# 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 Ordinance 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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Joseph C. Hild standing at left with the members of our crew in front of our B-17 bomber. Although we flew the day before and the day after D-Day, we were not part of the actual invasion.

### THE 388TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION, INC.

### **PRESIDENT: SCOTT LONG**

1120 Squaw Valley, Rockwall, TX 75087 305-773-1268, longf16@reagan.com

**1ST VICE PRESIDENT: CINDY HAYES** 13558 Ronnie Way, Saratoga, CA 95070 408-421-0885, cindy@soundmgmt.com

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: RICK THOMPSON 2995 Senior Road, Morrow, OH 45152 513-505-4234, rickthompson388@gmail.com

SENIOR DIRECTOR: TERRY WOODFORD-THOMAS

104 Arundel Place, St Louis, MO 63105 tthomas@danforthcenter.org

### **DIRECTOR: JAMES ZOGRAPHOS**

293 Turnpike Road, #801, Westborough, MA 01581 508-366-7871, jchris766@hotmail.com

SECRETARY: CAROL ANNE LINZEE CHAN 1266 Dawnridge Drive, El Cajon, CA 92021

619-368-6777, Cadrastal@gmail.com

### **TREASURER: STACI LONG**

1120 Squaw Valley, Rockwall, TX 75087 786-525-7188, Stacierae@mac.com

### **CORPORATE AGENT: BASIL VANN**

7749 Normandy Blvd #145-363, Jacksonville, FL 32221 904-704-6654, bvann1@cfl.rr.com

HISTORIAN; DICK HENGGELER

2708 Old St. Johns Lane, Ellicot City, MD 21042 410-750-3605, Historian@388thbg.org

PARLIAMENTARIAN: KELLY K MOORE 33 E Rockwood Drive, Ottawa, KS 66067 785-242-5270, k17moore@sbcglobal.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: STEVEN BUTNER P.O. Box 270147, Flower Mound, TX 75027 972-591-1726, Newsletter@388thbg.org

REUNION ORGANIZER: ELIZABETH (ANN) TURLEY 7749 Normandy Blvd #145-363, Jacksonville, FL 32221 301-349-5174, turleya99@yahoo.com

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

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# From the President's Desk

Dear 388th Family,

I began writing this letter as we were driving south on the Blue Ridge Parkway on a more southern route back to St. Louis from the Washington DC area. I am awestruck by the quiet, majestic beauty of the Appalachian Mountains and the friendly folks we have met along the way. It is a perfect time to reflect on the events at our 66th 388th BG reunion. My father, wearing his WWII veteran cap, inspires smiles, handshakes and gratitude as he is recognized and thanked for his service during that war as we stop for a meal or to rest. People are grateful. Young and old, and in-between. It is very good. With humility and great exhilaration, we have once again been blessed to be in the presence of our 388th veterans, their families and friends. True members of the Greatest Generation. In good times and in troubled times, what a privilege it is for us to once again come together and be in each other's company. It is hard to find the words that really capture what we shared. But, here's one 3-letter word: WOW!

For those of you not able to be with for this reunion, we thought of you just as we were in the thoughts of President Obama and his staff; Colonel Brad "Detroit" Lyons, the new 388th Fighter Wing commander, our very own Percy Prentice from the UK, and so many others. We were graced by the presence and friendship of USAF Chief of Staff General Mark Welsh and Colonel Lance Landrum, and Senator Diane Rosenbaum, as well as Deborah Sarson, one of our UK Trustees, as we welcomed family and friends, and new members to this gathering of our proud association. Big Kudos go to those who made our reunion such a tremendous success: our organizers, Henry and Betty Curvat, Barbara and Tom Dennis, and Mike and Prescilla Peller whose countless hours arranging everything, and attending to details both large and small, culminated in an amazing experience. We thank Jillian Weleski, Kim McDonald and the gracious staff of the Double Tree Hotel-Crystal City, Mike Crossman and Capital Wing of the Airmen's Preservation Society, James Bertolino, members of our Washington DC-based USAF Honor Guard, USAF Chaplains, Bill Boxer and Jory Vanderburg for their photography and videography, respec-



### to our reunion.

So many memories: Breakfast together, standing at the WWII Memorial in silence during the playing of Taps; the pride on the faces of our veterans as they each received a medallion and salute from USAF General Mark Welsh; Deborah Sarson's talk on the Knettishall Memorial, walking through Udvar-Hazy, the flag folding ceremony and distribution of flags at the banquet, the mission briefing reenactment, the traditional group photo of our veterans, all the informational displays and joviality in the hospitality room, dancing to 1940's music, TSgt. Paige leading us in the National Anthem, and Carol Anne- the Army Air Corp Song. So much more: hugs and handshakes, quiet moments and laughter, the twinkles in eyes, sometimes tears.

At the end of the very moving WWII Memorial Ceremony, General Welsh took me aside and said, "Terry, you and the others in the 388th Bomb Group Association need to keep this group strong; you need to keep the ties that bind you and the legacy of your WWII airmen alive. It is very important. It is critical." I promised him we would, and we will!

The value of what we have together is immeasurable: the love and admiration we feel for our original members, the way we love hearing their stories and pass them on, our love of country and of each other. It is a family reunion when we all come together. We greet each other and compare lives, talk business, envision the future of the association, welcome new members, meet new friends and families, kid each other, offer advice and counsel, comfort, reassurance, offer toasts, share laughs, reflections, triumphs and meet challenges together, both old and new. Our annual reunion enriches our lives, and collectively, gives us all strength and hope. As we keep to our mission,

I am so proud to pass the President's gavel now to Colonel (ret.) Scott Long. He is amazing and will take the association to new heights with his leadership, enthusiasm and dedication. I sincerely thank our board members and liaisons who supported and guided me this past year. I learned firsthand how significant it is that ours is an association that functions and benefits from the input and work of many gifted individuals. We welcome into-the-fold new board members and liaisons, and I ask you to support and get to know them. Trust me when I say, there is much that goes on behind the scenes on a month-to-month, sometimes week-to-week basis, between reunions,

# **NEW MEMBERS**

Patricia Dykty Montville **Max Cederberg Sherry York Smith Capital Wing of the Airmans Preservation Society** Cynthia Hayes & Kathryn Neff **Rob Olcott** Larry Higgins Richard(son), John Scott(grandson), Peter(son), John D (son) of John A Edelman Allan & Tracy Roof Staci Long **Kim McDonald** Kenneth Rosenman **Dan Wiederhold** 

# Memory Book 2015 Washington D.C.

(Can be found in DropBox) www.dropbox.com/ s/4ci27df5gom07qt/Memory%20Book%202015%20WDC. wmv?oref=e&n=469764785

To start the presentation click on link and then click on picture to start presentation.

If you have any questions or if you would like a hard bound album of the Memory Book, contact Tom or Barbara Dennis at tadennis@sbcglobal.net.

# 388th PX

I'm looking for more items, if you have any ideas please call me!!! Christy Wammack 928-581-1010. Thank you! Have a great Spring and Summer. Hope to see you in D.C.



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postage!	
	3

"City of Savannah" **Polo Shirts** \$31 7 Flying Fortress" WWII Hats \$25 th Rhinestone Pins \$12.75 B-17 Pins \$12.75 Koozies \$3.75 888th 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.

Make checks out to: 388th Bomb Group Assn Mail to: Greg Staples 4715 W. Larchwood Court, Spokane, WA 99208 *All profits go to our Memorial in Knettishall.*  and this work is purely voluntary. Countless hours are invested to keep the mission strong and enduring as set forth by our original members when they first conceived of the 388th BG Association. I encourage each of you to become more involved in our association, its projects and programs. Thank you all for your friendship and support, and for this truly incredible year in my life.



# Words given at WWII Memorial by Terry Woodford-Thomas at the opening of the ceremony.

On behalf of the 388th Bomb Group Association, we are grateful for your presence today. Sixty-six years of gatherings of our extended family, arising from the times when our veterans flew their air combat missions out of Knettishall, England.

We are gathered here to remember in our hearts those among us who served with courage and honor during World War II. Let us turn our thoughts to those brave souls who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation, and the world. Let us turn our thoughts to our veterans whom we are blessed to be among today; who stood firm and brave, and put their lives on the line so that the world could know peace. Let us turn our thoughts to those servicemen and women who continue to answer our nation's call. All of these individuals show us how very high the human spirit can soar.

We welcome very special individuals to be with us today as we celebrate the lives of our soldiers and pay our respects. It is now my deep privilege to introduce our friend and association life member, Colonel Lance Landrum, Commander of the 388th Fighter Wing from 2013 to 2015, who is now serving at the Pentagon in Washington, DC, who will, in turn, introduce General Mark Welsh,

Chief of Staff of the USAF, to you. We welcome them with great honor.



# **Our Mission** The 388 **Bomardment** Group(H) **Association**

What is the mission of the 388thBG Association? The objective as stated in the bylaws is - "To preserve for all time the history, friendships, memories and incidents of the members of the 388th Bombardment Group (H) during World War II". I doubt if this objective has been modified since the late 1940s when the association was formed. How can we insure that the memories of what the original members endured during World War II will be available 100 years from now, or 500 years or 1000 years? Why should we do this? And how can we make this happen? We need to examine these questions and make plans as we move forward with our mission. Our mission is small when compared to what our original members confronted and survived.

The Eighth Army Air Corp (the Air Force had not yet been created) was tasked with using daylight precision bombing to remove Germany's capacity to make war. The 388th BG Heavy was part of the Third Air Division of the Eighth Army Air Corp. They flew in daylight to take advantage of the very precise Norden bombsite instrument. The RAF flew at night so it was much more difficult for the fighters and flak to attack them. On the daylight missions a number of measures were taken to make it harder for the fighters and the flak gunners. For example, the B-17s would throw out clouds of aluminum foil strips to confuse the radar. They would fly at 20-25,000 feet to make it hard on the fighters. The cabins were not pressurized so the crew members had to wear oxygen masks. The temperature was usually 20-50 degrees below zero. Their flight suits were like electric blankets to try to prevent frostbite. The crew had to check each other in case the hose on their oxygen masks became blocked by ice. There were three types of fighters that attacked the formations: propeller-powered, jet-powered and rocket fighters. On some missions 10 of 36 B-17s were lost or shot down. The U-boats had the highest casualties in WWII - 7 out of 10

**DONATIONS GENERAL FUND** 

**Marin Ennis** Henry & Betty Curvat **Don & Martha Scott Jim & Shirley Morrow Wayne Daniels** Jo Ann & Lionel Frazier **Dave Miller Anyhony & Donna Smith Carol Kenney Rvanne & Ron Wood Charles & Marion Meyer Elizabeth Linzee** Julie Ann Vest Nancy & Roberty Enevold Virginia Schabacker **Charles Woodford** Jack Vann Patricia Caffee Tune Nelson & BJ Kasten **Irwin Boxer** Allan & Tracy Roof Joseph Rosenbaum **Carol Walker** John & Margaret Edelman **Donna Elliott** Jory Vanderburg **Maxine Smith** Mike & Precilla Peller John Burdis **Capital Wing of the Airmans Preservation Society** 

# DONATIONS **SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**August Bolino** Carol Kenney



men who sailed on a U-boat in WWII were dead at the end of the war. The B-17s experienced the second highest casualties – 5 out of 10 men who flew on a B-17 in WWII were dead by the end of the war. Our original members fought under extremely hazardous conditions. They helped to create the world that we live in today. We should insure that their experiences are remembered so that their grandchildren and great grandchildren can learn from them in order prevent them from going through a similar experience to save the world from those who wish to inflict harm and deny others their freedom.

How can we make this happen? The world is much different today than it was in the 1940s. The pictures and records that tell of our airmen's' experiences are starting to crumble and become lost with time. We knew that eventually, and sadly, our original members would leave us. Ten years

ago we started interviewing our original members to archive their stories and experiences during the WWII years. Today we are also collecting stories from the families

of the original members. Most of the interviews were stored on VHS tapes. Our 388th BG historian, Dick Henggeler, is getting the VHS tapes converted to digital medium which will allow us to save and share these interviews through museum kiosks, websites, and electronically in this digital age so that people all around the world will be able to access them. In the past two years we have been contacted by many people looking for their loved ones WWII history. One

20-year old fellow asked for information about a crash site near where they lives in Poland. Other people have asked about crash sites in France and the Netherlands. Dick has also built, loaded and maintained our association's historical website which covers the 'lifetime' of the 388BG during WWII. He has digitized information on the missions, the planes that flew on the mission and the crewmembers who flew on the planes. Our goal is to digitize all of the association records – the corporate records, and as much data that we have about our years of reunions with pictures, videos, and programs that document our activities. These are the first steps in preserving our veteran's life experiences.

The second step is to make our reunions both educational and entertaining so that they will continue even after all of our original members leave us. Keeping the association active and exciting allows us to enroll new members and extend our family, as well as to keep our websites, kiosks, and other offerings informative and enjoyable. In this way we can ensure that our grandchildren and great grandchildren (our fourth and fifth generations) will understand what our original members lived through and fought for. In this way the fourth and fifth generations can con-

tinue the legacy of our original members.

We should dedicate ourselves to preserving forever the memory of who our original members;

who they are and what they endured because it will help keep their legacy alive in the generations to follow. With the digital information, the websites, kiosks and our abilities to communicate better in this computer age, we are working to make this happen. I think we owe it to our original members, their descendants, the generations to follow, and freedom-loving people around the world, to make this mission successful. Compared to what the original members endured, our mission is a milk run. For the third generation members a 'milk run' was considered to be a pretty easy, straightforward bombing mission. Preserving this legacy of our veterans for all time may seem like a daunting task, but I believe that we can do this. After all, look at what our original members accomplished.





SAVE

DATE



Hello everyone,

I had such a nice time at our recent reunion and was very happy to meet everyone. The following information regarding arrangements for our 2016 reunion in Oshkosh, WI is being provided for publication in our next newsletter. As you will readily see, I am not known for my writing abilition that you are with the 388th Bomb Group. Oshkosh can be reached by using the Appleton, Wisconsin airport which is about 25 minutes north or you may use Milwaukee's airport which is a little over an hour south. Information on shuttle service from either airport will be provided in

ties! The 67th annual Bomb Group Association reunion will be in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Please note that the dates will be AUGUST 3 to AU-GUST 7, 2016. Our reunion will be held at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center which



a future newsletter.

Our first outing will be on Thursday with a short bus ride to the EAA (Experimental Aviation Association) museum. There will be a guided tour of the various planes on display along with several WWII aircrafts. We are very excit-

is conveniently located in downtown Oshkosh on the banks of the Fox River. Daily breakfast is included. For lunch and dinner The Ground Round at River's Edge restaurant is located in the hotel and has a wonderful view of the river with outdoor dining available. More information on making reservations will be sent out in a future newsletter; however, if you want to make your reservations early please be sure to men-

ed to have available for our group the B-17 nicknamed Aluminum Overcast. In the near future, we will be sending out more information on the activities with the B-17.

Plans are currently made for entertainment in our Hospitality Room and other possible outings.

Ann Reunion Organizer



### LIAISON REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE 388th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING IN LAYTON, UTAH

### National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force

It has been my privilege to serve as liaison from the 388th Bomb Group Association to the National Museum of the Mighty Eighty Air Force in Pooler, Georgia during the six- year period of the restoration of the B-17G "City of Savannah." My service as liaison ended on January 28, 2015 when the "City of Savannah" was dedicated. My final report follows:

The Dedication of the B-17 "City of Savannah" was held at 1:00 pm on January 28, 2015 at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force in Pooler, Georgia. The date was significant because it was the anniversary of the founding of the Eighth Air Force in Savannah on January 29, 1942. Over 450 persons were in attendance, including Major General Scott Vander Hamm, **Eighth Air Force Commander, Barksdale Air Force** Base. In his address to the assembled audience in the Rotunda of the Museum, General Vander Hamm noted the high-bar H insignia of the 388th Bomb Group on the vertical stabilizer of the "City of Savannah." As people entered the Museum on January 28, they could not miss the banner of the 388th Bomb Group, which was prominently displayed just inside the entrance. This banner was arranged by courtesy of Dick Henggeler, our Association Historian.

There were five members of our Association in attendance at the dedication ceremony, Henry and Betty Curvat, George and Gail Staley, and myself. I wish more had been there to witness the culmination of the six years-long period of restoration of the "City of Savannah." George was a tail gunner on the Meyer crew in the 560th Bomb Squadron. George had his photograph taken with General Vander Hamm by Betty and Henry Curvat.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Morrow Liaison Mighty Eighth Museum

### **U.K. Memorial Trustees Committee**

The committee consists of Deborah Sarson (president), Dave Sarson (secretary), Tony Goff (treasurer) and Percy Prentice (member-at-large). Dave Sarson is also curator of the 388th Collection at Hillside Farm, a two-building museum in Coney Weston, which houses artifacts and memorabilia of the 388th Bomb Group.

The committee's primary focus is the perpetual care and upkeep of the 388th BG Memorial, located at the crossroads of Fen Street and The Street in Coney Weston. The grounds are regularly swept and mown, and the annual insurance payment is made each March.

The Committee also ensures that the Association is represented at the Memorial Day Remembrance held annually at the Cambridge American Cemetery at Madingley, and looks for opportunities to promote the memory of the 388th Bomb Group within the region.

The Trustees Committee receives an annual disbursement, traditionally made in October, to cover insurance for the Memorial and Museum, as well as other operating costs including maintenance of the Memorial grounds and a wreath for the Memorial Day services. At the 2014 meeting of the 388th BG Association Board, board members voted to increase the disbursement to the Trustees Committee from \$1,036 to \$1,200. Efforts are also ongoing to raise a sufficient financial base (currently estimated at \$30,000) to ensure perpetual funding.

In 2015 to date, the committee has welcomed three sets of American visitors: Nancy and Terrel Hennessy; her father was Joe Coyner, 562nd pilot; Olivia Leydenfrost and husband Clive Dellard; her father was Robert Leidenfrost, 560th toggelier; and Paul Schmidt, Vice Wing Commander, retired, 388th Fighter Wing.

> Respectfully submitted, Jan Pack Liaison UK Memorial Trustee



### Hill AFB Kiosk Report (Greg Staples and Rick Thompson with input from Wayne Daniels)

Greg: There are several people involved with this project. Col Daniels had the lead and got an allocation of funds for the equipment approved a year or two ago. I was asked to be involved because I'm a computer guy. I've talked to several suppliers of museum kiosk hardware and software. There are a myriad of possibilities. The problem as I see it is fleshing out a vision of what will be presented. I strongly believe that we need to do that before we get any hardware. This vision would include being really specific about our target audience or audiences. I threw together a quick example of one possible vision. It is parked on the 388th website at http://www.388thbg. org/kiosk/index.html. A great source of content is the video put together by Craig Ruiz. https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjazBtfiJ6g I guess he would be happy to have us use parts of it. We should probably find him to ask but it is publicly posted on YouTube.

The perceived target for the kiosk might be gradeschool children, mainly grades 1-8 since 80-90% of the museum visitors are school-aged. Sound bites might be due to short attention span and "stay time" at the kiosk. I think we can also have menu icons for the vets and adults. The adult stuff would look somewhat different.

An additional concern is maintenance. Vendors who work extensively with museums expect that their systems will be accessible on-line on the Internet. Our meeting last year with the Hill AFB museum director and staff put it this way: "totally off limits. No way at all." Not allowed to be linked to museum Internet connection and not possible for us to buy a separate Internet connection. I was also extremely disappointed with the museum staff. They didn't repair the minor wear and tear damage to the 388th display. They knew we were coming and didn't bother. I'm afraid that attitude will carry over to the kiosk. Something minor will happen and the kiosk will get

pushed aside as broken. The museum staff also indicated that the kiosk will only be accepted as a gift that they can repurpose if they so choose. Rick: Some work has been progressing on the kiosk. Greg Staples put a test menu on the 388BG web site, which gives us a place to begin. Cindy Hayes and her daughters did not receive the interviews from last year until sometime in May. [Note from Terry W.T.: The main reason for this is that the video DVDs copies shared by Jory Vanderburg from the 65th previous reunion were not in a form that was editable. I extracted and converted video from the DVDs using the software tool Handbrake, an open source video transcoder and then compressed the files. It took an hour per video. There were 16 video files in the collection I received.]. Cindy Hayes and daughters plan to have some things to show us at the reunion.

I believe this is morphing into a two-pronged project. One would be the Kiosk for the museums, which would involve interviews clips, sound bites, etc. to keep the interest of the school-aged people. The second would be a broader, more indepth system posted on the web site to educate and entertain people interested in the association. This could help add to our membership and participation. We could have videos of tour activities, the memory book, information/videos about the association, etc. The sky is the limit. There is material out there that we could use and add to.

I have not been very successful in getting copies of interviews from previous reunions. However, I am pretty persistent and will eventually have some success.

There has been some question about what 'interactive' means. Initially, I thought we were talking about main menus, sub menu, sub menu, etc. so that people could pick what they wanted to learn about. Another thought might be to have a question and answer type menu to test their knowledge of the period. Or we could put that in as one of the sub menus. Or several of the submenus. In that way a teacher could assign students to learn an educational 'menu' of the

388BG site and then they could test them-

selves at the museum or on the educational website menu at the 388BG site in their classroom. We still have a lot to do on this project.

Respectfully Submitted, Rick Thompson Senior Director Greg Staples Webmaster

### **Database Website**

A powerful search tool for personnel was added to the website. Now it is possible to search for personnel by a number of attributes (e.g. rank, position, unit, first and/last name, serial number etc.)

Data. I continued to expand, correct, and add to the database information over 8,000 personnel

Photos. Much time was spent on increasing the number of photos added to the website. There is a special photo section containing 2,600 photos that are organized by content. Similar photos are grouped together, which allows an easy way to find a photo.

Sources. The website maintains a list of sources that reference a person, crew, mission or aircraft. Only a small percentage of the sources have been reviewed to determine these references. Several newsletter sources were examined in detail to obtain these references

Museums. I worked with the 8th Air Force Museum to add a 388th Bomb Group banner to their collection. Also we made a donation of an 11-figure statue of the Prendergast crew that is displayed in their Reference Library. I visited the museum's reference library to research information that they had on 388th members.

Respectfully submitted, Dick Henggeler Historian

### **PX Report**

PX orders were taken from over 20 original members or one of their children. The biggest seller was the very classy "Flying Fortress" hat. Also sold: "City of Savannah" polo shirts, 388thBG rhinestone pins, bumper stickers and 12 oz. can koozies. We had a profit of over \$450 for the year. At the start of the reunion the PX had hats, polo shirts, 388th BG pins, B-17 pins, koozies, lanyards, bumper stickers and B-17 refrigerator magnets.

Respectfully submitted, Christy Wammack PX

### First Annual 388th College Scholarship Award

During Fall 2014, an application form, description of the essay competition and short questionnaire was prepared for dissemination. Also, a committee was formed that included the following:

Internal members- Christine Siemens, 388th BG Association member since 2003, Dir. of Assn. 2008/9; Col. Scott Long, ret. AF, former Commander of 388th FW, current 1st VP of 388th BG Assn.; Rick Thompson, 2013/14 President of 388th BG Assn., current Senior Director; Charles Woodford, original member of 388th BG, Terry Woodford-Thomas, 2014/15 President of 388th BG Assn.

External members- Tom Harris, retired AF, formerly with 388th FW, Director of Adult and Community Education, Warren Co., Ohio; James Francis, high school military history teacher, NJROTC, MO Nat. Guard, served in Afghanistan.

The subject of the first essay was "The 388th: Past and Present -Answering our Nation's Call.

From October 2014 to February 2015, ten requests from eligible students (or their parents, grandparents) were received asking for more information and application materials. The deadline set for receipt of application materials was April 30, 2015. A couple of students immediately withdrew. Other than one, no other applications were returned. The application received on

April 11, 2015 was an excellent example of



how one young man was impacted by his greatgrandfather's service in the 388th. The applicant was William "Seth" McMurray of Mount Pleasant, Texas. His great-grandfather was Elliott H. Hewes, engineer with Tom A. Dennis Sr.'s crew. Copies of Seth's letter, CV and essay will be available at the reunion for our membership. Perhaps his picture and essay can be published in the Fall 2015 newsletter. I have been working with Treasurer Tom Dennis, Jr. to transfer the scholarship funds to Seth's college of choice. While Seth will likely not be able to attend the reunion, however, his mother and aunt will be present. Seth (or his attending family) will be recognized with a certificate and a check for \$1,000 from the 388th BG Assn. Treasurer will be issued to the Sponsored Student Services Office in Seth McMurray's name at the institution of higher education of his choice in the near future.

Donations have been made by Terry Woodford-Thomas, Henry and Betty Curvat, and Thomas A Dennis III, grandson of Tom Dennis Sr., and a pledge has been made by Ben Forrest Jr. A sum of \$2,000 remains for two \$1,000 scholarship awards in 2016 and 2017.

Recommendations: The manner in which scholarship information is disseminated to recruit interested young people needs to be re-considered. It would be good to generate a list of potentially eligible students from the Association membership for broader solicitation and information sharing. The possibility of opening the competition even up further to sons and daughters of the 388th Fighter Wing to encourage their membership and involvement in the 388TH BG Association needs to be discussed. Fundraising for future years of scholarship awards should be undertaken if the program is deemed important enough to merit continuation.

Respectfully submitted, Terry Woodford-Thomas Liaison College Scholarship

### **Corporate Agent Report**

In order to serve on the board of Directors as the Corporate Agent for the 388th Bomb Group Assoc. Inc. the individual elected must be a Florida resident. Rickard Sundblad relocated to Pennsylvania late in 2014 so was no longer eligible to serve in this capacity and tendered his resignation verbally with Rick Thompson, Sr. Director. Rick Thompson contacted me and asked if I would fill the vacancy as interim Corp Agent until the next elections could be held. I accepted.

I was able to contact Rickard and arranged for him to ship the 388th Corporate Records to me. I have since received the records and updated them with any information which I have received or been made aware of to this date. In addition Sr. Director, Rick Thompson requested that I begin creating an electronic version of the Corporate Records for a backup should the hard copy be lost or misplaced. This should be completed by the 2015 Board Meeting convenes.

Renewal of the corporate status is required every year by the end of May. The renewal was filed along with the updated list of all 388th corporate Officers names and addresses. I submitted a request from all 388th Bomb Group Assoc. Inc. officers to be sure they wanted their names and address listed with the Florida State Corporation Commission as these are public records. All officers responded and did want to be listed. It is important to note that future officers are not required to be listed when elected to office and that if they choose to list their name and address it becomes public record.

I confirmed with the Assoc. Treasurer that the taxes were filed at the end of the 388th BG Assoc.'s tax year, which is the fiscal year July 1 to June 30 of each year. His acknowledgement that he had filed the 2014 Tax Return will become a part of the Corporate Records.

Respectfully submitted, Henry T. Curvat Interim Corporate Agent



### JOSEPH C. HILD La Grange - Major, U.S. Air Force



I was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1923, grew up in Newport News, Virginia, and graduated from high school in Norfolk. When I entered the service, I had one year of college at Virginia Tech. After I got out, I went back to college on the GI Bill to earn a Bachelor's and Master's in Civil Engineering.

All the guys at school were talking about joining the Army Air Corps except me in December 1942. My buddy talked me into going with him to Roanoke where he planned to enlist. Almost before I knew it, I went through all the screenings. Then I was told to raise my right hand and I was duly sworn into the Army Air Corps. What's ironic is my buddy, who was so gung ho, was turned down because he was colorblind.

After intense training at a number of U.S. air bases, I was

transferred to England where I flew 35 bombing missions on a B-17 Flying Fortress from Knettishall, a village near Cambridge. E x cerpts from letters I wrote to my parents provide some insight into my service. A u gust 9, 1944 – I have not shot down any Nazi planes. In fact, I have never fired a shot at one. There seems to be a great scarcity of Nazi planes as they very seldom make an appearance in the sky. Whenever they do appear, our fighter plane

### HILD WROTE LETTERS HOME DETAILING HIS WAR EXPERIENCE

escort shoots them down before they can get close to the bombers. Anywhere from 12 to 25 planes fly in a group. When we go on a big raid such as Berlin, Munich or Leipzig, we usually fly in a wing formation, consisting of three or more groups. The whole time we are flying to the target, I can see all the planes in the three groups. We see many groups either going to or coming from various targets. In other words, the deeper you go into Germany, the more planes you see. I would say that I see on an average of 300 to 400 planes on every raid. I don't know how many combat hours I have so far, but I think it is about 100.

August 20, 1944 – A practice mission is run exactly like a regular mission, only on a smaller scale and at a lower altitude, usually 8,000 to 10,000 feet. A certain target – usually a city – is designated. We form in a regular group formation and fly to the target, but instead of dropping bombs, they take a picture of the place the bombs would have hit had they been dropped. Most of our bombing is done around 25,000 feet. As soon as the bombs hit the ground, a camera takes a picture. That is how we know what we hit. If clouds completely cover the ground, the bombing remains unobserved until a fighter plane flies over and takes pictures. We made a few missions over to France to try to help the Infantry out a little.

August 29, 1944 – We finally got around to flying missions again and they really picked a long one for us. We were in the air for more than eight hours. What do you think about the fall of Paris?

August 30, 1944 – Certainly sorry to hear that Grandpa died. My commission finally came through. I was a Second Lt. last Monday.

September 1, 1944 – Our crew is now stationed at a secret field doing secret work. We will only be here a couple of weeks, so if I don't mention in my letters that I am flying missions, you will know that I'm not just loafing around.

September 5, 1944 – We haven't been doing anything that I can tell you about, so there is very little for me to write. Am enclosing a snapshot of me on my bicycle.

Commu-

November

ed to go on a mis-

sion this morning

me up, but immedi-

October 3, 1944 – I didn't fly today because the pilot is having a little trouble with his sinuses. Our crew will be grounded until his sinuses are OK again. I hope this won't take too long because I am anxious to get my missions completed.

October 9, 1944 – I received the package containing the hat, washcloths, soap, shaving lotion and powder. Everything was in fine shape and the hat was just what I wanted.

October 16, 1944 - I went on a mission yesterday morning, the first in a few weeks. The weather was bad over Germany, so we flew a practice mission. A mission is scheduled for tomorrow. We have to supply our own sheets and pillowcases, but so far, I have been sleeping between blankets. I decided that in case I am here

November 10, 1944 - Flew most of yesterday although it wasn't a mission, but today I got in another mission to Germany. Am slowly approaching my 35th mission, so it won't be too long before I am home. Have received five letters from you since last Saturday, but I hope you will excuse me if I don't answer them tonight. It is pretty late and I must wash before going to bed. We will probably fly in the morning, so I have to get in as much sleep as I possibly can. Three o'clock comes around in a very big hurry.

November 11, 1944 – We have our own chapel on the field, our own chaplain and two Masses every day: one at 9 in the morning, the other at 5:15 in the afternoon. We are permitted to go to Communion at either of these Masses,

at Christmas, I would like to sleep between sheets that night. Do you think I'm nuts?

October 27, 1944 - Flew another mission yesterday and was all set to fly another one this morning, but it was called off just be-



In August 1944, Major Glenn Miller (center) and his orchestra came to entertain us at our field. Afterward, he christened our plane Moonlight Serenade after a song he had written. Then we and they did wake took turns having our pictures taken with him.

fore take-off time because of the weather. I must close now and get some sleep because we will probably fly in the morning.

October 30, 1944 - We didn't have any celebration in honor of Columbus Day, unless you would call dropping a few more bombs on Germany a celebration. I think I mentioned in a previous letter that I heard a direct broadcast of the World Series.

November 3, 1944 - The cold weather doesn't bother me when flying. We have heated suits that really keep us warm, even when the temperature is 40 or 50 below! We are never bothered with ice on the plane. The wings and tail surfaces have deicers. Went on another mission yesterday and was all set to go on one this morning, but the weather suddenly turned bad and the mission was called off.

ately after the briefing, the mission was called off because of the weather. We had a good supper today - chicken, mashed potatoes, green peas, gravy and chocolate cake for dessert.

November 18, 1944 - Sorry I haven't written the past few days, but I have been away from this base. We went on a mission last Thursday and when we returned, the weather was so bad that they wouldn't let us land here. Instead, they sent us to ... (censors removed the next page).

December 8, 1944 - Received a promotion today. I am now a First Lt. We may fly in the morning, so I will close now and get some sleep.

December 12, 1944 – Two years ago yesterday I enlisted in the Air Corps. I didn't think I would be in the Army this long, but I can't complain. I don't mind it at all.

Western Union Telegram, January 5, 1945



- Completed tour. Be home soon. Love, Joe A January 1946 Newport News newspaper clipping provides more details about my service:



In 1969, I was hired to design and engineer the Fritsch Auf subdivision and built a weekend home there because we liked the people and the area so much. We eventually retired near La Grange in 1988.

"For 'extraordinary achievement' during bombing attacks on Nazi war plants and military targets in support of Allied Ground Forces, First Lt. Joseph C. Hild, 21, of Newport News, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFS). Lt. Hild is navigator on an 8th Air Force B-17 Flying Fortress. In addition to his DFS, he holds the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters for his part in the battles with Nazi flak and fighters in the war's toughest air theater. He is a member of

the 388th bomb group, a unit of the 3rd Air Division. Lt. Hild took part in two attacks on military installations in Berlin. He flew seven times in attacks on oil refineries at Merseburg and took part in blows at other oil refiners at Magdeburg, Zeitz, Politz, Brux and Ludwigshafen, an ordnance plant at Stuttgart, an aircraft plant at Hanover and at Munich, railroad yards at Kiesel, Cologne and Frankfurt, and Nazi flying bomb sites in the Pas de Calais area of France."

After I completed my 35 missions, I returned home from overseas. I was stationed at Ellington Field when I met my future wife, Doris Copeland, who lived in the Heights. We met at a Sunday afternoon tea dance in downtown Houston and were married in 1945, a wartime marriage that wasn't supposed to last.

Posted in VETERANS' VOICES by THE FAYETTE COUNTY RECORD

# Income and Exspense FY Ending 6-30-2015

### 7/1/2014 through 6/30/2015

### INCOME

Donations	6,505.00		
Interest Inc	35.51		
<b>Reunion Registration 2014</b>	14,946.00		
Reunion Registration 2015	2,677.00		
TOTAL INCOME	24,163.51		
EXPENSES			
Memorial	2,283.73		
Misc.	122.50		
PX	621.61		
Newsletter	5,179.31		
Reunion 2014	12,140.24		
Reunion 2015	2,687.40		
Shipping	73.73		
TOTAL EXPENSES	23,108.52		
NET FISCAL YEAR ENDING 6-30-15	1.054.99		

1,054.99

# **SHARE YOUR STORY**

# We know that every story is different and would like to hear from you.

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR: STEVEN BUTNER** P.O. Box 270147, Flower Mound, TX 75027 972-591-1726, Newsletter@388thbg.org



# Paper Messages Natikutions Despite Publishing Tacils T

The 388th Bomb Group Association Facebook page was recently updated and new posts are being added often. We have over one thousand page "LIKES" and each new post receives several hundred views. The

updates included a new cover photo and profile ID. New posts will include historical information as well as current activities of the 388th Association. We will be adding Twitter and In-

stagram accounts soon, but until then come join us at: www.facebook.com/388thbga

flight. Somehow I just never did until this June

3rd. My wife and I live in an Independent Liv-

ing Facility (Brookdale, Glen Ellyn, IL). Honor

Flight Chicago contacted Brookdale and invited 15 WWII veterans to take the trip. It was a trip of

a lifetime. We were treated like royalty. We saw

all the memorials and had a big reception wher-

ever we went. Returning to Chicago, there were

go along.

5000 well-wishers at midway.

I have a younger brother Paul

living in the Washington area,

who met me at Dulles. When

the Honor Flight people found

he was a veteran of Korea and

Viet Nam, they invited him to

I would encourage any of the

WWII veterans belonging to

the Association to take the

trip. Everything is paid by their

volunteers and it is a one day

# Honor Flight Network - Honoring Our Veterans

The end of May, I contacted Christy Wammack to purchase a B-17 hat to be worn on a Chicago Honor Flight trip to Washington D.C.to visit the WWII Memorial and other war memorials. I am an original member of the 388th having been assigned in Boise as Co-Pilot on George Branham's crew in the 560th squadron. As a new group, we had no replacement personnel and consequently I flew

a couple missions with other crews needing a co-pilot. I had 21 missions and my crew had 19 when Capt. Jerry Davidson the Squadron Operations Officer decided to get a mission in, flying in my place. On that mission (November 26, 1943). The crew went down. Another group (96th) crossed above and dropped their bombs through our group hitting Branham's plane. All except a re-

placement Navigator were killed. I was assigned as Ass't Squadron Operations, with the assistant moving to Operations Officer. I completed my last four missions, one as first pilot on a new crew and returned to the States in July.

My family has been after me for a number of years to take the Honor Flight Chicago

round trip.

I am attaching a photo of my brother and me with two Marines who were part of a drill team at the Iwo Jima memorial. As you can see, I'm wearing my B-17 hat.

Warren Wieland

HONOR FLIGHT NETWORK www.honorflight.org





## 388th BG Association College Scholarship Programciation



In Fall 2015, applications will be available for high school students who are sons, daughters, nephews, nieces, or grandchildren of 388th Bombardment Group Association Members who are interested in applying for a \$1,000 scholarship to attend the college or university of their choice. The purpose of this program is to bring young people into closer connection with the (1) the history of the 388th during WWII, our

388th veterans, their missions, their patriotism, their courage and the sacrifices they made in the name of freedom, and (2) to better understand the valor and dedication shown by servicemen and service-women in the armed forces on the global front and at home.

Who is eligible? High school seniors who are family of 388th BG Association members, and are planning to attend an institute of higher education in Fall 2016.

**What is required?** A three-page, ~ 1,500-word essay on the topic, "The 388th: Past and Present- Answering Our Nation's Call" to be submitted in both hard copy and electronic form. A cover letter is advised. As you think about your writing, there are many areas to explore and include in your essay. Focus on something that is meaningful to you and your family. You may want to research about a specific crew or crew member, a base or base event, specific targets, specific sorties, the roles of the air and ground crews, B17 aircraft mechanics, what a mission briefing was like, or compare 388th aircraft today with those used during WWII, just to give a few examples. One award is given each year to the special recipient.

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

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

When will the award be presented? The scholarship award will be announced during the summer preceding the Annual 388th BG Reunion. The presentation will take place at the reunion banquet to which the recipient will be invited and honored. Attendance of the awardee is not required, but is highly encouraged.

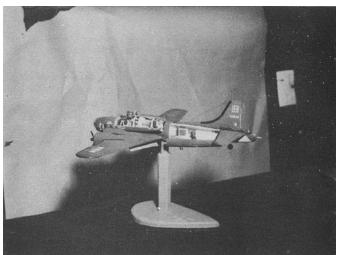
**How do I start?** Contact Terry Woodford-Thomas with your inquiries and intentions, and an application and further details will be sent to you. The deadline to receive all applications and essays is March 2016.

Terry Woodford-Thomas Tel: 314-587-1436 tthomas@danforthcenter.org Terry Woodford-Thomas 388th Bombardment Group Association, Inc. 104 Arundel Place, 975 N. Warson Road St. Louis, MO 63105

# **Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress**



The B-17's capacity to repel enemy attacks and still inflict heavy damage upon German military capability and production centers is rendered in this caricature.



B-17 Model with H This was carved from bed slats. It is complete to crew members and the power-gun turrets are movable.



B-17 Model with H

# TAPS

### **THORA J. BOLINO**

Thora J. Bolino, wife of former 388th BG Assn. President August C. Bolino, died July 23 at her Silver Spring, MD home following a yearlong battle with cancer. She was 87.



Bolino

Known to family and close friends as TJ, Thora Johnson was

born in Seattle, WA to Icelandic immigrants. She met her future husband, who was studying for his Ph.D in Economics, at a dance in 1950; they married the following year.

Her husband's careers in education and government took the family to St. Louis, MO, Pocatella, ID and Kensington and Bethesda, MD. After her youngest child entered school, Mrs. Bolino re-entered the work force as a typist at Growth Stock Outlook in Bethesda, MD. She quickly became assistant to the president and, ultimately, was made a vice-president in the organization. After 15 years with GSO, she retired in 1990. She and her husband traveled extensively, visiting all 50 states as well as 49 countries. Until recent years, they were regular attendees at 388th BG Assn. reunions.

Mrs. Bolino is survived by August, her husband of 63 years; sons Bradlee, Douglas and Gregory, and six grandchildren. She was predeceased by her daughter Jacquelyn in 1987. Following a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Silver Spring, she was laid to rest at Interment Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

### **RALPH C. BOYER**

Ralph Chester Boyer, a former president of the 388th BG Assn., passed away June 12. The Prosper, TX resident was 94.

A navigator in the 560th Sqd., Mr. Boyer flew 28 mis-



**Boyer** 

sions between September 1943 and February 1944, primarily in the aircraft Return Engagement. He served with three pilots: Robert Simons, Alvin Marcus and William Lenz.

The mayor of Prosper for many years, Mr. Boyer was also a member of the Lions Club, Prosper Volunteer Fire Department, and Masonic Lodge where he served as a grand master. He was a lifelong member of First United Methodist Church in Prosper.

He is survived by daughter Julie Ann Vest, son John Philip, six grandchildren and 14 greatgrandchildren. Mary Lynn Boyer, his wife of 63 years, passed away in 2008. A memorial service was held at the United Methodist Church in Prosper.

### **WILLIAM H. FUHRER**

William H. "Lefty" Fuhrer passed away on April 27. The life-long Erie, PA resident was 92.

A 560th Sqd. waist gunner, he flew 28 missions, including three Chowhound missions, between March and May 1945 with the Cleo Seimer crew.

Fuhrer

Until his retirement, Mr. Fuhrer was the co-owner of Millcreek Heating and Cooling Co. He enjoyed hunting and fishing at his camp in Westline, PA.

He was predeceased by Eleanor, his wife of 68 years, in 2011. Survivors include a son, daughters, grandchildren, great and great-greatgrandchildren.

### WILLIAM F. HERMAN JR.

William F. Herman Jr., 91, died August 30 in Pittsfield, MA.

Born in Providence, RI, Mr. Herman left high school in his senior year to join the Army Air Corps. He was flying his second mission as waist gunner with pilot Lewis Miller, 563rd Sqd., when his aircraft was shot down on the September 6, 1943 Stuttgart raid. One of only three survivors, he spent the remainder of the war in a POW



camp.

Following the war Mr. Herman settled in Pittsfield where he received his GED and entered Berkshire Business College. He owned and operated Berkshire Office Machines until his retirement in 1986.

Mr. Herman coached basketball for 30 years at Pittsfield Catholic Youth Center; he coached soccer for five years at St. Joseph High School, and was also a Little League coach and umpire. An avid runner, he participated in six marathons, including three Boston Marathons.

Survivors include Kathleen, his wife of 43 years; daughters Mary Wheeler and Theresa Wituszynski; sons William, Michael, Patrick and Matthew; stepchildren Christopher Adorno and Lisa DiMaria, 19 grandchildren and 22 grandchildren. He was predeceased by his first wife, Jeanette, in 1968.

Following a Liturgy of Christian Burial at St. Charles Church in Pittsfield, burial with full military honors was held at St. Joseph Cemetery.

### **CHARLES A. MEYER**

Charles Alfred Meyer passed away August 12, 2015 in Greenacres, FL. He was born in Brooklyn, NY August 13, 1919. A Hoboken, NJ native, Charlie was a B-17 bombardier with the 388th Bomb Group, completing 34 missions over France and Germany in 1944 including 2 on D-Day.



Meyer

He married "The Girl of My Dreams" Marion Duvall on May 21, 1942.

Following the war he worked in real estate and property management in NJ. Charlie and Marion fell in love with Hawaii while on an anniversary trip. They relocated to Hawaii for 25 years where he continued in the real estate business. Brothers beckoned them back to states and they settled in West Palm Beach, FL. He stayed active in real estate and property management for many years.

Mr. Meyer is survived by his wife of 73

years, Marion, and nieces and nephews.

### **NORMAN F. POWELL**

Norman F. Powell, formerly of Canton and South Yarmouth, passed away August 10 at Charlwell House in Norwood, MA. He was 95.



Born in Boston, Mr. Powell was raised in Roslingdale, gradu-

Powell

ating from Hyde Park High School in 1938. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1943 and, after training as a ball turret gunner, was assigned to the 388th BG's 563rd Sqd. Between January and September 1944, he flew 35 credited missions under three different pilots: Donald Salles, Von Bottenfield and David Riddle.

After the war, he worked as a mechanical engineer for W. R. Grace Co. in Woburn, MA; he retired in 1982.

Mr. Powell, who was predeceased by his wife, Vincenza, in 1992, is survived daughter Janice Clark, sons Gary, Alan and David, and five grandchildren. Following services at the Dockray & Thomas Funeral Home in Canton, he was buried with military honors at Bourne National Cemetery.

### WILLIAM ROWLING JR.

William Jennings Rowling Jr., 91, of Ohio County, IN, passed away May 2 at Cape Coral Hospital in Cape Coral, FL.

Beginning in November 1943, Mr. Rowling, a ball turret gunner in the 560th Sqd., completed 20 missions. On his 21st mission, February 20, 1944 to Posnan, Poland, his aircraft, piloted by Lt. Richard Reed, was shot down over Denmark by enemy aircraft. He spent the remainder of the war as a POW. Awards included the Purple Heart, Air Medal, American Campaign Medal, and Victory Medal.

Following the war, Mr. Rowling worked as a tool and gauge inspector at General Electric in Cincinnati, OH. He retired in 1984 after 32 years. He was a member of the DAV, Rising Sun American Legion Post 59, and the KWVA #4 in Aurora, IN. He was also a member of the Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church.

Mr. Rowling is survived by sons William and Gregory, and son-in-law Thomas Stonefield. He was predeceased in 2005 by Marjorie, his wife of nearly 60 years; and in 2014 by his daughter Gail Stonefield, secretary of the 388th BG Assn.

Funeral services with full military rites were held at the Markland Funder Home in Rising Sun, IN.

### **C. DREW WILLINGHAM**

C. Drew Willingham, 92, passed away February 9 in Shreveport, LA.

Co-pilot on the Paul Todd crew, 561st Sqd., he flew his first mission on September. 15, 1943. On his 18th mission, to Bordeaux, his aircraft, Ole Bassar, was shot



Willingman

down by enemy fighters. Mr. Willingham evaded capture and made his way through France to Switzerland, where he met and married his wife Erna, better known as "Jammy." The couple settled in Shreveport after the war.

Mr. Willingham graduated from the Centenary College of Louisiana and later became vice president of Long Leaf Lumber Co. and then president of E. L. Burns Co. He served as president of the National Skylight Assn. and Home Builders Assn. During the past 25 years he was a business consultant for Security Fence and Iron, Inc., and for Credit Bureau of the South, continuing to work until age 92. He was a member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Shreveport for 56 years.

Mr. Willingham is survived by Jammy, his wife of 70 years; daughter Michele Beck, son Gary, one grandson and two great-grandchildren. Memorial services with military honors were held at the Osborne Funeral Home Chapel in Shreveport.



388TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION (THE) P.O. BOX 270147 FLOWER MOUND, TX 75027

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

Date	Name	
Wife/Husband		Phone
Street		
City		State Zip Code
Email Address		
		Aircraft Name
PilotNo.	. Missions	POW (Date) STALAG LUFT
Annual Dues (\$10.	.00) 🗖 Life	etime Membership (\$50.00) 🗖 Donation
Associate Annual	Dues (\$10.00)	Associate Lifetime Membership (\$50.00)
How would you like to recive Newsletter: 🗖 Mail 🗖 Email		
If paying for an Associa	ate Membership:	
Name of relation who i	is/was in the 388t	th
Relationship to you		$\Box$ ( $\square$ box if you have prior military service.)
Please fill in known informati	ion above, Squadron t	through POW information, for relative.
Mail	to: Carol Anne Linz	zee Chan, Secretary, 388th Bomb Group Assn., Inc.
1266 Dawnridg	e Drive, El Cajon, C	A 92021 Email: secretary@388thbg.org or Cadrastal@gmail.com