



FORTRESS FOR FREEDOM



388TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

**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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WINTER 2010



TWO MAJOR EVENTS THAT WILL MAINTAIN THE LEGACY OF THE 8TH AIR FORCE 388TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP H

**Restoration of the “City of Savannah” B17 at the 8th Air Force Museum
&**

**Addition to the Knettishall Memorial - two wings listing ALL the names
of the 388th Bomb Group men who died in service to their country.**

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<http://www.388bg.org> (Database)

<http://www.388thbg.org>

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From the President's Desk

I have to start by telling you how much I've enjoyed becoming a part of the 388th Bomb Group family. I've only known about the group for three years but the welcome I've received makes me feel as if I've been a part of the group my whole life. I found the group through an internet search after finding an article about my dad on ancestry.com. One thing led to another and I attended the 60th reunion in Ogden by myself not knowing what I would find. What a great and welcoming group I fell into. Then I brought my wife and brother with me to Kissimmee then Lexington. What fun we have had with you. I've shared my story with those that attended the reunion but I'd like to let the entire association know a little bit about who I am.

I'm the second son of Donald Staples, a navigator in SQ 560. He joined the Group in Boise and during training at Wendover was assigned to Ralph Jarrendt's crew. After arriving at Knettishall, he made his first combat flight on Mission #2, July 24, 1943 to Bergen Norway. On his 15th mission, he was nearly killed when he crashed into a hillside on returning to England in a pea soup fog on September 16, 1943. It took him three months to get medically cleared to fly again and he finally got his 25th mission on April 30, 1944. Having found a home in the Army Air Corps, he stayed on after the war and went on to fly B-47s and B-52s. Then on one beautiful blue sky September afternoon, two B-52s "didn't see each other" and collided mid-air in the Fairchild AFB traffic pattern. I was only just 9 years old at the time and watched the crash from our house on base. Even with this trauma, I never gave up my goal to be like my dad and had a 20 year USAF career of my own. I made pilot and flew the KC-135 retiring from active duty in 1994. Looking back, I can't explain why I didn't find the 388th Bomb Group Association many years ago. My mom never re-married but also didn't talk much about dad to me. I didn't know what specific units he had been in or anything detailed about his time in B-17s. That all changed with the one link in ancestry.com. It was a Stars and Stripes newspaper article titled "Composer fetes dancer injured in Fort." Irving Berlin had dad and Capt Jarrendt and their bombardier Capt Henry W. Dick on stage. Capt Dick had been a successful Broadway dancer before the war and tragically lost his leg in that September 16, 1943 crash. Anyway, that article got me started googling on the internet and I found the group's web sites and the rest as they say is history. So, the internet got us connected and as president, I want to continue and expand our internet presence.

I know many of you are not on the internet and this internet initiative is not meant to exclude you. Never fear, we will keep the paper copy of the newsletter coming to your door. But for those of you who are wired into the 21st century so you can see your great grandchildren's facebook pages and latest youtube videos, I hope you will join my effort to expand our internet "footprint." I've been in conversation with Jan Pack-Singer and will be taking over updating the 388thbg.org site. I've also set up a presence on Facebook. If you have a facebook account, please find the "388 Bomb Group" facebook page and "like" it. If you are a member of the association, please send a friend request to me (facebook search "knettishall bombers") and you will be added to our private group. With a little bit of luck, our facebook presence will take on a life of its own!

I'd also like to take this opportunity to publically express my thanks to Corporal C. E. Beck. He was the crew chief of my dad's airplanes. First Gremlin Gus (42-30215) and then Gremlin Gus II (42-30595.) He reached out to me shortly after my first reunion in Ogden and sent pictures and a wealth of information about my dad. We had several conversations about my dad and Gremlin Gus II and cleared up the mystery surrounding which plane was which. Several articles from the time and even Ed Huntzinger's book misidentified tail # 42-5904. That was the *aircraft* the Gremlin Gus *crew* crashed on Sept 16th. 42-5904 was borrowed from the 563rd while Gremlin Gus II was "in the shop" and apparently didn't have a name or nose art of its own. Thanks to "Becky" for setting me straight and helping to get the info updated on the database site.

Well, enough about me, time to get down to business. We have three main projects on the horizon: the memorial in England, the B-17 in the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum just outside Savannah, GA, and the 2011 reunion in Colorado Springs.

In accordance with the wishes of those assembled in Lexington, KY for our 61st reunion, we raided the 388th treasury for the funds needed to add two memorial stones to the existing memorial in Knettishall. Dubbed "Project Ultimate Sacrifice" it will list the names of all 388BG men who died during WW II from the training crash in Idaho to the post VE-day sightseeing crash on May 31, 1945.

Jan Pack-Singer has been spearheading this project and I'm told that the marble has been

acquired, the names have been double and triple checked for accuracy and the work is proceeding. All we have left to do is backfill our coffers. If you haven't made a special contribution to this worthy cause, please step forward now and make a contribution. Be sure to let Bit Snead, our treasurer, know your check is for this memorial so he can keep the funds properly allocated.

The next project is the B-17 named "City of Savannah." The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum acquired a B-17 from the Smithsonian Museum. While this wasn't one of "our" birds, it will be restored with the markings of the 388th. The name "City of Savannah" was a patriotic message applied to the 5000th B-17 to pass through Hunter Army Airfield during WW II. It was picked up and flown to England by Lt Ralph Kittle of the 563rd. The original 42-97542 was damaged by flak on March 5, 1945 and crashed. But this display aircraft should be indistinguishable from the original, will be the centerpiece of the museum and will be a "front and center" reminder of the 388th to all who visit. We made a significant contribution of \$10,000 to this restoration this year and I'm proud to have been an officer supporting President Jim Morrow's motion to do that. But our treasury cannot withstand another raid so I won't be asking for significant general funds again during my tenure. But I hope we can raise more money to help. If you feel you can be generous, you can either send a check directly to the museum or to Bit. Either way, be sure to let Bit know it's for the City of Savannah or let the museum know it came from a 388th member.

Finally, mark your calendars for the 62nd reunion starting on Thursday, Sept 1st and running through Saturday Sept 3rd at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO. We've blocked rooms starting Wednesday night and we will have full details in the next newsletter.



Greg Staples
President

The Lighter Side



This story took place at our Base, Station 136 of the 388th BG. It was during the week of June 1944, the invasion was to take place June 6th.

The brass thought the Germans might send over air borne troops to disrupt and confuse things. So an order was issued, all planes must have an armed guard at night. I had completed my tour of duty and was held back for ground assignment, my job was to help new crews, green from the states. I was also in charge of the firing range. So I was one of the many picked for guard duty on the planes.

I had a choice of a 45 pistol or a 30 cal. Carbine. I took the carbine, as much better gun and a far greater range. I was given only one clip of live ammo. I guess I would fire that at the Germans and then run like hell. They called all the guards together and gave us our orders and the password and counter password. "If someone comes near the plane you are guarding, you are to call out the password they must answer with the correct counter, if they do not you are to fire on that person." This is a war zone and the Germans have been known to wear American uniforms.

The night I was on duty, was cool and clear with a full moon. I was standing in the shadow of the wing of a B17 behind the landing gear, when I saw a jeep on the road way. The jeep made a few stops before he got to me. They did not drive up to the plane but stopped on the roadway and got out. Walking towards me I saw one enlisted man and one officer. (Since it was a clear night and I had seen them stop at other planes, I knew they were not Germans.)

I called out the password loud and clear, no answer. So I called out the password a second time. No answer and they kept coming. At this point I took my carbine, pulled back the bolt half way and then let the bolt fly forward (unless you pull the bolt all the way back you do not chamber a round and the gun will not fire.) In the still of the night, that sound is like cocking a shot gun. Both men did an about face, got in their jeep and left.

I think they both needed a change of underwear.

New Members:

John Boyer, son of Ralph C. Boyer, 560th Sqd.
Brent Vest, grandson of Ralph C. Boyer, 560th
Bryan Vest, grandson of Ralph C. Boyer, 560th
Julie Vest, daughter of Ralph C. Boyer, 560th

Thank you for your donations General Fund

Ralph C. Boyer, 560th Squadron
Harold A. Johnson, 563rd Squadron

Additional Donations were received by several of the members for **Project Ultimate Sacrifice**. These are listed on page 06 under the update of this continuing project.

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.

Over 200 professional high resolution photos of the 2010 Lexington Reunion are now available on DVD. Kindly send \$20 check or money order to:

**Chuck Lawsen
3820 W Happy Valley Rd #141-505
Glendale, AZ 85310**

Website: www.chucklawsen.com Email: chuck@chucklawsen.com

(623)582-8707 Office (623)322-1913 Fax

Not previously mentioned is that Chuck will be donating back to the Association General Fund \$5.00 for each DVD purchased.

If you are enjoying the **LIGHTER SIDE** column we would like you to submit your story.

This most recent article was submitted by Albert Soriano. We thank you very much for your submission.

Please send **your** story to the Editor by mail or email to be published in a future issue of the 388th BG Newsletter. Looking forward to hearing from those of you that promised a story..

Minutes of the 388th Bombardment Group (H) Association, Inc. 61st Meeting of the General Membership

September 4, 2010 Lexington, Kentucky

The 61st meeting of the 388th Bombardment Group Association general membership was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

Following the flag salute led by President Jim Morrow, the invocation was given by David Miller.

Minutes

Since all attendees received a copy of the 2009 minutes at the meeting, a motion to waive an oral reading was seconded and carried by a majority vote.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bit Snead reported that the amount in the Association Treasury is \$45,288. Our money is in an account with the Boeing Credit Union. A full report is published annually in the Spring issue of the *Fortress of Freedom* newsletter.

Board Business

Following his request from last year that there be an original 388th BG member serving on the Board "as long as one was able", Alvin Lewis proposed that the position of Director could be allocated for that purpose. President Morrow will bring this to the Board in 2011. Original members, Tom Dennis Sr and Bit Snead, serve on the Board currently.

Wayne Daniels, liaison to the **388th Fighter Wing, Tactical Fighter Wing, and Fighter Bomber Wing**, said that he maintains contact with these successor groups and encourages their inclusion to our reunions and joining as members.

Jan Pack-Singer, liaison to the **388th Memorial Trustees** in England, created a video presentation showing *Project Ultimate Sacrifice*, a proposal by the **Trustees** to honor the 620 men who died in service, including ground crew and POW fliers. The project, which enhances the present memorial, will cost \$16,500, and be funded by private donations. *Project Ultimate Sacrifice* was enthusiastically approved by the members.

Jim Morrow, liaison for the "**City of Savannah**" B-17 restoration at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Pooler, GA, showed a DVD presentation that shared the progress being made. Members voted to contribute a generous \$10,000 to the restoration.

Historian Dick Henggeler has established a 388th Research Library that contains books, manuscripts, videos, audio tapes, and photographs. He also has copies of 170+ newsletters. Dick is continuing to update data on our website, www.388bg.org.

Secretary Linda Soo reported that the Association received 20 new members and that we have at least 32 associate members with military service. We currently have 1170 members on our active list. Correspondence with members by mail, e-mail, and telephone is welcome.

Corporate Agent Henry Curvat shared that the Association's records required updating and that he has researched and contacted appropriate parties to make the necessary additions and corrections.

Newsletter Editors Tom Dennis Sr. and Tom Dennis Jr. asked members to continue sending personal stories and anecdotes. Members who wish their newsletters in electronic version should send an e-mail address to Tom Jr. The printed version will be folded in half for mailing, thus reducing postage costs for the Association.

Coordinator Marvinnia Snead spoke about CafePress, our online PX. Sales activity has been low this year, with some books being the major items sold. She announced a sale for items brought to the reunion.

New Officers

The responsibilities of the three incoming Board positions were read before nominations were opened. In accordance with the By-Laws, written votes were counted and the positions were filled in order of the number of votes each received. The tallied results were:

1st Vice President: Henry Curvat
(Rotates to President and then to Senior Director)
2nd Vice President: Ben Forrest, Jr.
Director: Neil Walker

Nominee David Miller graciously conceded to the tallied votes.

In addition, replacing Henry Curvat as Corporate Agent is Rickard Sundblad.

Reunions 2011 and 2012

Rachell and Joel Rary, Reunion Planners, shared information about the Colorado Springs, CO reunion. Our host hotel is the Crowne Plaza.

Two cities in the state of Georgia, Atlanta and Savannah, were submitted to members for the Eastern U.S. site of the 2012 reunion. Members overwhelmingly voted for Savannah. Members of the 388th successor units are invited to attend.

From the Floor

Jim Zographos announced that "he liked round numbers" so he wanted to make a \$500 donation to *Project Ultimate Sacrifice*.

Information was shared about the Honor Flight Network program, which transports veterans to Washington, DC to see the memorials dedicated to them.

President-elect Greg Staples volunteered to research the usefulness of internet social networks to the Association.

Kudos were given to the Rarys for planning the Reunion. Over thirty original members attended, including several past presidents of the Association.

Business was concluded and the motion to adjourn was seconded and carried by a majority vote. The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda D. Soo, Secretary

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING...

By Dick Henggeler, Historian

Not Very Good Odds

Flying on a B-17 crew during WWII might have been one of the most dangerous assignments. A 388th combat crew had a 2 in 5 chance of having their B-17 crash. The crashes were caused primarily by flak, enemy fighters (shooting and in some cases intentional ramming), and mid-air collisions with another B-17, weather, and fuel shortage or engine failure. The crashes took many forms from an instant total explosion, an out of control aircraft spinning to earth, a crash landing in a field or a ditching in the ocean. Each of these had their own life threatening scenarios.

The scenario of a plane disabled over enemy territory had many possible terrible outcomes for a crewman. The second best outcome was to end up in a POW camp. However this first required surviving a gauntlet of extremely dangerous challenges. Assuming that the explosion or attack did not leave the crewman killed, unconscious, or too seriously wounded to bailout, he must be able to make an exit (an onboard fire or a plane in a spin could make an exit impossible). Once he bailed out and didn't collide with any part of the plane, he could try to deploy his parachute (if he still had one). Hopefully by this time he still has enough altitude for a parachute to be effective. Assuming that the parachute had not been damaged, it probably would deploy and let him float to the ground. While floating he was subject to enemy fighters and/or soldiers on the ground shooting at him or fighters diving at the canopy trying to collapse it. Finally the impact with the ground always has its own dangers. However there is still plenty of danger. Usually evasion was impossible and a quick capture followed. His captors (either soldiers or civilians) are armed, angry and scared which sometimes resulted in a quick death. If not, a series of interrogations and train rides followed which ended up with the crewman at his first POW camp.

Of course the best outcome for a crewman was to survive the crash and evade capture. But evasion itself involved many hardships and extreme dangers.

A plane did not have to crash for a crewman to receive serious injury or even death. Shrapnel from flak or enemy machine gun fire caused many injuries as well as deaths. However several men died from asphyxiation when their oxygen failed and no one noticed. The extreme cold in the aircraft caused much discomfort as well as frost bite.

All in all a crewman's chances for any given mission were not good. Yet these incredibly brave heroes' flew 25 or 30 or 35 or even in some cases 50 missions. It is absolutely amazing to me.



Project Ultimate Sacrifice

Project Ultimate Sacrifice is off to a start with \$2,195.00 already received toward our goal of \$16,500. We would like to thank the following for their generous contributions:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Christine Calderon | Alan Peeples * |
| Robert Cooperman | Earl Peeples * |
| Jack Edwards | Ray Peeples * |
| Bryan Gross | Harold Rosenn |
| Olive Hearn | Russell Rossman |
| Paul Kelly | Donald Scott |
| Christine Lentz-Bodiford | Al Soo and Family |
| Barb McAllister | James Zagraphos |
| Jim Morrow | |

* In honor of Harold Baron

Honoring our fallen men by name is perhaps the most important thing that we as the 388th BG Association will ever do, and we urge everyone to take part.

Following months of intensive research, a list of 622 names has been sent to the 388th Memorial Trustees. The study produced several revelations, adding to the list the names of ground echelon not previously documented and POWs who died in captivity, among others. We were also able to remove from the list a number of names, including those previously believed to be killed in action that, in fact, were taken prisoner.

The list is so long that we are publishing it in two parts. In this issue are the names A-L.

We have also received the good news from England that our permit application to add the two matching granite stones to the Memorial site has been approved by the St. Edmundsbury Borough Council. H.L. Perfitts Stonemasons has also received the black granite stones and is preparing for the engraving process.

Contributions to the project should be sent to Bit Snead, Association Treasurer, and marked "**Project Ultimate Sacrifice**" to avoid confusing them with donations to our general fund.

Project Ultimate Sacrifice Names A-L

| | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Eino Alander | Dale Butt | John Denton, Jr. | Jack Graves | George Job, Jr. |
| Frank Aldenhoevel | Victor Cafferata | Joseph Diaz, Jr. | William Gray | Carl Johnson |
| Charles Alfano | Edward Calo | Ralph Diederich | Robert Green | Arthur Johnston |
| Roland Allard | Arthur Carlson | Hoyt Dixon | John Greene | Hartzell Jones |
| Allan Amann | Foster Carlson | John Dorsett | Allen Gregory | Arthur Jones, Jr. |
| Gordon Amos | John Carroll, Jr. | William Dougherty | Jerry Gregory | Floyd Journeay |
| Ivar Anderson | Robert Carter | James Douglas | Ronald Grey | Edwin Kabcenell |
| Donald Arnold | Ora Castrup | David Dowis | John Griscom | Norman Kajut |
| Harold Asmussen | William Cavalier | George Doyle, Jr. | Donald Gromis | Marvin Kamholz |
| Richard Atkinson | David Ceely | Donald Drago | Paul Gruhn | Frank Kaminski |
| William Aunspaugh | Michael Chaklos | John Du Prey | Loran Gunderson | George Kantor |
| Donald Balboni | William Chamberlin | Rodney Due | Harry Guyette, Jr. | Joseph Kapec |
| Ray Baldwin | Anthony Checchia | James Duncan | William Hager | Charles Keiser |
| Edward Baliff | Donald Chiles | Robert Dvorak | Winston Hall | Edward Keisler |
| Herman Ball | John Chimenti | Kenneth Eccleston | Clayton Hamilton | James Kelley |
| Newell Ballard | Edward Christensen | Charles Edwards | Warren Hammond | Peter Kelly |
| Paul Ballard | Salvatore Ciaccio | Robert Eggleton | Alfred Hano | Albert Kemp |
| Robert Bare | Eldon Clark | John Eicholtz | Blair Harman | Joseph Kendall |
| Virgil Barnes | George Clark | Elwood Eisenhauer | Abe Harper | Thomas Kennedy |
| Robert Barrington | James Clark | James Ellis | Eugene Harper | Robert Keogh |
| Elmer Barsig | Ivan Clark, Jr. | Kenneth Ernster | Albertus Harrenstein | Robert Ketcham |
| Rex Barwick | George Clausius, Jr. | James Evans | William Harrington | Francis Kierszh |
| Dario Battista | Guy Claypool | Phillip Evans | William Hartley | Carl Kindelt |
| Bernard Becker | Floyd Cochran, Jr. | Richard Evans | James Haskett | Jerome Klein |
| James Becker | William Coffman | Andrew Fabiszewski | Kenneth Hausladen | Donald Klein |
| David Becker | Irving Cohen | Richard Fagstad | Thomas Hawkins | William Klemm, Jr. |
| Donald Beckwith | Harry Cole | Nathan Fair, Jr. | Harrold Hawkins | Vernon Klenk |
| Charles Bein | Carl Cole | Carl Falba | Robert Hayman | Walter Klik |
| James Bell | Charles Coleman | Keith Farley | John Healey | Otto Kloza |
| Curtis Bellfy | Leo Collins | Clarence Farrington | George Healy | Harold Knight |
| Albert Bendix | Lacy Collinsworth | James Feeny | Lewis Heatly | William Knowles |
| Robert Bennett, Jr. | Phillip Comella | Robert Feese | William Hege | Walter Koenig |
| Elden Bennon | John Conde | Joseph Felece | Julian Heimendinger | Virgil Koon |
| Fredrick Bergman | Walter Conine, Jr. | Vance Ferguson | Albert Herrmann | Leo Kornoeley |
| James Berryhill | George Connelly | Mario Filigenzi | William Hershey | Eugene Kraus |
| Clifton Billado | William Conway | Donald Filler | Raymond Hess | Paul Kret |
| Charles Bissell | Edward Cordts | William Findlay | Kenneth Hickey | Wade Kriner |
| Robert Blankenburg | Henry Cox, Jr. | John Fischer | Phillip Hiden, Jr. | George Krolik, Jr. |
| John Blatz | Leroy Coy | Leonard Fischler | Robert Hildebrand | William Kronitz |
| David Blue | John Craig | Samuel Fisher, Jr. | James Hillier | Louis Krueger |
| Don Blyth | Bertram Crawford | Jerome Flohr | Edward Hincks, Jr. | Charles Lail, Jr. |
| Robert Boese | Eugene Creagh | Albert Flynn | Stanley Histed | Herbert Lakow |
| Virgil Bohm | Walter Creamer | Jerome Fontaine | Leavitt Hobbs | James Langley |
| Leonard Bond | Frank Creek | Marion Forbis | George Hoehn | Michael Lattieri |
| Hubert Bonnet | John Crossan | Amos Force | Edward Hoffmeyer | Jean Lawrence |
| William Borchert | Salvatore Culotta | Casimir Formichella | Edward Hoffpaur, Jr. | Paul Le Brun |
| Reuel Boring | Heywood Curling, Jr. | Manley Frankenberg | Vernon Hofmann | Joseph Lechowski |
| Roland Bowman | Francis Curry | Dave Free | David Holliman | Robert Lee |
| Russell Boyce | Leslie Curtis | William Frey | John Hollish, Jr. | Louis Le Fevre |
| Arthur Boyd | Stephen Cwiklinski | Warren Fuller | Laurence Holmbom | Calvin Leitz |
| Raymond Bradley | Jerome Davidson | David Fuller | Leo Hommerson | William Lentz, Jr. |
| George Branham | Paul Davis | Alex Gadding | Lawrence Hopwood | Daniel Letter |
| Harold Brassfield | Donald Davis | Norman Gallagher | George Hornaday | Robert Leventhal |
| Richard Brigham | Richard Davis | Harold Gandee | Benjamin Howe, Jr. | Joshua Lewis |
| Aaron Brinkoeter | William Davis, Jr. | John Gardner | Norman Hubbert | Donald Liebman |
| Joseph Brisken | Garrigues De Jean | Richard Geisler | John Hughes | George Lincoln |
| Frank Broach, Jr. | Henry De Keyrel | Edward Gillmeier | Leo Hughes | Richard Lindahl |
| Charles Brown | Joseph De Ridder | John Giokaris | John Hurdle | Robert Little |
| John Brown, Jr. | Raymond Deamer | Robert Gladstone | William Hutter | John Littlejohn, Jr. |
| Alexander Bruce | Claude Dearmond | Earl Glancy | Nick Iannelli | Wayne Logan |
| Clyde Bryant | Oliver Deckard | Edwin Glapa | Boyd Iverson | Bernard Lord, Jr. |
| Harold Buck | Tyrus Delaney | Charles Goldstein | William Iverson | Errol Luginbill |
| Eugene Budzbanowski | James Delaney, Jr. | Herbert Gotha | Lawrence Jacobson | Palvin Lukken |
| Webster Bull | Harvey Dellwardt | John Grady | Garis Jacoby | Raymond Lull |
| Thomas Bussy | Donald Dennis | Bryce Grant | Alfred Japhet | John Lutes |



THE 388TH BG 61ST ANNUAL REUNION





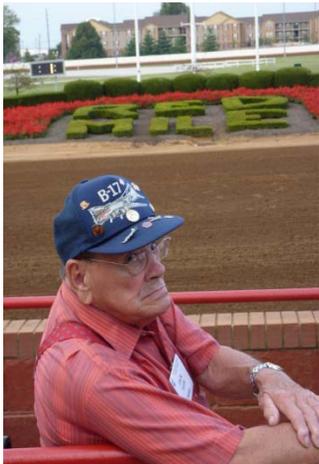
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY





Your 2011 Board Members

WE WANT TO SEE YOU NEXT YEAR





IN COLORADO SPRINGS !!!



Tom.

Hi there. You wrote to me in July asking about Col. Scott Dennis' promotion to brigadier general. I forwarded your question to the Air Force, and they got back to me yesterday.

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea – Col. Scott L. Dennis, the vice commander, 7th Air Force, Air Forces Korea, and Chief of Staff, Air Component Command, was promoted to brigadier general Sept. 20 at Osan.



Brig. Gen. Scott Dennis, 7th Air Force vice commander, accepts the brigadier general flag from Lt. Gen. Jeffrey A. Remington, 7th Air Force commander, during his promotion ceremony Sept. 20. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Eunike Stevens)

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey A. Remington, 7th Air Force and Air Component commander, presided over the ceremony. General Dennis replaced former 7th Air Force vice commander, Brig. Gen. Michael Keltz, on June 12th.

General Dennis was commissioned in 1985 after graduating from Michigan Technological University with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He is a 1980 graduate of Elk Rapids High School, Michigan. This is General Dennis' second military tour to the ROK. From 1998 to 2000, he served as director of weapons and tactics, 7th Air Force at Osan. General Dennis' previous assignment was as the deputy director, air operations deputy chief of staff, operations, plans and requirements, Headquarters United States Air Force at the Pentagon. General Dennis is a command pilot with more than 3,800 flying hours in the F-16 and **previous commander of the 388th Fighter Wing, Hill Air Force Base, Utah.**

Best of luck to you,

Joe Dougherty

Former reporter from the Deseret News

On the morning of Nov. 10th I made my way down to the Mighty 8th Air Force museum in Savannah. My mission was to film the painting of the nose art on the museum's new B-17 to be named "CITY OF SAVANNAH". I had interviewed the painter, Skip Shelton, the previous week at his studio in Greenwood



S.C. Skip flew B24's with the 448th B.G. as a pilot. His last mission was recalled on the way to the target because the war in Europe ended.

I met Skip and restoration crew chief Jerry McGlocklin and got an opening statement from Skip on film – then the work began. Skip had not painted an airplane since 1945, but he had a pattern and a plan for how to proceed. First, a stencil was made on carbon type paper and then the carbon imprint was placed on the nose of the plane. After the line was visible, Skip jumped up on a scaffold and began to paint – backwards?? As the camera rolled the word "SAVANNAH" soon took shape- with "CITY OF" following shortly thereafter. I was able to stay long enough to get "5000th AIRPLANE PROCESSED" on film. Skip finished up the last two lines the next day.



I hope to return at times during the year to cover more of the restoration process and put together a DVD for next year's reunion. It was great to meet Skip and Jerry and to be able to film this historic event. Jerry McGlocklin expressed his appreciation to the 388th for its sizeable donation to the restoration project and assured me that the plane would be dedicated to the 388th B.G.

Maybe I can give another update on the progress of the restoration in the next newsletter.

Phil Turner

Assisted Living Veterans - Are You Missing Out On VA Financial Assistance?

Did you know that you can transfer assets without having a penalty or waiting period for eligibility? You can under this little known VA financial assistance benefit. It is the VA Aid and Attendance benefit. Officially it is called the Non-service related improved disability pension benefit with aid and attendance entitlement. It is just easier to call it the "Aid and Attendance" benefit.



Are you one of the thousands of war-time veterans living in an Assisted Living home and not receiving VA financial assistance?

We see this problem every day, year after year. Many tell us it is because they have too much money. It may be one of the rarest moments where having too much money is a problem!

Often it is the case where assisted living veterans have too much money. That does not have to be a detriment to you getting financial assistance from the VA.

Did you know that you can transfer assets without having a penalty or waiting period for eligibility? You can under this little known VA financial assistance benefit. It is the VA Aid and Attendance benefit. Officially it is called the *"Non-service related improved disability pension benefit with aid and attendance entitlement"*. It is just easier to call it the "Aid and Attendance" benefit.

This benefit will provide you up to \$23,388 per year in financial assistance. That's \$1,949 per month. I bet that would go a long way in helping offset the cost of your assisted living bill.

If you are a widowed surviving spouse of a war-time veteran, you too can get this VA aid and attendance benefit. The amount you can get is a little lower; however it is still \$12,684 per year. That's \$1,057 per month.

There is five criteria that one needs to meet for eligibility. For assisted living veteran residents the liquid asset limit criteria is often the one for which the VA denies their claim.

What the VA doesn't readily tell you is that you can move or transfer those assets out of the claimant's name and be eligible the next day.

We recommend that you speak with an estate attorney or one who specializes in elder law if you need assistance. But if you have over \$80,000 in assets, reallocating the assets may make you eligible for this VA aid and attendance financial assistance benefit.

The other criteria are as follows:

1. 90 days of active duty with just 1 day during a stated time of war.

2. No longer able to safely drive (per doctors instructions)

3. The need for assistance with an activity of daily living. (i.e. Assisted Living Facility)

4. Liquid assets less than \$80,000 (doesn't include the primary home unless it is sold)

5. The amount you are eligible to receive is equal to a small calculation:

- Income from all sources minus qualified medical and care expenses. (The cost of assisted living facility is a qualified expense)

- In the vast majority of cases the cost of the assisted living exceeds the resident's total income.

The benefit is the difference between the "adjusted countable income" calculated in item #5 above and the appropriate maximum Aid and Attendance benefit. An Aid and Attendance Handbook provides a free Worksheet to easily help with this calculation. The Worksheet provides step-by-step instructions that are easy to follow.

You may be one of thousands of assisted living veterans who are missing out on having the VA send you up to \$23,388 every year.

If you have been living in an assisted living facility for a year or more you can even qualify to receive this benefit retro-active up to one year. That means you may be able to receive a full year of benefits for the past year once your claim is approved.

You will want to make sure you completely understand how to qualify for the benefit to make sure you take advantage of this "hidden" feature of this VA benefit.

Take the steps to see if you too can get this well-kept VA secret financial assistance benefit to help you pay for your assisted living costs.

[Assisted Living Veterans](#)
VA financial assistance

LINK to more information----

<http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=1265>

Does Anyone Look Familiar?

These are just a few of the dozens of photos still in the Unidentified Persons section of the database, just waiting to be matched up with the with the proper personnel page. If you any of these men, please contact our historian Dick Henggeler.



Ball Turret Gunner 010



Ball Turret Gunner 006



Ball Turret Gunner 008



Ball Turret Gunner 005



Engineer 007



Waist Gunner 014

Taps



Albert Bibbens Jr.

Albert Hamilton Bibbens Jr. passed away July 28, four days after his 87th birthday, in Carlisle, PA. He had been a longtime resident of Weedsport, NY.

Waist gunner on the Jim Zengerle crew in the 562nd Sqd., his missions began in October 1943 and ended May 25, 1944 when his plane *Hi Fever* was shot down over Liege. In late January, 1945, with the Russian Army approaching, the Germans decided to evacuate Stalag Luft IV, Gross Tychow in what was then Pomerania. (now Poland). T/Sgt

Bibbens was one of 8,000 POWs who were marched west toward Stalag XI-B, near Fallingb. After a few days on the road, he and his friend and crewmember Lt. Wayne Barnett were able to escape, but were soon captured. At their earliest opportunity, they escaped a second time and, after several days, made it safely to the allied lines.

Mr. Bibbens was the former owner and operator of A.H. Bibbens Construction and Celtic Gloves, both in Weedsport. He was a member of Clark - Heck Post 568 of the American Legion. The account of his escape was published in 388th Anthology Vol. II.

Mr. Bibbens is survived by daughters Donna Hebblethwaite, Susan Carlson, and Denise Hilterman; sons James Kinnamon, Wayne and Mark; 19 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife, Virginia in 2007. Burial with Military Honors was at Weedsport Rural Cemetery.

Peter Brennan

Peter J. Brennan of Lakewood, NJ passed away October 12 at age 92. Mr. Brennan was a toggelion on the Oliver Smith and John Edelman crews in the 561st Sqd., and flew 33 missions between Nov. 1944 and March 1945.

Mr. Brennan was a retired battalion chief for the Northern Manhattan District of the New York Fire Department. He is survived by daughters Joanne Rose and Patricia McCormack; sons Joseph, Andrew and John; and 10 grandchildren.

Internment was held at Ocean County Memorial Park, Toms River, NJ.

John Fleming

Long-time 388th BG Association UK member John Fleming died March 27 following a long illness. Mr. Fleming, 75, lived in Kilmarnock, Scotland, and had been curator of the Prestwick Air Drome Museum, which includes a 388th BG display.

Irwin Nelson

Irwin Reed Nelson passed away Sept. 7, 2009 in Novato, CA at age 89. Engineer on the Maurice Radtke crew in the 563rd Sqd., he flew 36 missions between late Dec. 1944 and late April 1945.

Mr. Nelson is survived by his wife Barbara.



Bibbens

Japeth W. (Bill) Turley, Sr.

Japeth William (Bill) Turley, Sr., 88, passed away Nov. 21 in Sebring, FL. He was engineer on the George Thompson crew in the 563rd Sqd., flying 23 missions between September and December 1944. On the crew's final mission, during the Battle of the Bulge, their aircraft *Borrowed Time* was downed by flak; they were rescued by American ground troops.

Mr. Turley received his B.A. in business from the University of Louisville, KY. He worked at the K&I Terminal Railroad in Louisville before relocating to Maryland where he retired from the Transportation Communications Union. He was a lifetime member of the American Legion and the VFW.

Mr. Turley is survived by his wife Elaine; daughter Ann, sons Bill Jr., Mike and Robert; and two grandchildren. He was predeceased by his first wife, Betty. Burial was at Ceder Hill Cemetery in Corydon, IN.

Albert C. Weidenbusch

Col. (Ret) Albert Clyde Weidenbusch, USAF, passed away Dec. 1 in Niceville, FL. Lead navigator on the Jack Gauthier crew in the 562nd Sqd., he flew 38 missions between June 1944 and May 1945. Awards included the DFC and Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters.

After the war, Capt. Weidenbusch remained in the US Air Force. His career included several assignments with Strategic Air Command (SAC), including Ellsworth AFB, SD, Carswell AFB, TX, 7th Air Division at South Ruislip, England, and Offutt AFB, NE. While in England, Maj. Weidenbusch earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland. At Offutt AFB, he earned his Master's Degree in History from the University of Omaha. At SAC Headquarters, Lt Col. Weidenbusch was assigned to the Plans and Programs directorate, and was a founding member of the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff (JSTPS), responsible for inter-service coordination of targeting enemy strategic military assets.

Following a Pentagon assignment, he became Professor of Aerospace Studies at Ohio Wesleyan University. After a second assignment at Offutt AFB as the executive officer to the JSTPS chairman, Col. Weidenbusch retired in 1974 with 33 years of military service. He accepted an offer from Ohio Wesleyan University as the first Director of Planned Giving, the University Treasurer, and Treasurer of the Board. In 1982, he became the Director of Planned Giving at Kenyon College in Gambier, OH, for another ten years before moving to Niceville, FL. In 1993 he became Senior Vice President of Planned Giving Systems, Inc., after which he became President of Course Corrections, Planned Giving Consultants.

He was active with the Institute of Senior Professionals (ISP) at Northwest Florida State College and volunteered at Hospice and many other charitable organizations including the Eglin AFB Casualty Office and the USO.

Col. Weidenbusch is survived by Alice, his wife of 64 years; daughter Gale Waller; sons Coleman, Lee and John; four grandchildren and one great-grandson.



Weidenbusch

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