



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



NEWSLETTER 125th EDITION
JANUARY 2014

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Ralph D. Grubb)
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Samuel F. Commons
Frederick J. Lloyd
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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. Houghlum 2011*
Robert R. Richardson 2012-2013

*=Deceased

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The good, the bad and all in between will end in time. So it is with my two years as your president. Initially, I did not expect it to be easy, and I was not disappointed

WE SURVIVED (SORT OF)!

Norfolk, VA: 1991--425 attendees registered, I was co-chair with **Breezy Boren** and **Bob Butler** (actually I was "go-fer" for these two). Largest and one of the best reunions we have ever had.

Then there was Fayetteville, NC in 2013-- 30 registered attendees, smallest ever and no accolades, I was president. I accept responsibility.

I was ready to cancel the reunion. **Nancy Solomon** volunteered to phone all members she could, for the newsletter with the registration information had not been mailed due to illness of **Elaine** (Wilson Motors). At that time only 5 or 6 had registered. **Dan Knickrehm** got the hotel to extend the cut off date and we proceeded.

The 43rd Airlift Group welcomed us, helped in the tour of Pope Field and Fort Bragg. Honored Ken's Men and the 43rd Bomb Group at the Air Force Birthday Ball. This annual ball is a traditional event for all Air Force personnel.

The Ball was in one of the hangers and there were

several hundred in attendance. We were assigned seats at different tables and were introduced. **Col. Dan Tulley, CO** and his staff were quite gracious. The music was great. I think **Ed Gammill** is reporting on the tours else where in this publication. I ask our secretary to report on the minutes of the General and Board Meetings.

The main attraction was the AF Ball. Our president elect **Susan Lanson's** daughter was being married in Australia at the same time as the Ball. Guess where Susan was and rightly so!

In my opinion having Susan as our president was the best thing that happened during my term of office. If our association can be saved she will do it! I understand that our 2014 Reunion will be at the **George Mason University, Fairfax, VA** (15 miles west of DC). I predict it will be a great one. Let Susan know that we are Ready-Willing & Able to help her in any capacity.

Note to the attendees at Fayetteville. I apologize for my abruptness to many of you. I was quite ill during the entire reunion. I was admitted to the hospital three day before the reunion with Sepsis and discharge myself the first day of the reunion. I am recovering, but I still have a way to go.

Bob Richardson



Standing left to Right: Joseph L. Sosnowski, Flt, Engineer, Robert R. Richardson, Jr., Top Turret Gunner, Athill W. Irvine, Radio Op., David Fishoff, Tail Gunner, Clifford L. McHenry, Nose Gunner, John Klein, Radar Op., Kneeling L to R James F. Hampshire, Bombardier, Thomas J. McCue, JR., Navigator, Edwin D. Pheasant, Co-Pilot, Rodger W. Little, Pilot. 5AF, 43BG, 63SQ

Thanks Bob, you have served your country and the 43rd Bomb Group Association (Ken's Men) well!

SUSAN'S FIRST REPORT

It is with great pride that I write this first President's report, the first not only from me but from a non Veteran. This is an especially proud moment for me as I know what it took for many of you to turn over the reins, even if only symbolically. I would like to thank you and tell you that with the support of not only Bob Richardson, and Ed Gammill, and this years fantastic Board of Directors, I will do my best to make sure you never feel that trust has been misplaced.

Our outgoing President, Bob Richardson, is not only a dear personal friend of mine but an amazing person who has taught me a lot and who I hope will continue to do so. His strength and guidance is needed and much appreciated. He has worked tirelessly for this organization and I'm sure will continue to be involved as much as possible in the future.

As many of you know, I am the daughter of **Leonard H. Clark**, a pilot and commander of the 403rd Squadron and by war's end, Group Operations officer



He went on to serve in both Korea and Vietnam, as many of you did, but again, like many of you, never talking about it. Not until his death did I confirm what I already knew, what a wonderful and brave man he was. Through a collections of documents, artifacts, letters and photographs, I pieced together the story of his time in WWII only to find a rich tapestry of human kindness and sacrifice. I am not sure it is as common today.

This collection of my father's mementos from the Pacific became the starting point for my campaign to preserve the history of the 43rd Bomb Group, with that in mind, I went to George Mason

University. Convinced them to undertake a project never before done, which was a dedicated site to WWII in the Pacific Arena. Of course, where else would I start but with the 43rd? This is an act of love and will be an ongoing project for years to come. Giving us the opportunity to write your history and those of the men like my father. I ask you all to participate in any way possible, just one photo you allow us to scan can brighten someone's life.

<www.pacificairwar.org>

The next years reunion will be in Washington DC area, at the George Mason University. I hope we can obtain even more interviews and a tour of where this internet and history magic takes place. I would love to hear from you and any suggestions you might have, and of course, we will be looking for volunteers for a reunion committee or two!

I look forward to seeing you at the 2014 Reunion. The 2013 Reunion is an event that only my daughter's wedding kept me from last year. These reunions are important! I believe increasingly so, as we say goodbye to many through the years, goodbye to part of our family.

In a broader sense we 43rd members are a family, forever bonded to each other because of a singular event that left an indelible mark on the men who we love and that imprinted and shaped our lives. Only our 43rd family understands why places like Mareeba, Nadzab, Dobadura, 7 Mile, Owi, Clark Field and Le Shima evoke a response.

So in ending, please remember that we, this next generation, are only here because of you. This is our heritage, this is who we are. This organization was built by you and is for you.

My promise to our veterans is that the 43rd BG and GMU site will always be a place where your memories are preserved and honored.

Susan Clark Lansom

*******THE FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA REUNION*******

September 17-My son and I arrived at the hotel after a drive from Raleigh to Fayetteville under GPS directions from a very delightful nice lady! I was very impressed!

Unfortunately we arrive so late that the dinning room was closed. After going out and finding the only thing open was a fast food place in the process of closing! We returned to the hotel with very poor sandwiches. Found the bar was in the process of closing.

Fortunately there were four drunks that were obviously friends of the lady bar tender. They convinced her to at least serve us a beer. Which she did and the drunks insisted they pay! Had a hellva time departing from them, for we had no desire of further drinking!

September 18-I was up early, found the Wellington Room where our Memorabilia had been setup by Dan and Roxanne. While the Registration Table was being set up, Bob and Shirley Richardson, Dan and Roxanne Knickrehm and Nancy Solomon came in and we had a great time talking and finishing the Meeting Room for our future activities. The remainder of the day was spent welcoming our members. Nancy and Shirley deserve a **BIG THANK YOU** for taking care of the registration activities during all 5 days!

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

At 7:00 PM, September 18, 2013, the 43rd Bomb Group Association conducted it's annual Director's meeting in the Wellington Room of the Holiday Inn Bordeaux, 1707 Owen Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304.

ATTENDEES: Robert Richardson, President; Edward Gammill, Secretary; James Dieffenderfer, 63rd Squadron; Robert Cooper, 64th Squadron; Ralph Grubb, 64th Squadron; Sam Commons, 65th Squadron; James Eide, 65th Squadron; and Frederick Lloyd, 403rd Squadron Directors.

Members and guest: **Dan Knickrehm**, 2013 Reunion Sponsor, **Powell Gammill**, Operator of the recorder; **Nancy Solomon**, Reunion HELPER; **John Dieffenderfer**, **Joe and Sally Snyder**.

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 2012 Board Meeting minutes. A motion by Jim

Dieffenderfer, that the minutes , as published in the January 2012 Newsletter, be accepted.

The motion was second and passed with thanks from the Secretary.

2-Treasurer's Report, "Bud" was unable to attend the reunion due to his wife's health. "Bud" transmitted the data to Bob Richardson, who submitted the Treasurer's Report in the following format.

TREASURER'S REPORT Sept. 28, 2012 --Aug. 30, 2013

Balance Aug. 30, 2012	\$ 20,920.09
Members Dues Received	1,675.00
Caps sold at Dayton	160.00
Total	22,755.08

EXPENDURES

January 2013 News Letter -- Printing & Postage	790.54
Publishing Elane Pierce	110.00
Secretary Office Expense	381.89
Treasurer Office Expense	170.00

2012 REUNION EXPENSES

Armed Forces Reunion Co.	590.17
Band & Taps on Sunday Gratuity	300.00
Scott Miller, (George Mason University) Travel Expense	307.75

ADVANCE TO DAN KNICKREHM 2013 REUNION	5,000.00
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TOTAL DISBURSED.....	7,650.35
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ENDING BALANCE AUGUST 30, 2013	14,654.74
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3-Dan Knickrehm reported the physical and financial status of the 2013 Fayetteville, NC Reunion. Dan you and Roxanne did a wonderful job under very difficult circumstances. All Kensemans say **"WELL DONE"**!

4--George Mason University--Data in their archives is available for anyone who wishes to review and use it. **Scott Miller** moved to the University of Virginia where he continues working on his PHD.

5-The status of the 43rd history book was discussed. Larry's reply to my request for a status report is included as an attachment to this newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS

1-In view of the problem of maintaining a Board of Directors composed of two men from each Squadron, a review of our BY LAWS revealed that dedication of a director to a squadrons is not a requirement. Therefore the following change in the BY LAWS ; **“The business of this organization shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of the elected Officers and seven (7) at large directors appointed by the President.”** will be presented to the voting members during the General Meeting.”

2-Since there is no longer a standing Nominating Committee, new Officers and Board Members will be obtained by appointment and voluntary participation. The candidates will be presented for approval by the voting membership during the General Meeting.

3-Our current financial situation requires termination of US Postal mailing the newsletter. A letter will be sent to all members on the mail list informing of this decision. Also, you are informed all newsletters from #1 thru the current issue are available on the Kensmen website <<http://www.kensmen.com/hewsletters.html>> . The newsletters are listed by number and date.

4-The Membership Committeemen reported issuing two invitations, which resulted in the addition of one new LIFE Associate member.

After the Board of Director’s Meeting, the evening was spent greeting the new arrivals, discussing what had happened since the last reunion and more tall stories along with a little help from the bar!

September 19-After breakfast we gathered in the Memorabilia Room for the:

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

Minutes of the General Meeting@ 9:00 AM, Thursday, September 19, 2013 in the Wellington Room, Holiday Inn Bordeaux, 1707 Owen Drive, Fayetteville, NC.

President Richardson called the meeting to order and welcome all members and guests to the general meeting. He lead in the Pledge of Allegiance, after which, he reminded all attendees of the restriction of voting privileges. Then he directed the various officers and committeemen to report the past years activities.

REPORTS

1-A motion from the floor asked that the Minutes of the 2012 General Meeting, as published in the January 2013 Newsletter, be accepted. The motion was approved and passed with thanks from the Secretary.

2-Bob Richardson presented the Treasurer’s report, which is presented above, in the Director’s meeting minutes

3-Dan Knickrehm reported the reunion activities and the financial status. He reports that he will return \$3802 to our Treasurer. Dan, all Kensmen say **“WELL DONE”** and I will go on record—All activities were well done and appreciated! **Recognition of the 43rd Bomb Group during the Air Force Ball was the high spot of the reunion!**

4-The Membership Committeeman reported the following status: Life Members–227, Complimentary Members –117, Members whose dues are current-30 and 96 members whose dues are in arrears. **A total of 479 members.**

NEW BUSINESS

1-Those present expressed concern that, our Mail List was carrying many who were no longer active. Therefore, a motion was presented, second and approved, that a letter be issued to all members. The letter will inform everyone, on the Mail List, of the Boards direction to eliminate the US mailing of the newsletter. The letter will also include instructions for securing a newsletter copy via our website. Bob and **Shirley Richardson** prepared, published and mailed this letter to every member listed on the mail listing. Your Secretary's home address is utilized as the return address. Please review the attachment displaying our lost members. If you have information, pertaining to anyone, send me a note via the e-mail address or home address displayed in the **INFORMATION** paragraph.

2-The President announced Susan Clark Lanson as the candidate for President and asked for nominations for Vice President. Nancy Solomon was nominated and seconded, the President asked a vote. Susan and Nancy were elected! The President then announced the appointment of Secretary, Treasurer and the seven at large Directors.

The **Board of Directors and Officers**, for the year 2014, are presented on page 1 of this Newsletter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1-Larry Hickey's response to my request for a status report is presented as an attachment. During some of our discussions **Fred Hagen** indicated that he intended to pay Larry a visit.

2-The 2014 Reunion is to be sponsored by Susan Lanson and **Michael LaVean**. The location is presented in Susan's Report. Additional information will be in the April Newsletter.

After the General Meeting, Dan gave a brief preview and schedule of the coming events. Signed copies of the book **LAST MEN OUT** by **Bob Drury and Tom Clavin**, which tells of the final hours in Vietnam, were given to all Kensmen..

Bob Drury also told of his research for a new book about WWII. He interviewed several Kensmen, during his visit, gathering data for this future book!.

Mardell Haskins told of her friendship with **Wade Kehr** and of her interviews of Wade, which have been published in four issues of **Southwest Aviation Report**.

We had some free time to do what ever we wished. In the afternoon it was back in Memorabilia Room for more stories and taking advantage of the bar.

September 20-We traveled to **Pope Army Airfield**. The first stop was a tour of the Airpark where a collection of many cargo aircraft, that served from WWII



to the present, were on display.

The first event was the presentation of an encased Flag with plaque, to President Richardson in recognition of the **“43rd BG faithful and honorable service to the USAF”**. The plaque stated “The Flag was flown over Pope Army Air Field, Fort Bragg, North Carolina on September 18, 2013 at the request of the Commander of the 43rd Airlift Group.” It is now on display in the 43rd AG Headquarters Building.

During this tour a very nice young lady became my guide and assistant. She was a Senior Master Sergeant (seven stripes) and very pregnant!



Much has changed since this WWII Master Sergeant (six stripes) was discharged. I enjoyed my visit with her and appreciated her assistance and information. Unfortunately, I failed to obtain her name or a means of communicating later. I wish to thank her for being my helper

Next we visited the **Jay Zeamer Headquarters Building**, named in honor our **Medal of Honor Recipient!** We observed displays of 43rd Bomb Group data and memorabilia in the

lobby and hall ways as we walked to our meeting with the 43rd Airlift Group (43rd AG) Commanding Officer.

He gave a briefing on the missions, personnel and history of the 43rd AG. Following his presentation, we assembled in one of the 43rd AG facilities where several officers and enlisted men told and demonstrated what and how they supported the airborne divisions. They were very respectful, well trained, knowledgeable and spoke very well. We can be very proud of these young men and women who serve our country.



When we returned,, **Michael Futch**, staff writer for **The Fayetteville Observer**, interviewed Bob Richardson, Ralph Grubbs, Robert Cooper, Jim Dieffenderfer, John Dieffenderfer, **Garrett Minnick**, **James Edie**, **Steve Edie** and Dan Knickrehm. His article is an attachment.

In the evening, we attended the **66th Air Force Ball**, an annual event to celebrate **Air Force Birthday**. The ball was held a hanger, with a C130 aircraft parked in the open door.



An elevated stage was directly in front of the aircraft and a band was to the right and in front of the stage. The floor of the hanger was arranged with rows of round tables which seated eight guest. A card identified who was assigned to a table. It was arranged so there were only two Ken's Men at a table. I imagine, this was to have more exposure and contact with Air Force personnel, in lieu of our being in a couple of the tables and doing nothing, but talking to each other.

To give you an idea of the arrangement, I was in Row 8, Table 33. To my left was my Ken's Men companion, **Victoria Calder**, Jim Eide's daughter. She did not sit with Jim, for the folks who setup the seating arrangement did not know of their relationship due to her married name. **My good fortune!**

Continuing around the table, a Colonel and his wife was to the left of Victoria, directly across from me, an AF S/Sgt with her civilian husband and to my right a married couple, both AF S/Sgts. A good group and we had good conversations. I was very surprised that the Colonel appeared so young, when I comment on this, I found that he had more than 20 years in service! When you are approaching 92 years, everyone is young!

As the program progressed, the **43rd Bomb Group (H), 5th AF “Ken’s Men”** was introduced as the honored unit! Recognition of the 43rd Bomb Group was via photographs and data displayed on a large/long panel.



Fredrick and Nancy reviewing a portion of the Ken’s Men Display

Ken’s Men participated in some of the activities. As the oldest 43rd member present, Jim Dieffenderfer was invited to cut the AF Birthday cake, which he and the youngest Airman present did with a ceremonial saber! Every one enjoyed cake, wished and sang **Happy Birthday to the United States Air Force!**

The next activity, which I understand is annual event. All who had served over seas in foreign wars from **Afghanistan to WWII** were asked to stand. Then we were asked to set down in reverse order, all North African Campaigns, Vietnam, Korea and finally WWII.

So few WWII veterans and so scattered! I am sure all felt, as I did, lonely and with teary eyed! The applause was long and loud. It is an emotional/beautiful traditional program! Dan, Roxanne and 43Airlift Group, for giving all Ken’s Men **“ONE SHINING MOMENT”** and a wonderful night. **THANKS**

September 21- After breakfast we attended the **82 Airborne Museum**. The outdoor display was many aircraft that had been used in their operations. As we walked toward the museum entrance there were several displays of well known operations. One was an enclosed model of the church during the Ste. Marie Eglise mission that made history in the movie **“The**

Longest Day” when **Red Buttons’** parachute became entangled in the church tower.

The museum had an excellent display of 82 Airborne Division missions, uniforms, arms and equipment use during many missions.

At noon we visited a modern, what we **called “Mess Hall”**---man has this changed! **First**, it is called **“Dining Facility”** and it don’t smell like a Mess Hall! **Second**, it is cafeteria style with several serving lines with different foods. **Third**, tables with chairs in rooms away from all of the noise. If you remember sometimes we were lucky to have picnic type tables with attached benches and **Fourth**, you have to pay for your chow!

It appears that this a subcontracted operation. No Kitchen Police (KP) for today’s goof offs! I do not know what a Squadron Commander does for punishment, dreaded KP, guard duty and latrine duty were the prime punishment for those who did minor transgression years ago.

Also, nearby there were two very large buildings that we would have called **Barracks**. The living quarter now are more like very large **dormitories**.

After lunch, we traveled to downtown Fayetteville to tour the **Airborne and Special Operations Museum**. An excellent museum that includes displays of their equipment and operations from WWII to the present.

We returned to the hotel and settled in for more tall tales, some snacks and drinks from Jimmie Dee’s open bar! Once again there was many stories about 43rd things, There was so much interest in the Queen Mary trip, that I had the opportunity to tell it one more time! The evening ended on a good note as we made final plans for the Memorial Service.

September 22-President Richardson initiate the Memorial Service by greeting the members and visitors.

The **Invocation** was followed by posting of the **Colors**, performed by the **Pope Field Honor Guard-- SSgt. Gabriel A. Rosa, SSgt. Wilfordo P. Godreau, SrA William J. Wilson Jr. and SrA Brando N. Mabee**. Nancy Solomon lead the singing of the **National Anthem**.

Reading the names of our friends and members who have left us this past year was; Ed Gammill–63rd Squadron, Robert Cooper–64th Squadron, Jim Edie–65th Squadron and Joe Snyder–403rd Squadron.

63rd SQUADRON

Roy L. Perry, Jr.
Roger E. Vargas
James J. Conway

64th SQUADRON

Arvid Hougum
Shirley Arabinko
Wife of Nicholas
John Q. McCabe

65th SQUADRON

Bethel F. Ray
Raymond C. Hoffman
James A. Ottinger
Francis Tucher
Tracy’s Father
Lewis H. Daws
James L. Harcrow
Fred C. Cooke

403rd SQUADRON

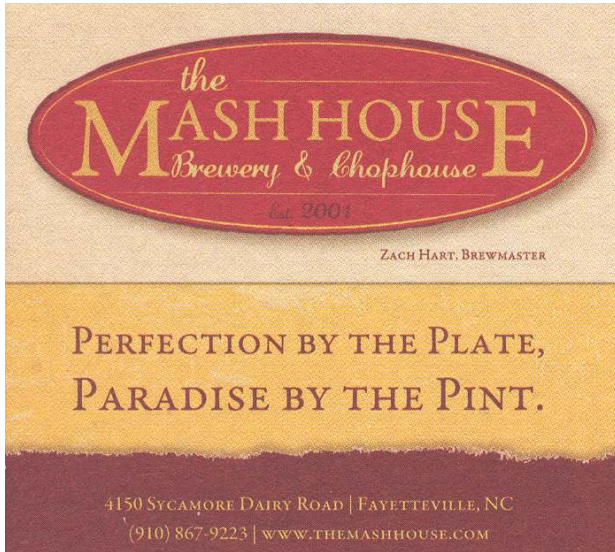
Iliene Brack Leaman
Wife of Douglas
Thomas Daubert
Harold G. Thompson
Douglas Leaman

HDQRS

Nancy sang **How Great Thou Art**. SSgt Gabriel Rosa gave a beautiful rendition of **TAPS**. Nancy lead all in singing, **God Bless America** to close the Memorial Service. The rest of the day was saying “good byes” and heading home.

Dan, all Kensmen say “**WELL DONE**” and I will go on record—All activities were excellent and appreciated! **Recognition of the 43rd Bomb Group during the Air Force Ball was the high spot of the reunion!**

My son, Bob Cooper and I remained until Monday. Sunday evening we decided to try a local micro brewery. So with help of GPS, we traveled to the **Mash House Brewery & Chophouse**.



We enter a large rustic building with a brewery atmosphere. A waiter took an order for **three Samplers** of their beer.

We were served 3 beautiful reels, each with ten 4 ounce glasses. Each glass contained one of Mash House beers! There was much tasting and comments. Some good and some not so good, but plenty of beer for the meal. All was very good, except Bob’s baked potato was not what he expected. We still do not know how it was prepared!

The next morning Powell and I headed north for the Raleigh airport. Along the way, the nice female voice on the GPS directed us as she had done on the trip to Fayetteville. This **old slide rule engineer** sat there laughed and was totally amazed as she informed us that the freeway was closed due to construction. She directed us to a two lane country road. We saw some very beautiful country and received irritated instruction from our guide whenever a wrong turn was made! She finally directed us back onto the freeway and the trip was completed.

The flight back home was uneventful. My 43rd Patch did not attract a complimentary Jack Daniels as it did last year.

******EDITOR’S AND MEMBER’S REPORTS******

You cannot ~~help~~ the poor by destroying the rich.
You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.
You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.
You cannot lift the wage earner up by pulling the wage payer down.
You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.
You cannot build character and courage by taking away people's initiative and independence.
You cannot help people permanently by doing for them, what they could and should do for themselves.
... Abraham Lincoln

I apologize to those who receive the newsletter by US Mail. I mailed the July Newsletter to **Elain**, July 16, 2013. I did not realize, that you were not receiving it, until I received complaints! After I sent Elain four requests for a status report, without a response, I asked Nancy Solomon to phone and talk to Elain.

Nancy found that Elain is no longer able to perform the service she has been doing for so many years. I sent the following to Elain.

Dear Elain, Nancy reports that you can no longer be responsible for the publishing and mailing the newsletter. You have served the 43rd Bomb Group Association since the very beginning. Since Bill Wilson and several other Kensmen found the association in 1981, you have been what Bill called our ELF! You have performed many tasks. I have enjoyed working with you on the Newsletter. I hope you attain better health and please keep in touch.

I will try very hard, at the 2013 Reunion, to find a replacement. In the meantime will you send the following to me.

1-Advice on the best method of staying on top of this task.

2-An up-dated mailing list. Ed

To all members, please note that you can read or download any Newsletter by logging onto----- <http://www.kensmen.com/newsletters.html> ----This is the URL where the newsletters are located on the website. All a person, has to do, is type that into the browser window to find the page with all of the newsletters. Follow these instructions to easily obtain 43rd Bomb Group Association's newsletters from #-1 thru the current issue. At the 2011 Board of Directors Meeting a motion, to place a 5 year limit on non payment of dues, was passed! Please review your present dues payment status. WARNING—If you have not paid your dues since 2009, you will be removed from the membership roster. It is not the Board's wishes to remove anyone, but we must take care of our finances



Garrett Minnick, 64th Squadron, Medic, who is 98, had the largest number of attendees at the 2013 Reunion.

Four generations of his family! Garrett, his son, daughter and granddaughter! Garrett, we will see you in 2014 in the Washington, DC area!

October 24, I received this e-mail: “Hi All, Mom and Dad don’t get on the computer any more. So please contact them by phone or letter. **Roger and Audrey Kattleson 8374 Capovilla Ave #257, Las Vegas, NV 39113 Phone (702) 363-2824**” They would love hearing from you.

Konnie

Roger and Audrey, 64th Squadron, Pilot have served the Association as President and sponsors of reunions.

November 2, a note from Nancy—“Here is the new address for **Charles “Mac” McClenny, 8501 Lull Water Drive Apt # 3213, Dallas, TX 75238**

An e-mail dated October 20 from Sharon Perry, daughter-in-law of **Malcolm Perry, 63rd Squadron**: “I was looking at some family pictures which prompted me to do a Google Query based on information written on the bottom of a picture taken during WWII. In going through the results, I stumbled upon the “Kensmen” website and found a picture of my father-in-law.

“The picture is located in the 63rd Squadron Briefing Room. My father-in-law SSgt Malcolm W. Perry, is standing in the back row, 2nd from the left. He is listed as “unknown (possibly SSgt Peptune). “Dad Perry died November 24, 1998; he was born May 1917.”

Sharon Perry

A note from “Bud” Lawson—“Dear Eldon, Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$40 for both 2013 and 2014 dues.

“I always seem t forget to pay so this will at least for once put me ahead!”

Best Wishes,

Dana E Davis

A message from **Jim Cherkauer**: “I am going by memory, but it seems to me that it was about 3 years ago, when we lost Russ Burnett’s address.

“Yesterday, with the help of **Lucille Tatrot**, I was given by her his address. It seems that Reg and Lucille have a nephew in Massachusetts and he ran into Russ’s daughter and asked for Russ’s address. Then, he visited Russ and reports that Russ seems to be in fairly good shape and they talked for a spell.

“Here is the new address: **Russ Burnett, Charlene Manor, Colrain Road, Greenfield, MA 01301**”

Jim C

December 19, a note from **Chuck Raush**: “I have been busy this year, but have everything under control for now. Presently, I am in Muscatine having back treatments for a problem between vertebrae 11 and 12. Within the past couple weeks, I’ve had heart stents, heart valve replacement, a pace maker and gall bladder removed.

“I think this is like fixing an old car. All a part of old age, but I will win! I’ll return to Punta Gorda in January.” Hope you have a blessed Christmas.

Chuck

*****MEMORIALS*****

29 July, an e-mail from **Tracy** informing of the passing of **Roger E. Vargas, 63rd Squadron, Navigator**.

Sharon Maggio and Karen Nidey, daughters of **Lewis H. Daws, 65th Squadron, Aircraft Maintenance** wrote: "It is with heavy hearts that we have to report to you the passing of our father, on August 1, 2013. He was able to attend some of your reunions in the past and spoke fondly of them. He spoke of his time with you during WWII with pride and nostalgia".

Sharon and Karen

Lt. Col. R. J. Harcrow, Ret. reports the death of his father **James L. Harcrow, 65th Squadron, Pilot**. Jim served as a Director for the 65th Squadron for several years. I remember Jim and his son having a great time at the 2010 Reunion in Lake Buena Vista, FL.

12 September, an e-mail from **Pam Scheel**, reporting the death of her father, **Fred C. Cooke, 65th Squadron, Navigator**.

19 September, a note from **Betsy Floit**: "Found your book among my father's possessions. **Francis X. Labie, 64th Squadron, 43rd Bomb Group** has passed away".

Betsy Floit

A note from **Vonnie Landt**: "I am writing to inform you of the death of **John Landt, 63rd Squadron, Bombardier**. He was my father-in-law and a member of the 43rd Bomb Group Association.

"I opened the letter you sent about the online Newsletter and request that you remove his name from your mailing list. I am not sure if he had an e-mail address filed with you, if so, please remove it as well.

"It is wonderful that the Group has an ongoing association with active members. You are a great Group!"

Vonnie (Mrs. Michael) Landt

6 November, a message on our website: "Gentlemen: I write to advise you that my father, **S/Sgt Edward J. O'Brien, Jr., 63rd Squadron, Assistant Flight Engineer** and Life member died here in West Chester, PA on Sunday, September 8, 2013.

"He was happy as a kid on Christmas morning when I was able to bring him, some years ago, to the 43rd's Reunion in Blue Bell, PA. I think aside from his marriage to my Mom, who predeceased him, Dad's service in the 43rd was the peak experience of his life. His interest in flight was with him from childhood to the end. I closed my eulogy at his Funeral Mass with the poem "High Flight" noted on your website.

"He was buried beside my Mom at the New Jersey Veterans' Cemetery in Arneytown. Thank all of you for your service and the support you gave one another while defending our beloved country."

Ed O'Brien

12 November, in response to our investigation of Mail List addresses: "It is with great regret, that I inform you that my husband **Weldon (Don) Yost, 65th Squadron, Pilot** passed away January 1, 2013.

“I am now living a retirement home and near our children. Some are in Colorado and a daughter lives in Phoenix. Thank you for your correspondence.

Sincerely,

Trudy Yost

A telephone call from **Chuck Raush** reported the death of **Robert E. Ostrander, 64th Squadron, Navigator.**

A December 9 entry on the Kensmen website, by **Mark Feldbin**, reported the death of **Mario Barsotti, 64th Squadron, Radio/Gunner.**

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

Whew! What a relief to learn this.....

Ever walk into a room with some purpose in mind, only to completely forget what that purpose was? Turns out, doors themselves are to blame for these strange memory lapses!

Psychologists at McGill University in Montreal have discovered that passing through a doorway triggers what's known as an event boundary in the mind, separating one set of thoughts and memories from the next. Your brain files away the thoughts you had in the previous room and prepares a blank slate for the new locale.

Thanks goodness for studies like this. It's not our age, it's that damn door!

Loud Music

Life just gets better as you get older, doesn't it? I was in a Starbucks Coffee shop recently when my stomach started rumbling, and I realized that I desperately needed to fart. The place was packed, but the music was really loud. So to get relief and reduce embarrassment I timed my facts to the beat of the music. After a couple of songs I started to feel much better. I finished my coffee and noticed that everyone was staring at me

I suddenly remembered that I was listening to my Ipod.

This is what happens when old people start using technology.

The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything.

They just make the most of everything they have.

So Live it up, Laugh loudly, & Love deeply

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

From Max Axelsen

Woody was a single guy living with his father and working in the family business. When he found out he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly father died, Woody decided he needed a wife with whom to share his fortune and future.

One evening at an investment meeting, he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away. Woody told her, “I may look like just an ordinary man, but in just a few years, my father will die, and I’ll inherit 35 million dollars.”

Impressed, the woman obtained Woody’s business card, and in just three days later she

became his stepmother! Women are so much better at estate planning than men.

From Bob Cooper

Little Johnny Again!

A Baptist pastor was presenting a children's sermon when he asked the children if they knew what the resurrection was. Now, asking questions during children's sermons are important, but at the same time children questions in front of a congregation can also be dangerous.

Having asked the children if they knew the meaning of the resurrection, little Johnny raised his hand-----The Pastor called on him and little Johnny said, "I know that if you have a resurrection that lasts more than four hours you are supposed to call the doctor."

It took over ten minutes for the congregation to settle down enough for the service to continue!

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

This newsletter is published four times a year - **January, April, July and October**. Please send **membership applications** and **dues payments** to **Edward L. Gammill, 5337 E. Earll Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85018-8045**.

When making dues payments only, send **payments** directly to **Eldon "Bud" Lawson, 23942 Wolf Road, Bay Village, OH 44140-2857**. Remember that annual dues are **\$20.00 per year**.

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*******

- 1-2013 Reunion Attendees
- 2-Save Edie's review of the 2013 Reunion
- 3-66th AIR FORCE BALL Program--4 pages
- 4-Michael Futch's report about the 43rd BG reunion
- 5-Larry Hickey's latest and CANNOT BE FOUND
- 6- Obituary —6 Pages

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

REUNION ATTENDANCE

63rd SQUADRON

Edward Gammill
Powell Gammill
Jim Dieffenderfer
John Dieffenderfer
Shirley Richardson
Robert Richardson
Alfred Hagen

64th SQUADRON

Robert W. Cooper
Dan Grubb
Ralph Grubb
Garrett Minnick
Sally J. Mitchell
James M. Mitchell
Marla K. Gornall

65th SQUADRON

Don Williams
Beccie Phillips
Jim Eide
Steve Eide
Victoria Calder
Sam Commons
Donna Marchese
Amy Nally

403rd SQUADRON

Nancy Solomon
Rick Lloyd
Joe Snyder
Sally Snyder
Wade T. Kehr
Lucia Di
Mardell Haskins

43rd AIRLIFT GROUP

Dan Knickrehm
Roxanne
Knickrehm

AUTHORS

Bob Drury
Mardell Haskins

REPORTER

Michael Futch

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Steve** <stevan.eide@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 23, 2013 at 11:09 AM

Subject: World War II Reunion

To:

This year the 43rd Bombardment Group annual reunion was held in Fayetteville, North Carolina, home of Fort Bragg and Pope Field from September 18 through September 22. The 43rd Airlift Wing supporting the 82nd Army Airborne and Special Forces (Rangers) is based there. The 43rd Airlift Wing is the successor to the 43rd Bombardment Group.

There were 13 World War II Army Air Corp veterans attending with family and friends. The 43rd Bomb Group was known as "Ken's Men" after their commander, George Kenney. The website for the group is <http://kensmen.com/>

Author Robert (Bob) F. X. Drury (Amazon [link](#)) spoke to the group about a book he and his partner Tom Clavin will be writing about Ken's Men. It will be published by Simon and Schuster and expected in about two years. I read their last book, "Last Men Out" and found it very good. I recommend it if you want an "on the ground" narrative of the last eleven U.S. Marines taken from the embassy roof in Saigon as 150,000 North Vietnamese captured the city. It is an amazing story of the Marines who greatly contributed to saving almost 400 Americans and thousands of Vietnamese at risk of because of their association with the U.S.

The reunion group attended the annual formal Air Force Ball commemorating the founding of the U.S. Air Force in 1947. The World War II vets were honored and many of the young military men and women had conversations with them at their dinner tables. The ball was held in a nicely decorated hanger at Pope with open hanger doors on a beautiful North Carolina evening. A C130 was parked at the hanger entrance with a huge American flag gently moving with the light breeze over the Hercules. The walls were hung with parachute type fabric and World War II posters were all over the walls. About 600 finely dressed people attended and the dinner was very good.

We also visited two wonderful military museums while in Fayetteville. [Link](#) and [link](#).

While at the Airborne and Special Operations museum in Fayetteville the group was interviewed by a reporter from the Fayetteville Observer. Article [link](#)

The group assembled on Saturday night for "story time" where the veterans shared some of their many stories with all of us. We had some good laughs at some of the stories. Other stories gave me a greater understanding of what these men did so long ago and so far away from home.

Sunday morning's memorial service featured an honor guard from Fort Bragg presenting the colors. We also heard a moving singing performance by Nancy S. Each 43rd squadron (63rd, 64th, 65th, and 403rd) had a reading of the names of their fellow squadron members who passed away during the previous year. The memorial ended with a solemn playing of taps by the honor guard bugler.

Next year's expected reunion will be near Washington, D.C. hosted by George Mason University where many of the historical records and current interviews of the 43rd Bomb Group reside. [link](#)

We have Dan Knickrehm (43rd Airlift Wing Historian) and his wife Roxanne to thank for putting it all together for us and making sure we had a memorable experience.

Dan also laboriously worked with military archivists to finally declassify thousands of pages of 43rd Bomb Group records and official accounts relating to the Group's World War II activities. The records were on microfiche and after they were removed from "Top Secret" status, they needed to be scanned to digitize them. He also needed to go through the Freedom of Information protocols to be allowed to copy these digitized records. Dan then made DVD copies and gave them to all of us at the reunion. There are about 7,000 pages of records including photos. Amazing

Air Force Song

"Off we go into the wild blue yonder,

Climbing high into the sun;

Here they come zooming to meet our thunder,

At 'em boys, Give 'er the gun! (Give 'er the gun now!)

Down we dive, spouting our flame from under,

Off with one helluva roar!

We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!

Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!"

"High Flight"

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
of sun-split clouds, — and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of:

Wheeled and soared and spun, high in the sunlit silence
Up, up the long delirious burning blue,
I've topped the windswept heights with ease,
Where never lark or even eagle flew.

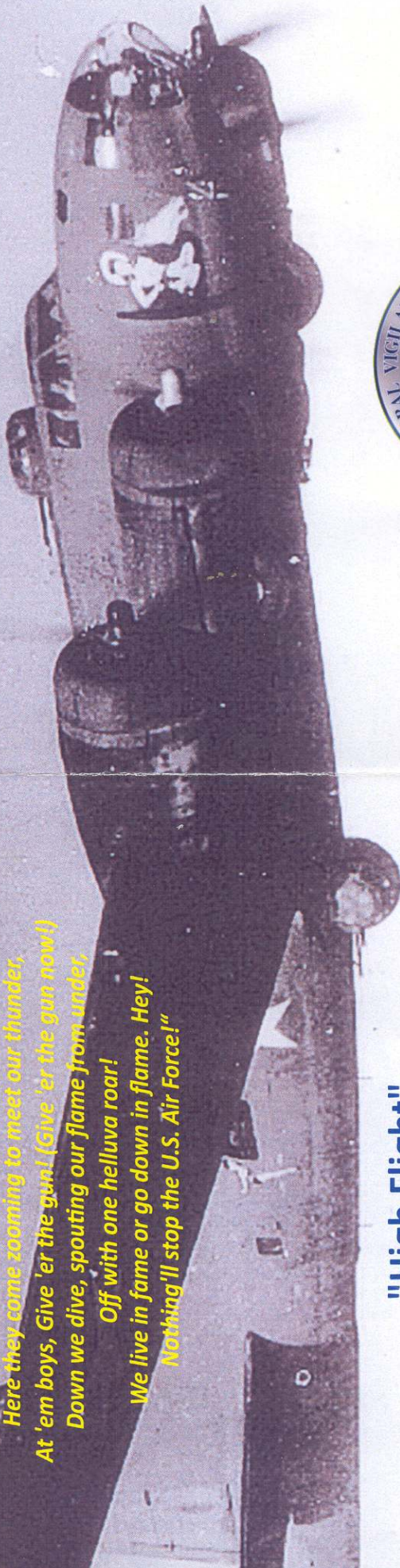
Hovering there I've chased the shouting winds along,
Through footless halls of air.

And, while with silent, lifted mind,
I've trod the high untrespassed sanctity of space;
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

J. McGee, R.A.F. 1940



**POPE ARMY AIRFIELD
66TH AIR FORCE BALL**



**"The World's Greatest Air Force – Powered by Airmen,
Fueled by Innovation!"**

**HANGAR 6
20 SEPTEMBER 2013**

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS/NATIONAL ANTHEM

Performed by Pope Honor Guard Team and "Letters from Home"

POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

Performed by Chief Master Sergeant, Retired, David L. Hamel

INTRODUCTIONS

HOST REMARKS

Colonel Daniel H. Tulley, 43d Airlift Group commander

GUEST SPEAKER

*Major General John W. Nicholson, Jr.
Commanding General, 82nd Airborne Division*

PRESENTATION TO GUEST SPEAKER

BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY

INVOCATION

*Provided by Chaplain (Captain) Shawn C. Bishop
43d Airlift Group chaplain*

FORMAL TOASTS

DINNER

Entertainment provided by "Letters from Home"

OPEN DANCE FLOOR

Music provided by Gregg Gelb Band



Major General John W. Nicholson, Jr.
Commanding General
82nd Airborne Division
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Major General John W. Nicholson, Jr., was commissioned into the infantry in 1982 upon graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He holds a bachelor's degree in history from Georgetown University, a Bachelor of Science degree from West Point, a master's degree in Military Art and Science from the School for Advanced Military Studies, and a master's degree in National Security Studies from National Defense University.

Major General Nicholson has led Soldiers at all levels from platoon to division in Airborne, Ranger, Mechanized, Stryker and Light Infantry units in five different infantry divisions, and the 75th Ranger Regiment in the United States, Europe, and Afghanistan. His first five years of service were in the 82nd Airborne Division, and he has spent over three of the last six years in Afghanistan as Commander, 3 BCT, 10th Mountain Division (TF Spartan), in RC East in 2006-7, as the Deputy Commanding General of RC South under Dutch MG Maert de Kruif in 2008-9, and as the DCG-Operations for US Forces Afghanistan and Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations for NATO ISAF, from late 2010 to early 2012. Major General Nicholson's Joint and Multinational experience also includes Deputy Director for Operations, J3, The Joint Staff; the Director of The Joint Staff's Pakistan-Afghanistan Coordination Cell; the Deputy Director for Operations and Intelligence for the Joint IED Defeat Organization; Special Assistant to the Commanding General, Peace Stabilization Force, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Commanding General, US Army Europe; and Chief of Operations at the George C. Marshall European Center for Strategic Studies. Major General Nicholson has also served on the immediate staffs of the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army.

As the nucleus of the Nation's Global Response Force, the 82nd Airborne Division is ready to deploy anywhere around the globe on short notice to perform a wide range of tasks in support of US National Policy objectives.

TOASTS

TOAST: "TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!"

RESPONSE: "TO THE COLORS!"

TOAST: "TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND!" RESPONSE: "TO HER MAJESTY!"

TOAST: "TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN OF CANADA!"

RESPONSE: "TO HER MAJESTY!"

TOAST: "TO THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES!"

RESPONSE: "TO THE PRESIDENT!"

TOAST: "TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY!"

RESPONSE: "TO THE CHIEF!"

TOAST: "TO THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS!"

RESPONSE: "TO THE COMMANDANT!"

TOAST: "TO THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS!"

RESPONSE: "TO THE CHIEF!"

TOAST: "TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE!"

RESPONSE: "TO THE CHIEF!"

TOAST: "TO THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD!"
RESPONSE: "TO THE COMMANDANT!"

TOAST: "WE TOAST OUR HEARTY COMRADES WHO HAVE FALLEN FROM THE SKIES, AND WERE GENTLY CAUGHT BY GOD'S OWN HANDS TO BE WITH HIM ON HIGH, TO DWELL AMONG THE SOARING CLOUDS THEY HAVE KNOWN SO WELL BEFORE, FROM VICTORY ROLL TO TAIL CHASE, AT HEAVEN'S VERY DOOR. AND AS WE FLY AMONG THEM, WE'RE SURE TO HEAR THEIR PLEA, TAKE CARE, MY FRIEND, WATCH YOUR SIX, AND DO ONE MORE ROLL FOR ME. TO OUR COMRADES KILLED IN ACTION, MISSING IN ACTION, OR PRISONERS OF WAR!"

RESPONSE: RAISE GLASS AND PARTAKE OF THE BEVERAGE IN SILENCE.



Lt. Joseph R. Sarnoski



Captain Jay Zeamer

Maj. ZEAMER, JAY, JR.

On 16 June 1943, Maj. Zeamer (then Capt.) volunteered as pilot of a bomber on an important photographic mapping mission covering the formidably defended area in the vicinity of Buka, Solomon Islands. While photographing the Buka airdrome, his crew observed about 20 enemy fighters on the field, many of them taking off. Despite the certainty of a dangerous attack by this strong force, Maj. Zeamer proceeded with his mapping run, even after the enemy attack began. In the ensuing engagement, Maj. Zeamer sustained gunshot wounds in both arms and legs, 1 leg being broken. Despite his injuries, he maneuvered the damaged plane so skillfully that his gunners were able to fight off the enemy during a running fight which lasted 40 minutes. The crew destroyed at least 5 hostile planes, of which Maj. Zeamer himself shot down 1. Although weak from loss of blood, he refused medical aid until the enemy had broken combat. He then turned over the controls, but continued to exercise command despite lapses into unconsciousness, and directed the flight to a base 580 miles away. In this voluntary action, Maj. Zeamer, with superb skill, resolution, and courage, accomplished a mission of great value.

2d Lt. SARNOSKI, JOSEPH R.

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action above and beyond the call of duty. On 16 June 1943, 2d Lt. Sarnoski volunteered as bombardier of a crew on an important photographic mapping mission covering the heavily defended Buka area, Solomon Islands. When the mission was nearly completed, about 20 enemy fighters intercepted. At the nose guns, 2d Lt. Sarnoski fought off the first attackers, making it possible for the pilot to finish the plotted course. When a coordinated frontal attack by the enemy extensively damaged his bomber, and seriously injured 5 of the crew, 2d Lt. Sarnoski, though wounded, continued firing and shot down 2 enemy planes. A 20-millimeter shell which burst in the nose of the bomber knocked him into the catwalk under the cockpit. With indomitable fighting spirit, he crawled back to his post and kept on firing until he collapsed on his guns. 2d Lt. Sarnoski by resolute defense of his aircraft at the price of his life, made possible the completion of a vitally important mission.

43rd Bomb Group (H), 5th AAF "Ken's Men"

Constituted as 43rd Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 20 Nov 1940. Activated on 15 Jan 1941. Trained with B-17, B-18, A-29, and LB-30 aircraft. Flew some antisubmarine patrols along the New England coast, Dec 1941-Feb 1942.

Moved to the Southwest Pacific, via Capetown, Feb-Mar 1942. Became part of Fifth AF. Equipped first with B-17's, but converted to B-24's, May-Sep 1943. Operated from Australia, New Guinea, and Owi Island, Aug 1941-Nov 1944, making numerous attacks on Japanese shipping in the Netherlands East Indies and the Bismarck Archipelago. Experimented with skip bombing and used this method for some shipping strikes, including attacks on Japanese vessels during the Battle of the Bismarck Sea, 2-4 Mar 1943; received a DUC for participation in this latter action in which repeated air attacks destroyed a large enemy convoy carrying reinforcements to New Guinea. Other operations during this period included support for ground forces on New Guinea; attacks on airfields and installations in New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, Celebes, Halmahera, Yap, Palau, and the southern Philippines; and long-range raids against oil refineries on Ceram and Borneo. Capt Jay Zeamer Jr, pilot, and 2nd Lt Joseph R Sarnoski, bombardier, each won the Medal of Honor for action during a photographic mapping mission over the Solomon Islands on 16 Jun 1943; when the mission was nearly completed, their aircraft was assaulted by about 20 interceptors; although painfully wounded, Lt Sarnoski remained at the nose guns and fired at the enemy until he died at his post; sustaining severe injuries, Capt Zeamer maneuvered the plane until the enemy had broken combat, then directed the flight to a base more than 500 miles away. After moving to the Philippines in Nov 1944, the group attacked shipping along the Asiatic coast; struck industries, airfields, and installations in China and Formosa; and supported ground forces on Luzon. Moved to Ie Shima in Jul 1945 and conducted missions against airfields and railways in Japan and against shipping in the Inland Sea and the Sea of Japan. Returned to the Philippines in Dec 1945. Inactivated on 29 Apr 1946.

Redesignated 43rd Bombardment Group (Very Heavy). Activated in the US on 1 Oct 1946. Assigned to Strategic Air Command. Redesignated 43rd Bombardment Group (Medium) in Jul 1948. Equipped first with B-29's, then with B-50's. Trained and conducted long-range test missions, including the first nonstop flight around the world (26 Feb-2 Mar 1949), accomplished in "Lucky Lady II," a B-50 commanded by Capt James G Gallagher. Inactivated on 16 Jun 1952.

Campaigns. Antisubmarine, American Theater; Air Offensive, Japan; China Defensive; Papua; New Guinea; Bismarck Archipelago; Western Pacific; Leyte; Luzon; Southern Philippines; Ryukyus; China Offensive.

Decorations. Distinguished Unit Citations: Papua, [Aug] 1942-23 Jan 1943; Bismarck Sea, 2-4 Mar 1943. Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.

Insigne. Shield: Per fess nebuly or and azure, a drop bomb counterchanged. Motto: Willing, Able, Ready. (Approved 31 Jan 1942.)

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World War II airmen meet again

13 members of the 43rd Bomb Group are in Fayetteville this weekend

By Michael Futch
Staff writer

In 1991, 600 veterans attended the reunion of the highly decorated 5th Army Air Force's 43rd Bomb Group (H).

Only 13 men were on hand for the group's 33rd reunion, being held in Fayetteville through today.

The unit's airmen are dwindling in numbers, just like the nation's other service members who fought in World War I and returned home. Wilmington's Bob Richardson, who is president of the 43rd Bomb Group Association, said he's uncertain just how many of the group's veterans are still living.

"When you get older, this is life. Death is life, really," he said. "Death is a natural thing."

Richardson is 87 and the youngest veteran in this band of bomber brothers

who came together for the five-day reunion. Garrett Minnick, a former medic, is the oldest at 98.

On Saturday afternoon, this busload of slow-and-easy-moving vets and family members stopped downtown at the Airborne & Special Operations Museum to revisit the past. Today, at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux, the 43rd Bomb Group will hold a memorial ceremony honoring those who have died since the last reunion.

"They wonder if they want to continue to do reunions," said Dan Knickrehm, the historian for Fort Bragg Pope Field's 43rd Airlift Group.

The 43rd Airlift Group traces its roots back to the 43rd Bombardment Group (Heavy), which was activated Jan. 15, 1941, at Langley Field, Va. The

See REUNION, Page 4B.



Bob Richardson of the 43rd Bombardment Group talks about his group's history and service in World War II during a tour Saturday at the Airborne & Special Operations Museum.

Staff photo by Marcus Castro

Reunion

From Page 1B

unit operated primarily in the southwest Pacific Theater as a B-17 Flying Fortress and, later, a B-24 Liberator heavy bomber unit assigned to the Fifth Air Force.

"They sank lots of ships, and lots of Japanese were lost," Knickrehm said.

One of two heavy bombardment groups in Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Fifth Air Force, the 43rd carried the war to the Japanese at places such as Salamaua, Lae, Hansa Bay, Wewak and Rabaul. The group participated in the watershed Battle of the Bismarck Sea, preventing Japanese troops from being re-supplied from Rabaul.

"These guys came in and helped the infantrymen (all along the north coast of New Guinea)," he said. "It turned the tide in the Pacific."

Whenever he explains to someone that the group of elderly men he's accompanying in Fayetteville is a bunch of World War I veterans, Knickrehm said, "There's immediate respect."

Jimmie Dieffenderfer, 93, came to the reunion with his son, John. Because he tends to tire easily, the older Dieffenderfer was using a three-wheeled stroller to get around.

"I like seeing these old guys. I get a good feeling being around the guys," he said, as he perused some of the wall displays inside the museum.

After obtaining his pilot's license in 1940, Dieffenderfer participated in the Civilian Pilot Training Program created by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1938. Only a few months after graduating from the flying school in March 1942, he said he was "shot up pretty bad" on his first mission.

A pilot, he flew both B-17s and B-24s. Son John has followed in his father's footsteps.

He's a veteran and an airline pilot, and he flew down from his home in Alaska to pick up his father in Orlando, Fla., for the reunion.

James Eide, who turns 90 on Oct. 2, said he appreciates the opportunity to spend



Ralph Grubbs, left, and Robert W. Cooper, from the 43rd Bombardment Group, talk during a tour at the Airborne & Special Operations Museum on Saturday. Grubbs was a tail gunner for Cooper, who was a pilot in a B-24 during World War II.

Staff photo by Marcus Castro

time with his comrades. "Some of the people, we were together. I served with them," he said.

Eide, who is from Minnesota, held the position of nose turret gunner when he took to the dangerous skies. He went to war at age 18, serving from August 1942 through September 1945.

Common bond

His son, Steve, said his father and the other veterans in the group share a common bond that others can't completely understand.

"He can speak their language," Steve Eide said. "They can speak the language back."

As long as the 43rd Bomb Group continues to hold reunions, James Eide said, he will continue coming.

Knickrehm said the 43rd's history is worth keeping alive. And that, he noted, was a primary reason behind the establishment of the 43rd Bomb Group Association.

"I think the World War II veterans are dying a thousand a day," said John Dieffenderfer. "Each day I get to spend with my dad, I cherish. There are men who won the war against tyranny. Dad says the ones who didn't come back are the heroes. I think they are all heroes."

Staff writer Michael Futch can be reached at futchm@fayobserver.com or 486-3529.

Subj: **Update on 43rd History**
Date: 9/11/2013 12:17:29 A.M. US Mountain Standard Time
From: larry@irandpcorp.com
To: Edgammill@aol.com
CC: madison@irandpcorp.com
Ed,

It's 1 AM and I'm exhausted. We finished editing another chapter in the 43rd project today, and are in an intense effort to get Vol I to the printer within the next few weeks. Tomorrow evening, a top expert on the SWPA air war is flying in from the East Coast and will be staying here at my home for the next ten days to make sure that all our photos are finalized that will go into that volume. By early next week, I expect to have a hard date for publication later this year. I've recently hired a new editor, Madison Jonas, to take the final text, which has been completed, to digital press ready. He will be your direct liaison through this final process and will keep you fully apprized of the progress of the final steps to publication. Next week he'll begin sending you copies of all the chapter material in Vol I, to do a final read through for us. You may share these with anyone in your association who may wish to help with our final read through.

You will hear from him as early as tomorrow to begin coordinating with you as we go to press. Many things to arrange at that point as far as distribution, and how we handle copies for people who are no longer with us. I'll be settling those details directly with you myself.

All for now.

Larry Hickey

CANNOT BE FOUND!

Rocco J. Arruzzo, Alice Barnes, William M. Browne, Jr., George Bruhoe, Andrew Burochonock, Carl Cramer, H T "Doug" Craig Jr, John B Crosby, Cleston Drown, Charlotte Fischer, James R Friell, Eleanor Greenfield, Maurice Hesterman, Noelle Holohan, Scott Kirby, Lucian Konopa, Alan B. Matisoff,

Joubert S McCrea Jr, Jeanette Melick, Dolly Miller, Bernadine Mlnarik, Clara Moody, Mildred Murari, Mickey Murphy, Madge Niece, Dorthy C Nunge, Melvin F. Schroeder, Dolly Sokora, Claire Spence, Jack H. Strange, Johanna Troccia, Hazel Taff, Ernest Wells, Edwin Wojdak, Ruth Wollin, Robert G. Yeck, Buckley Zeigler,

**IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THESE MEMBERS,
PLEASE SEND A MESSAGE TO YOUR SECRETARY!]**



James L. Harcrow

1917 - 2013

James L. Harcrow, Lt. Col. U.S. Air Force (Ret.), 95, of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., passed away at a local hospital on Feb. 12.

He was born Nov. 21, 1917, in Ennis, Texas, to J. Linsey and Iva Harcrow. He has lived in the community since 1968, was an avid golfer, and was Baptist by faith and a member of the First Baptist Church of Fort Walton Beach.

He honorably served his country, while in the Air Force for 28 years; retiring as a lieutenant colonel. He was a veteran of WWII and a lifetime Mason.

He graduated from the Aviation Cadet program of the Army Air Corps in May '41, and was sent to Hemet Field, Calif., then Moffett Field, Calif., where he got his wings. He checked out in the B-17 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., and immediately was sent to California to pick up a brand new B-17 and fly it to Australia, where he entered combat.

He flew 56 combat missions in the B-17 and logged 325 combat hours over Rabaul Harbor, during the Battle of the Bismarck Sea, to name a few. He was awarded three Distinguished Flying Crosses and four Air Medals during this tour.

At the end of his tour, he returned to the States and checked out in the B-29 and instructed in that aircraft. At the end of the Pacific War, he was sent to Japan as part of the military occupation and governing command. He later returned for a second tour.

Material Command.

He retired in 1968 after 28 years of active duty during which he logged 8,000 hours total time in 26 different aircraft.



**JAMES L.
HARCROW**

He loved Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

He is predeceased by both his parents; his wife of 53 years, Roberta J. Harcrow; and his sister,

Lennie Muchow. Survivors include his brother, Jimmy Harcrow (Mary) of Dallas, Texas; sister-in-law, Eleanor Ferguson of Sacramento, Calif.; son, Lt. Col. Robert Harcrow (Ret.) of Phoenix, Ariz.; daughters, Patricia Harcrow-Orr (Joe Orr) of Mary Esther, Fla., and Nancy Mann (John, Col. Ret.) of Colorado Springs, Colo.; four grandchildren, Stacy Harcrow of California, Lt. Cmdr. Krista Mann of Virginia, Capt. John Michael Mann of Germany and Casey Mann of Georgia; and niece, Lynette Baugh (Jarod) of Texas; and numerous members of Lynette's family.

The family will receive friends, Monday, Feb. 18, 2013, from 5 to 7 p.m. at McLaughlin Mortuary. Funeral Services will be held at the First Baptist Church of Fort Walton Beach on Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013, at 11 a.m. with Dr. Howard Gates officiating. Following the Service, burial will be at Beal Memorial Cemetery with Full Military Honors.

Special appreciation to Home In Stead Senior Care, Sharon Hawkins, a VA Care Giver, Medical Staff providers, both civilian and military who have served the family so well.

He flew 56 combat missions in the B-17 and logged 325 combat hours over Rabaul Harbor, during the Battle of the Bismarck Sea, to name a few. He was awarded three Distinguished Flying Crosses and four Air Medals during this tour.

At the end of his tour, he returned to the States and checked out in the B-29 and instructed in that aircraft. At the end of the Pacific War, he was sent to Japan as part of the military occupation and governing command. He later returned for a second tour.

He returned to Kelly Air Force Base in Texas. While there, he was awarded the Soldier's Medal for rescuing someone from an aircraft that had crashed on takeoff. He had been at Base Ops when the crash occurred, and got to the site before the Fire Department did, pulling the man to safety. He was credited with saving the man's life.

Later he was sent to Hill Air Force Base, where he was a C-124 Squadron Commander (logged about 2,500 hours in the C-124 there), then on to Robins Air Force Base, Ga., in

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Flowers are acceptable and will be received at McLaughlin Mortuary or for those who so desire, Memorial Contributions can be made to the First Baptist Church of Fort Walton Beach in memory of James Harcrow, a donation to the Veterans Organization of your choice or to a community office such as the Fort Walton Beach Police Department, Sheriff's Department, or Fire Department.

Expressions of sympathy may be viewed or submitted online at www.McLaughlinMortuary.com.

Lewis Daws Obituary: View Lewis Daws's Obituary by San Bernardino Sun



LEWIS HARVEY DAWS

July 24, 1916 ~ August 1, 2013

Lewis Harvey Daws of Rialto, CA died Thursday, August 1st, 2013, surrounded by his loving family.

Mr. Daws was born in Grand Forks, ND, July 24, 1916 as the youngest of eight children. His early school years were in Mason City, IA. He was living in St. Joseph, MI, when he joined the [Army](#) Air Corps in July, 1941. He served in Australia and New Guinea for 34 months. While in Australia he met and married the love of his life, Doreen. He was stationed at Langley Field, VA after being rotated back to the U.S. in June, 1945 and was reunited with his wife. After being discharged they lived in Michigan until he was recalled to the [U.S. Air Force](#) to serve in the [Korean War](#). After his release in 1952, they moved to California where he worked in a civilian position at Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino, CA from July, 1953 until his retirement in June, 1971. After retiring, he and his wife traveled the world together and even made a trip back to Australia in renew their vows in the original church they were married in. During his retirement he kept busy running the projector at local movie theaters, baking and in his later years, becoming very competent in using his computer. He loved being able to e-mail his friends and family all over the world and making the most beautiful birthday and Christmas cards.

He was a life member of the Rialto [VFW](#) post and the 43rd Bomb Group Association. He was a dedicated church member and volunteer at the First Congregational Church of Rialto. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 54 years, Doreen. Survivors include his two daughters Sharon Ann Maggio of Highland and Karen Sue Nidey of San Bernardino, two granddaughters, Stephanie Ann Reed and Kimberly Sue Skalky and three great grandchildren, Amanda Nielson, Tyler Reed and Morgan Reed. His close family and friends were very blessed to have him in our lives for so many years. He will be missed but his memory will go on in our hearts and his blood lives in each of us.

Funeral services will be held at Highland Congregational Church, 3606 Atlantic Ave, Highland, CA 92346 on Friday, August 16, 2013. Visitation will be from 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM with services at 10:00 AM. Private interment will follow the services at Riverside National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Salvation Army, "in memory of Lewis H. Daws," will be used to benefit military veterans.

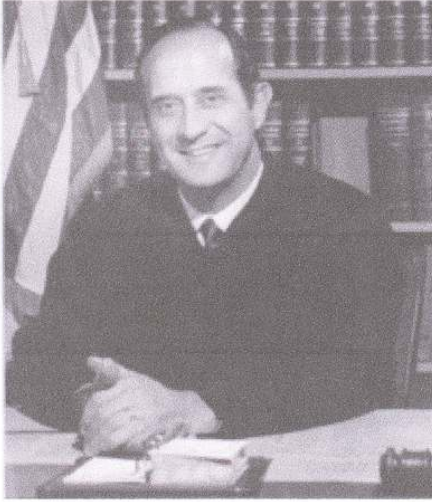
FRANCIS X. FRANK, FRAN LABIE

LABIE FRANCIS X. "FRANK" "FRAN"

Formerly of Pittsburgh, New Port Richey, FL, on Saturday, August 31, 2013. Husband of the late Delores V. (Nikituk) Labie; son of Joseph Francis and Anna (Antic) Labie; loving father of Elizabeth "Betsy" Labie (Harry) Floit of Danvers, IL; loving grandfather of Teresa Floit of NC, Melisa (Chris) Walls of IL, Tara (Randy) Greer of IL, and Jessica Floit of IL; great-grandfather of Krista, Adam, Tyler, Drew, Matthew, and Emily; brother of Dolores Matejko and the late Mary Margaret Martin and Joseph Labie; survived also by many nieces and nephews. Fran was a [WWII](#) veteran who serviced in the South Pacific Theater with the US Army-Air Corps. Friends may call Thursday 6-8 p.m. at O'BRIEN'S, 3724 California at Cooper Aves. N.S., where there will be a Blessing Service on Friday, 10 a.m.

Send condolences at post-gazette.com/gb

Mario Barsotti



Judge Mario Henry Barsotti

1/1/1924 to 9/6/2013

Mario was born on new years day 1924 in a farmhouse on the San Francisco/San Mateo county border. The doctor came to deliver him in a Model T Ford at the farmhouse. He had an older sister named Wanda and his mother's name was Bruna.

His family moved to the mission district in San Francisco while his father was seeking work. His father, Quinto Barsotti, was a machinist and blacksmith at Del Monte Foods for a while. Later, as he prospered, he moved the family to a house in the marina district on Chestnut Street, across the street from Funston Playground, where Mario grew up playing tennis, football, and basketball.

Mario went to school at St Vincent De Paul grammar school for 8 years. It was only about 8 blocks away from his home so he usually rode his bicycle to school. After graduating in 1937 from grammar school he attended St Ignatius high school for 4 years. It was an all male school then. He received a great education from the Jesuit faculty and when he graduated he had the highest kind of diploma you could have, an honorary classical

diploma, which includes 4 years of Latin and 2 years of Greek. In his freshman year at USF he enlisted in the [Army](#) Air Corps.

He ended up in the Army Air Corps as a pilot trainee. He flew 3 different kinds of planes and was so exuberant that he buzzed the airfield 2 days in a row. The commanding officer issued an order, "no more buzzing by anyone". Two days later he buzzed again, not knowing the CO had ordered no buzzing two days before. This happened while a visiting general and congressman were watching a review. The CO wanted to court marshal him but a captain intervened and instead he was sent to South Dakota. Mario was no longer an air corps cadet, they broke him down to a private and he was in South Dakota in the wintertime, it was freezing. He finished his radio school training there and ended up in California after freezing all winter. They wanted him to be a radio instructor but he refused. He volunteered for combat duty.

In California he was trained in a B-17. Later he was assigned to a flight crew on a B-24 bomber with 9 other guys. The pilot Ken Brown, became a good friend, who's wife Rosemary is still alive. He corresponded w/ her recently. As far as we know most of the crew members are now deceased. He had a couple of reunions w/ the co-pilot, Bill Curran, while they were both still alive.

One of the last combat missions he had was over Japan, where they were flying from a base in Okinawa called Ie Shima. On that day, Aug 9 1945, they were flying over southern Kyushu, their target was Kumamoto. Following their mission they turned south towards home base, however they were over southeastern Kyushu and had to fly west in order to avoid big storm clouds. As they flew west they saw a flash of light. They had heard of the atomic bomb a few days before by rumor and they thought this could be a second one. Mario had a small box camera and he took a picture of the mushroom cloud as they passed by. They were probably 15-20 miles away, like from Oakland to the Golden Gate Bridge. How they were not affected was beyond him. The B-29's that dropped the bombs were at 30,000 feet. They were coming from the southeast and Mario's crew were coming from the south and intended to go back but they were flying west. Flying west took them over part of Kyushu Island just south of Nagasaki where the bomb went off. He doesn't think the bombers knew they were there flying below them at 12,000 feet, and Mario's crew didn't know they were above them at 30,000 feet. Their mission was a secret mission, unknown to anyone in that part of the air corp. The squadron they were in almost caught the explosion. They felt it and saw it but it didn't effect their plane. They kept going west and later south to get home.

Later Mario found out from a book written by the co-pilot of the B-2 that dropped the bomb that they were running low on gas and landed on Mario's home base island of Ie Shima, to refuel on their way home. He also said that Nagasaki was the secondary target, the city in the northern part of Kyushu, Kokura, was the primary target. The bomb couldn't be dropped by radar unless the primary target could be seen by the B-29. Since Kokura could not be bombed because of visibility problems, the crews flew further south towards Nagasaki, almost intersecting Mario's flight path at different altitudes. Because of the smoke from other raids the unfortunate people of Nagasaki ended up the target. Our bombardier Al Feldbin had all the official photo records so he gave Mario his photo of the bomb and he had it copyrighted.

When the war ended they flew home from the Philippines to California in their B-24 and were discharged. A very short time after arriving home, attending parties and social functions, he met the love of his life, Florence Heffernan, the lady he married in his early 20's. They had a wonderful marriage that gave them five sons, Peter, Stephen, David, Bob & Mark. Mario worked for his family business in Oakland and after 5 years he attended UC Hastings Law School in San Francisco. After law school he worked in the Alameda County district attorneys office for Frank Coakley. After a number of years he went into private practice. Then he got a call from Gov Ronald Reagan who appointed him to the Alameda County bench. He was a judge for some time and over the years he was assigned by 4 different chief justices, Traynor, Wright, Bird, & Lucas, to work in other counties to assist those counties with their work. When he retired he worked on judicial assignment around the state for a time and he stayed living in the SF Bay Area.

Mario expressed great joy in sharing the time he's had together with Bev Goggio in the last years of his life.

Fred C. Cooke

1. Dec. 3, 1915 - Aug. 23 2013

Lt. Col. Fred C. Cooke, U.S. Air Force (Ret.), long time Fort Walton Beach pioneer and REALTOR Emeritus, passed to his next life with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Fred was born in Winchester, Tenn., Dec. 3, 1915. He always said "He was a simple fried chicken lovin' Tennessee hillbilly" but Fred's long life was certainly not simple. The first of his family to finish college, he graduated with a (pre-med) BA degree from Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn., in 1939. He was inducted into Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame for track in 1987, and also inducted into the LMU Professional Hall of Fame in 2003. With no funds for medical school, the lure of flying took him to the U.S. Navy Aviation School, Pensacola, Fla.

Budgetary and flying deficiency ended his navy flying career. Three days after the attack on Pearl Harbor Fred was back as an Army Air Corps Aerial navigation cadet and was commissioned second lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. Fred's first combat mission was the Battle of Midway in June 1942, flying as a combat navigator in a B-17E. Flying out of Mareeba in northern Australia, Fred flew 43 combat missions earning the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Distinguished Flying Cross. While stationed in Australia, Fred met and married the love of his life, an Aussie beauty queen, Pamela Burr, their love flourished for 60 years. They were married in 1942 in St. Johns Anglican church in Rockdale, Sydney.

After the war he remained in the Reserves and settled in Pensacola where he opened his own used car dealership, until being recalled in 1951 during the Korean War. He was assigned as a senior navigator to Eglin Air Force Base Testing and Development projects; he did a first study from the air of Gulf Stream current velocities by Doppler radar in 1952. Fred returned to civilian life in 1953 and entered into a career in real estate in his new home town of Fort Walton Beach. Fred's real estate career was filled with too many awards and accolades to list. He was the local Board of REALTORS President three terms, 1959 to 60,65, State Board Director, District V. P.; President Diamond Pin Club, 1988, and on the National Board of Directors four years. He was a Real Estate Counselor and Exchangor, and member of the Military Affairs Council. He was president of the Civilian International Club and served as Chairman of the state of Florida Waterways and Reefs Commission for the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, Award of Excellence. He was founder of the Emerald Coast Sailing Association; Commander, Fort Walton Beach Power Squadron; Commodore, Fort Walton Beach Yacht Club and a founding figure and life-long member of the Krewe of Bowlegs. Fred was a member of St. Simon's Episcopal Church and served on their Vestry.

Fred and Pamela made numerous trips to Australia over the years and Fred had significant involvement in the establishment of a monument at the Mareeba airport around 1987-88 in honor of the American and Australian airmen that flew from there in WWII which had a decisive part in keeping Australia free from invasion.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Pamela B. Cooke; son, Gary D. Cooke; granddaughter, Stacey L. Cooke; and grandson, Nicholas C. Cooke.

Fred leaves behind sons, David C. Cooke and Alexander C. Cooke; daughter, Pam Scheel (Matt); and 16 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

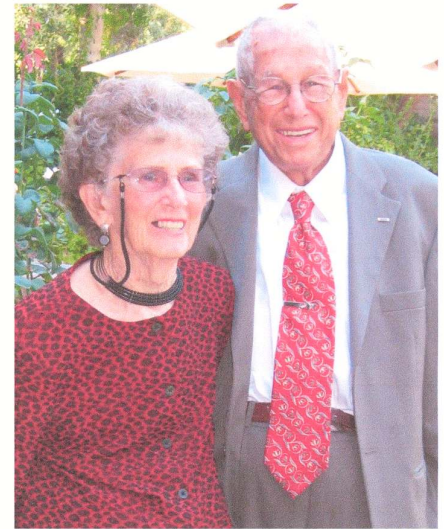
A celebration of Fred's life with military honors will be held at St. Simon's Episcopal Church, 28 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, Fla., at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 7, 2013. A reception will follow. Interment will be at Jesse Rogers Memorial Cemetery, Mary Esther, following the reception.

Lt. Col Roger E. Vargas passed away on 25 July 2013 at the VA Hospital, Loma Linda, CA. He was born 17 March 1916 in Morenci, AZ, a small town near one of the world's largest copper mines, where his father, Pascual, was a union activist. Roger was one of 10 children and grew up during the Great Depression. He graduated from Morenci schools in 1935 and Arizona State College, Flagstaff in 1939 with majors in accounting and business. Roger enlisted as a Flying Cadet in July 1940 and received navigator training at Miami U, FL. His first duty assignment was with the 7th Recon. Sqdn., in Panama where he was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. with the U. S. Army Air Corp in July 1941. After the outbreak of WW II, he was reassigned to the SW Pacific in June 1942 as a member of a cadre of 12 B-17 crews and aircraft to form the 63rd BS, 43rd BG in Australia. The Japanese had defeated allied forces at Rabaul and were increasing their presence near Milne Bay, PNG in preparation for an invasion of Port Moresby to control the entire island of New Guinea. By August 1942 the Japanese controlled all the islands and oceans north of New Guinea. Lt. Vargas's crew's mission was to stop the invasion of New Guinea and Australia. Roger flew 45 combat missions as a navigator aboard a B-17 with the 43rd BG. He was part of a group that developed the technique of skip bombing. He flew on the first skip bombing raid in American history on the night of October 22-23, 1942 when the 63rd BS/43rd BG attacked Japanese ships near Rabaul, New Britain. The port of Rabaul was important strategically because of its close proximity to the Japanese territory of the Caroline Islands, site of a major Imperial Japanese Navy base. Flying at sea level and at night, missions were dangerous and fatalities high. On his last mission in April 1943 the crew sank 2 cargo ships and left a destroyer listing. Capt. Vargas was critically wounded and spent the rest of the war recovering. For his heroism and bravery, he was awarded a Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation, AF Commendation medal and numerous other campaign and theater medals. Roger retired Oct 1961 at 15th AF HQ, March AFB, CA as a Lt. Col., Chief of War Plans after 22 years of military service. Following his Air Force retirement he was employed by Civil Service at Norton AFB, CA and served his country 14 more years with the SR-71 Reconnaissance Program. Roger was a longtime resident of Riverside (55 yr) and raised four children, Roger, Terry, Brian, and Gina. He is reunited with his daughter Gina and dearly beloved wife Olga who preceded him in death last September.



Lt.Col. Roger E. Vargas USAF (Retd)

Capt. Roger E. Vargas, met Olga at a Christmas party in December 1942 in Sydney, Australia and they were married for 68 yr. Roger is survived by his brother, Gustavo (Mexico City), 2 sisters, Ester (Mexico City) and Fabiola (Manhattan Beach, CA); 3 sons, Roger (Kamuela, HI), Terry (San Diego, CA) and Brian (Seoul, Korea); 6 grandchildren, Vanessa, Tara, Terry Christopher, Noelani, Kela and Yoideth; 3 daughters-in-law, Kathlyn, Michele, and Elvira; and 1 great granddaughter, Madalyn. Roger was a good father, a man of exceptional integrity and with very strong convictions. He was representative of the WWII generation that made the US what it is today. We invite you to honor and pay your respects to one of a dwindling number of WWII veterans. Fr. Louis Abdoo of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church will preside at graveside services on Monday, August 5, 2013 at 11:00 am at the Riverside National Cemetery, 22495 Van Buren Blvd, Riverside, CA Staging Area 5.



Robert (Bob) E. Ostrander

Burial: Beaufort National Cemetery with arrangements handled by Copeland Funeral Home. Pursuant to Bob's wishes, there will be no formal service. **Online condolences:** www.copelandfuneralservice.com

BEAUFORT, S.C. — Robert (Bob) E. Ostrander (95), beloved son, brother, uncle, friend, and long-time resident of Coosaw Island in Beaufort, SC, died peacefully at Beaufort Memorial Hospital on Dec. 3, 2013.

Copeland Funeral Service is assisting the family with arrangements.

Bob, the eldest of five children, was born in Muscatine, Iowa on June 29th, 1918. Bob was a voracious reader throughout his life, an active member of the Audubon Society, an avid bird watcher with a keen interest in Ornithology and lover of Opera.

In April, 1941, Bob was asked to serve his country in WWII with the US Army where he trained as a BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) operator. Later, he volunteered for the Army Air Corp's Officer Training program and was assigned to the 64th Bomb Squadron of the 43 Bomb Group of the 5th Air Force. While in New Guinea, Bob flew 56 combat missions as a Navigator/Gunner on B-17s and B-24s and attained the rank of Captain and Squadron Navigation Officer. During his service, Bob was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal. Bob returned to the US where he took an active role in training combat crews for B-17 and B29 bombers. He was honorably discharged from active duty in 1945.

Though accepted into M.I.T., after the war Bob elected to complete his education at the University of Iowa so as to encourage his younger brother, Richard to attend with him. Bob received the Lowden Award as the outstanding senior geology major going on to earn his MS in Geology in 1950. Upon graduation, Bob began work at Magnolia Petroleum Company, a predecessor of Mobil Oil, as a geologist in Wichita

Falls, Texas. Bob worked internationally and domestically and became highly respected in his profession having held a variety of positions — District Geologist, Production Geologist Section Chief, Division Geologist, Division Exploration Manager, General Manager of Acquisitions and New Ventures, to his final position before retirement in 1977 as Vice President of Mobil Exploration Mediterranean Inc.

Bob traveled extensively in retirement pursuing his love of bird watching. Throughout Bob's life, family was very important to him and in 1985 Bob and his brothers reunited on Coosaw Island where they built their retirement homes along the Coosaw River. Bob was host to countless family gatherings including watching his beloved Iowa Hawkeyes during their football and basketball seasons with his brothers; Bob ensured every visitor, whether young or old, near or far felt welcomed. Bob spent a considerable amount of time with family members researching and documenting family ancestry for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Bob was highly respected and deeply loved by his immediate and extended families, and will be truly missed.

Bob is preceded in death by his parents, Delmar and Grace Ostrander; sister, Geraldine Barry (Harrison); brother, S. James (Marjean); and sister-in-law, Nina Ostrander.

He is survived by his two brothers, Richard, and William; three nephews, Craig (Katie), Richard (Karen) and Robert (Lisa) Ostrander; four nieces Diane (Steve) Bond, Karen (Len) Johnson, Susan (Steve) Bates, and Pamela Barry, along with numerous grand nephews and nieces.