

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

Website: kensmen.com

NEWSLETTER 126th EDITION April 2014

PRESIDENT
SUSAN CLARK LANSON
10460 ROOSEVELT BLVD. N
SUITE 273
ST. PETERSBURG, FL
33716
727-641-1332

VICE PRESIDENT
NANCY SOLOMON
8971 HUNTINGTON PTE
SARASOTA, FL
34238-3207
941-966-9212

TREASURER
FREDRICK J. LLOYD
16 C ALPINE DRIVE
WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY
12590
845-549-3697

SECRETARY
EDWARD L. GAMMILL
5337 E. EARLL DR.
PHOENIX, AZ
85018-8045
602-301-7224

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Eldon "Bud" Lawson 2009-2010*
Arvid J. Houglum 2011*
Robert R. Richardson 2012-2013

*=Deceased

REUNION!

Yes, reunion time is near. OK, not so near but plans are under way. The hotel is contracted and the dates are set, so please, please, reserve you room now! The sooner we start booking the sooner we can lock every thing else down. For those of you who have worked prior reunions, will understand.

As DC is very military oriented and historical, we have plans for many interesting guest speakers, including representatives form Australian and Papua New Guinea who will outline some exciting events taking place to reach a long lost 43rd aircraft.

Please help make this 2014 Reunion another great one!

A HERO; Someone who, in the face of danger and adversity or from a position of weakness, display courage and the will for self sacrifice, that is, heroism, for some greater good of all humanity.

This definition is taken directly form Wikipedia, and I feel describes each and every one of you, our 43rd Bomb Group Veterans. I wanted say this as I feel today the word hero is tossed around too casually. I don't mean in relation to our

current armed forces, but your every day life events and situations.

I do not mean to take anything away from someone suffering a terrible injustice or illness. Often they are a victim and have little choice but to go on and face it with as much grace and dignity as possible, that does not make them a hero. I count myself as one such person, and like many others I am no hero. I know one when I see one and I would like to start my small campaign to bring back the true definition of the word hero.

My father received his share of recognition, some I know he felt good about, some I know meant nothing to him. Now I understand why. He always felt he was not alone, everyone deserved a medal, recognition, why was he singled out? Many have done a lot more and received less, and many have done a lot less and received much more. But one thing is for sure, my dad was a hero and so are each and every one of you and I would like to say thank you!

Sisan Langin

****EDITOR'S AND MEMBER'S REPORTS****

You are never to old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.

CS LAVIS

Who knows himself a braggart, let him fear this, for it will come to pass that every braggart shall be found an ass!

VIIIam Stakesceare

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL



In the summer of 1982, a U.S. Navy officer walked up to where the concrete for the foundation of The Wall was being poured. He stood over the trench for a moment, tossed in his dead brother's Purple Heart and saluted. This was the first offering.

At the 2013 General Meeting, the attendees were made aware of the Association's financial status, after which, the Membership voters present, voted to reduce the cost of publishing and US Postal mailing the newsletters. Therefore, to all members, please note that you can read or download any Newsletter by logging on to

http://www.kensmen.com/newsletters.html. This is the URL where the newsletters are located on our website. All one has to do, is type that into the browser window to find all newsletters listed by date and number. 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. Therefore, if your dues are in arrears for 5 years or more, you will be dropped from the mailing list.

I repeat this from the October 2011 Newsletter. 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.

A. J. Gongol and **Dr. Louis Steinfeld** sent dues payment to me. Please remember, if paying dues only, send your mail to the Treasurer.

An e-mail from Sandy: "Merry Christmas Ed*******Hope you have a great day. We will be thinking of you.

"I am now in Queensland, finally sold my home and have purchased another here.****
My new address is: **SANDRA SMITH, 82 CLIVE CRESCENT, KEPNOCK, QUEENSLAND 4670, AUSTRALIA**"

Sandy

10Jan14 "Hello – as requested, please remove my dad, **Beverly Gray Allison**, **65**th **Squadron, Pilot** from the list of printed newsletters recipients. I will be accessing and printing the newsletter for him each quarter.

Thank you,

Sizanne Alison Grigsby

Shepherd's Haven of Rest Ministries

And He (Jesus) said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while." Mark 6:31

While reviewing the **George Wyatt** files, I found **Dr. Chester C. Kennedy's (65th Squadron, Pilot)** rough draft of **THE WAY IT WAS, I THINK!** It is obvious, he was writing of his life/adventure as a Kensmen, but never finished. He had placed the copyright symbol on the draft. You will find it is not well organized, but I think you will find it to be very interesting.

I attempted to obtain his permission to use it, but found that the address on his document was no longer active! A review of the Association Rosters, reveals that Dr. Kennedy was an active member until 2002 when he was removed from the roster.

So I am sending Kennedy's draft to Tracy. It will be placed on the Kensmen website, without change or editing.

A message from **Jim Thompson**, **63**rd **Squadron and Past President**: "Here are two articles that you may find interesting.

"The 390th Bomb Group Memorial Museum was a very nice building and display area before, but they just spent 2.4 million dollars to make it even better! Someone in that organization has a lot of money or their dues are awful high!

"It has been about fourteen years since the 43rd had a reunion here. There has been many changes."

Take Care,

Jim Thompson

New address for Treasurer Fredrick J. Lloyd, 16 C ALPINE DRIVE,

WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY 12590.

New address for **Jo Bachi**, **1229 Lakeshore Drive Apt 309, Edmond, OK 73013-3032** phone (405) 568-8156

A correct address for Nancy Solomon, Huntington Pointe on the Palmer Ranch, 8971 Huntington Pointe Drive,]\Sarasota, FL 34238-3207

Upon the sad news of the death of **Treasurer Eldon "Bud" Lawson**, President Lanson appointed Fredrick J. Lloyd as the Treasurer of the Association.

Jan 19, 2004—"Within the confines of the Mareeba Airport, Qld Australia, a memorial to the B-17 "Hoomalimali Crew" now stands, as a tribute to the crew who tragically lost their lives on the 14th September 1942. They are; Captain Hershell Henson, 1st Lt James Bastion, 2nd Lt Francis Kritzmaker, T/Sgt John Doran, T/Sgt John Samara, S/Sgt Louis N Camp Jr, Sgt Lawrence Donker, Corp Robert Case and PFC Jack Kaynor.

"If you are related, knew any of the crew, are able to possibly recognize them in a photograph. If you have any photos or information that you would be willing to share please contact me. My email is Michael.Musumeci@bigpond.com

"The Hoomalimali story will be told in a book very soon to be released, but sadly the crew cannot be identified. If anyone has any photos of Mareeba during this time period, please send to me via email."

During some correspondence with **Willie Pettus**, son of **Jim Pettus**, **43**rd **Bomb Group Commanding Officer**, I received a photograph, which is an attachment. Willie requested identification of the men standing to the right of his father. If you can do so please contact him at <<u>williepettusarchitect@gmail.com</u>>

March 20, 2014—A note from **Tom Clavin**: "Enclosed is a check for 43rd Group dues. I am very glad to be a supporter of your organization. I did not have the privilege, as **Bob Drury** did, of meeting you at the reunion last September. I look forward to doing that at the next reunion in Washington, DC.

"After a few detours and distractions, Bob and I are resuming our work on a book about the 43rd's activities in the first half of 1943, culminating in the flight of **Old 666.** We would like to interview people in your organization who served at that time. Who do you suggest and can I obtain updated contact information".

Thank you,

Tom

If you wish to talk to or send information: Tom's address is **P.O. Box 3203, Sag Harbor, NY 11963** phone (613) 725-0151 or (631) 255-6970 or email Beechreading@gmail.com

A response to the letter seeking confirmation of the present status of our Membership: "So nice to know I'm still on your mailing list. My husband **Frank Remaniak**, **64**th **Squadron, Radio Maintenance**, passed March 14, 2006.

"I have many fond memories of our reunions to mention a few-Dayton, LA, The Alamo, Colorado Springs and Tampa, FL, which was his last reunion. We were happy to see our

special friends, Marian (Shortie) & Hattie Hamilton and Ray & Betty Gates. I am sill in touch with them.

"I especially remember how you "boys" loved to reminisce —years didn't seem to matter. Seeing each other again-Buddies!

"I appreciate the Association and all the work that goes into keeping in touch. Many thanks and God Bless." *Nargery Remarks*

January 1, 2014 a note: "Wanted to let you know that my husband **Harold T. Newton, 63**rd **Squadron**, **Pilot** passed away June 27, 2013. He was 92 and had an amazing life.

"His health started deteriorating several years ago and was in a nursing home the last 19 months. We miss him very much but know he is smiling down on us.

Ray Crawford was Pilot and Harold Co-pilot in New Guinea during WWII. I did write Ray to inform him". Love to you all,

Pat Navton

Dear Pat, I have fond memories of the **2005 Reunion** in Bloomington, MN. I was at the same table, with you and Harold, during the Saturday night Dinner/Dance.

I hope you remember, I invited the young lady, who was the singer with the band, to join us, for she looked so lonely standing off to the side of our table. She sat between me and you and had quite a good time visiting with us.

January 17, 2014—"Just a note to let you know that my husband, **E Raymond Gates**, **63**rd **Squadron**, **Flight Engineer** passed away July 27, 2013 at the age of 92 years-5 months.

"Survivors are wife Betty, daughter Mary and son-in-law Amerr Mahgoub. Four grandchildren, Bassel, Faris, Samec and Sarah Mahgoub.

"I'm sending my dues, for I wish to remain a member of Kensmen!"

Thanks,

Betty Gates

Betty, you are a **Kensmen** and as the wife of a deceased Kensmen, you do not need to pay dues in the future.

February 6, 2014–A letter from **Stanley Cook** asks that his father, **Howard Cook**, **403**rd **Squadron**, **Navigator**, be removed from our mailing list due to his passing.

18 Mar14, a letter from **Eric Munson** reported the death of his father **Wallace William Munson**, **64**th **Squadron**, **Radio/Gunner**. Eric's letter is an attachment to this Newsletter.

March 24, 2014 received the following e-mail.

"My name is **Mark Kitchen**, I live next door to **Eldon Lawson**. It is with deep regret that I inform you that Eldon passed away this past weekend. From the limited information I was given from the authorities who found him, he was in his room, and passed peacefully.

"Eldon always used to talk about the 43rd bomb group, and how he would stay in contact with the group

on the internet. I wanted to make sure that you, his friends were notified of his passing. To my understanding Eldon and his wife had no children. I'm sure that your group was very important to Eldon and that he counted you as true friends. I'd like to express condolences to you all at this sad time. Please contact me and let me know if there is anything I can do to be of help".

Nark Kitchen

Eldon E. "Bud" Lawson, 65th Squadron, Bombardier served the Association as **President**, as **Treasurer** and **Keeper of all Kensmen's** artifacts and memorabilia. The display of all of these, during our reunions, attracted attention and showed the many accomplishments, awards and honors of the 43rd Bomb Group. He served us well. He will be missed!

From Jim Eide

Two medical students are walking along the street when they noticed an elder man walking with his legs apart. He was stiff-legged and walking very slowly.

One student said to his friend: "I'm sure that poor old men has Peltry Syndrome. Those people walk just like that." The other student: "No, I don't think so. The old man surely has Zovitzki Syndrome. He walks slowly and his legs are apart, just as we learned in class."

Since they couldn't agree they decided to ask the old men. They approached him and one of the students said t him, "We are medical students and couldn't help but notice the way you walk, but we couldn't agree on the syndrome you may have—could tell us what it is?"

The old man responded, "I'll tell you, but first you tell me, what you fine medical students think."

The first student said, "I think it's Peltry Syndrome." The old man responded, "You thought –but you are wrong."

The other student said, "I think you have Zovitizki Syndrome." The old man said, "You thought —but you are wrong."

So they asked him, "Well, old timer, what do you have?" The old man said, "Well, I thought it was **GAS—but I was wrong, also!"**

*********SIGNS of OUR TIMES******

We had a power outage this morning. My PC, laptop, TV, DVD, iPad, ham radio & my new surround sound music system were all shut down.

Then I discovered that my iPhone battery was flat and to top it off it was raining outside, so I couldn't play golf.

I went into the kitchen to make coffee and then I remembered that this also needs power, so I sat and talked with my wife for a few hours.

She seems like a nice person.

From Bob Cooper

A father buys a old detector robot that slaps people when they lie. He decides to test it out at dinner one night.

The father asks his son what he did that afternoon. The son says, "I did some school work." The robot slaps the son. The son says, "OK, I was at a friends watching movies." Dad asks, "What movie did you watch?" Son says, "Toy Story." The robot slaps the son. Son says, "OK, we were watching porn." Dad says, "What? At your age I didn't even know what porn was." The robot slaps the father!

Mom laughs and says, "Well, he certainly is your son." The robot slaps the mother! **ROBOT FOR SALE**

From Jim Eide

Indian Chief 'Two Eagles' was asked by a white U.S. government official, "You have observed the white man for 90 years. You've seen his wars and his technological advances. You've seen his progress and the damage he's done."

The Chief nodded in agreement. The official continued, "Considering all these events, in your opinion, where did the white man go wrong?" The Chief stared at the government official then replied.

"When white man find land, Indians were running it, no taxes, no debt, plenty buffalo, plenty beaver, clean water. Women did all the work, Medicine man free, Indian man spend all day hunting and fishing; all night having sex"

Then the Chief leaned back and smiled, "Only white man dumb enough to think he could improve a system like that!"

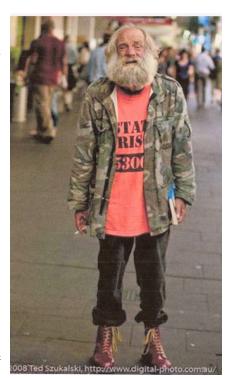
Very important Lesson

I was walking down the street when I was accosted by a particularly dirty and shabby-looking homeless man, who asked for a couple of dollars for dinner. I took out my wallet, extracted ten dollars and asked, "If I give you this money, will you buy some beer with it instead of dinner?" No, I stopped drinking years ago," "the homeless man replied.

"Will you use it to go fishing instead of buy food?" I asked. "No, I don't waste time fishing" the homeless man said. "I need to spend all my time trying to stay alive."

"Will you spend this on hunting equipment?" I asked. "Are you NUTS!" replied the homeless man. "I haven't gone hunting in 20 years!" "Well," I said, "I'm not going to give you money. Instead, I'm going to take you home for a shower and terrific dinner cooked by my wife." The homeless man was astounded. "Won't your wife be furious with you for doing that?"

I replied, "Don't worry about that. It's important for her to see what a man looks like afer he has given up drinking, fishing and hunting!"

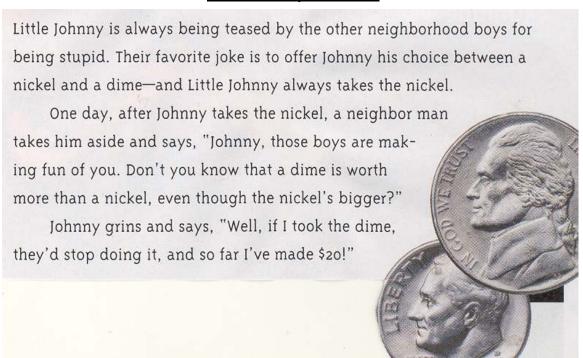


A Note From a Friend

I just got off the phone this morning, with a friend, who lives in Michigan. She said that since about 5 o'clock this morning, the snow has been nearly waist high and is still coming the down! The temperature is 32 below zero and the north wind is increasing to near gale force. Wind chill is minus 59!

Her husband has done nothing but look through the kitchen window and just stare! She says, that if it gets much worse, she'll probably let the drunken bastard in!

Little Johnny is Smart!



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 Treasurer Fredrick J. Lloyd, 16 C ALPINE DRIVE, WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY 12590. 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 pub lication month probably will not appear in that publication.

- 1-Eric Munson's letter
- 2-Jim Thompson's News Article re Museum
- 3-Pettus photograph
- 4-2014 Reunion Information





Wallace William Munson, who passed away peacefully at home in Sun City, Arizona aged 89, had an unusual breadth of military assignments and U. S. Civil Service occupations. During the Second World War, Wallace totaled fifty-five missions as a Technical Sargent (Radio Operator & Gunner) onboard B-24 Liberator Bombers. He was assigned to the 5th Air Force, 43rd Bomb Group, and 64th Combat Crew in the Pacific. Wallace was awarded numerous combat decorations for his role during crucial bombing missions during the following campaigns: New Guinea, Bismarck-Archipelago, North Solomon's, Eastern Mandates and the Western Pacific. Most notably, was awarded both the *Distinguished Flying Cross* and *Air Medal* prior to his twenty-first birthday. Wallace truly made the ultimate sacrifice to defend all that we hold dear.

Once the Second World War ended, Wallace accepted an assignment with the U. S. Civil Service in Occupied Japan. His positions throughout his career ranged from Instructor, an Action Officer managing multi-hundred million dollar programs to working as a U. S. Army Communications Command liaison with NATO. His duties took him to sensitive roles overseas. These foreign assignments allowed his family to travel to Japan, Okinawa and Germany. During the Vietnam War, Wallace was frequently sent temporary duty to Thailand and Vietnam as a communications advisor for the initial war effort. Throughout his career, Wallace and his wife Anna were popular with all ranks and as a "people person"; Wallace was recognized as an exceptional program manager by colleagues and Flag Rank.

Upon retiring, Wallace had a wide range of interest, the most important being his family. His services were in great demand by various associations and volunteer organizations. Wallace was a life member of the 43rd Bomb Group Association – "Ken's Men", and the Thomas Munson Foundation. Lastly, he was a forty-three year member of The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Wallace was universally admired.

Wallace Munson is survived by his beloved wife Anna of sixty years and his son Eric. Wallace William Munson born May 10, 1924 died September 9, 2013 and was laid to rest with *Full Military Honors* at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona.

Kenovation bringing 'blend of old and new' to WWII exhibits

By Veronica M. Cruz

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The 390th Memorial Museum, dedicated to the sacrifices of a World War II bomb group, is in the midst of putting finishing touches on a \$2.4 million renovation that added 12,000 square feet of exhibit, office and storage space.

mon, onnce and storage space.
The museum, on the grounds of
the Pima Air and Space Museum
at 6000 E. Valencia Road, is set to
reopen this weekend.

The expansion modernized the hangar that houses the museum, which now includes an entryway, a mezzanine, a two-story mock control tower, a research library, a theater and offices.

Some of the museum's exhibits, including an area that focuses on prisoners of war, one that honors each of the bomb group's four squadrons, and a diorama of the bomb group's daylight raid on Berlin, were upgraded to include new signage and display cases.

new signage and display cases.

Other exhibits, including one about the group's "chowhound" missions, which involved dropping 19,000 tons of food from the bomb bays of B-17s to starving people in the Netherlands, have been untouched.

The renovation's goal was to maintain the integrity of the efforts of the veterans who started the museum and created the exhibits, but also modernize the space, said Leslie Freed, the museum's development director.

"It's a blend of the old and new,"

she said.
Separate rooms were built to house memorabilia and exhibits from the 95th and the 100th bomb groups, which along with the 390th made up the 13th Combat Wing.

From the mezzanine, visitors



Workers from Hiller Painting put down a coat of epoxy on the floor last week as part of the 390th Memorial Museum's \$2.4 million face-lift. The building in a hangar on the grounds of the Pima Air and Space Museum spotlights the history and service of the World War II bomber group.

IF YOU GO

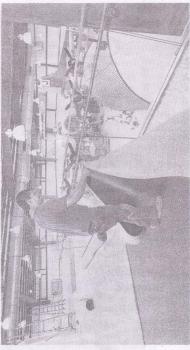
- What: 390th Memorial Museum reopening and rededication ceremony and
- When: 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday; regular museum hours will resume Sunday
- Where: 390th Memorial Museum, 6000 E. Valencia Road
 Cost: The rededication ceremony is free with admission to the Pima Air and Space Museum, but it's another \$50 to attend the gala afterward.

can get a bird's-eye view view of the museum's crown jewel, a B-17 bomber named "I'll be Around." Several black-and-white photos of the group's crews line one of the upper floor's walls, and a mock Quonset hut on the lower level shows how the airmen lived.

An escape-and-evasion kit, a ration pack, hand-painted A2 bomber jackets and maps printed on linen are among the items featured in newly built display cases. Videos that accompany the ex-

Videos that accompany the ex-





"I'll Be Around," a B-17 Flying Fortress of World War II vintage, sits below Pablo Campos of IFS flooring, putting down carpet on the second floor of the building. The bomber was what the 390th Bombardment Group flew.



BENJIE SANDERS / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The second floor of the renovated 390th Museum will feature a panoramic view of many of the Pima Air and Space Museum's outdoor exhibits when it reopens this weekend

MUSEUM

Continued from Page A1

hibits will now be shown on flatscreen TVs mounted to the wall instead of older, bulkier TVs.

The museum's executive director, Emile "Terry" Therrien, says the renovation of the facility, built in 1985, will help visitors better read and understand the exhibits.

"The renovation really puts us into the 21st century. It upgrades the entire facility," he said.

Many other artifacts remain in storage, but the additional space in the museum will allow exhibits to be rotated.

"The space allows us to tell the story in more detail," Freed said. "Aside from the B-17, which is considered the iconic World War

II plane, what we really want to focus on is the men who flew those planes — what was their life like? What happened when they were captured? ... The stories are what make the museum come alive."

Retired Col. Richard Bushong, 90, one of the museum's docents, was a pilot with the 390th and is eager to get back to work sharing with visitors his memories of his 28 missions with the bomb group.

Bushong hopes visitors walk away more informed about the sacrifices of the Eighth Air Force, of which the 390th was a part, during World War II.

"We discuss things that happened in the Eighth Air Force and we talk very exclusively about the 390th in many cases, but we're giving history for the young people that don't know that history.

and I think we'll be able to portray that with the new displays that we're going to have," he said.

September marks the 70th anniversary of the formation of the 390th Bombardment Group.

The building will be rededicated and host a gala this weekend. About 30 veterans from the 390th group are expected to attend from around the country.

The museum will open to the public for the first time since April on Sunday.

"I'm looking forward to people coming in and just being astounded at our museum. I think they will be," Bushong said. "It's going to take us a while to get all the displays that we want in that space."

Contact reporter Veronica Cruz at vcruz@ azstarnet.com or 573-4224.

RARE, RESTORED WWII FIGHTER ON DISPLAY AT PIMA AIR & SPACE MUSEUM



PHOTOS BY JOHN BEZOSKY

The Bell P-39N Airacobra is unusual in that its engine is behind the pilot. It didn't perform well at high altitudes but was excellent at ground attack.

Found in New Guinea jungle

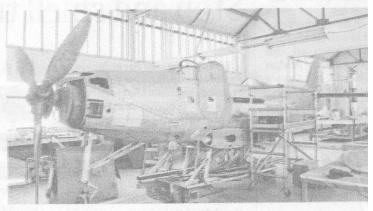
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The Pima Air & Space Museum, 6000 E. Valencia Road, has added a newly restored aircraft, recovered from a New Guinea jungle, to its Pacific—theater WWII hangar: the rare Bell P-39N Airacobra. Manufactured at Bell Aircraft's New York factory in 1943, the plane was shipped to the 5th Air Force in New Guinea, where it served until it crashed at Tadji Airfield. It was stripped of useful

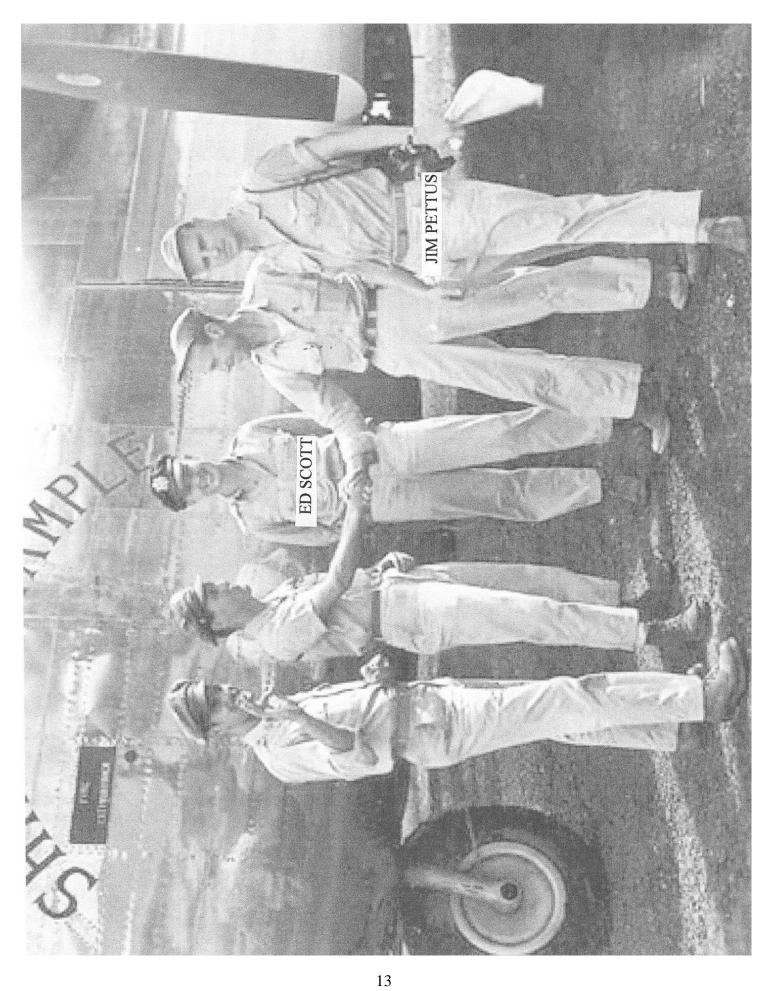
parts and, for 30 years, lay undisturbed as the jungle grew over it.

In 1974 Australian "aircraft fanatic" Charles Darby recovered it, the museum said in a news release. Decades later, the partially restored plane was loaned to the Tucson museum, where the staff and volunteers finished restoring it.

On StarNet: A World War II-era training film shows the Airacobra in action: azstarnet.com/video



The partially restored plane was loaned to the Pima Air & Space Museum, where staff and volunteers completed the restoration.





43rd Bomb Group Reunion

August 27-31st, 2014

Cut off date: July 25th, 2014

Group Room Rate:

Superior King \$159.00 Deluxe Double \$179.00



2019 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. Washington, DC 20006



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43rd Bomb Group Reunion

WHITE HOUSE TOUR

Space Limited

Date to be assigned AFTER information required is submitted to the Secret Service

To Reserve your Spot:

Call Nancy Solomon (941) 966-9212

Email: nansolo.srq@gmail.com

Information Required by Secret Service

- Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial:
- · Date of Birth:
- Social Sec #:
- Citizenship of what Country:
- Gender:
- · Where live, City:
- State:





43rd Bomb Group Reunion

August 27 - August 31 2014

Washington DC

Make your hotel reservations now!

Agenda and registration form to come in next newsletter and
Online soon at

Www.kensmen.com

please watch for update

SCHEDULED EVENTS TO INCLUDE

Hazy-Smithsonian Aviation Center
White House Tour, space limited
Memorial Service at Arlington's Old Post Chapel
WWII Memorial, with Presentation

And of course Guest Speakers!

Please reserve your rooms now so we can book and plan our events early!