of the American Cancer Society and was a sustaining member of the Boy Scouts of America. Long active in Democratic Party affairs, he had served as a precinct chairman and as a delegate to the State Democratic Convention. He was a member of the United Methodist Church and had served as a trustee and steward of the First United Methodist Church of Robstown. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the University of Texas Ex-Students Association.

Survivors Karen Sue Woodall, his partner in life; sons Michael and Mark; and four grandchildren. Mr. Clemer was preceded in death by his wife, Peggy.

Memorial services were held at Mr. Clemer’s ranch in Kerrville.

JOHN W. DIXON
John Walton Dixon passed away November 4, 2012 at Hilton Head Island, SC. He was 91. While at Knettishall, he was a 1st Lieutenant assigned to 388th BG headquarters.

Mr. Dixon received an AB from Harvard College in 1943, and an MBA from Columbia University in 1948. As a CPA, he worked at Price Waterhouse in Boston before joining Loomis Sayles Co., Inc. (also of Boston), from which he retired in 1983. He and his wife Dori moved to Hilton Head in 1982.

His many affiliations included the Magna Charta Barons, Massachusetts Mayflower Society, Sons of the American Revolution, National Society of Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, and the Harvard Society. He served as treasurer of the Dedham, Massachusetts Historical Society and as treasurer of the General Theological Library.

Mr. Dixon is survived by Dori, his wife of 64 years. The couple lost their son, Richard, in 1966. A memorial service was held at St. Luke’s Church, Hilton Head.

ALVIN L. FEHRMAN
Alvin Lione Fehrman (Lt. Col. Ret.) died in Bluffton, SC on January 22 at age 88. A pilot in the 563rd Sqd., he flew 22 missions before his aircraft was downed over Oranienburg, Germany on March 15, 1945. Awards included the Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, a Purple Heart, and two Bronze Stars for the Ardennes and Rhineland Campaigns.

He received BS in Engineering from Vanderbilt University; an MS in Aeronautics and an advanced degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the California Institute of Technology; and a MS in CONTINUED ON PAGE 11
Taps  (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

Business Administration from Auburn University.

Mr. Fehrman is survived by his wife Mary Lou; daughters Cheryl Carter and Sarah Fehrman; sons Robert and David; eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his first wife, Margaret.

Private services with full military honors were held at Barrancas National Cemetery in Pensacola, FL.

WALTER KIRBY, JR.
Walter Kirby, Jr., 93, passed away July 29, 2012 in St. Petersburg, FL. He was a 562nd Sqd. armorer.

Retired from General Electric, Mr. Kirby was a member of Central Christian Church in St. Petersburg.

Survivors include daughter Judy Blackburn; daughter-in-law Barbara Kirby; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife Betty and son David.

Interment was at Woodlawn Memory Gardens, St. Petersburg.

GEORGE E. KISTNER
George Ernest Kistner, Sr., 90, passed away March 5 at The Villages, FL. Prior to moving to the retirement community in 1994, he and his wife Irene had resided in Lake Ariel, PA.

A radio operator in the 561st Sqd., Mr. Kistner flew 29 missions between April 1944 and January 1945, primarily with pilots Eugene Fowler and Lawrence Locker. "Time on My Hands," a memoir of his experiences, was published in The 388th Anthology, Vol. II. Awards included the Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters.

For 33 years, Mr. Kistner was a Fourdrinier wire weaver at Eastwood-Nealy Corp. in Belleville, NJ. Affiliations included the Masonic Lodge, Tri-county High 12 Club #674, and the Order of the Arrow, the national honor society of the Boy Scouts of America. He was also a charter member of St. George Episcopal Church.

Survivors include his wife Irene, whom me met and courted in England in 1944; daughter Janet Gottheiner; sons George Jr. and James; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Interment with military honors was held at Bushnell National Cemetery.

DOUGLAS G. MCARTHUR

Born in Canada, Mr. McArthur came to Newport, WA with his family at age two. After the war he returned to Washington State University, graduating in 1951 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He joined Weyerhaeuser Co. as a civil engineer, and worked as manager on a number of the company’s worldwide projects until his retirement in 1983. Survivors include daughters Terri Cox and Laura McArthur Hines; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Mr. McArthur was preceded in death by his wife Barbara.

JOSEPH F. PATTERSON
Joseph Francis "Bud" Patterson, 92, of Sun City Center, FL, passed away February 9 at age 92. A pilot in the 562nd Sqd., he and his crew were shot down while on their second mission, March 20, 1944, over Frankfurt.

Mr. Patterson was a retired New York City police officer and U.S. Mail Carrier. He was a member and past commander of the American ex-POWs, Tampa Bay Chapter; and a parishioner and Eucharist minister at St. Anne Catholic Church, Ruskin, FL.

Survivors include Veronica, his wife of 69 years; sons Joseph and Richard; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian burial was held at St. Anne Catholic Church in Ruskin.

DILLARD WILLIAMS
Dillard Williams, 90, died August 12, 2012 in Midland, TX. He was a 561st Sqd. waist gunner with the Caffee and Hildebrandt crews, flying 32 missions between April and September 1944. Awards included the DFC and Air Medal with 3 Oak Clusters.

After spending many years farming in Noodle, TX, Mr. Williams took employment at the Rolling Plains Hospital, Sweetwater, TX, retiring in 1988. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Sweetwater and an honor guard in the Sweetwater VFW.

Survivors include Mary, his wife of 58 years; daughters Gwen Koenig and Kathy Hester; and six grandchildren. Mr. Williams was interred at Rose Hill Cemetery in Merkel, TX.
388TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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IF APPLYING FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:

NAME OF RELATION WHO IS/WAS IN THE 388TH

RELATIONSHIP TO YOU

(If you have Prior Military Service, please check the box)

MAIL TO: LINDA SOO, SECRETARY 388TH BOMB GROUP ASSN. INC 3013 MOUNT BAKER CIRCLE OAK HARBOR, WA 98277
EMAIL: secretary@388thbg.org or Linda388@fiddlybits.com