

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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SPRING 2017



Find attached a picture of a stained glass window I created in honor of my father, Rodney Nelson. I thought you might want to share it with the newsletter readers. My dad was a member of the 388th and spent a year in a German POW camp. I was always fascinated, as a child, by the stories he told. He loved to visit organizations like schools and churches and tell his story. I have heard it many times and I have a recorded version on my computer so I can listen to it but it was never the same.

As a kid I had so many questions and there was a fascination or mystery with his experience in

the military. I remember his stories of the military training, POW camp and of course the B-17. There are so many stories I could fill pages but I thought I might share a few.

At Christmas time, one of our neighbors about a quarter mile away put up lights along the eve of their house that twinkled or blinked and I remember him remarking how the blinking lights reminded him of the flash of the enemy fighters machine guns as they attacked the bombers.

His plane was not hit by flak or enemy fighters but it encountered mechanical failure so the crew had to bail out. He wore a little caterpillar

(Continued on Page 10)

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From the President's Desk

Hello everyone!

I have some fantastic news to share! Today, the dollars were transferred over and invested in an account set up with Morgan Stanley to forever fund the care and upkeep of our Knettishall Memorial. So excited. I want to thank Ben Forrest Jr, Rick Thompson, Henry Curvat, and Staci Long for all their hard work and dedication in making this a reality for the association.

In other news, our reunion is shaping. We have some wonderful and exciting activities planned to see and do. I hope you all can make the journey to San Diego. It will be a reunion not to be missed.

Please check out our website ... 388thbga.org Our store is up and running with ALL of the items our PX is currently housing. You can pay on-line and you will receive a receipt and confirmation of your orders. It's working quite well.

Over the past two years, we've been focusing resources on building up our social media presence. I want to share with you a success story from Mr. Eric Targon whose great uncle flew with the 388th.

On February 22, 2017 I received this email (delivered from our website) ...

Good Afternoon,

I know this is a long shot but its worth a try. My great uncle Martin Targonsky was shot down and killed while serving with the 388th on November 9, 1944. My grandfather never talked about it because it ruined him so much. I served with the United States Marine Corps and over the last few years I've tried to get any info I could. Today I came across everyone who was on the plane and was only able to track down one person who passed away in 2013. Unfortunately I know most men and women from that time have past on but I was wondering if you knew anyone from that flight still alive that I could contact. 7 people survived that flight. I have the numbers B-17G-60-VE Fortress and also 44-8302. I don't know if that helps or if you



can help in any way whatsoever. Hopefully you can. Thank you very much.

Eric Targon

I graciously replied sharing some options for further research along with suggesting he share the crew members' names he had collected.

Eric replied with the following message ...

Hi Cindy,

Thank you so much. Already just looking at the website I found stuff I didn't know! Ok so heres the name's of everyone on the flight that day. I hope you can just tell me if they are alive and can forward a message for me if they are. History is important to me and I want to pass it on to my children. The names are.....

Fred Abigt

Ernest Baker

William Broad

Carl Johnson

Louis Panther

Antonio Rosetano

Alonzo Sullivan

Hope someones alive! Thanks for all the help.

Eric Targon

I then sent that list of names off to our secretary, Ruth Castleberry who was able to locate a survivor and one widow through our membership database. Ruth is now coordinating the exchange of letters between Eric and the surviving members.

I can't tell you how happy I was! The connection has been made.

I asked Eric to jot down some notes about what this all means for him. Here's what he sent over.

I started looking in 2012 for any survivors from my great uncles plane crash. I reached out to a few places and was told there were no survivors still alive. That wasn't good enough for me. I knew there had to be someone who knew my great uncle or was even on the plane with him. So one night this year I decided to look again. I have my great uncles picture and medals



See what your missing!



Visit the 388th Bomb Group Association Facebook page and see videos and photos of Oshkosh.

www.facebook.com/388thbga

We are now accepting credit card payments!

People can pay reunion fees, membership fees, make charitable donations and much more.

A link to this can be found on www.388thbga.org under the store section. See you there!

COMING SOON!

Your 388th PX will be available online with many new items at www.388thbga.org under the store tab.

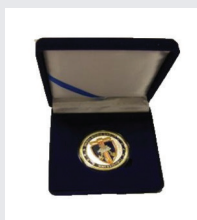


**All
merchandise
INCLUDES
postage!**

we accept:



"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.

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.

hanging on the wall in my house so I am always reminded that there are stories I'm not too sure of. I got to searching again and came across your website and I think you know how that's gone for me. I've reached out to Fred Abigt's family on Facebook and found that he was alive when I first started my search. So to me this means more than just the war. For starters, I love history. My great uncle is a Purple Heart recipient as am I so the need to figure out what really happened was really on my mind. Another and probably the last reason is that my family needs to know this. When my great uncle Marty was killed in action, my grandfather's life was changed forever. I remember always seeing the picture of Marty on the wall and that's it. No medals, no stories and too nervous to ask. Unfortunately, I never had the courage to ask about Marty or any other family history and my grandfather would die a year before I attended Marine Corps bootcamp. Now, at 27 years old, I want to know more. I want to make sure my future kids and grandkids know the stories. I want them to know how I fought in the desert and about the injuries I sustained for my country and our freedom. I want them to know about the "greatest generation" and how their family member helped serve and give everything he had in the pursuit of freedom. At this point, I want to find anyone who either knew my great uncle or hopefully was on the plane that day he sacrificed everything. I want to hear the stories, see the pictures, and be able to keep them alive for the future generations. All I can say to that generation is to share their stories. Speaking about war is tough but needed and luckily as warriors and as the time goes by we are figuring that out slowly but surely. We are apart of history and it's our responsibility to educate the future.

Thanks,

Eric Targon

Thank you Eric and Ruth for helping to make this healing connection.



All my love and gratitude to the greatest generation ever. I'm so proud and honored to serve as your President. I can't wait to see you all in San Diego!

With my deepest respect,

Cindy



***Applications for the 2017
388th Bombardment Group Association Scholarship
Program are 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!

tthomas@danforthcenter.org or 314-587-1436.

**The deadline to submit application and essay is
May 31, 2017.**





388th Bomb Group Association Reunion

Crowne Plaza San Diego, 9/6/17 – 9/9/17

We wish to share important information to facilitate the hotel booking process for your upcoming event.

MAKING RESERVATIONS:

A dedicated website is now available for your attendees to book their hotel rooms online. Reservations can be made starting 11/15/16.

BOOKING WEBSITE:

<https://aws.passkey.com/go/a9ede5a5>

(Copy and paste onto web browser)

It is important to share this website with your attendees as soon as possible.

PHONE NUMBER:

Please ask for the “**388th Bomb Group Association Reunion**” rate when calling. Call in hours are from 7am to 11pm, EST.

1-888-233-9527

CUTOFF:

The last day to make reservations will be **8/16/17**. All individual reservations have a 48-Hour cancellation policy.



The 388th Bomb Group Association

68th Annual Reunion Registration

San Diego, California

September 6-10, 2017



CUT-OFF DATE FOR REGISTRATION IS July, 14, 2017

To cancel and receive a full refund, contact Staci Long before the cut-off date of July 14. Cancellations received after July 14, but before July 31, will forfeit tour payments and registration fee. No refunds will be made for cancellations received after July 31.

Thursday, Sep 7

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Join us for a narrated sightseeing tour, exploring the scenic beauty and fascinating history of San Diego's waterfront
(drinks & snacks available for purchase)



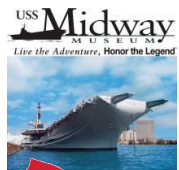
5:15 PM – 9:00 PM

Cheer on the San Diego Padres as they take on the St. Louis Cardinals. We'll have our own hospitality suite with prime viewing for the game – Dinner, drinks & snacks provided

Friday, Sep 8

8:30 AM – 10:45 AM

Experience the USS Midway Museum – an unforgettable adventure as you walk in the footsteps of 225,000 Midway sailors. Explore more than 60 exhibits with a collection of 29 restored aircraft



11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Following our tour, we'll head to The Fish Market, San Diego's premier destination for seafood and San Diego Bay views. A waterside lunch buffet will be provided



Saturday, Sep 9

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Business Meeting

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Social/Cocktail Hour

6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Dinner, Raffle, President's Address
(cash bar open through dinner)

Reservation form for 388th Bomb Group Association Reunion, September 6-10, 2017

NAME _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

GUEST(S): Full names please _____

REGISTRATION FEE REQUIRED FOR ALL ATTENDEES

\$45.00 X _____ = \$ _____

Thursday San Diego Bay Tour; Padres Baseball Game/Dinner

\$86.00 X _____ = \$ _____

Friday USS Midway Tour with Lunch at The Fish Market

\$57.00 X _____ = \$ _____

TOURS SCHEDULED AFTER JULY 14 ARE SPACE AVAILABLE ONLY

Saturday Banquet (includes tax & service charge)

Lemon Caper Chicken

\$45.00 X _____ = \$ _____

Baked Mahi Mahi

\$45.00 X _____ = \$ _____

Chicken Tenders (kids 10 & under)

\$21.00 X _____ = \$ _____

MEMORY BOOK

\$12.00 X _____ = \$ _____

DONATION (optional)

\$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

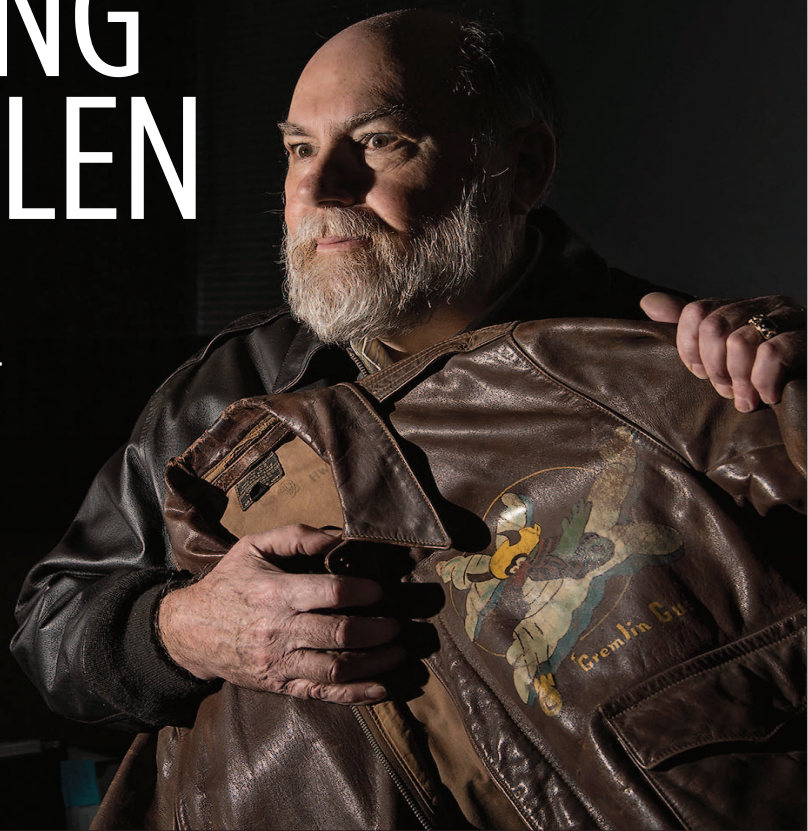
Write check payable to 388th Bomb Group Assn. Mail check and registration form to:

Staci Long, 1120 Squaw Valley, Rockwall, TX 75087

(Phone 786-525-7188, Email stacirae@mac.com)

HONORING THE FALLEN

ON SEPT. 8, 1958, TWO B-52 STRATOFORTRESSES COLLIDED WHILE LANDING AT FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE. THIRTEEN AIRMEN WERE KILLED AND THREE INJURED. THE INCIDENT WAS THE WORST DISASTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND'S B-52 BOMBER OPERATIONS.



DAN PELLE danp@spokesman.com

Families raising funds for monument to crew at base's Memorial Park

By Jim Camden

jimc@spokesman.com, (509) 879-7461

Greg Staples remembers hearing a big “thump” as he was sitting down to dinner on a late summer evening in 1958 with his mother, brother and grandmother, who was celebrating her birthday. They looked out a window from their home on Fairchild Air Force Base and saw a B-52 on fire and ejection seats.

He and his brother didn't pay much attention to the schedule their father kept as a B-52 navigator, but their mother did. “She was on the front porch, screaming his name,” Staples recalled recently.

Maj. Donald Staples, a World War II veteran who had flown 25 missions over Europe, was aboard Outcome 54, which was coming in for a landing at Fairchild. Another B-52, designated Outcome 55, had just finished a “touch-and-go” landing and was coming around for its final landing. Both were on training missions.

Outcome 54 was scheduled to practice an instrument approach; Outcome 55 was practicing visual flight landing. About 2 miles from the runway, over the town of Airway Heights, the two mammoth bombers collided, then exploded, sending a torrent of airplane pieces raining down. The two planes had 16 crew members between them; 13 died.

The nation's new B-52s had only arrived at the West

ABOVE: Greg Staples holds his father's vintage flight jacket. Maj. Donald Staples (pictured at right in 1944) died in a B-52 crash in 1958.



A memorial for Outcome 54 and Outcome 55

Capt Donald Staples was a proud member of the 388th Bomb Group and served as navigator on the Jarrendt crew, Gremlin Gus II, of the 560th SQ. He stayed on active duty after WW II and served in the Korean Conflict and the Cold War. His family is planning a memorial to commemorate the awful crash of two B-52 bombers that took his life in 1958. It was a beautiful late summer day. Outcome 55, a nearly new B-52D assigned to the 327th Bomb Squadron was completing a Cold War training mission and had called the Fairchild tower "just completed touch and go, going around for a full stop. End of mission." It's sister aircraft, Outcome 54, from the

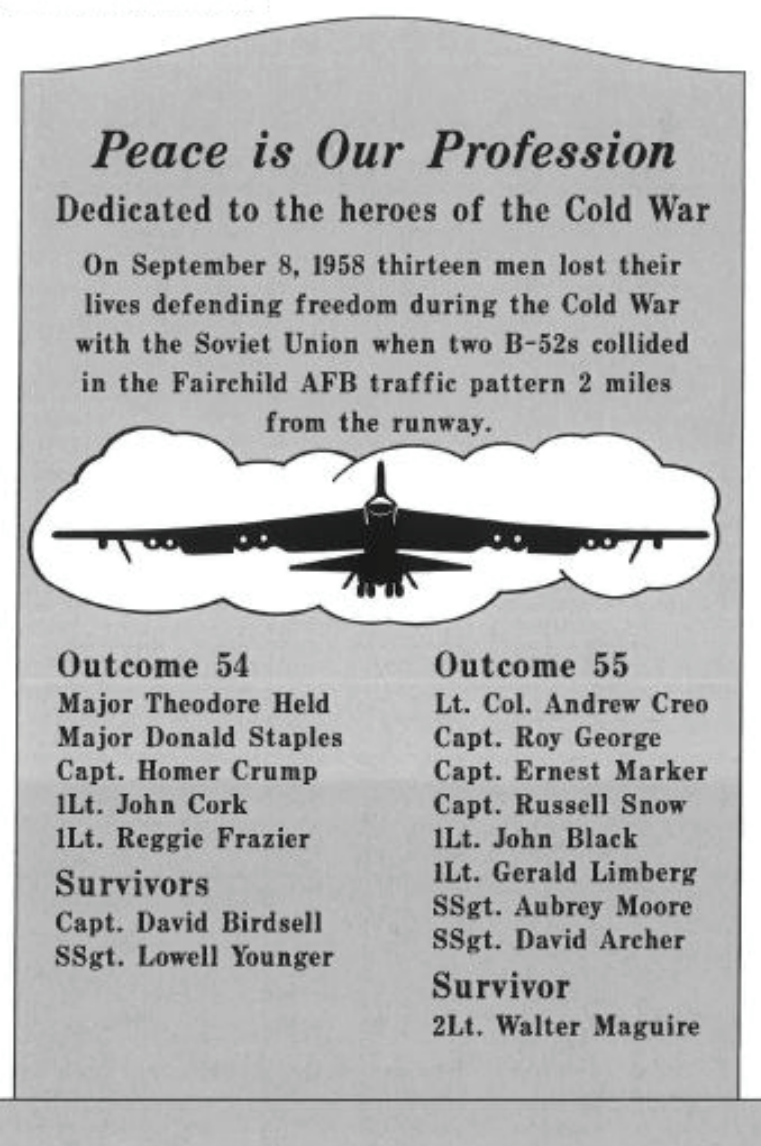
325th Bomb Squadron of the 92nd Bomb Wing was making a simulated instrument approach. They never saw each other and collided over the small town of Airway Heights, two miles from the end of the runway. The 327th Commander was killed along with 12 other officers and airmen. Three men survived. The families are planning a granite memorial to be placed in Memorial Park, Fairchild AFB, WA. If you have questions or comments or would like to offer financial support, you can contact outcome54@outlook.com or Greg Staples, 4715 W Larchwood CT, Spokane, WA 99208. Anything helps.

Thank you.

Monument fund

The families of bomber crews killed when two B-52s collided over Airway Heights on Sept. 8, 1958, are working on a monument that would be placed in Fairchild's Memorial Park. They've set up an account to help raise money for the stone and base at www.gofund-me.com/1958Bomber, and can be reached by emailing outcome54@outlook.com.

Complete story can be found at: <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2016/dec/19/families-plan-memorial-for-victims-of-1958-bomber/> or contact newsletter@388thbga.org



worm pin on the lapel of his suit coat. It was a silkworm and was given to anyone that used a parachute to save their life. It was quite a conversation generator and he was proud to tell you about it.

He was in Stalag 17. He always bragged that there was a movie made about his experience although he said the movie was nothing like the real event.

Time has made some of these events fade but there are certain ones that are still very clear. I remember him explaining how they didn't have much to eat but he added, "Neither did the Germans". As the end of the war neared the guards disappeared and the Americans left the camp in search of food. One particular story involved a bakery where the men went in search of bread. They entered and were told that there was no bread, it hadn't been baked yet, so they left. Most of the men moved along but dad suspected they weren't getting the truth so he stood in the shadows and watched seeing customers going in and out of the bakery, carrying with them loaves of bread. He went back into the bakery and found the bread and loaded the arms of his coat with four loaves and headed back to camp. A farmer passed him in a cart so he jumped on to catch a ride back to camp. He discovered a bucket of eggs the farmer was hauling so he took those and the bread so the men had fresh cooked eggs and bread. He claimed it was one of the best meals they'd had in a long time.

I grew up with an adoration of the B-17 that he instilled in me. I remember watching the television series 12 O'clock high with dad and I now realize that was a privilege. He was a side gunner and I envisioned many times, him standing at the window firing his 50 cal. Machine gun at enemy fighters as they streaked by. A B-17 came to the Twin Cities once for an air show so I asked dad to go with me to see it. It wasn't a pristine aircraft, it was used for hauling freight and hadn't been restored, but it was the first time I had the opportunity to go into one.

I wanted dad to join me but he declined, claiming he spent enough time in them and the last time he was in one he had to jump out. I took a picture of him standing outside the aircraft from the side gunners window which I thought was quite fitting.

Dad passed away in 1990 but shortly afterwards a completely restored B-17 came to the St Cloud, Minnesota airport so I took my granddaughter to see it. I wanted her to understand this part of our countries history and what her great grandfather flew in. It was remarkable. Completely restored and outfitted with guns, bombs and everything. We gladly paid a fee to tour the craft and we both went through it. We entered through the pilot's access door and viewed his controls and instruments, then the bombardiers location which was very fascinating and I looked into the top ball turret gunners location to understand his view. A highlight was to cross the catwalk over the open bomb bay doors and stand at the side gunner's location and touch the 50 cal. Machine gun and consider the events that my father experienced.

If you could afford the price, you could take a flight in that B-17 and we watched it "load up" several times. It was amazing to see those propellers turn over and hear those engines come to life. There is nothing quite like seeing that beautiful airplane lift off the runway and into the sky, just like they did so many times back in England years ago. A flight in the B-17 is definitely on the bucket list but it was just a bit too expensive that day. Someday, before I die, I hope to get the opportunity to fly in one and experience the sounds and smells and feelings it generates.

One last story, I was attending a softball tournament in the twin cities and I was coming up to bat and I heard this unusual aircraft so I stopped and stepped away from the plate. I looked up into the clear blue afternoon sky and there it was. A beautiful B-17, reflecting the sunlight and all four engines roaring as it flew overhead and the world stopped for a moment and



I was transported back in time and I envisioned that last bomber and crew making it home to its base and all was well with the world.

I enjoy the newsletter so much and I see the stories of these hero's disappearing in every issue with the "Taps" list. We owe so much to these brave airmen but they were just "doing their job". God bless their memory.

Thanks again and keep up the great work

Sincerely,

Tom Nelson

Veterans Needed

Looking for veterans
who are willing to be
interviewed by 388th
Bombardment Group
Association Scholarship
Program applicants.

contact:

Ruth Castleberry at
(501) 472-9068

Please leave your name and phone number so
Ruth can match a veteran with a student



'Silver Lady' Returns

After many years out of print, *The Silver Lady* is available once again. First written in 1972 by 388th veteran James Facos, the novel has been re-released by Merriam Press.

A fictional account of the Starrett crew and their beloved B-17 during 1944, *The Silver Lady* was drawn from Facos's personal experience as ball turret gunner with the Arthur Moreland crew in the 560th Sqd. The crew flew 30 missions between March and June 1944 in their own *Silver Lady*.

In addition to its vivid combat action (including a terrifying crash landing), the novel evokes deep personal memories of life at Knettishall.

The book also examines how the human spirit is tested when faced with the horrors of war.

A playwright, poet and novelist with several published works, James Facos taught English for 30 years at Norwich University and Vermont College. He and his wife Cleo live in Montpelier, VT.

The Silver Lady, ISBN 9781576385586, sells for \$13.95 at Amazon and other outlets.



**Abridged Minutes of the 388th Bombardment Group (H) Association
67th Meeting of the General Membership*
August 6, 2016
Oshkosh, Wisconsin**

1. Call to Order. President Scott Long called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
2. Invocation. Carol Anne Linzee Chan.
3. Purpose of Annual Meeting and Bylaws Review. Scott Long.
4. Robert's Rules Review. Scott Long.
5. 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes. Members received copies of 2015 minutes, 2016 meeting agenda, proposed bylaw changes and slate of proposed directors. Motion made to approve the minutes of the 2015 general membership meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Reports from Liaisons Plus
 - Knettishall Memorial. Terry Woodford-Thomas. Contributions will be solicited to cover the expenses to resolve drainage problems and proposed installation of benches.
 - 388th College Scholarship Program. Terry Woodford-Thomas. The winner of 2016 scholarship essay contest was Addie F. Todd.
 - Hill AFB Museum Kiosks. Rick Thompson. Hill AFB Museum needs volunteer(s) with video-editing skills to edit recorded interviews.
 - PX Update. Christy Wammack. Increased PX sales credited accepting to credit cards.
7. Officers and Committee Reports. Reports were received and placed on file.
 - Director at Large. James Zographos (absent).
 - Senior Director. Terry Woodford-Thomas Terry.
 - 1st Vice President. Cindy Hayes.
 - 2nd Vice President. Rick Thompson.
 - Secretary. Carol Anne Linzee Chan.
 - Corporate Agent. Basil Vann (absent).
 - Historian. Dick Henggeler.
 - Parliamentarian. Kelly Moore.
 - 2017 San Diego Reunion Committee. Ann Turley and Kim McDonald.

Motion made to put the said reports into the record. The motion passed unanimously.

 - Treasurer. Staci Long. Motion made to approve the "Payment of all debts". The motion passed unanimously.
8. Old Business
 - Motion to Increase Annual and Lifetime Dues. Scott Long. James Zographos, proposed a motion to increase dues at the 2015 Annual Meeting. Consensus was to postpone consideration until the 2016 Annual Meeting.

The Board proposed to increase annual dues for all classes of membership except for life and honorary from \$10.00 to \$20.00 and lifetime dues from \$50.00 to \$75.00.

The bylaws currently state in "Article VI: Dues and Assessments, Section 1: Dues.

 - A. Annual dues are \$10.00 per year for all classes of membership except life and honorary memberships. Annual dues may be fixed at any annual meeting by a majority vote of the members present.
 - B. The dues for lifetime membership have been established as a one-time payment of \$50.00.
 - C. Widows of life members will continue as life associate members without the payment of additional dues.
 - D. Widows of non-life members can con-

tinue in associate membership upon pay-



ment of the usual annual dues (\$10.00) or can convert to life membership by paying the life membership sum (\$50.00)."

The proposed language would only change these two numbers, and if ratified, the Bylaws, Article VI would state in: "Article VI: Dues and Assessments

Section 1: Dues

A. Annual dues are \$20.00 per year for all classes of membership except life and honorary memberships. Annual dues may be fixed at any annual meeting by a majority vote of the members present.

B. The dues for lifetime membership have been established as a one-time payment of \$75.00.

C. Widows of life members will continue as life associate members without the payment of additional dues.

D. Widows of non-life members can continue in associate membership upon payment of the usual annual dues (\$20.00) or can convert to life membership by paying the life membership sum (\$75.00)."

This motion proposes to amend "Article VI: Dues and Assessments, Section 1: Due; by striking out \$10.00 and inserting \$20.00 for all classes of membership except for life and honorary to increase annual dues, and by striking out \$50.00 and inserting \$75.00 to increase lifetime dues.

A motion was made from the floor to ratify the proposed amendment to the bylaws and the motion was seconded. Vote was taken by show of hands from the floor, the motion passed unanimously, and the amendment to the bylaws was adopted.

9. New Business

- Motion to Change Newsletter Delivery Procedures. Scott Long stated the background regarding a proposed motion to change the newsletter delivery procedures. The 388th currently spend over \$1,000 per edition mailing the newsletter to 950 recipients. The Board wants to make sure original members and their spouses who want a hard copy continue to receive one free of charge, but in an effort to make sure the Association is being a good steward of limited resources, the Board proposes the following motion to change the Newsletter delivery procedures.

Specifics:

- Newsletter editor will e-mail the newsletter to all members with an e-mail address.
- Newsletter editor will send hard copies of the newsletter free of charge to original members and their widows who desire a copy, unless they prefer e-mail copies.
- Outside of original members and their widows, the newsletter editor will charge an appropriate fee to any member who wishes to have a hard copy mailed to them.
- Members will have until the completion of the 2016 Annual Meeting to convey their preference.
- Beginning with the fall 2016 edition, the newsletter editor will only mail hard copies to those original members and widows who requested a hard copy by the deadline.
- Pricing Options: Fall and Winter: \$4.00; Spring and Summer: \$4.00 Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer: \$8.00.
- Checks payable to Treasurer or via 388th BGA website.

A motion was made from the floor to change the newsletter delivery procedures to email all newsletters as stated above to email newsletters to all members with an email address; send free of charge hard copies to all original members and their widows, unless they prefer an email copy; outside of original members and their widows, the newsletter editor will charge an appropriate fee to any member who wishes to have a hard copy mailed to them. Vote was taken by show of hands from the floor, the motion passed unanimously.

- 2018 Annual Reunion location. Scott Long. BOD recommended Boston, Mass. or Coco Beach, Fla. A vote by a show of hands from the floor was taken and the majority selected Boston, Mass.

10. Nominations and Election of New

Officers. Scott Long read the names of the



individuals nominated for the following positions:

- Director at Large. James Zographos
- 1st Vice President. Rick Thompson
- 2d Vice President. Tony Smith
- Secretary. Ruth Castleberry
- Corporate Agent. Henry Curvat

Motion made to ratify the slate of officers. Motion ratified and passed unanimously.

11. Other Business. Scott Long. August Bolino addressed the membership about the future Centennial of World War II, offering to establish a \$5,000 fund donated over three years supporting celebration of this event. Motion made to accept the funds with specifics to be worked out. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Motion to Adjourn. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made and carried by unanimous vote. Scott Long declared the meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Kelly K. Moore

Parliamentarian

*388th Members wishing to receive the unabridged Minutes of the 67th General Membership Meeting please contact the 388th at <http://www.288thbg.org>

Minutes were abridged to fit the constraints of the printed publication.

A Big Shout Out ...

And a humongous THANK YOU for a job well done! A small team of dedicated individuals were successful in setting up an investment account to perpetually fund the preservation and maintenance of our Knettishall Memorial. To Ben Forrest - the visionary, Henry Curvat - the wing man, Rick Thompson, the facilitator, Staci Long - financier extraordinair, and all the big-hearted donators, I have two words for you ... World Class! We plan to share all the details during our annual board meeting.

I hope to see you there.

Cindy

TAPS



Raymond E. Peebles

Raymond Earl Peebles Sr., MD, of Little Rock, Arkansas, died January 8 at age 94.

A 560th Sqd. pilot, he flew 33 combat missions, 2 Chow Hound missions and one POW return mission between January 29 and May 16, 1945. Prior to flight training he was a machine-gunner in the Alaskan Defense



Command.

After attending college at Ouachita Baptist University, Dr. Peeples graduated with a degree in medicine from the University of Arkansas in 1950. He served as a naval officer while completing his internship during the Korean War. He was a general practice physician from 1951 through 1958 before specializing in anesthesiology, which he practiced in Tulsa, OK and Hot Springs, AR.

After retirement he and his wife Bonnie were medical missionaries for a year in Nigeria and then participated in shorter mission trips to Brazil, Haiti and Honduras.

Dr. Peeples, a longtime member and deacon of First Baptist Church of Hot Springs, was predeceased by Bonnie, his wife of 60 years; and by son Carroll Peeples.

He is survived by sons Raymond E. Peeples Jr., MD and Alan R. Peeples MD; by eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Services with military honors were held in Little Rock.

Rolland E. Sears

Rolland Eugene Sears passed away on January 4. A resident of Orinda, CA, he was 94. As a pilot in the 560th Sqd., he flew 35 missions between late September 1944 and early March 1945.



Born in Bakersfield, CA, Mr. Sears lived briefly in Davenport, IA before his family moved to Richmond, CA, where he spent his youth. He graduated with a degree in aeronautical engineering from California Polytechnic State University.

Following the war Mr. Sears went to work for Standard Oil Company of California (later Chevron). During his 37 years with the company, he moved his family to Washington, Utah, New Mexico and England. His first wife, Doris, whom he married in 1948, died in 1973.

He was a member of Bay Cities

Lodge 337 of the Grand Lodge of California Masons and was a board member for 25 years and past president of the American Assn. of Individual Investors (AAIL) San Francisco chapter.

Survivors include Isabel, his wife of 40 years; daughter Helen Chaknova, son Lowell, and three grandchildren.

Carol Walker

Carol Walker, 92, widow of 388th BG member Neil Fredrick Walker, passed away at her home in Yuma, AZ on January 14. She had been a regular attendee of 388th reunions since 2005. Neil Walker was a radio operator/flexible gunner on the Richard Richards crew, 562nd Sqd., and on the Donald Salles crew, 563rd Sqd. He completed 30 missions and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters.



Born in Huntington, IN and raised in Champaign, IL, Mrs. Walker graduated from the University of Illinois College of Agriculture in 1946 with a BA in home economics. She met Mr. Walker in 1948; they were married in January 1949.

After her husband's death on November 7, 1952, Mrs. Walker returned to the University of Illinois and obtained her teaching degree in institutional management. She eventually received a master's degree in education. She taught high school in small towns in Illinois until 1958 when she moved to Yuma, and for the next 24 years taught home economics and related subjects at Yuma High School, retiring in 1982. In 1986 she started a new career in real estate investing and property management, retiring for the second time in 2010.

Mrs. Walker is survived by daughter Christy Wammack, son Neil Alan Walker, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Graveside services were held at Desert Lawn Memorial Park in Yuma, where Mr. Walker's ashes were re-interred with those of his widow.



388TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION (THE)
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Squadron _____ Position _____ Aircraft Name _____

Pilot _____ No. Missions _____ POW (Date) _____ STALAG LUFT _____

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Please fill in known information above, Squadron through POW information, for relative.

Mail to: Ruth Castleberry, Secretary, 388th Bomb Group Assn., Inc.
2 Beaver Ridge, Conway, AR 72932-8229 Email: secretary@388thbg.org or rcastleberry.fcds@gmail.com