

# FORTRESS FOR FREEDOM

## 388th Bombardment Group (H) Association



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



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

### 388th Bombardment Group Headquarters

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

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<http://www.388bg.info> (database)

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## *From the President's Desk*

Hello to all of the people who love and support the 388th bomb group association.

We had a great reunion in San Diego and were planning another outstanding reunion in Boston for 2018. Ann Turley told me when we selected Boston that it would be hard to get what we wanted. She was right. \$200 per night, no hospitality room and very limited accessibility for our original members to get around town were pretty much a deal killer. The board polled the original members to see how they would feel about going to Dayton, Ohio. Everybody that we could get ahold of was in favor of Dayton. We will be able to spend a leisurely day at Wright-Patt Air Force Museum. They have a cafeteria so we should be able to get lunch and refreshments while we are there. We are currently exploring activities for Friday. Of course as always you will be able to get the same rates 3 days prior and after the reunion. We want to schedule the reunions in the first two weeks of August in order to make it easier for families with school age children to attend.

Some people have suggested that we should have reunions for the next few years located in the central or Midwest part of the US to make it easier for our original members to attend. It is hard on many of the originals to travel more than a short distance. Even though we have active members from all parts of the US, I see no reason for us not to discuss keeping the reunions located where it would be easiest for our originals to attend. Please feel free to forward any thoughts or comments to me by email or text.

Our Primary purpose or goal is to invite new members to join us in honoring and remembering for all time what our original members did as they broke 'the chains of tyranny'. I believe that they wanted to be remembered so that their descendants and others would not have to experience the 50% casualty rate and harsh fighting conditions which they endured. If you ask the original members they will tell you that 'they were just doing their job'. Don't be fooled by their humble demeanor.

I believe that the record of the 388th (H)



shows a group with a 'can do' attitude. And we can do the task which they have laid before us.

The association has established a self-perpetuating memorial fund through the generous donations of our friends and members. This fund has appreciated about 20% in the last year plus donations to the memorial. It is an asset for our association that is meeting and exceeding our expectations. We have been giving a \$1,000 scholarship for the past three years which we feel is a way to attract and educate young people about the association. In the past year we decided to create a scholarship fund like the memorial fund which is also self-perpetuating. We already have donations over \$3000 to the fund. However to make it self-perpetuating we will need to get \$30,000 invested in the fund. We feel that by attracting younger people to the association that the association will be active and robust for a long time. I don't know a better way to honor our original members. Please remember us in your estate planning and/or if you win the lottery. The association is not about our current members although we do like to have a good time at the reunions. The association is ALL about our original members and what they have done for the world.

*Rick Thompson*

## Anthology of the 388th

At the board meeting Dick Henggeler has found a two volume Anthology of the 388th. His data base is the bare bones of the 388th. The anthology is the meat that goes the bones. It is a collection of stories, anecdotes and personal memories of all of the people in the 388th in WWII. Dick is contacting the publisher to see what kind of rate we could get.

ANYBODY who is interested should contact Dick so we can get a number to order.

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Ellicott City, MD 21042  
historian@388thbga.org  
410-750-3605



## KNETTISHALL TRIP 2018

During the San Diego reunion, it was determined there is a significant amount of interest among the members to plan a trip to Knettishall, England. For many of our originals, this may be their last opportunity to visit and pay respect. The goal of this trip is to make this journey as turn-key as possible thereby allowing any original member who wishes to travel, able to travel.

In an effort to keep costs down, and keep us all together, I would like to limit our group to no more than 15 persons. Although this size may be limiting, I believe we can fulfill most if not all desires of our original members. This 15 person size limit allows us to travel as one cohesive group. If this is successful, we can certainly repeat the process in following years.

We currently have 7 people confirmed including two original members. We have room for an additional 8 persons / 4 rooms double occupancy. I would like to give our original veterans priority position on the remaining rooms. I would also be happy to take any names on a first come, first reserved basis. April 15 is the deadline for commitments. Please contact me with any questions or to make your reservation. I have prepared a official proposal. I'd be happy to share with anyone who would like to preview.

Cindy Hayes, Senior Director  
srdirector@388thbga.org

## COMING SOON!

Your 388th PX will be available online with many new items at [www.388thbga.org](http://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:**



## This is my story of our crew's 25TH mission

I was assigned to the Keirsted crew 563RD Squadron. I was a 21 year old Radio Operator. Our crew went through training together and thought we were ready for the next step. We were part of a training group of 30 B-17 crews designated as the RICHENS PROVISIONAL GROUP named for our C.O. We never questioned the term provisional but soon found out when we were assigned to the 388TH Bomb Group that we were replacement crews. We arrived at Knettishall in the first week of November 1943. When we entered our barracks 6 men were laying on their beds. There were 24 empty beds and when one of the men from our group asked where the men who belonged to these were I beds the answer "They were shot down in the past few days" The next few minutes of silence by the new men made us realize that we were in a combat zone. We knew then that provisional meant replacement crew. The duration of a combat tour at that time was 8 to 10. This indicated that to finish 25 would be a MIRACLE.

Flying a combat mission was serious business. We thought that we had trained for this but reality took over and every man wondered how he would handle this. We began flying our missions on November 26, 1943 and as we flew additional combat missions every man that returned to his bed that night felt exhausted. The stress of flying and survival was

never discussed as far how many missions were flown. Our crew was fortunate to survive except for one injury to our top turret gunner after an aborted mission on and an earlier hard landing. As we boarded our plane for our first mission as a crew we thought that this airplane was our luck charm and if we flew this first mission and survived all our missions that this airplane really was our lucky charm. We flew the first 10 missions in the same plane but when that ended we were all a little uptight and that our luck would change.

The conditions that we endured on a combat mission were overwhelming, In the intense



cold minus 40 to 50 below zero, the enemy fighter attacks, the anti-aircraft fire and the wearing of an oxygen mask for hours was almost too much for a man to endure. The stress of flying added to our thoughts. Some missions were 8 hours and some as long as 9 to 10 hours. We wore the electric flying suit, the heavy fleece lined leather jacket, pants, gloves, helmet. All of this made us move like a monster. We were able to survive these conditions. Many times someone would say "And we volunteered for this"!

When our crew reached our last five missions we began to feel more tension 20, 21, 22, 23, 24. Can this be true we had arrived at our 25TH mission briefing. The date was March 4, 1944. As our crew entered the briefing room we were excited and hoped for a "milk run" the term for a quick easy mission. That was wishful thinking when we heard the briefing Officer say the target for today is the first full attack on Berlin. This was the worst possible target that we could fly for our 25th mission. Each man of our crew did not take this announcement lightly. Dressing for the mission was done with very little conversation. The target for this our 25th mission made all 10 men wonder about survival and we reached for extra faith and all of our luck charms.

After take-off the crew began talking on the intercom to ease the tension. Then they started questioning me as to hearing a recall cancelling the mission. As time passed each minute was like an hour The Pilot asked the Navigator how long to the target the reply about forty minutes. As a crew the feeling of intense danger was evident by the conversation over the intercom. The target still ahead and then the return to home base was on every man's mind. At this time as radio operator my head phones were held tight to my ears hoping for a miracle. Then a message to the 8TH Air Force in Morse code "ABANDON OPERATIONS RETURN TO BASE", was this true or was it a German trick? The enemy could have had a copy of our code from a downed B-17. Fortunately every message had a hidden indicator included in every message. Immediately I 2

reported to the Pilot what I had just heard and his reply was "Yes I just had the message from

Group." Our crew realized that were going back to base but there still were several hours of flying over enemy territory and the possible attack from Luftwaffe aircraft and Anti-Aircraft fire.

Just before the bombers reached the French German border our Bombardier "Montana" his nick name called the Pilot on the intercom...."BJ are we going home with our full bomb load on our last mission?" Our Pilot normally a very conservative guy agreed if he could find a target. The Bombardier reported a busy very large railroad yard just ahead. He unloaded the salvo of all bombs closed the bomb bay and we turned for home. My job as R/O was to report "Bomb bay doors closed....but they were open". Somehow the mechanism had jammed or been damaged. At this moment all hell broke loose. We were attacked by a FW-190 that no one of the crew saw. We took several hits but none to effect the aircrafts ability to fly. The Co-Pilot "Ace" was flying the plane and he immediately dove to the right into cloud cover. AS we were to find out this saved us as the enemy aircraft broke off the attack and as our Pilot was to say "He evidently had no ammunition or ambition".

When we arrived over the White Cliffs of Dover on the English coast it was the most beautiful site that our crew could enjoy. We had flown our 25 missions and were alive and a very happy group. Our group had reported that a 388th plane was last seen as going down but here we were over Knettishall and still flying. Our landing was not without a little danger our plane had no brakes forcing our plane to come to rest in a farm field. WE WERE ALL SAFE AND WE HAD BEATEN THE ODDS....COMPLETING A 25 MISSION COMBAT TOUR. The crash crew followed us down the runway, we reported all men were safe. Needless to say. THE KEIRSTED CREW WERE VERY LUCKY.

The U.S. Air Force Archives report that the missions that we flew were 3 the turning point of the air war we destroyed their ability to rebuild their aircraft factory's. This is a fact as I personally viewed the archives at the U.S. Air Force Archives.

T/SGT Larry Goldstein



# 2018 Reunion



We will be staying downtown about five blocks from the Great Miami River. The Hospitality room and Dining room are on the top floor and we will have a grand view of the town and the river.



Above left is an F-35 at Wright-Patterson AFB which we will be touring by bus on Thursday morning. Of course the first F-35s deployed were at Hill AFB for the 388<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing. Above right the National Museum of the USAF is preparing the Memphis Bell for our visit. It will be on display by the end of May. We will spend about six hours Friday at the museum. Wheel chairs and scooters are available for visitors. We can get lunch at the restaurant and have time for a leisurely tour of the museum. There is a theater and four hangar buildings to explore. Look for more in the next newsletter.



**Applications for the  
2018 Edward J. Huntzinger Memorial Scholarship Fund  
are now available.**

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 you and encourage you to embrace your future, wherever it takes you.

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.

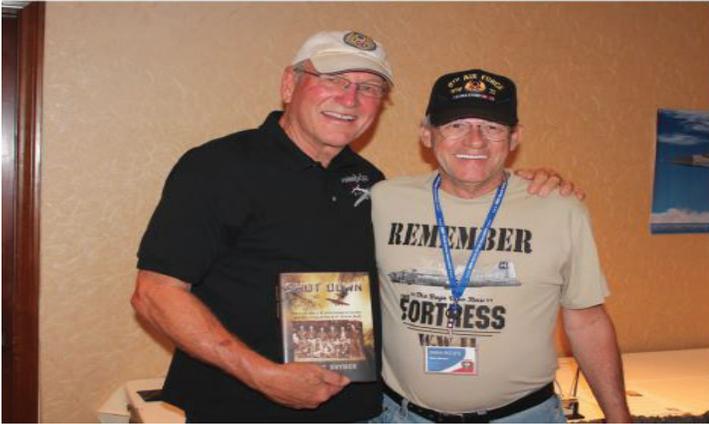
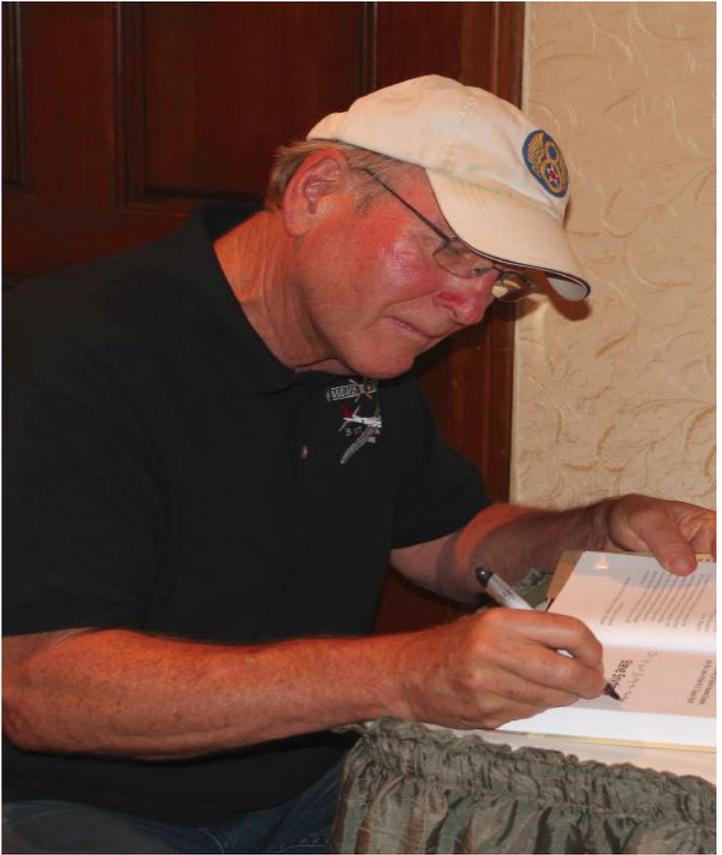
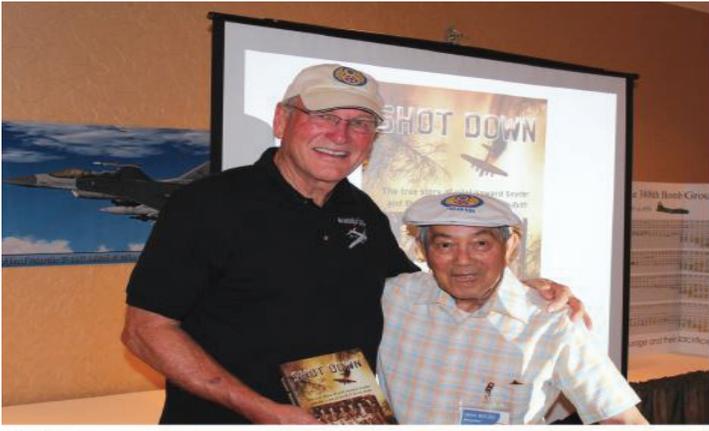
Contact Terry Woodford-Thomas for information and an application today!  
[tthomas@danforthcenter.org](mailto:tthomas@danforthcenter.org) or 314-587-1436.

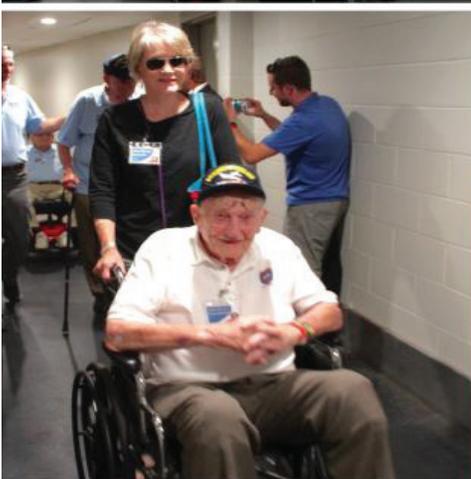


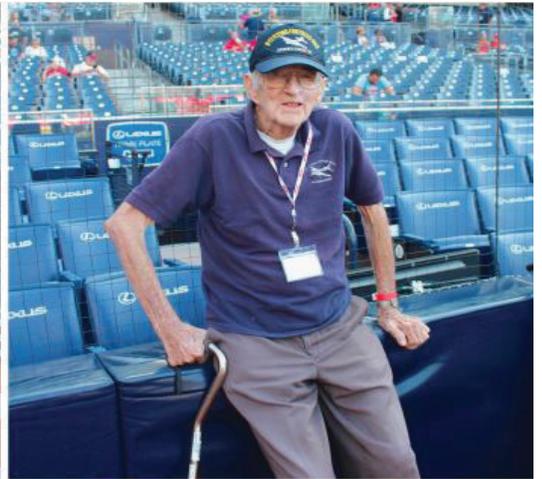
**The deadline to submit  
application and essay is  
May 31, 2018.**

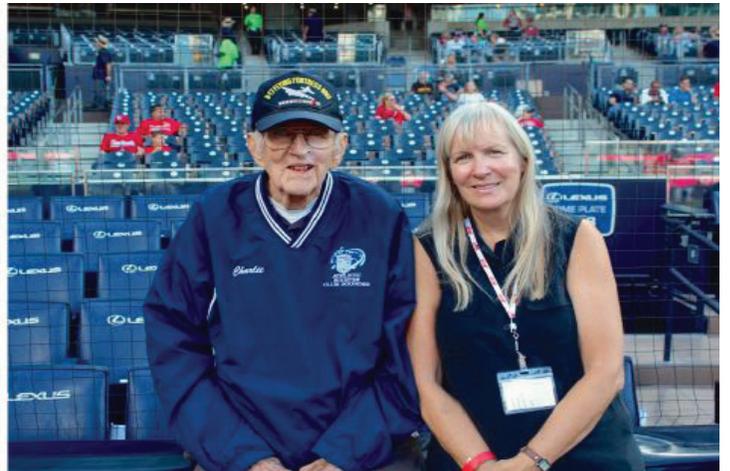
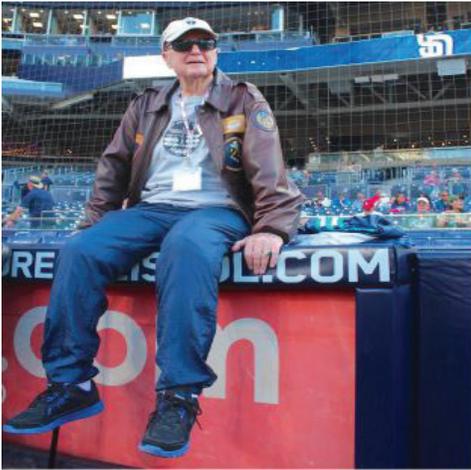
# 388th Bomb Group 68th Annual Reunion in San Diego, CA.

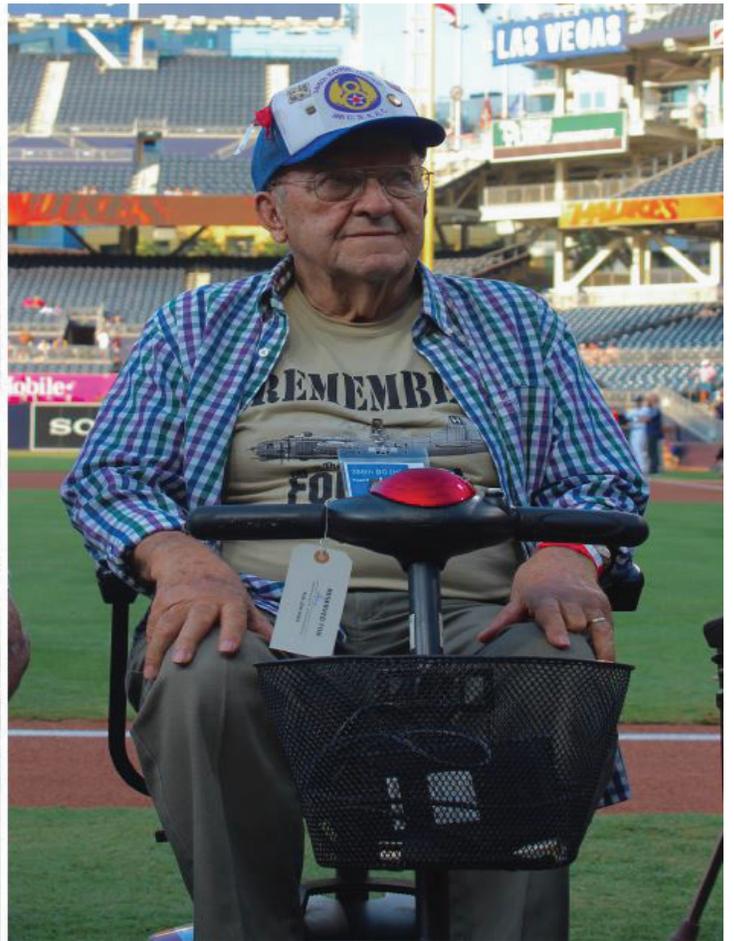


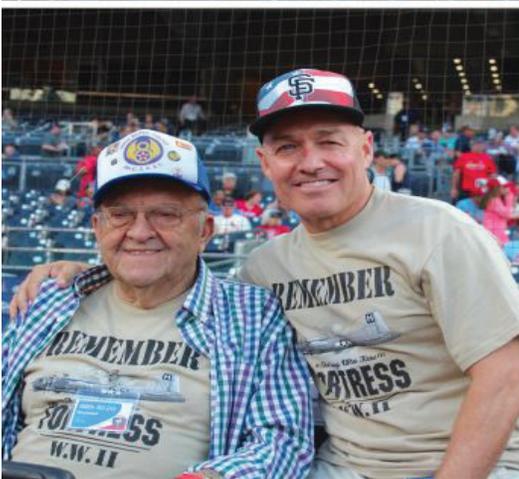
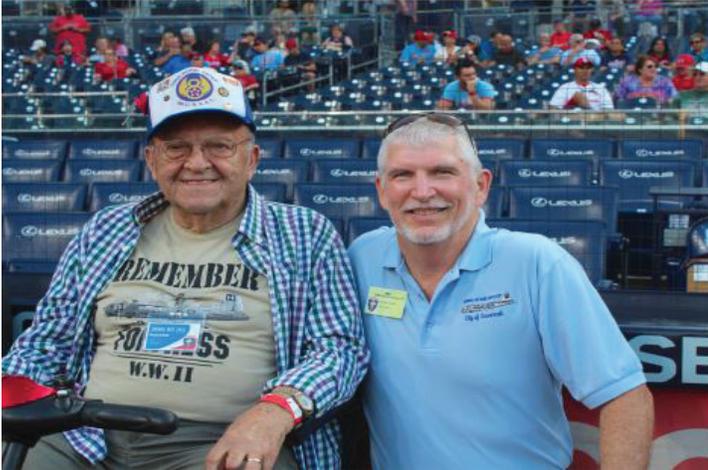


















**Minutes of the 388th Bombardment Group (H) Association  
68th Annual Meeting of the General Membership  
September 9, 2017  
San Diego, California**

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by President Cindy Hayes at 10:05 a.m.
2. Invocation. The invocation was offered by Terry Woodford Thomas and Ben Forrest, Jr.
3. 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes. All attendees were provided a written copy of the 2016 minutes. Christy Wammack made a motion to approve the 2016 minutes of the general membership meeting. The motion was seconded by Ben Forrest, Jr. and was passed by the membership.
4. Approval of the 2017 Business Meeting Agenda. Wayne Daniels moved to approve agenda be approved, the motion was seconded by Kelly Moore and passed unanimously.
5. Introductions of New Members. President Cindy Hayes recognized new members Darryl and Mary Anne Patrick and Doug Bolino. [Doug was recognized, but I don't have membership information on him. Is this correct?]
6. Officer's Reports. Reports were received and placed on file. Secretary Ruth Castleberry presented her annual report to the membership, which included two items for their consideration. A written copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Treasurer Staci Long reviewed the financial report for 2017. Kelly Moore made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, & was seconded by Ben Forrest, Jr. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Liaison Reports. Scholarship Committee Chairman Terry Woodford-Thomas reported that Grace Barnhill, great granddaughter of Clarence "Red" Hall (Radio Operator with the 560th Squadron) was the scholarship winner for 2017. She was unable to attend because she has enrolled at the University of Virginia, majoring in applied mathematics. Her essay will be published in the upcoming newsletter. Terry also reported for the Knettishall Memorial Committee. The drainage issues around the memorial are being addressed by the Parish Council. Deborah and Dave Sarson and Percy Prentice are still serving as members of the Memorial Committee in England but Davie Baum (spelling?) has stepped down. Several members of the Parish Council expressed interest in becoming members of the Committee. The Committee has 3 goals: 1) to get 2 benches for visitors made from the same Indian stone as the memorial; 2) to get flag poles for the American and British flags; and 3) to get a box constructed to hold a visitor log for visitors to sign. She also recommended that we make a trip back to England soon, possibly in the spring of 2018 for the members to visit the site of the Knettishall Memorial. Kim McDonald reported on the 2018 Reunion which will be held in Boston, in early August. Hotel information will appear in the Fall Newsletter; events will be highlighted in the Winter Newsletter; and the Registration Form will be published in the Spring Newsletter.
8. Old Business. President Hayes inquired if there was any old business, and hearing none proceeded on to new business.
9. New Business. President Hayes reported that the board recommended 3 possible locations for the 2019 Reunion. They were Central Arkansas, Dayton, OH, or Branson, MO. Other recommendations were made by members, but the membership voted to return to Dayton, OH, home of Wright-Patterson AFB. The board recommended that General Rand be made an honorary member of the 388th BGA. A motion was made by Ben Forrest, Jr. and was seconded by Kelly Moore to make General Rand an honorary member of the 388th and was adopted by the membership. The board also recommended that the membership approved the establishment of an investment fund to be known as the Knettishall Memorial Investment Fund to support the Association's goal for the Knettishall Memorial to be funded in perpetuity. Guidelines were drafted by the Committee and recommended by the board for the Fund's use, which were made available to the members in writing. A motion was made by Kelly Moore and seconded by Tony Smith for the establishment of a Knettishall Memorial Investment Fund and to approve guidelines for operating the fund, and the motion passed unanimously. The Guidelines are attached to the minutes.
10. Nomination of New Officers. Mr. Chuck Neff nominated Kim McDonald to be First Vice-President for 2017-2018. A slate of incumbent officers was presented by the



board. Rick Thompson recommended that the unchallenged slate be approved by acclamation and the membership elected the presented slate. Officers for 2018 are: President-Rick Thompson; 1st Vice President-Kim McDonald; 2nd Vice President-Tony Smith; Secretary-Ruth Castleberry; Treasurer-Staci Long; Corporate Agent-Henry Curvat; Historian-Dick Henggeler; Parliamentarian-Kelly Moore; Newsletter Editor-Steven Butner; Senior Director-Cindy Hayes; Director at Large-James Zographos.

11. Additional Business from the Floor. Mr. Woodford moved that we name the 388th Scholarship Fund the "Edward J. Huntzinger Memorial Scholarship Fund", since Mr. Huntzinger was instrumental in creating the 388th Bombardment Group Association. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Bolino reminded everyone that the Centennial of WWII was approaching and the board agreed to set up and strengthen committees to help with the Association's workload.

12. Motion to Adjourn. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and passed by the membership. Cindy Hayes adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Ruth Castleberry, Secretary

## TAPS



**John E. Gallo**

John E. Gallo, 94 passed away on July 8 at the Bethlen Home in Ligonier, PA. A pilot in the 563rd Sqd., he flew 20 missions as copilot to Noel R. Kloter between October 1944 and January 1945, and another 15 missions as captain of his own ship between late January and March 1945. Returning to the U.S., he served as a pilot instructor through the end of the war.



Born in Latrobe, PA, Mr. Gallo attended St. Vincent College and later the University of Miami. After the war, he co-managed Ligonier Beach and was later owner and manager of Lake Gloria in Somerset County, PA.

Mr. Gallo is survived by Elizabeth, his wife of 69 years, and son John J. Gallo. He was preceded in death by his son Christopher in 2006. Internment was held July 12 at the Ligonier Valley Cemetery.

**John M. Russell**

John M. Russell, 93, passed away at his home in Redding, CA on January 13.

Radio operator on the Edmund J. Ely crew in the 563rd Sqd., Mr. Russell was flying his first mission, to Poznan, Poland, on April 11, 1944 when his plane, The Expectant Father, was shot down by enemy fighters off the coast of Germany near Mecklenburg, Germany. Rescued by a German fisherman, he was imprisoned at Stalag 17B outside Krems, Austria. Beginning April 8, 1945, he and some 4,000 other POWS were forced to march through Austria toward the American lines so that their captors could surrender to Americans rather than Russians. Eighteen days and 281 miles later, on May 3, 1945, the prisoners were liberated by the 13th Armored Division at Branau, Austria.

Mr. Russell is survived by daughter Linda Thompson, sons Bob and Jim, 9 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by Helen, his wife of 63 years.

Military services were held at the Veterans Cemetery in Igo, CA on February 3.



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## 388TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

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

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