

# ***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

**VOLUME 75**

**ISSUE NO. 3**

**WINTER 2019**

## **WWII vet from Westboro blows out 100 candles**



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## *From the President's Desk*

I want to tell you what a pleasure it is to have the helm again of this amazing organization that has persevered for over 70 years honoring our heroes. We all need to give Kim McDonald a BIG THANK YOU for her enthusiasm, organizational ability and patience leading the charge for 2019. The 2019 reunion in St. Louis, the Gateway to the West, was one of the best ever. Our smaller group made moving from place to place much easier and we all had a chance to spend quality time with each other. For those of you that made the Saint Louis Arch tram ride on Thursday (did not think I would, but did), I think many taking that ride will agree it was the highlight of the day. The new and very impressive museum at the Arch honoring America's pioneering spirit from 1764 to 1965 was spectacular. The following one-hour lunch cruise on the Mississippi River was relaxing and informative. A tour of Anheiser-Busch Brewery came next, complete with a tasting (the famous Clydesdale horses are not allowed to imbibe!). We gathered back at the Hospitality Room that was decorated with WWII aircraft models from the Charles Woodford collection along with memorabilia of the 388th brought and shared by attendees. The group enjoyed local 'eats' during a "Taste of St. Louis".

Friday morning saw us visit Cahokia Mounds across the river in Illinois, once the largest prehistoric Indian settlement north of Mexico. The tour of the museum there was first class and we were honored to have one of the original archeologists and the current director of the spectacular site lead a tour and introduce us to the grounds. You'd be surprised at how many of us walked (or ran) up the 154 steps to stand on top of Monks Mound. After a Midwest BBQ lunch catered by The Beast, an award-winning eatery, the group headed back to downtown St. Louis to stroll through the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum with military displays and memorabilia from World War I and subsequent American wars. The evening was capped with a heartfelt viewing of the WWII documentary "The Cold Blue".



On Saturday, the Board of Directors met, the annual association member meeting took place (minutes in this newsletter), and the beloved 388th Banquet took place. With over 60 people attending, we honored our veterans and their families. Our guest speaker was Colonel Mike Malone, Commander of the 375th Air Mobility Wing from Scott Air Force Base. The colors were posted and retired by members of the newly named Charles Woodford American Legion Post 2007. The banquet was a terrific finale to a wonderful and memorable 2019 reunion.

This year in our association's history will be busy. We have now met our financial goal of collecting \$50,000 to ensure that our Knettishall Memorial in England is well maintained into the future. The UK Knettishall Committee there is now led by Mr. Ben Hogg with his wife, Sally, and other community members. We will work together to place benches at the Memorial, as well as new signage with 388th information, maps, and old photographs. We plan to update our membership database, reach out to our original members more often, and plan our 2020 reunion in Seattle. I look forward to working with you in these endeavors.

In closing, I'd like to share with you a recent happening in my life- one of those 'chance' meetings that comes out of the blue. I was visiting the Palm Springs Air Museum in CA, a fabulous place. As I examined the opened lower ball turret of the restored B-17 there, the Miss Angela, wondering how my dad fit into it during the war (snugly, he said), a volunteer museum docent, Joan Wootun, approached me and we began talking. It turns out that her father, William Bramwell, was a pilot in the 563rd squadron in the 388th at the same time as my Dad. Mr. Bramwell's plane was shot down on his 7th mission and he spent time in Stalag Luft III. We shared memories of our respective Dads. Importantly, this meeting underscores the importance of our association's own mission. Joan has stories to share from her fa-

ther's service, photographs and personal memories. Be certain to introduce yourself to Joan at the 2020 reunion as she becomes our newest member!!!

Please join us in our activities with your interest, donations, and time this year. Let's keep the memories of our 388th Bomb Group alive as we welcome in the New Year and celebrate the freedom we sometimes take for granted and those who gave it to us, and the men and women who now defend it.

May God bless you with peace, happiness, health and prosperity.

Ben Forrest

## 388th PX

Your 388th PX can be found online with many new items at [www.388thbga.org](http://www.388thbga.org) under the store tab.





## Survivor of 50 bombing missions in WWII gets birthday “hoo-rah”

WORCESTER - When Lt. James Zographos was flying B-17 bomber missions over Europe during World War II, there were times he didn't think he would see his next birthday - let alone his 100th.



“At that age, when I went out on a mission, I wasn't 100% positive I would come back alive,” recalled Mr. Zographos of West-boro, who will turn 100 Tuesday.

Yet there he was Sunday, surrounded by family and friends in Nuovo Restaurant on

Shrewsbury Street, blowing out the candles on his 100th birthday cake.

A delegation of veterans led by Dudley veterans services officer Stephen Rogerson read a commendatory letter from President Donald Trump and led the room in a shout of “hoo-rah!” for Mr. Zographos.

The guest of honor also was presented with a quilt hand-sewn by volunteers of the Quilt of Valor Foundation, which creates the mementos for veterans touched by war, as tangible reminders of appreciation and gratitude. The quilt was presented by the foundation's Massachusetts regional coordinator, Theresa Perreault of Spencer.

Mr. Zographos and his wife, Eugenia, had three children and four grandchildren. They had been married 53 years when Eugenia died in 1998 at age 76. Mr. Zographos said Sunday it still hurts him too much to speak of her passing.

Active in St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Worcester, Mr. Zographos was described as a man of abiding faith.

Joan Christo of Worcester, his daughter, said: “Those of you who know my father know that he is a true gentleman. He's not only a gentleman but a gentle man. He is the true definition of a gentleman. He is not a gossip. He's there for his family, for his friends. He only wants the best in life.”

Mr. Zographos served in the U.S. Eighth Air Force during the Second World War as a bombardier on a B-17 Flying Fortress. He flew 50 missions in northern France, Normandy, the Ardennes and the Rhineland, was wounded twice, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, six Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart. According to Mr. Rogerston, he provided coverage to the Allied soldiers who stormed the beach at Normandy on D-Day.

The Eighth Air Force suffered more than 47,000 casualties, including more than 26,000 dead, about half of the U.S. Army Air Force's casualties in World War II.

According to the National WWII Museum: “Throughout the summer of 1943, American bomber crews sustained heavy casualties. Losses of 30 or more aircraft—300 men—were not uncommon throughout the summer...In 1943,



bomber crews were tasked with a 25-mission tour of duty. Most crews never made it past their fifth.

"A popular saying at the time was that to fly in the Eighth Air Force then was like holding a ticket to a funeral - your own."

Mr. Zographos recalled Sunday: "When we went on a big mission there were 1,000 airplanes. We'd be flying and before you know it, black smoke would be coming up and just like that, you'd see an aircraft blown up with all its crew. That's the part that hurt."

He believes someone upstairs was looking out for him. "Absolutely," he said. "Absolutely."

Mr. Zographos added: "Everybody is celebrating what I did in the service. Millions of boys did that. I'm very proud that I did something for my country."

"It hurts me when some people talk against our country - they step on the flag, they burn the flag," he said. "If I had my way, I'd say, 'You know what? Put me in a room with one person who did that. I'd take care of them.'"

This story has been corrected from a previous version regarding the number of grandchildren Mr. Zographos and his wife have.





**Applications for the 2020 388th-Bombardment Group Association Scholarship Program are now being accepted.**

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

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

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

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

**Contact Terry Woodford-Thomas for information and an application today! [zacgecko@gmail.com](mailto:zacgecko@gmail.com) or 314-662-5820.**

**The deadline to submit application and essay is  
May 31, 2020.**





# 388th Bomb Group 70th Annual Reunion in St Louis, MO





































# **Minutes of the 388th Bombardment Group (H) Association 70th Annual Meeting of the General Membership August 31, 2019**

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1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by President Kim McDonald Klein at 10:20 a.m.
2. 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes. Written copies of the 2018 Annual Meeting were disseminated to the membership. Ben Forrest, Jr. made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Tony Smith seconded the motion and they were adopted by the membership.
3. 2019 Agenda. The agenda for 2019 was presented to the membership. Rick Thompson moved that the agenda be accepted; Betty Curvat seconded, and the membership agreed to the proposed agenda.
4. Introduction of New Members. President Kim MacDonald Klein asked if there were members present for the first time at this meeting. New member Heidi McKinney was introduced to the rest of the membership.
5. Officers' Reports. Secretary Ruth Castleberry presented three actions taken by the Board during the past year, for which they were requesting ratification by the membership. She reported that in October, 2018, Second Vice President Tony Smith resigned from that position, but agreed to serve as the bartender for the 2019 Reunion. The board asked Cindy Hayes to fill that position and that the duties of the Second VP be expanded to include serving as the Coordinator of Social Media, who would be responsible to coordinate the efforts of the current team who represent the Association on Facebook, Instagram, and the websites of the 388th BGA. Henry Curvat made the motion to ratify that board action; Heidi McKinney seconded, and the motion was passed on a voice vote by the membership.

Also in October, 2108, the Board voted to approve a motion made by Henry Curvat that we would get an independent third party (hopefully a CPA) who would produce periodic financial reports and report to the board and membership on our finances. The Treasurer will continue to write checks and keep the books. We agreed that we may have to start with current information and add historical data if it becomes available. We hope to obtain pro bono services from a volunteer. Betty Curvat moved that this action be ratified; Tony seconded, and the action was endorsed by the membership. From Apr, 2019: Kim reported that the language of the proposal to provide a sponsorship to the Knettishall Committee was being drafted by her, Ben, Henry, and Rick. They are offering to allow up to \$1,100.00 for travel, and waive the registration fee and provide a meal at the banquet for a member of the committee to come to St. Louis, for an approximate cost of \$1,500 per person, and this year they are offering to host 2 people. Room and activity fees will be the responsibility of the recipient. Kim did report that they had added \$15 per person to the registration costs for the funding for this year, agreed to look at the long term funding issue more closely. Rick made the motion that we send the letter to the Knettishall Committee offering to cover transportation costs up to \$1100, plus waiving the registration and banquet fees. Ben seconded and the motion was adopted by the board. After the membership heard about this attempt to increase the ties between the local English Knettishall Memorial Committee, and the 388th, Jack Vann made the motion to accept the board's efforts to fund a travel stipend for one or more of those to attend our Annual Meeting; Donna Smith seconded, and the motion carried.



Treasurer Rick Thompson provided a statement of the FY 2019 beginning balance in the checking & savings accounts of \$19,306; the expenditures for the last FY year totaling \$15,184, and income for the year totaling \$20,127, for an ending balance of \$24,248. As of the June 30, 2019 year end, we also had a balance of \$51,230 in the Morgan Stanley Investment Account. Of that total \$47,125 is restricted to the Knettishall Memorial Fund and \$4,104 is currently in the Scholarship Fund. Mr. Jack Vann voted to accept the Treasurer's report; Greg Staples seconded, and the reported was accepted for filing with the Minutes.

6. Liaison Reports. Terry Woodford-Thomas then presented the Knettishall Liaison Report. She reported that the Knettishall Memorial Fund currently has a balance of \$46,400. The property that the Memorial sits on is owned by Colin Davy, who has verbally conveyed his support that the Memorial remain as is, but as yet we have nothing to convey the title to the Knettishall Committee. Our goals for the future are: 1) Putting more information at the site about the Memorial and the 388th Bomb Group and our Association. 2) Bringing some of the 6 UK members of the Committee to attend our Reunions. 3) Improving the Memorial Site by providing benches on which persons can sit to reflect and rest.

Terry also presented the report from the Scholarship Committee. For the first time, the Association will present three \$1,000 scholarships this year. One will be from the fund balance currently in the 388th Scholarship Fund, and Terry will be funding one in memory of her father, Charles Woodford. Ben Forrest, Jr. will fund the third scholarship in memory of his father, Ben, Sr. The three recipients are Aaron Frish (winner of the 388th scholarship) from Winnsboro, S. C., who is a music major and grandson of 388th veteran Harold Frish; Alyssa Gottheiner-(the Woodford Memorial Scholarship) a speech pathology major from Manning, S.C., who is the great-granddaughter of veteran George Kistner; and Jackson Gardner, a pre-med major who wants to be a radiologist (the Forrest Memorial Scholarship), who is the great-grandson of Jack Vann and who hails from St. Augustine, FL.

7. Old Business. Cindy Hayes reported that our membership website is expanding and is now [www.388thbga.org](http://www.388thbga.org), our historical database has also moved and is now at [www.388bg.com](http://www.388bg.com). Instagram can be found at [388thbga.org](http://388thbga.org), and we have a site on Facebook, as well.

8. New Business. Kim McDonald Klein reported that the 2020 Reunion will be in the Seattle area, but the dates are not yet firm. Possible locations considered by the board for 2021 are Pennsylvania, Maine or Rhode Island (North East Coastal Area), and Savannah. The membership voted to go back to Savannah.

9. Nominations of New Officers The President reported that our Parliamentarian position is currently vacant and asked if there were any nominations (or volunteers) to fill that position. Hearing none, the consensus was that the position would continue to be held open and that Rick Thompson would be called on if needed to resolve any procedural questions. The board nominated Ruth Castleberry for First Vice President, and Heidi McKinney to take on the role of Secretary. Rick Thompson, Treasurer; Cindy Hayes, Second Vice President; Steven Butner, Newsletter Editor; Henry Curvat, Corporate Agent; and Dick Henggeler, Historian were also all recommended for reelection to their specific offices. President Klein asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Betty Curvat moved that the proposed slate of officers be approved by acclamation; the motion was seconded and was adopted by the membership.

10. Adjournment- There was no additional business brought to the attention of the membership from the floor, so Tony Smith moved that the meeting adjourn. That motion was seconded and approved by the membership.





# TAPS



## Gil Goodman, Air Exec, Dies at 101

Col. Gilbert Ernest "Gil" Goodman, USAF, Ret., passed away Sept. 23 in Camarillo, CA, where he had made his home for the past 42 years. The former 562nd Commander and later 388th BG Deputy Group Commander was 101.

Gil served as president of the 388th BG Association in 1999-2000.

Born January 24, 1918 in Umapine, OR, Gil was the youngest of the four sons of Thomas and Mary Elizabeth (Smiley) Goodman. The family moved to Walla Walla, WA when he was a small child. After his mother's death in 1930, he went to live first with his grandmother, then with an older brother, and finally with a friendly family, doing chores to earn his keep. He took up a paper route for the Walla Walla Union Bulletin at age 12, and kept it until after he was established in college.

In 1934, the 16-year-old lied about his age in order to enlist in National Guard's 161st Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, WA. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the division's 116th Quartermaster Regiment in 1937, was promoted to First Lieutenant in 1939 and Captain on Sept. 16, 1940, the day President Roosevelt inducted the division into Federal Service.



After graduating from high school in June 1936, he enrolled at Whitman College, also in Walla Walla, where he would meet Mary Virginia Charters, known affectionately to family and friends as "Gin." He graduated in 1940 with a degree in Economics and Business Administration, and the couple wed on August 24, 1942 at Coeur D'Alene, ID, near Gin's family home in Spirit Lake.

After his April 1942 transfer request to the Army Air Corps was approved, Gil began an eight-month period of pilot's training as a 2nd Lieutenant cadet at Santa Ana Army Air Base in Southern California. In February 1943, with his Captain's rank restored and his pilot's wings in hand, he was assigned to Gowen Field outside Boise ID. It was there that he met then-Captain Chester C. "Chet" Cox, 388th BG Group Operations Officer, who was recruiting officers for leadership roles in the newly-formed bomb group. Unconcerned by the 25-year-old's limited flight experience, Cox, impressed by Gil's experience and command presence, offered him the position of Assistant Group Operations Officer, which he accepted. Many years later, Brigadier General (Retd.) Cox would write, "The smartest thing I did at that time was to select Gil Goodman to help me. He was my number one man and was one of a

kind for the balance of the war.”

After attending staffing school in Washington, DC, Gil joined the bomb group at Wendover Field, Utah, and later at Sioux City, IA, as the flight crews completed intensive combat training. In June 1943 he and other staff members flew to Valley, Wales, then continued on to Snetterton Heath, where they would share the air field with the 96th BG while their own field, Knettishall, was being completed.

Between August 12, 1943 and April 7, 1945, Gil would serve as command pilot on 34 combat missions, first as Assistant Group Operations Officer, then as 562nd Sqd. Commander, and finally as Deputy Group Commander. Of these, perhaps the most notable was the June 21, 1944 shuttle mission that was part of the Joint U.S.-Russian Operation Frantic. After successfully attacking an oil plant at Ruhland, deep in Germany, elements of the 388th, 96th and 452nd BGs landed at Poltava airfield, Ukraine, unaware they had been tailed by a German Heinkel and their position revealed. That evening German bombers attacked the field for more than two hours, destroying 47 of the 73 B-17s parked at the airfield and severely damaging most of the remainder. Gil was able to return to Knettishall a week later after a few 388th aircraft were returned to operational status.

Gil was named 562nd Sqd. Commander in early October 1943 and was promoted to Major a few weeks later. In August 1944 he was promoted to Lt. Colonel, and was named Deputy Group Commander under Col. Chet Cox in January 1945.

Awards include the DFC with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the French Croix de Guerre, the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, a Distinguished Unit Citation with one Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Returning to the U.S., Gil served at Smyrna Army Airfield outside Nashville, TN from October 1945 through June 1946, as Assistant Supervisor, Director of Supply and Maintenance, and ultimately as Supply and Evac Officer. He was then assigned to the Pentagon in Washington DC as Directorate of Legislation and Liaison,

Congressional Liaison Division, Dept. of the Air Force, a position he held until early 1952.

He and Gin then flew to Karachi, Pakistan, where he assumed new duties as the American Embassy's Air Attaché, maintaining contacts between the USAF and Pakistani government, reporting on that country's air force infrastructure and filing intelligence reports with his superiors at the Pentagon. One of the highlights of their two-year stay, the Goodmans would later recall, was a luncheon they hosted at their home for the Pakistani Ambassador and Sir Edmund Hillary and his climbing party . . . the last meal the Hillary party would have before their first successful climb up Mt. Everest.

After his Karachi assignment ended in May 1954, Gil and Gin headed to Providence, RI where Gil became Chairman of the Department of Air Science and Tactics at Brown University, effectively heading the university's ROTC program in which students who completed Air Force courses and attended one summer camp session were commissioned after graduation as Second Lieutenants in the Air Force Reserve.

Gil remained in this position until 1957, when he, Gin and their young son Paul moved to Waco TX, and Gil reported to James Connally AFB as Commander of the 3565th Maintenance and Supply Group. In Waco, the Goodmans welcomed their only daughter, Patti. Gil retired from the USAF as full Colonel in 1961.

At age 43, after serving his country for 27 years, Gil took his first civilian job since delivering newspapers in Walla Walla. He joined the staff at the University of California at Los Angeles as Manager of Business Services, and the family settled in Pacific Palisades. He retired in 1975.

In 1977 Gil and Gin bought a home in Camarillo, CA, near the golf course where they played, on average, three times a week. Gin passed away on July 10, 2011. Gil enjoyed robust health until nearly the end of his life.

Survivors include Gil's son Paul Goodman, daughter and son-in-law Patti and Dave Whitcomb, all of Camarillo; one grandson and one great-grandson.



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

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Wife/Husband \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Squadron \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_ Aircraft Name \_\_\_\_\_

Pilot \_\_\_\_\_ No. Missions \_\_\_\_\_ POW (Date) \_\_\_\_\_ STALAG LUFT \_\_\_\_\_

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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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