



43RD BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION, INC.
"KEN'S MEN"



NEWSLETTER 123rd EDITION
JANUARY 2013

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Headquarters Squadron

63rd Squadron

Charles Rauch (2015)
James C. Diffenderfer (2013)

64th Squadron

Robert W. Cooper (2015)
Ralph D. Grubb (2013)

65th Squadron

James W. Eide (2015)
Samuel F. Commons (2013)

403rd Squadron

Frederick J. Lloyd (2015)
George O. Anderson (2013)

Past Presidents

Robert Butler 1981-1984*
George L. White 1985-1987*
William H. Wilson, Jr. 1988-1991*
Dale F. Barr, Jr. 1992-1993*
Max Osborn 1994-1995*
James T. Murphy 1996-1997*
Samuel F. Commons 1998-1999
Max M. Axelsen 2000-2001
Roger T. Kettleson 2002-2003
Charles Rauch 2004-2005
Jim Cherkauer 2006-2007
James Thompson Jr 2008
Eldon "Bud" Lawson 2009-2010
Arvid J. Hougum 2011

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 2012 Dayton Reunion is history, small in numbers, but huge in good times and accomplishments.

We have initiated a new beginning for our beloved 43rd Bomb Group Association, Inc. in starting the process for the next generation to take over from the "Greatest" generation. "At the member's General Meeting on October 25, 2012, the voting members agreed to permit any descendent of a regular member to become a regular member with the right to vote and hold office effective immediately".

The current officers were elected for one year terms and **Susan Lanson** was elected Vice President (it is customary for the Vice President to succeed the President at the end of his or her term). **Rick Lloyd** was elected to the board representing the 403rd Squadron and **Ralph Grubb** was elected to the board representing the 64th Squadron. I threatened to break his pipe if he didn't agree. The board members whose terms expired in 2012 agreed to serve an additional term (3 years). Yes, there were some heated discussions on the changes to the by-laws, but in the end we were perhaps better friends than before. I know that I would have been happy to have any of them on my bomb crew!

Daniel Knickrehm, historian for the 43rd Airlift Group, Ft. Bragg, NC (the 43rd Airlift Group is the direct descendent of the 43rd Bomb Grp) and **Scott Miller** of George Mason University gave presentations. These two are our best bet for preserving our history permanently.

We had a Cash Bar and snacks set up in the memorabilia room Thursday evening. Thanks to Susan Lanson for snacks which she sponsored. Everyone was invited to step up and use the OPEN mike for anything they would like to say. Once started, we had a continuous flow of stories, jokes and serious comments. This segment was so popular that it was carried over to the next evening. I knew we had a winner in this idea when **Garrett Minnick** stood up from his wheel chair and walked briskly to the podium. Minnick is 97 years young. I did not count but I think he made 3 trips to the mike.

Two tours scheduled for the Air Force Museum were near capacity. On Friday, we were admitted one hour before opening to visit the B-17 and the B-24. The barriers were removed and we had free access to the aircraft. We were escorted in small groups through the entire restoration area. Most of the staff is volunteers, retired skilled craftsmen. The innovations they used to duplicate parts were mind boggling, their skills awesome. We were bused to the Wright Patterson Officers' Club for a delicious lunch and back to the motel. There was a lot of resting during the afternoon. Thanks to Susan Lanson and **Michael La Veau** for making the arrangements for this tour and luncheon.

We had heavy snacks and a cash bar Friday evening and fun with the open mike continued. The memorabilia room was open from 7:00 AM until 11:45 PM daily. **Bud Lawson** did an outstanding job in organizing and setting up the extensive memorabilia. Dan Knickrehm and his charming wife, **Roxanne**, spent their time in the memorabilia room reviewing data or interviewing attendees. Dan took most of the memorabilia data back to NC. He promised to return it at the next reunion.

On Saturday, most of us returned to the museum for an "on your own tour". The National Air Force Museum is overwhelming with its scope and size. I hope to return someday when I have at least a week to see more of it. Our traditional banquet was Saturday night. Thanks to **Jimmy Diffenderfer** for his generosity in paying for the free bar for all. The food was good and the company was the best for an enjoyable evening.

Thanks again to Susan Lanson for getting us a 25 piece band (Gem City Band) to play for our dinner dance. This band has a policy of not charging anything for veteran groups.

We had a continental breakfast at our Sunday memorial service. Garrett Minnick gave the invocation and Rick Lloyd gave the message. Twenty-one names were read and TAPS was blown by the band leader who came back for our service. **Ed Gammill** led the circle of friends in giving the benediction

Opportunities and Challenges:

The cost of printing and mailing newsletters is our largest expense item. They are on the web site before most receive their copy by mail. Please if you have access to a computer advise Ed Gammill to remove your name from the newsletter mailing List. The savings to the association will be approximately \$3.50 per issue per person.

Communication is difficult, especially since we have only two newsletters annually. Is there a way the social network could be utilized for communication.? Without Facebook I would never hear from my children or grandchildren.

The future of our association depends on how many next generation individuals step up with a willingness to work and move forward.

Bob Richardson

*****BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING*****

At 7:00 PM, October 24, 2012, the 43rd Bomb Group Association conducted it's annual meeting in the Room of the Holiday Inn Dayton Fairborn, 2800 Presidential Drive, Fairborn, OHIO.

ATTENDEES: Richard Richardson, President; Eldon "Bud" Lawson, Treasurer; Edward Gammill, Secretary; **Charles Rauch**, 63rd Director; **Robert Cooper**, 64th Director; Ralph Grubb, 64th Director; **James Eide**, 65th Director; **Sam Commons**, 65th Director; Frederick Lloyd, 403rd Director and **George Anderson**, 403rd Director.

Members and Guest: **Jim Cherkauer**, Past President; Susan Clark Lanson, Michael La Vean, 2011 Reunion Hostess and Host; **Tracy Tucciarone**, Website and Sweetheart of the 43rd ; **Louise Voght Terrell**, Website; Scott Miller, George Mason Archivist; Dan Knickrehm, 43rd Airlift Group Historian; **Shirley Richardson** and **Sylvia Chatterson**.

President Richardson opened the meeting with a welcome to all. He outlined what he hoped to accomplish and his desire to do so promptly.

1- He asked for the reading of the 2011 Board Meeting minutes. A motion by Bob Cooper, that the minutes, as published in the October 2011 Newsletter, be accepted. This was second and passed with thanks by the Secretary.

2- Treasurer “Bud” Lawson reported our bank account balance was \$21,208.28. Due to many problems, he was unable to give a detailed report.

As reported in the October 2011 Newsletter “Bud” missed his first reunion last year. Those problems, that caused this, are still with him! Plus, he has had many bad weather problems. But since he is only just up-the-road from Dayton, he decided he would make this one! We are very happy you were able to make it “Bud”.

3-Bob Richardson reported on the physical and financial status of the 2012 Dayton, OH Reunion. Bob deserved a big **“WELL DONE”** for his coordination and directing of the Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.

4-Susan Clark Lanson reported all activities of the 2011 Reunion were closed. She returned \$4172.00 of the \$10,000 start-up funds to the Treasurer

5-Scott Miller gave a brief report on placing 43rd Bomb Group data in the George Mason University Archives. Steve was thanked for the rapid handling of data and having it available for the 2012 Memorabilia Room.

6-Dan Knickrehm reported his activities as the 43rd Airlift Group Historian. Dan also reported he was traveling in his truck and would be able to take any Memorabilia and data to the JAY ZEAMER HEADQUARTERS BUILDING on Pope Air Force Base for archiving and proper display. An e-mail is an attachment, in which Dan tells of the plan for 43rd Bomb Group history.

NEW BUSINESS

1-Status of the Board Members: The Secretary informed the 63rd, -64th and 65th Squadrons that 2012 Directors terms were expiring and sadly the 403rd Squadron had lost both of their Directors. President Richardson directed the Squadron to elect new Directors in the Squadron Meeting and to present them during Thursday’s General Business Meeting.

2-Since there is no longer a standing Nominating Committee, New Officers and Board Members to be presented at the General Business Meeting was obtained by appointment or voluntary participation. The president will present these candidates at the General Meeting for consideration.

3-President Richardson asked if the Association should be shut down? The reply was 10 **NO** to 2 **YES**.

4-In view of the declining Membership, a discussion pertaining to **who can vote, be officers and directors** as defined by the **BY LAWS OF 43rd BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION, INC.**, was conducted and resulted in this resolution–**“Resolved that the Child of a current or**

past Member may become a Member with the right to vote and hold office effective immediately.” An amendment from the floor was made to change the word **Child** to **Descendant**. The amendment and resolution was approved by the Board—10 Yes and 2 No.

5-Robert Cooper, being a good Texan, volunteered to be the Custodian of our Texas incorporation **CERTIFICATE 43RD BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION, INC.** The Secretary was instructed to send Robert the requirements for maintaining a current certificate.

6-The Board instructed the Secretary to delete all PD-07 delinquent dues Members from the Mailing List. 75 delinquent members have been removed from the Mailing List!

OLD BUSINESS

- 1- The Secretary and Treasurer reported handling of newsletter and banking, in Snyder, TX, appears to be improved. The Elain Pierce work load has been reduced as we clean up the mailing list and transfer the newsletter to our web site.
- 2-Larry Hickey did not reply to my request, in time, to present his status report at the meeting. I received his reply dated October 27, 2012, among the 167 e-mails that accumulated in the five days I was off line! Larry’s e-mail is an attachment to this newsletter.

*******GENERAL MEETING*******

Minutes of the General Meeting on Thursday, October 25, 2012 in the Memorabilia Room, Holiday Inn Dayton Fairborn, 2800 Presidential Drive, Fairborn, OHIO.

President Richardson welcomed all members and guest to the General Meeting. He noted that only **Members** were permitted to vote on items of Association business.

The resolution allowing descendants, of those who served in the 43rd Bomb Group, to become **Members** with full voting rights, serving as directors and officers of the Association was presented and discussed. The resolution was accepted by 10 YES to 2 NO vote.

The President then directed the various officers and committeemen to report the past years activities.

REPORTS

- 1-With thanks from the Secretary, a motion from the floor asked that the Minutes as published in the October 2012 Newsletter be accepted, was approved.
- 2-Treasures’s Report-Due to personal problems “Bud” Lawson was unable to present a detailed report. He reported the present bank account balance was \$21,208.28.
- 3-Bob Richardson report on the status of the 2012 Reunion. Although the final billing had not been received from AFRI, he indicated total expense to the Association would be small.
- 4-The Membership Committeeman reported issuing five invitations. Four were accepted, one Associate Member and three new Members.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1-The President offered the following candidates for Officers of the Association for 2013: Vice President-Susan Clark Lanson and incumbent officers: President-Robert Richardson, Treasurer-Eldon “Bud” Lawson and Secretary-Edward Gammill. When President Richardson ask for nominations from the floor, there were none. The President declared, by executive order, that the membership approved the 2013-2014 Officers as presented.

2-The Squadrons reported the nomination of their 2015 Directors (a three year period as required by our By Laws). The voting members approved the nominated Directors.

The **Board of Directors and Officers**, for the year 2013, are listed on the first page of the newsletter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1-My correspondence with Larry Hickey and his response, which was received too late to be presented during the meeting, is included as an attachment.

2-The 2013 Reunion location, schedule and dates is being worked and will be forth coming. By a special mailing if necessary. Remember , the web site can have current information, so log on once-in-awhile!

*****THE DAYTON-FAIRBORN OHIO REUNION*****

October 23, my daughter and I arrived at the hotel very late, sans luggage! The airline promised that our luggage would be on the next arrival-10:30 that night. It was not! Dayton is a difficult airline journey!

After checking in, tooth brush and paste provided by the hotel, we visited the bar for some food and liquid relief. To our surprise, “Bud” Lawson was keeping the bar tender company. Very happy to see “Bud” and we spent some time talking and drinking. “Bud” informed us that he and Bob Richardson had set-up the Memorabilia Room with all of his data.

The next morning, **October 24**, first day of the reunion, I very carefully showered in the “Slippery Bathtub” for I did not wish for a second induction into the **Knights of the Royal Order of the Slippery Bathtub**.

Then, the Memorabilia Room, to review the data arranged by Bob and Bud the previous day. I found my note books in the box sent in by Scott Miller as promised. All data is spectacular and was reviewed by members and many visitors during the next 5 days! Scott also had a continual visual display on a large screen that showed some of his interviews. Plus other data.

Susan came in and I assisted her in setting up the Sign-in Table. Although there were no specific caps for this reunion, there were many from previous reunions, which were on sale for \$5.00 each. Also mugs, with the 43rd Bomb Group Unit Emblem, were on sale for \$10.00 each. The sign-in sheets for each squadron were on the table and the reunion was officially on!

Shirley Richardson and Anita Cherkauer assisted in the Sign-in activity for the entire



reunion. These three ladies deserve a very BIG THANK YOU! I am sorry if I missed anyone!

Each attendee received an extensive package that included an 8 X 10 envelope from AFRI. The envelope contained the activity schedule, tickets, name tags, instructions for all activities and a breakfast chit for every morning.

Also the Greene County Convention & Visitors Bureau gave each attendee a large

cloth bag and a neck lanyard/pouch that provided a place for everything one would need when traveling around the area.

Visiting with friends and visitors filled the rest of the day until the Board of Directors Meeting that evening. After the meeting, there was much visiting in the Memorabilia Room, during which I talked to **Tracy Tucciarone and Louise Terrell**, the ladies that updated and revised our website. We had been communicating for some time via e-mail on this project. The last time, I saw Tracy, was the 1999 Tucson Reunion. I had not personally met Louise.

I had the honor of introducing both to the membership. The introduction is an attachment.

October 25-Continued activity in the Memorabilia Room until the General Meeting adjournment. That afternoon, **David Kiley**, son of **David Kiley, 63rd Squadron, Crew Chief** and his wife **Linda**, who live in Dayton, visited our reunion. After introductions and review of Kensmen data and memorabilia, they invited Hazel and me to lunch. Lunch was at the TEXAS ROADHOUSE, very good food with interesting Texas humor!

The Kileys had a very good Kensmen meeting and we traded some data/photos from the South Pacific days.

After the Squadron Meetings, since we did not have a Guest Speaker, everyone settled in the Hospitality Room for what may become a regular event at future reunions. Susan informed the attendees that it was an open microphone and the subject was **“Living Conditions”!** Several Kensmen responded! We learned about **housing, bedding, bunks, six man tents** and had some very good jokes from **Jimnee Dee!**

I have only one suggestion for the future stories/tales, when a specific subject/topic is given, please stick to it! The audience is not interested in your story from birth to present!

During this get together, snacks (**Thanks Susan**) and a Cash Bar were available, which received much activity!

October 26-in the morning we continued registration activity and visiting in the Hospitality Room. The bus departed for the WRIGHT-PATTERSON MUSEUM. We had some time before the conducted tour. So several, watched movies in the IMAX Theatre. Our conducted tour started in the WWII Hanger. The B-24 and B-17 Memphis Bell were major attractions as were the many other

aircraft from both our allies and our enemies. Very impressive!

Next the Presidential Aircraft Hanger! From **FDR's**, who had the first assigned aircraft. It was rather modist. All, after **Truman's**, became large and well outfitted! The most beautiful, in my opinion, was **Eisenhower's “Columbine”** a Lockheed L1049.

Next was lunch at the Wright-Pat Officer's Club. The food and service



I KNEW YOU ONCE

*I knew you once upon a time
Like I knew many more,
I think I knew your last name
Before I learned the score.
You worked and slept alongside of me,
A member of the crew,
Not knowing you would soon be gone,
Your life would soon be through.
You did your duty on the gun,
You were good at what you did.
No one would think by watching you
That you were just a kid.
I really don't know what it was
That hit you on that day,
No time to stop, we carried on
No one knew what to say
Your place was filled by another kid
Who looked about the same.
And now I wish I knew you then..
I wish I knew your name.*

Courtesy

Scott Aylesworth, 720th BS
450th Bomb Gp (H), Cottontails Assn,
and WWII combat crew member.



was excellent and all I can say is: "Those folks know how to live!" The day ended back at the hotel. The evening event was spent in the Hospitality Room again. Hors d'oeuvres and a Cash Bar were available. An open microphone yielded WWII stories, clean jokes and other tales of interest.

Wade Kehr, 403rd Squadron, Waist Gunner, read this poem in memory of all Kensmen that did not return home.

October 27-The bus departed for the Air Force Museum at 9:00. Our first stop was the 5th Air Force Memorial. Jim Dieffenderfer and I placed flags on each side of the Memorial Bench, that was dedicated during 1988 Reunion. The following photos display



some of this activity, unfortunately several Kensmen were unable to be on this tour. After reviewing the memorial, some took the bus and others walked to the museum. On the way, we walked past an artistic display of the latest Air Force F-22 fighters.



Once inside the museum, we roamed around WWI aircraft , followed by aircraft between WWII and the Korean and Vietnam affairs. I was surprised to see a B-1 bomber with the name **BOSS HOG!** The nose art was a **“RAZORBACK”** hog, the mascot of my Alma Mater!

Also there were F-86s, F-15s, Navy A-6As, C-5s and F-105, which I worked on during my AiResearch engineering career. I am sure that all of our Kensmen found something that was of importance to them. The museum is well presented and is a great experience.

After we returned to the hotel, the Saturday evening activities started with our amateur photographers recording the well dressed Kensmen ready for the big show!

I do not know why this event is always so chaotic! My daughter recorded many photos of each squadron’s men and supposedly the total Kensmen attending. There is one or more missing in every photo! Shear chaos, flash lights and cameras snapping, but missing people!

Afterwards, an excellent dinner, an open bar (**thanks Jimmee Dee**) and dancing to our kind of music. Sadly, Ray and Dorothy Crawford were not present to be the first on the dance floor.

THE GEM CITY BAND, which Susan Lanson found, is interesting. The leader is **Kevin Murachanian**. His father, the elder gentleman in the photo conducting, started the band and is a WWII Navy veteran.

He created the band with the agreement that they would play free for all veteran groups. The group, all volunteers, do charge for their services at other functions which covers some of their cost.

They obviously do it for the love of it!



October 28-Sunday breakfast in a private setting. President Richardson asked Garrett Minnick to give the invocation and Rick Lloyd to read **Max Axelsen's** message.

The reading of the names of our friends and members who have left us this past year was: Bob Richardson– 63rd Squadron, Robert Cooper–64th Squadron, Jim Eide–65th Squadron and George Anderson , Sr.–403rd Squadron.

<u>63rd SQUADRON</u>	<u>64th SQUADRON</u>	<u>65th SQUADRON</u>	<u>403rd SQUADRON</u>
Tom Dow	John Q. McCabe	Mary Wilson	Thomas G. Daubert
Roy L. Perry	Lyle E. Goldner	Wife of William	Abraham Hellman
Roland T. Fisher	Gladys Rodella	Seymour Dresher	Jack H. Strange
Fred Peters	Wife of Jim		Francis Drab
Richard Howard	Jim Rodella		Leo H. Thaler
Leroy Jasmer			
Athill W. Irvine			
Clifford L. McHenry			
Audrey Dieffenderfer			
Wife of Jimmy Dee			

As Kevin Murachanian played **TAPS**, there wasn't a dry eye in the room. We closed with a circle of faith and friendship, holding hands as we asked for **HIS Blessings** for all members, visitors and the members of our Military Forces.

Many started "good byes" and started heading for home. Tracy, Hazel and I continued visiting in the Memorabilia Room. Susan asked Tracy to come out to the Sign In Table. After some time, Tracy had not returned.

I went out and found her, sitting at the table, crying! This is when I became aware of the second sad event during this reunion. Tracy had been informed that her father had just passed away. All present expressed their sorrow and offered help in her return home. Tracy returned home that evening. Her message to all Kens Men is an attachment.

Some time around 1:00PM, Jo Bachi, Hazel, Rick Lloyd and I departed for the airport via an independent shuttle. The owner/operator was very friendly and wanted know about our reunion. The trip to the airport was much more enjoyable and much less costly than the trip to the hotel by taxi on October 23!

The only excitement on the return home occurred at O'Hara. After we landed, it required almost as much time as the flight from Dayton to O'Hara, to arrive at a parking place! This was obviously due to construction.

I am glad that, I waited until most of the passengers deplaned. As I arrived at the door, I was confronted with one of those 1950 inclined stairs! I had a hard time going down, but found a wonderful lady from the Philippines who was waiting with a wheel chair. She was a talker and knew of her home land history during WWII. She also knew her way around the airport. We spent about an hour listening to her "Happy Happy Talk" while going through several airline terminals. Finally we arrived at our gate, just in time to board the flight home. The remainder of the flight to Phoenix was uneventful.

****EDITOR'S AND MEMBER'S REPORT****

“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak.

“Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”

Winston Churchill

“The advancement and diffusion of knowledge is the only guardian of true liberty.”

James Madison

There are people, who the more you do for them, the less they will do for themselves.

Jane Austen, English author (1775-1817)

July 19---A new Associate member, **Brian S. McKendry**, grandson of **William Delaney, 63rd Squadron Aircraft Maintenance.** Brian's address: 112 Harrison Avenue, Blackwood, NJ 08012 Phone (856) 374-9197.

At the 2011 Board of Directors Meeting a motion, to place a 5 year limit on non payment of dues, was passed. Therefore, if your dues are in arrears for 5 years or more, you will be dropped from our mail list. The Board also wants Life and Comp recipients to indicate your wish to continue receiving the newsletter. Because undeliverable mail is not returned by the Post Office, no response will indicate that the address can be dropped.

I repeat this request from the October Newsletter. Please review your present dues payment status. The code on the address label of your Newsletter envelope must be **PD12, LIFE or COMP. WARNING---if the PD-O8 members do not update their dues payment, they will be removed from the mail listing. It is not the Board's wishes to remove anyone, but we must learn who is no longer an active member.**

Louis Miklos, Jr, Donald G. Rumsey, Gerald Egger, Douglas Patterson, Wayne E. Downing, Charles Stenglein, Weldon H. Yost, Raymond Gates, Wendell W. Jones, Garrett L. Minnick, William Myles, Van Cooper have brought their dues payment up-to-date. Amy Nally up graded to LIFE.

July 24, 2012 a note from **Gerald Egger, 63rd Squadron, Armament:** “Ed, I’m sending a check to bring my dues up-to-date”.

William Myles reports a change of address: 12505 Village Circle Drive Apt. 261, St. Louis, MO 63131

During the 2012 Reunion, the following new members joined the Association:

1-Sylvia S Chatterton, 2216 Oak Valley Drive, Muscative, IA 52761.

2-Daniel J. Knickrehm, 43 AG/HO, 259 Maynard St.--Suite B-00, Pope Field, NC 28308-2393.

3-Sally Jo and J. M. Mitchell, 11603 Valley Road NE, Cumberland, MD 21502. Phone 301-777-8440. Sally Jo is **Garrett Minnick's** daughter.

4-Van Cooper, 6361 #8 Rancho Mission Road, San Diego, CA 92108. Phone 619-282-3486

5-T. R. and Cindy Parrish, 217 Misty Oaks CT., Lexington, SC 29072. Phone 803-359-0005

July 25, 2012 **Douglas A. Patterson**, son of **George Patterson, 64th Squadron, Bombardier**, responded to my letter (dtd 11/26, 2011) re the confusion of dues payment. “I guess I am pretty delinquent, also, in getting back to you. I believe I sent my dues checks to Elaine Pierce, but don’t have a record of that.

“Anyway, my address label says PD-07. So here is another payment, which should get me up to date!

“I hope to make it to Dayton and speak with Jim Rodella who was with my dad’s crew!”

Douglas

Included with his dues payment, **Garrett Minnick 64th Squadron, Medic** wrote: “To the Group, Enclosed is my check for dues for 2012 and 2013. (Optimistic!)

“I have really enjoyed being a member of this great group of guys and the wonderful reunions we have had over the years. My beautiful wife **Mary** (who passed away in 2008) and I traveled the country to attend. When travel became too difficult for us my daughter **Sally Jo Mitchell** and her husband **Mike** offered to travel with us so we could still attend. They continue to attend with me to make sure I am able to travel and attend. My daughter tells me they have more fun with the guys than I do!

GOD bless all of you and we will see you in October, by which time I will be 97 years young. I really enjoy the newsletter, keep’em coming. Off we GO!

Garret Minnick

August 20, received a phone call from **Nancy Solomon**. She informed me that she would not be attending the reunion, for she had been invited to sing at the Vatican on the same dates of our reunion. I was unable to acquire all information and asked Nancy to send an e-mail. Her story of her adventure is included in an attachment.

August 23, I received the following letter from **Mary Goldner**, wife of **Lyle E. Goldner, 64th Squadron, Ball Turret Gunner**. “I am writing to let you know of the passing of my dear husband on January 25, 2012. I didn’t meet Lyle until he returned to work for the FBI, where I was employed.

“We attended several of your conventions. Also, former members of his crew had 5 or 6 mini-reunions at different locations throughout the United States. I learned a lot of what they did during the war. They seemed to have fun, as well as face danger on some of their flights. Lyle was the last survivor of the crew. There are 3 widows still remaining.

“I was wondering what I could do with some of the military clothing he brought back with him. There is a leather jacket with an airplane painted on the back which he was very proud of. If you have suggestions about what to do with these items, they would be appreciated. Years ago, he received a call from someone who said he was opening a Museum, but Lyle would not part with anything!

“Thanking you in advance, I remain—“

Mary Goldner

August 23, I received this note from **Alan Matsoff, 64th Squadron, Nose Gunner**-- "Hi Folks, not sure why Wendell sent this to me, so I'm forwarding it to you!"

The envelope was from **Wendell W. Jones, 64th Squadron**. It contained his dues payment for 2012.

Welcome a new Associate Member, **Judy Broward**, daughter of **Howard Hovland, 63rd Squadron, Pilot**. Judy's address is 2240 NW14th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32605-5213, phone (352) 373-7527.

A new member, **Frank W. Zimmerer, 65th Squadron, Aircraft Maintenance**. Frank writes: "I joined the Army Air Corps when I was 21 years old. We were to leave New York on the Normandy (French Liner) but it caught on fire! We were sent to Bangor, Maine and later we traveled to Boston, MA, where boarded the Queen Mary on 27Feb42. We moved south and east making stops in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Capetown, South Africa; Perth/Fremantle, Australia and finally arriving in Sydney on 28March42.

"I was stationed in the Randwick Race Course where we had additional training and some instructions on the maintenance of B-17 aircraft. After about 6 weeks we moved north, by train, truck convoy and flight, to various bases in the state of Queensland. Our next move was to Port Moresby, New Guinea. Following several moves, I ultimately arrived at Owi, a small island in the Schouten Island Group. This was my last overseas assignment, from which, I returned to the states.

"I was at all of the stations listed for the 65th on the website: Sydney, Charleville, Iron Range, Mareeba, Australia and Port Moresby, Dobodura, Nadzab and finally Owi Island, New Guinea.

"Enclosed is my 2012 dues. I am 92 years old. Are there other 65th Squadron men around? I would like to contact John I. Murphy 2nd, pictured in photo at Cochran Field, VA dated 8/20/45 by T/Sgt. Cushing. I look forward to hearing from you".

Frank W Zimmerer

An e-mail addressed to Tracy, gave this message from **Drew Paton**: "Greeting to all!!!. **John Garcia, 403rd Squadron, Waist Gunner** is a very dear friend. We have had many chats, and he is a great guy. Johnny just turned 95, August 1.

"The Collings Foundation will be in our town, Orange, MA from September 17 through 19 with a P-51, a B-17 and of course the B-24 "**Witchcraft**." I will take John out to the flight line, for the day, one way or the other!

"In the meantime, I would like present him with a membership in the 43rd BG Association and somehow secure a Mareeba Butchers 403rd Squadron patch and a 43rd Bomb Group patch. Please advise if these are available.

"He has a photo album that I am trying to have scanned and reproduced. He became sick during his tour, but insisted on remaining on flight status with his camera, You can imagine the shots he has in that album!

"Glad to see you are still up and running—Be well"

Drew Paton

PS: My father was in New Guinea as a fresh Lt. Director of Maintenance and Supply for USAAF. I have never been able to find out what group/squadron etc. He received his call-up December 8, 1941. He remained in until June 1945 (all in New Guinea and Australia). He made a career in the USAF and retired in September 1971 as a full bird Colonel. He passed away September 1988.

Dan

7Nov12, from **Wade Kehr, 403rd Squadron, Waist Gunner**: "It was great meeting all the officers who take the time and energy to keep the 43rd alive! I wrote Susan Lanson saying how well she did also!

"Please find the copy of a poem I read on Saturday night. If you have room, will you include it in the next newsletter. Best wishes for Health and Happiness to you and family!!"

Wade Kehr

9Nov12, Treasurer "Bud" Lawson's report after Sandy: "The hurricane Sandy decided to go west! We were hit quite hard. We didn't see the sun in over a week and parts of Bay Village were out of power for days.

"We were lucky, only out of power about eight hours last week. Two large oaks on my lot fell away from my house. All stores were out of power for most of last week. We had plenty of frozen food plus milk, eggs, etc.

The 43rd Bank balance is \$21,208.28, no bills submitted by President Richardson at this time."

Bud

26Nov12, a note concerning **Chuck Rauch, 63rd Squadron, Navigator**--"I'm at Chuck's house, straightening up! I see the photos that you mailed and thank you for them. It is appreciated.

"Chuck is in the hospital. He went in a week ago today, just plain sick and abdomen hurt some. He was on intravenous and ice chips for 5 days. They planned surgery, but was delayed because of medication/blood thinner, which should not been given to him.

"Day five, a very infected gall bladder was removed. He is progressing, but was a very sick guy. As soon as the infection reaches a level that antibiotics can be given by mouth, rather than intravenous, he can go home. Depending on the culture check, it may be tomorrow.

Sylvia writing for Chuck Rauch

November 28, an e-mail from Tracy: Reporting a message from **Warren Bender** of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. "I was a **Tail Gunner, 65th Squadron. Ralph Miller** was my Pilot. Are there any crew members still living? If so, please contact me via phone (717) 201-3976".

Warren's e-mail address is: <buddy628@hotmail.com>

December 4, an e-mail from Louise Terrell: Ed, Please place a reminder in the next newsletter regarding registry with the National WWII Memorial. Many Kens Men had the opportunity to see the memorial during the 2011 visit to Washington, D.C.- It honors the millions who served in the armed forces as well as those who supported the war effort from home. I have seen several of our members are registered, but there are many who have not.

They or a family member can do so through this link
<http://www.wwiimemorial.com/registry/edit/donor_nameaddr.asp>

If they prefer, contact me at <terrellfamily5@verizon.net>. Also, they may send me a note at 7318 Lightship Court, Burke, VA 22015. I will be happy to help in any way I can.

Louise

*****MEMORIALS*****

As reported, above by **Mary, Lyle E. Goldner** reported to Heaven's Flight Line January 25, 2012. His obituary is in the Attachments.

October 5: "I wish to let you know my dad, **LT. Col. Harold G. Thompson, 403rd Squadron**, passed away September 1st at the age of 91.

"I found your newsletters among his papers, so I assume that he was a member of this bomb group during WWII. He was always proud of his service, the Air Force and America. He was buried with military honors in the Jacksonville National Cemetery in Jacksonville, FL".

Sincerely,

Karen Day

October 20, Joyce Rodella sent the following: "Ed, dad (**Jim Rodella, 64th Squadron, Gunner**) passed away this morning, mom passed away on October 10. Please let others in the association know.

"We were planning on coming to the reunion next week-----he was looking forward to seeing everyone".

Joyce

As a result of my correspondence and meetings during the 2012 Reunion with **David Kiley**, son of **David Kiley, 63rd Squadron, Crew Chief**, I was informed of the 24Feb12 death of **James J. Conway, Jr., 63rd Squadron, Maintenance**.

T. R. Parrish son of **John W. Parrish, 63rd Squadron, Pilot** provided the following about his father who passed away in 1995 : "I have made contact with Capt. Don Bancroft and I am looking for- **A. Musto** (0689627), **A. Gershaw** (Ti32916), **A. J. Waskoske** (0725112), **F. Sansosti** (33731724), **I. Nolan** (17098013), **G. Seigler** (35149903), **J. Kalosky** (31419573) and **K. Shepard** (36892936). Or anyone who flew with this crew or knew my Dad.

"His military records show that he entered active duty 27JUN44. He graduated flight training 26JUN44 from Pecos AAF, TX. During his service with the 43rd BG, he was stationed at Biak, Ie Ishima and Japan near Yokohama"

T. R. Parrish

During the last day of the 2012 reunion, Tracy was informed of the death of her father, Joseph Tucher, 65th Squadron, Flight Engineer/Gunner.

*******SENIOR MOMENTS*******

YES, I'M A SENIOR CITIZEN

I'm the life of the party.....Even if it lasts until 8 p.m.

I'm very good at opening childproof caps.....With a hammer!

I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up.

I'm smiling all the time because I can't hear a thing you're saying.

I'm sure everything I can't find is in a safe secure place somewhere.

I'm wrinkled, saggy, lumpy, and that's just my left leg.

I'm beginning to realize that aging is not for wimps.

Yes, I'm a **SENIOR CITIZEN** and I think I am having the time of my life

*******43rd HUMOR*******

Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused. Unknown Author

Does it bother anyone else when someone is on their cell phone and conducts very personal calls that you really don't want to hear, but are trapped into listening?

After a busy day, and just as everyone was settling down for a nap, on the train, as we headed for home. A man, sitting in our midst, hauled out his cell phone and started a loud, length conversation:

“Hi darling, it's Bob—I'm on the train—Yes, I know it's the 6:30 and not the 4:30, but I had a long meeting—No not with that floozie from the typing pool, with the boss—No, darling you're the only one in my life___ Yes, I'm sure, cross my heart, etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., blab, blab, blab, blab___”

When this went on more than 15 minutes, a young woman setting opposite him. Driven beyond endurance, yelled at the top of her voice, **“Hey, Bob! Turn off that phone and come back to bed!”**

From Jim Edie

“And **GOD** promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world!

“Then **HE** made the earth round-----and laughed and laughed and laughed!!”

Another from Jim

“Hostess Bakery plants shut down Friday. It was split up! The State Department hired all the Twinkies, the Secret Service hired all the Ho Hos, the Generals are sleeping with the Cupcakes and the Voters sent all the Ding Dongs to Congress!”

From Me

To all of the ladies and especially to blonde ladies! Can you believe it? The very first ever **Blonde GUY joke!** Well worth the wait.

An Irishmen, a Mexican and a Blonde Guy were doing construction work on scaffolding on the 20th floor of a building. They were eating lunch when the Irishman said, “Corned beef and cabbage! If I have corned beef and cabbage one more time for lunch, I'm going to jump off this building.” The Mexican opened his lunch box and exclaimed, “Burritos again! If I have

Burritos one more time I'm going to jump off, too." The blonde guy opened his lunch and said, "Bologna again! If I have a bologna sandwich one more time, I'm jumping too."

The next day, the Irishman opened his lunch box, saw corned beef and cabbage. Jump to his death. The Mexican opened his lunch, saw a Burrito, and jumped to his death. The Blonde guy opened his lunch, saw the bologna and jumped to his death as well.

At the funeral, the Irishman's wife was weeping as she said, "If I'd known how really tired he was of corned beef and cabbage, I never would have given it to him again."

The Mexican's wife also wept and said, "I could have given him tacos or enchiladas! I didn't realize he hated Burritos so much."

Everyone turned and stared at the blonde's wife. **Oh, this is so GOOD, enjoy it--- blonde ladies!** She said, "Don't look at me. **He always made his own lunch!**"

A Testimony for JD!

I went fishing this morning, after a short time, I ran out of worms. Then I saw a cottonmouth with a frog in his mouth. Frogs are good bass bait!

Knowing the snake could not bite me with the frog in it's mouth, I grabbed him right behind the head, took the frog, and put it in my bait bucket. I grabbed my bottle of **Jack Daniels** and poured a little whiskey in its mouth. His **eyes** rolled back, he went limp, so I released him into the lake without incident and carried on fishing using the frog.

A little later, I felt a nudge on my foot. It was the snake. It had two more frogs!

Words of Wisdom for Aviators!

Flying is a hard way to earn an easy living.

Both optimists and pessimists contribute to society. The optimist invents the airplane; the pessimist invents the parachute.

If helicopters are so safe, how come there are no vintage helicopter fly-ins?

Death is just nature's way of telling you to watch your airspeed.

Real airplanes use only a single stick to fly. This is why bulldozers and helicopters (in that order) need two.

It's not that all airplane pilots are good-looking. It's just that good-looking people seem more capable of flying airplanes.

An old pilot is one who can remember when flying was dangerous and sex was safe.

Airlines have really changed; now a flight attendant can get a pilot pregnant.

There are only two types of aircraft—fighters and targets.

The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline baggage.

*******INFORMATION*******

This newsletter is published two times a year - **January and July..** Please send **membership applications** and **dues payments** to **Edward L. Gammill, 5337 E. Earll Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85018-8045.** Please keep in mind that annual dues are **\$20.00 per year.** Please make the check to the **43rd Bomb Group Association.**

Send items for the **Newsletter** to **Ed Gammill** at the **US Mail address above** or via e-mail to Edgammill@aol.com. Any material receive after the 15th of the month prior to a publication month probably will not appear in that publication.

*****ATTACHMENTS*****

- 1-2012 Reunion Attendees List
- 2-Larry Hickey Letters
- 3-Tracy and Louise Introduction
- 4-Nancy Solomon's e-mail, dtd 8/27/2012.
- 5-Tracy's Note to all Kensmen
- 6-Obituaries

2012 REUNION ATTENDANCE

63rd SQUADRON

Ed Gammill
Hazel Gammill Lundin
Chuck Raush
Sylvia Chatterton
Robert Richardson
Shirley Richardson
William F. Perkins
Ada Jo Bachi
Jim Dieffenderfer
Ann Fletcher
Scott Dieffenderfer
Brian McKendry
James Moss
Fred McKendry
T. R. Parrish
Flo Sogaard
Worth Bolton

64th SQUADRON

Bob Cooper
Van Cooper
Garrett L. Minnick
Sally J. Mitchell
James "Mike" Mitchell
Ralph Grubb
Dan Grubb
Louise Vought Terrell
Doug Terrell
Alvin Haas
Loraine Ross

GUESTS

Dan Knickrehm
Roxanne Knickrehm
David Kiley
Linda Kiley
Scott Miller

65th SQUADRON

Eldon "Bud" Lawson
Tracy Tucciarone
Jim Cherkauer
Anita Cherkauer
Sam Commons
Donna Marchere
Jim Eide
Steve Eide
John Calder
Victoria Calder
Wayne Downing
Nancy Downing
Amy Nally

403rd SQUADRON

Susan Clark Lanson
Michael LaVean
Rick Lloyd
George O. Anderson Sr.
George O. Anderson Jr.
George O. Anderson III
Florence Anderson
Gwenn Anderson
Lee Anderson
Wade Kehr

Subj: (no subject)
Date: 10/18/2012 3:27:38 P.M. US Mountain Standard Time
From: Edgammill@aol.com
To: larry@irandpcorp.com

Dear Larry, please give me a status report. I will be departing for the 43rd Reunion in Dayton, OH in a couple of days. I must give the attendees a status report. I hope you will help me! Ed

In a message dated 9/30/2012 12:54:41 P.M. US Mountain Standard Time, Edgammill@aol.com writes:

Dear Larry, please let me be the "**The Barer of Good News**" for the men of the 43rd! My US Mail Address is: Edward L. Gammill, 5337 E. Earll Drive, Phoenix, AZ 8018-8045. I am looking forward to a copy before I leave for our reunion, October 20.

Ed

From: Edgammill@aol.com
To: larry@irandpcorp.com
Sent: 9/3/2012 11:19:18 P.M. US Mountain Standard Time
Subj: BOOK STATUS

Hi Larry, it is that time again. Our 32nd reunion will be in Dayton, OH in October. I must report the status of the 43rd History book. I hope you can give me good news! How about a draft copy or better a published copy to SHOW and TELL.

Ed Gammill

Subj: **Re: BOOK STATUS; reply**
Date: 10/27/2012 9:30:24 A.M. US Mountain Standard Time
From: larry@irandpcorp.com
To: Edgammill@aol.com
CC: jeff@irandpcorp.com
Ed,

It isn't quite that simple but we are finally down to the last few weeks of the 43rd project. After a final scheduling meeting with my chief of staff, Jeff Moskowitz, we've set the final publication dates for the 43rd project and the other unit histories that are virtually completed. I've attached a copy of the memo to my employees that sums it up. When you get back from the reunion, we need to talk on the phone because we need to do planning for shipping books to current addresses of all of those who have previously pre-paid for books, and arrange how to handle the orders from people who are deceased or have no traceable next of kin. I want to have the shipping boxes all pre-labeled and ready to go when the books actually arrive in here in Colorado, so that there is no further delay in their receipt by those who have ordered them. As you can see from the attached memo, we've had to break both the 43rd and the 38th Projects into two separate volumes each due to excessive length. Everyone who has pre-ordered the books will therefore get two books for their purchase price, not a single volume. This is a very expensive way to go for me, but was necessary in order to maintain the overall quality of the project.

With the 3rd and 38th BG projects, I've currently got veterans from both units acting as "technical editors," whose task is to review the text and make sure that any obvious or stupid mistakes haven't crept into the manuscripts. I'm confident in the quality of our work, but I've always done this with every book that I've published and I've always been glad that I did. We don't have much time left, and we are extremely busy here with the final layouts, but we can still make minor changes and corrections for a short while. So, I'd like your recommendations of people from the 43rd who might have the time and interest in reviewing sections of the text that relate to the period when they were with the unit. We are just now going through our third and final edit at the same time that we are splitting the project into two parts, so as the chapters come out the other end of that process I'd like to see if we can still do this. Jeff is overseeing the overall project management and I'm handling the final editing and checking process. Jeff is the person working with the technical editing side of things, and he would be the one who you would work with you on this. I have my hands full doing the final edit and fact checking.

I'm sorry that I didn't get this to you sooner, but I'm totally swamped every minute of the day, and it has been a complicated and challenging task to put this final production schedule together.

Regards,

Larry

THANK YOU BOB FOR GRANTING ME THE HONOR OF INTRODUCING SOME SPECIAL MEMBERS..

<http://www.kensmen.com> THE ADDRESS OF A WORLD WIDE KNOWN WEBSITE. IT IS A COMMUNICATION TOOL, WHICH PERMITS WIVES, SONS, DAUGHTERS, GRANDSONS, GRAND DAUGHTERS, RESEARCHERS, WRITERS, AUTHORS AND PEOPLE WHO JUST WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE 43rd AND KENSMEN, TO DO SO.

IT WAS CREATED EARLY IN THE NINETEEN NINETIES, BY ONE OF OUR MEMBERS, WHO IS HERE TODAY!

THE WEBSITE CONTAINS THOUSANDS OF PAGES THAT INCLUDE HISTORICAL DATA/PHOTOGRAPHS, MAPS,, PERSONAL STORIES, ETC.

IT HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN MIA SEARCHES. WITH GREAT SUCCESS, AS WITNESSED AT OUR VISIT TO ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY LAST YEAR.

SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF FRANCIS TUCHER, 65th SQUADRON, FLIGHT ENGINEER--- SHE IS THE SWEET HEART OF THE 43rd—SHE IS THE CREATOR AND WEB MASTER OF KENSMEN.COM

TRACY, PLEASE STAND AND ACCEPT KENSMEN'S APPRECIATION AND LOVE FOR YOUR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE

THE DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM VOUGHT, 64th SQUADRON, RADIO/GUNNER, LOUISE VOUGHT TERRELL IS WITH US TODAY. LOUISE HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE AND HELPFUL IN THE REVISION OF AND THE ADDITION OF MUCH OF THE NEW DATA THAT IS NOW IN OUR WEBSITE. LOUISE PLEASE STAND AND ACCEPT OUR APPRECIATION AND LOVE FOR YOUR WORK ON BEHALF OF THE 43rd BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION.

Subj: **Re: YOUR ADVENTURE**
Date: 8/27/2012 9:19:12 A.M. US Mountain Standard Time
From: nansolo.srq@gmail.com
To: Edgammill@aol.com

Dear Ed;

In 2010, I received a special invitation to celebrate the 85th Anniversary of Tauck World Discovery, hosted by the Tauck family and CEO, Dan Mahar. The invitation said, "We combed the world in search of the perfect destination for a special anniversary event - and we found it in Rome, the Eternal City." Not only had the brochure promised we would visit the "must-sees"; there would be a private night of opera, a private Italian designer's fashion show, private lectures by noted Rome "insiders", and our hotel would be the Westin Excelsior, known as the "Grand Dame" of Rome. I made my reservation that very day.

The highlight of my "Roman Holiday" was the evening we had a private viewing of the Sistine Chapel, where we could stay as long as we desired to marvel at the masterpiece created by Michaelangelo. Then we were escorted to the Courtyard of the Pineapple to enjoy champagne, appertifs and canapes, followed by an incredible five course dinner accompanied by a quartet playing Renaissance music inside the Vatican Museums in one of the most admired galleries, the magnificent Braccio Nuovo, the Pope's private dining room, usually reserved for state dinners or special state occasions and rarely available to the public.

I could no longer contain my excitement of the thrilling evening I had experienced, so at the end of the dinner, to the astonishment of my fellow guests, I stood up at my table of twelve and sang the Bach-Gounod "Ave Maria". As I sang, the chefs and kitchen staff came into the dining room to listen, along with two of the Pope's private guards from the hall. The huge room filled with applause and two men walked up to me and asked if I could sing it again. I said "Certainly!" and did so. I thought they were with our tour. It wasn't until a few weeks later, when I received a large brochure entitled "Tauck Connections" that I found out who they were. Inside the brochure, to my amazement, was a picture of me on the arm of CEO Dan Mahar, as we left the Vatican and printed in bold letters under the picture was "A STAR OF THE VATICAN", followed by a description of the event and of those two men. One was the Head of the Vatican Museums and the other was the Museum Director of Security.

My dream of a lifetime was more than fulfilled. How often does one get to sing at the Vatican, let alone be asked to sing twice!!

In August, 2012, I was on another Tauck tour, aboard the river boat, MS Swiss Emerald touring France from Paris to Nice on the Cote d'Azur and Monte Carlo and Monaco on the Mediterranean, stopping at all the French towns along the Rhone and Saone Rivers. One of the tour directors recognized me from the "Roman Holiday" 2010 and asked me to sing to entertain the people the second night we were on the ship. She mentioned that she had phoned Dan Mahar to tell him I was on the cruise and that he said he wished he could be there to hear me sing. He added that he had just sent me an invitation to return to Rome again for a repeat of the "Roman Holiday", as so many people had wanted to do that tour and Tauck didn't have it listed in the brochures since the plan was not to return until 2015, the 90th anniversary of Tauck. After I returned home and reading the invitation which had the same picture of me and Dan Mahar leaving the Vatican, I immediately phoned Tauck and made my reservation. The problem was that the tour would be on the same dates as the 2012 43rd Bomb Group Reunion in Dayton, Ohio. I was torn between two loves, but I couldn't turn down another chance to sing at the Vatican. As much as I will miss all of you, I couldn't say no.

I will definitely see all of you in 2013 no matter where the reunion will be held.

Love, Nancy Solomon

Dear Kensmen

God bless you a thousand times for *everything*. It was, truly, a great joy to see you men again -- and to meet Hazel, too. And Louise and Susan. Everything was perfect and lovely, and I thank you and the other men for it. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

My Dad died in his sleep, Ed. He went peacefully, gently, with no struggle, no pain. He had a beautiful death: he fell asleep -- and woke up in Heaven. He fell asleep and opened his eyes to see my Mom, his parents, his brothers Don and Tony, his sisters, Frances and Mary. And I know they are all up there waiting for me. When God calls for me, I *will* see Pops again. I believe that to the depths of me. But there's something else about his death that I want you to know, and it wouldn't have been possible for me to know it if I hadn't been able to attend the reunion: remember the breakfast and the Memorial this morning, on Sunday the 28th? During the latter, a man from each Squadron stood up and read the names of the men who'd gone on during the past year. Then a bugler blew Taps, and all the men stood at attention, saluting their comrades. Then you and I went down to the Memorabilia room and talked for a while 'til I was given the news that my Dad had died. Ed, I talked to my brother and we determined that my Dad died at perhaps *exactly* the time all his brothers-in-arms were standing at attention and saluting while that bugler played Taps. I cried when I saw and heard all that, thinking of the Kensmen I've already "lost" and knowing my Dad likely wouldn't be on earth for the next reunion. Now that I know more about the timing of my Dad's death, I believe his soul was just leaving his body, en route to see the Face of Christ, *at that very moment the bugler was playing his dirge*. Maybe Dad was even in that room with us. It seems that those notes were not only for his fellow warriors, but for my Dad, too. And I got to be there.

I think there is something so perfectly and beautifully poetic that I got to be there in that room for that Memorial service at that exact time. I really have no words to express what it means to me. Like I told you, Hazel, and Susan, if I couldn't be at my Dad's bedside when he moved on, I'd have wanted to be with you Kensmen.

And there's one final thing: that morning, during the breakfast, I went around showing everyone this little baby "onesie" that has the words "Great-Grandkid of a Kensman" on it. I got it for my Dad's soon-to-be-born great-grandson, due on December 31. I think there's something beautifully poetic in *that*, too. An illustration of that great "circle of life." I'm proudly showing off this little "Kensman" baby outfit to you men and your families, an outfit to be worn by my Dad's great-grandson who hasn't even been born yet -- and moments later, my Dad got called home, with all his Kensmen brothers gathered together, mourning their dead. That little great-grandson of his will grow up knowing all about his Grandpa and what he and his fellow Kensmen did during the War. I will make sure of it. And maybe the 43rd Bomb Group Association will be filling out its membership ranks by that little baby and his brothers, sisters, and cousins twenty years from now. They will if I have anything to say about it anyway!

I dunno, Ed. The Reunion has been five of the greatest days of my life. And while it seemed to end on a sad note -- well, it *did* end on a sad note -- the note was played by a master musician who knew how to make music that's not just bitter, but *bittersweet*. There's no one outside of blood family I'd rather have cried on when hearing about my Dad than you. And, aside from being with Dad himself, there's no place I'd rather have been when Dad went to Heaven than with his Kensmen brothers. And to have had a bugler playing Taps and all you Kensmen at attention and saluting while my Dad's beautiful soul went skyward -- that is magical. I've got no words... No, I *do* have words: thank you. Thanks to all you beautiful Kensmen. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I love you all.

Love,
Tracy

Lyle was born on a farm in Ringgold County, Iowa, on February 13, 1923, where he attended grammar school in a little one room school house and was active in the Tingley Methodist Church. In October of 1941, he received an appointment from the FBI in Washington D.C. as a clerk where he remained until entering the Army Air Corp in July of 1943, where he was trained as an aerial gunner aboard heavy bombers. He flew 44 combat missions with the 43rd Bomb Group on B-24's in the South Pacific during eight battle campaigns and was decorated with the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters. After military service he returned to the FBI in D.C. and attended Benjamin Franklin University receiving a Bachelor and Master's Degree in Accounting. After graduation in 1950, he was appointed a Special Agent serving in the Louisville; New York City, San Antonio, and Sacramento offices until his retirement in 1974.

After retirement, he traveled with his wife throughout the US, Canada, South America and Europe; and he was even able to attend his 70th high school reunion two years ago in Mount Ayr, Iowa, where he served as the Master of Ceremonies. He was a member of the Methodist Church, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI serving in all offices of the local San Antonio Chapter.

Burial February 6, 2012

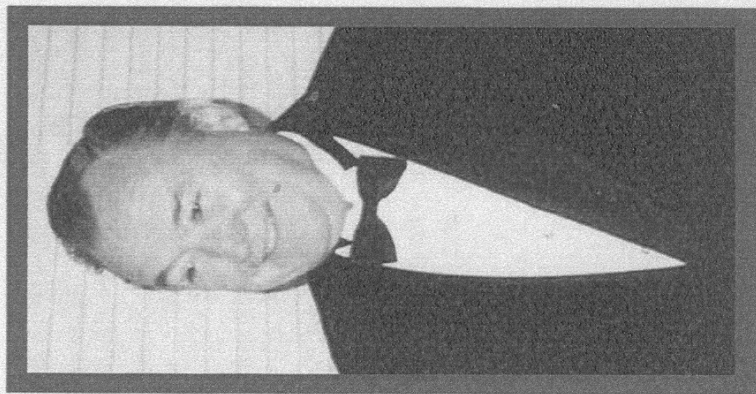
Fort Sam Houston National Military Cemetery

*Harry-Wurzbach Road
San Antonio, Texas*

10:45 AM

The Goldner family invites you to join us immediately following the burial in our home at 1411 Adobe Run, San Antonio, located north of Bitters, between Jones-Maltsberger and Heimer, off of Cross Canyon.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Lyle Eugene Goldner

February 13, 1923-January 25, 2012

Harold G. Thompson, 91 of Penney Farms, FL

[View Comments](#)



Harold G. Thompson, 91 of Penney Farms, FL died Saturday, September 1, 2012. Mr. Thompson was a native of Nolan, WV and was a resident of PRC for the past 10 years having moved from Albuquerque, NM. He was a veteran serving during WW II for three years and later retiring from the USAF Reserve. While living in Albuquerque, Mr. Thompson was a CPA for many years. He was a man of "Quiet Testimony" who believed in Christ as his Salvation. To his wife he was the "Greatest".

Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Delores Thompson, son, Ronald (Theo) Thompson, daughter, Karen (Leo) Diaz, two grandchildren, Marlys and David, four great grandchildren, Jaden, Jessica, Samara and Dakota.

Funeral Services will be held 10 am Wednesday, September 5, 2012 in the Chapel of Russell Haven of Rest with Rev. Russell Sasscer officiating. Burial will follow at 2:00 pm Wednesday in the Jacksonville National Cemetery with



James Rodella

Date of Death - October 20, 2012

Obituary

Age 86, of Penn Hills on Saturday, October 20 2012. James was born on December 2, 1925 to John (Giovanni) and Edith Gamora Rodella. He married Gladys "Boots" (Prosser) Rodella on October 23, 1948. Jim is survived by his three children: Judi (George) Cujas of Saegertown, Joyce of Penn Hills, and Jim (Maureen) of Collier Township. He is also survived by four grandchildren, Carrie Cujas (David) Schellenberger of Winter Springs, FL, Jason (Melissa) Cujas of Moon Township, Braden and Delaney Rodella of Collier Township. He is also survived by great grandchildren Ethan Schellenberger of Winter Springs, FL, Dylan Cujas of Moon and a third great-grandson expected in early December; also survived by many nieces and nephews. Jim was affectionately known as Uncle Butts. He was preceded in death by his wife on October 10, 2012, his parents, and brothers Joseph, Albert and William. Jim graduated from Turtle Creek High School in 1943. He served his country during WWII as a member of the United States Army Air Corps. He flew 42 missions as a top turret gunner in the South Pacific. He worked at Richardson Gordon and Associates and its successor, HDR in downtown Pittsburgh as a draftsman until he retired in 1988. Jim was a long time member of the Sub-Alpina Beneficial Society Club in Turtle Creek, serving as president for many years. He volunteered at the Penn Hills Senior Center. He also enjoyed golfing and bowling. Friends will be received Tuesday 2-4 & 7-9 PM at the JOBE FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY, INC. (MONROEVILLE/PLUM CHAPEL) corner of (445) Beatty Rd. & 48 North, Monroeville (412-856-4747). Funeral service will be Wednesday 11 AM at Zion Lutheran Church in Penn Hills. **EVERYONE PLEASE MEET AT THE CHURCH.** Interment with Full Military Honors to follow at Church Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family request donations to Zion Lutheran Church 11609 Frankstown Rd. Penn Hills, Pa 15235 or the Penn Hills Senior Center 147 Jefferson Rd. Penn Hills Pa 15235. www.jobefuneralhome.com



Gladys "Boots" Rodella

Date of Death - October 10, 2012

Obituary

Rodella Gladys "Boots" Prosser age 83 of Penn Hills on Wednesday, October 10, 2012. "Boots" (Gladys May) Rodella was born on November 8, 1928 to the late Edwin and Ada (Morrow) Prosser. She married James Rodella on October 23, 1948. She is survived by her husband of 63 years and her three children: Judi (George) Cujas of Saegertown, Joyce of Penn Hills, and Jim (Maureen) of Collier Township. She is also survived by four grandchildren, Carrie Cujas (David) Schellenberger of Winter Springs, FL, Jason (Melissa) Cujas of Moon Township, Braden and Delaney Rodella of Collier Township. She is also survived by great-grandchildren Ethan Schellenberger of Winter Springs, FL, Dylan Cujas of Moon and a third great-grandson expected in early December. She is further survived by her sister Gloria June (John) Perry of Churchill and her brother Edwin (Cheryl) of Cranberry Township. "Boots" grew up in Wilksburg and graduated from Wilksburg High School in 1946. After marrying Jim, she moved to Penn Hills. She was a homemaker. She loved to bake and sew. She made most of her own clothing until quite recently. She was an avid sports fan. "Boots" was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Penn Hills. The family is especially grateful to the Interim Hospice professionals, led by Denise Richardson during the last several months. Friends will be received Sunday 2-4 & 7-9 PM at the JOBE FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY, INC. (MONROEVILLE/PLUM CHAPEL) corner of Beatty Rd. & 48 North, Monroeville (412-856-4747). Funeral service will be Monday 11 AM at Zion Lutheran Church in Penn Hills. **EVERYONE PLEASE MEET AT THE CHURCH.** Interment at Church Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to The Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, 300 East Swissvale Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15218 or Interim Hospice of Pittsburgh, 1789 South Braddock Ave., Suite 340, Pittsburgh, PA 15218. www.jobefuneralhome.com



In Memory of
Seymour Dresher

March 1, 1923 - April 18, 2012

Dresher, Seymour

Beloved Husband of Sydelle.

Loving Father of Caryl and Neal.

Adored Grandfather of Aaron and Jillian.

**Services 9:30 AM Fri. at Boulevard-Riverside Chapel
1450 Broadway Hewlett, NY**

Funeral Service

Friday, April 20, 2012 | 9:30am - 10:15am

Boulevard-Riverside Chapels

1450 Broadway, Hewlett, NY 11557-1405 | 516-295-3100

Driving Directions

Graveside Service

Friday, April 20, 2012 | 11:00am - 11:30am

Montefiore Cemetery

Springfield Boulevard, St. Albans, NY 11412

Francis "Frank" Eugene Tucher

88, of Indianapolis, passed away October 28, 2012. Frank was born May 24, 1924, to Joseph Tucher (ne Giuseppe Tucciarone) and Angelina Tucher (nee Angelina Manzione). He served his country during WWII as an engineer-gunner on B-24 Liberators with the 43rd Bomb Group, "Ken's Men", in the Southwest Pacific Arena. After the war, he became an attorney and practiced law, first with Legal Aid, then with a small private practice through which he dedicated himself to serving the poor. He was married July 16, 1955, to Betty W. Tucher, owner of Busy Bee Donut Shop, who died July 29, 2003. He loved God and his family above all, was proud of his Italian heritage, had a deep passion for books, loved trees, had a beautiful sense of childlike wonder even in old age, and was known for his kindness and selfless, giving nature.

Frank is survived by his sister, Theresa Lucille Long; his brother, Vincent "Jimmy" Patrick Tucher; five children, Susan Kay Lineback, John Joseph Tucher, M.D., Tracy Elizabeth Tucciarone, Gregory Wood Tucher and Amy Annette Nelson, R.N.; ten grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, November 7, 2012, from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at **Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel**, 9606 E. Washington St. For the repose of his soul, a traditional Requiem Mass will be offered at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis, Thursday, November 8, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. He will be laid to rest next to his wife at Dale Cemetery in Connersville, Indiana.
www.shirleybrothers.com

James Joseph Conway Jr.

CONWAY, James Joseph Jr.

April 18, 1920 - Feb. 21, 2012

James was born April 18th, 1920 to Agnes and James Conway of West Haven Connecticut. He grew up in a loving home and was well known as a child song and dance man. He graduated from West Haven High School where he excelled in football, basketball, and baseball. He was the Senior Class president. He graduated from Quinnipiac College with a degree in Business Administration. He later attended Harvard Business School

He was drafted into the 5th Army Air Corp, 63rd Bomb Group and served in the Pacific Theater. He returned to West Haven and married his high school sweetheart, Shirley Lawson, also of West Haven.

He went to work for Atlantic Refining Company in 1945 in the Sales and Marketing Division and rose to the position of Vice President of Industrial, Commercial and Distribution in Los Angeles California. He retired in 1985 where he spent his time golfing, being with his family and supporting his church.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley; his children Sherrill Oram-Smith, Stephen Conway and Janis Munninghoff. He has seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

James, as a husband, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend always brought joy, comfort and a song to everyone he touched because he was always, "Young At Heart"

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday March 3rd at 11:00 am at St. Felicitas & Perpetua Church, San Marino, CA. A reception will follow the Mass at San Gabriel Country Club

In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to Methodist Hospital Foundation, Cardiac Rehabilitation 300 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA. 91007 in the name of James J. Conway Jr.

**Please visit cabotandsonsfh.com
online for condolence submissions.**