



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



NEWSLETTER 127<sup>th</sup> EDITION  
July 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

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

SECRETARY

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

Website: [www.kensmen.com](http://www.kensmen.com)

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Charles Rauch 2004-2005  
Jim Cherkauer 2006-2007  
James Thompson Jr 2008  
Eldon "Bud" Lawson 2009-2010  
Arvid J. Hougum 2011\*  
Robert R. Richardson 2012-2013

\*=Deceased

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

It is with sad heart that we must say goodbye to **Eldon "Bud" Lawson**. While he had been unable to attend the last few reunions due to his wife's poor health, he had always looked forward to them, serving as a board member, President and Treasurer for many years. Bud was always a great one for a story and kept wonderful track of all of our memorabilia for many years. He carefully boxed, taking it from reunion to reunion and store it in between times, while taking great care. Our thoughts are with his family at this time, he will be missed!

Over the past few months, I have had the opportunity to speak to many of you and it has been such a delight. It reminds me again why I first became involved, to know the men who served with my father. I love to hear your stories and gain an even greater understanding of what life was like for you during the war. Each time I talk to one of you, I learn something new. Be careful, I may ask you to repeat these stories during open mike night!

I had one such delightful conversation with **Douglas Flack** and I later reflected on the fact that he had at one time flown with my father over Balikpapan. It struck me how different things could be for both his daughter, whom we all

met in Washington DC a few years ago, and myself.

**Rick Lloyd** is another, who's father and mine were crew mates for many years. We both have several photos of them with the **"Wolf Pack."** Had it been shot down neither of us would be here today! The moment I met Rick, I trusted him, as I bet our fathers did so many years ago. Rick has graciously agreed to serve as our new **Treasurer**. Thank you for that Rick.

### Now for the REUNION

The **Reunion dates are Aug 27-31, 2014**, to be held in **Washington DC**. We encourage all veterans, family members and interesting parties to come and join us, you will be welcomed.

Of course, anyone who knows me, knows there are always a few surprises planned, but one thing of interest will be the showing of several hundred, never seen before, color slides! They were taken between 1942 and 1944. They are a collection of the 126<sup>th</sup> Infantry, so obviously taken from their perspective. These men were the men you were protecting on the ground while you were in the air! We plan to add them to the collection at GLU to show the environment and living conditions at that time. They are amazing and I think everyone will find it fascinating.

I also wish to thank **Jimmy Dieffenderfer**, known as **"Jimmy D"**, for graciously sponsoring a Welcome Cocktail Party with me, for everyone, Thursday evening, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Jimmy is always known for his wonderful generosity, his grabbing the bar tab at the end of a function and now has outdone himself. Thanks, from all of us, Jimmy D!

Also, I would like everyone to know that we have been contacted by **Tom Clavin and Bob Durury**, two very well known authors of **"Halsey's Typhoon"**. They are very interested in you. You, meaning you veterans! They are using GMU items and interviews we have gathered and scanned, and have already spoken to the **Jay Zeamer** family, and hopefully several of you by the time of the reunion. We hope to see one if not both at the reunion. I will do my best to create an interview/recording room again as we had once before in DC. It is important that we not only save, but write your history!

So register for the reunion as we are in a small hotel this year and rooms will be scarce!

**Susan Clark Larson**

### \*\*\*\*\*EDITOR'S AND MEMBER'S REPORTS\*\*\*\*\*

Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.

**John Muir, Naturalist**

For every beauty there is an eye somewhere to see it.  
For every truth there is an ear somewhere to hear it.  
For every love there is a heart somewhere to receive it.

**Ivan Parin, Russian Mathematician**

If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die, I want to go where they went!

**Will Rogers**

**1921»**

The remains of an unidentified American service member were interred in what became known as the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in a ceremony that was presided over by President Warren G. Harding.



KRT

**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 membership roster.**

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.**

Thomas J. Clavin and Louis E. Steinfeld sent dues payments to me. **Please remember**, if paying dues only, send your mail to the **Treasurer**.

28Apr14, "Here is money for the next issue of the newsletter. Please send me a copy.

**Louis Steinfeld**

5May14, "I appreciate receiving the 43<sup>rd</sup> newsletter; but really I don't remember any of the fellows any more. So you might as well remove my name from the mailing list. I am enclosing \$5.00 to help with Postage.

"Thank you very much for the way you keep everyone informed!"

**Claire Spore**

Dear Louis and Claire, please refer to the first paragraph above. Use this method to obtain the newsletter.

8Apr14, received an e-mail from **Doug Walker**, who updated his activities in locating his father, **General Kenneth Walker, Commanding Officer, 5<sup>th</sup> Bomber Command**.

“It’s always great to hear from you and to now look forward to seeing you again in Washington. I still remember our enjoyable dinner with you and your family, Jim Dieffenderfer, et al. I’m sending an update on my situation for what it’s worth.

“For some time now I’ve had the good fortune of working with a group of individuals with varying skills to continue to push for a search for the San Antonio Rose (SAR), the possible remains of the crew and my father. Last fall during a Congressional hearing on the dismal performance of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) the information was presented that an aerial survey using Multi-Band Synthetic Aperture Radar would be tested in Papua New Guinea (PNG) to help JPAC’s search and recovery efforts. Though there was little other information or details, even so we viewed it as an opportunity to have this survey include eastern New Britain province where we have determined the SAR went down. Well, the test was completed but was limited to areas of the main island of New Guinea and did not include New Britain.

“In the meantime my Senator, Richard Blumenthal, sent the attached letter. Obviously, the machinery of government moves slowly, but even though the test is now completed the letter helps to raise the point about the need for a renewed effort concerning this loss. In the meantime, we are working to determine the results of the test and plans for its use throughout PNG. This is all a bit complicated as JPAC is undergoing a major overhaul due to the problems in its performance that have surfaced in the last several months. So, we’ll have to wait and see how it all turns out. In the meantime, we are very fortunate in having a Marine Major as the staff person in Blumenthal’s office that is doing a great job at follow-through. Stay tuned.

“On another topic, I don’t recall if I sent you this connection to a video of part of a ceremony that occurred two years ago. The video is of the rededication of Walker Hall at Maxwell AFB. I apologize in advance for my poor performance on this video and my only excuse is the impact of the flu on that trip which obviously scrambled my brain: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpVmeFR6M74&feature=email>.

“One final point: I sent a request to the Order of Daedalians, [www.daedalians.org](http://www.daedalians.org), to have a notice of the upcoming August meeting included in the next edition of their magazine, the *Daedalus Flyer*. I cut and pasted the format that was included in your email to insure that contact information for questions, etc. was included.

“Hope all is well in the meantime and looking forward to seeing you in August.”

**Dag Walker**

**Senator Richard Blumenthal’s** letter is an attachment.

A note from **Louise Terrell**--“Seeking information regarding events surrounding the death of **SSGT LOUIS D. MAENNER**, tail gunner on the **Frank Krones** crew (my Dad was also a member of this crew).

“I’ve reviewed a copy of Frank Krones’ flight log; the crew arrived in New Guinea on 25



July 1943. SSGT Maenner died of non-battle injuries on 27 July 1943, just two days later. Although produced several days after his death (30 July), orders assigning the Frank Krones crew to the 64<sup>th</sup> Squadron include SSGT Maenner by name; thus, I believe he died in New Guinea. SSGT Maenner was likely interred at one of the several USAF cemeteries in New Guinea, but was eventually re-interred at the USAF Cemetery at Ipswich in Australia in August of 1945 and then moved to the National Memorial Cemetery in Hawaii in January 1949. I would be very appreciative of information regarding what happened to SSGT Maenner. You can contact me at 906-523-5837 or [terrellfamily5@verizon.net](mailto:terrellfamily5@verizon.net) or write to me at 207 Huron Street, Houghton MI 49931. LOUISE V TERRELL (daughter of **Bill Voght, gunner, 64<sup>th</sup> Squadron**)

\*\*\* P.S. Kudos to **John Taylor** (64<sup>th</sup>) and **Bill Jobe** (64<sup>th</sup>) for helping to solve the mystery of what happened to **SSGT Warren W. Thompson**, also an original member of Frank Krones crew. They were both incredible helpful – much appreciated.

**Loise**

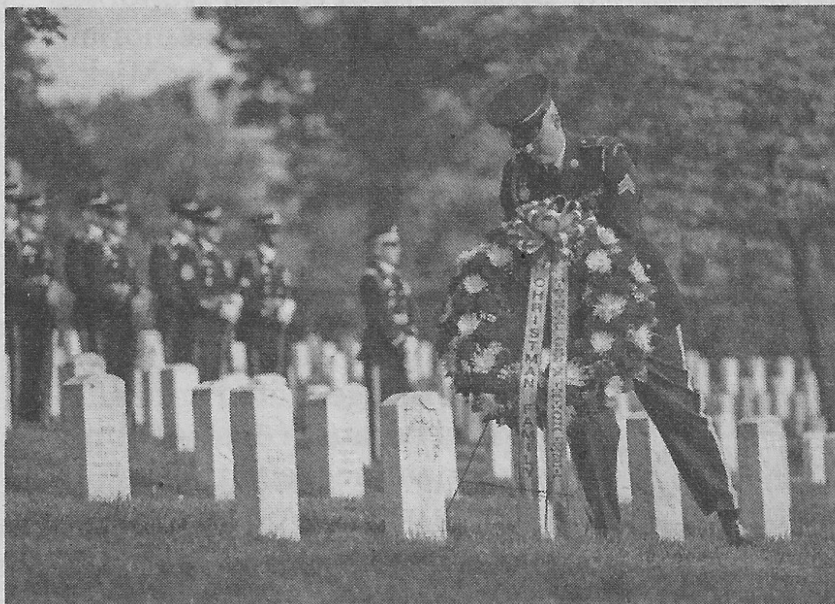
May14, an update re **Chuck Rauch** from Susan: “I am not sure if you are aware, but Nance and I have been trying to reach Chuck and Sylvia without success.

“I want you to know that I received a call from him last night and ther are both fine. They are currently staying with friends in Iowa and will return to FL soon. He is having some back pains but other than that feeling fine. We had quite a long chat and he sounded quite himself, I felt very relieved. I forgot to tell him about “Bud”. If you talk to himbe sure to tell him!”

**Susan**

\*\*\*\*\*MEMORIAL\*\*\*\*\*

## ARLINGTON CEMETERY MARKS 150 YEARS



An Army Honor Guard prepares for a wreath ceremony that commemorates Arlington National Cemetery's 150th anniversary in Arlington, Va., on Tuesday.

SHAWN THEW, EPA

Eldon "Bud" Lawson's obituary is an attachment (did not receive it before the release of the last newsletter).

Received an e-mail from Dan Knickrehm concerning Bud.—It is Attachment #3.

A good period, **I did not receive** a death notice in the past 3 months!

**Death leaves a heartache**

**No one can ever heal.**

**Love leaves a memory**

**No one can ever steal.**

\*\*\*\*\***SENIOR MOMENTS**\*\*\*\*\*

During a Little League Game, the coach called one of his 9-year-old baseball players aside and asked, "Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?" The boy nodded.

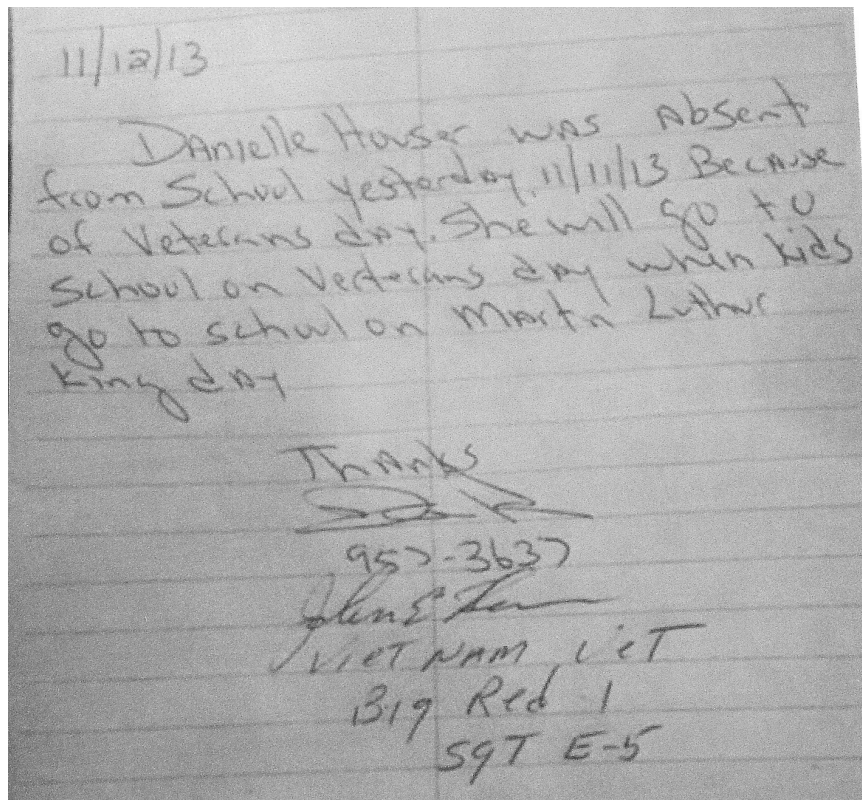
"Do you understand that what matters is whether we win or lose together as a team? The boy again nodded "yes".

"So", the coach continued, "I'm sure you know, when an out is called, you shouldn't argue, curse, attack the umpire, or call him a pecker-head or asshole. Do you understand all that?" The boy nodded "yes" again.

He continued, "And when I take you out of the game so another boy has a chance to play also, it's not good sportsmanship to call your coach a dumb ass or shithead. Is it?"

The little boy shook his head "no". "Good", said the coach. "Now go over there and explain all of this to you grandmother!"

\*\*\*\*\***SIGNS OF OUR TIMES**\*\*\*\*\*



\*\*\*\*\*43<sup>rd</sup> HUMOR\*\*\*\*\*

A cowboy, who just moved to Wyoming from Oklahoma, walks into a bar and orders three mugs of Bud. He sits in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn. When he finishes them, he comes back to the bar and orders three more!

The bartender approaches and tells the cowboy, "You know, a mug goes flat after I draw it. It would taste better if you bought one at a time." The cowboy replies, "Well your see, I have two brothers. One is in Arizona, the other is in Colorado. When we left our home in Oklahoma, we promised that we'd drink this way to remember the days when we drank together. So I'm drinking one beer for each of my brothers and one for myself."

The bartender admits that this is a nice custom, and leaves it there. The cowboy becomes a regular in the bar, and always drinks the same way. He orders three mugs and drinks them in turn.

One day, he comes in and only orders two mugs. All the regulars take notice and fall silent. When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, "I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wish to offer my condolences on your loss."

The cowboy looks puzzled for a moment, then a light dawns in his eyes and he laughs. "Oh, no, everybody's just fine," he explains. "It's just that my wife and I joined the Baptist Church and I had to quit drinking,"

"Hasn't affected my brothers though!

A Polish immigrant went to the DMV to apply for a driver's license. First, of course, he had to take an eye sight test.

The optician showed him a card with the letters—'C Z W I X N O S T A C Z' ----"Can you read this?" the optician asked. "Read it?" the Polish guy replied, "I know the guy!"

Mother Superior called all the nuns together and said to them, "I must tell you all something. We have a case of gonorrhea in the convent!"

"Thank GOD" said an elderly nun at the back. "I'm so tired of chardonay."

\*\*\*\*\*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 **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](mailto:Edgammill@aol.com). Any material receive after the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, prior to a publication month, probably will not appear in that publication.

\*\*\*\*\*ATTACHMENTS\*\*\*\*\*

- 1-Senator Richard Blumenthal's Letter
- 2-A second e-mail from Doug Walker
- 3-Dan Knickrehm's e-mail re Bud Lawson
- 4-Obituary
- 5-Susan's Flyer
- 6-Hello All—"Attached is a file with the registration forms for this years reunion. Lot of things are not yet set in stone as we are waiting on a time and day for the White House tour. Please register as soon as possible and I will see you all real soon! Susan  
Reunion notice, hotel reservation, schedule of events, and cost (5 pages)

SEE YOU IN WASHINGTON DC IN AUGUST



March 7, 2014

The Honorable Chuck Hagel  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hagel,

I understand that the mission of Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) is to conduct global search, recovery and laboratory operations to identify unaccounted-for Americans from past conflicts in order to support the Department of Defense's personnel accounting efforts. I write on behalf of a Connecticut family, who, like many American families who lost parents or children during combat in foreign theaters against our nation's enemies, is trying to reach closure by bringing those Americans home.

On January 5, 1943, the B-17F *San Antonio Rose* was involved in bombing operations against the Japanese naval base at Rabaul, New Britain, Papua New Guinea. Coming under significant anti-aircraft fire while making a run over the target area, the *San Antonio Rose* disengaged from the battle and was last seen disappearing into a cloud south of Rabaul harbor. She never made it back to base. Two members of the crew bailed out in the area of the Mavelo River valley in eastern New Britain, just west of Wide Bay. In late 1948, a team from the American Graves Registration Service visited the general area where the plane is believed to have crashed, but they found no trace of *San Antonio Rose* or those aboard her.

It is noteworthy that the *San Antonio Rose* is the only bomber lost over New Britain that has not been found and the only crew still not accounted for. JPAC has arrived at the conclusion that the *San Antonio Rose* was lost at sea. However, the ditching of *San Antonio Rose* at sea almost certainly did not happen, as indicated by the two crewmembers that landed in the vicinity of the Mavelo Valley, inland of Tol Plantation, after bailing out of the mortally damaged airplane. The search for the *San Antonio Rose* must rely on the fact that the crippled plane had to be over land at the point of the bail-out, which was only minutes before it crashed.

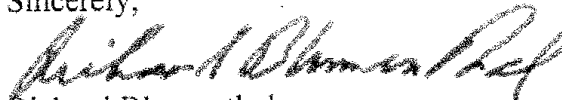
Among those on board the *San Antonio Rose* was Medal of Honor recipient Brigadier General Kenneth Newton Walker, Commander of the V Bomber Command, Southwest Pacific Area. Recognized as a contemporary expert of aviation tactics and strategy, General Walker was a hands-on commander, accompanying that day's mission as an observer in order to better ascertain Japanese logistics and defense capabilities. His son, a Connecticut resident, has brought this issue to my attention and he is eager to bring his father home.

I am aware that JPAC has begun a new overhead imagery project to map suspected aircraft crash sites in Papua New Guinea, as part of its commendable effort to identify and recover remains of our fallen from World War II. There is significant expectation that the

technology being used—an airplane-based multi-land synthetic aperture radar (MB-SAR)—will penetrate the formidable canopy foliage and allow JPAC to see potential crash sites while expending minimal effort. I believe the area of eastern New Britain where the *San Antonio Rose* may have crashed—west of Wide Bay with the Kol Mountains immediately to the south—deserves priority attention from JPAC as it conducts the airborne radar search.

I ask that the JPAC exercise all due consideration with regard to this request. Doing so will once again demonstrate the nation's persistent commitment and sense of responsibility as we endeavor to reclaim our lost heroes.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate

**Subject:** RE: Lt. Fuller  
**From:** Douglas Walker <newwalk@optonline.net>  
**Date:** 5/20/2014 9:00 AM  
**To:** 'edgammill' <edgammill@aol.com>

Ed:

I don't believe I've thanked you for your help, which I really appreciate. My interest in Lt. Fuller is because I recently learned that he was the pilot on a flight that Roger Ramey, when he was the CO of the 43<sup>rd</sup> BG, ordered to search for my father soon after 5 Jan 43. Unfortunately, Lt. Fuller is no longer with us though his wife is still alive. It's probably a long-shot that he kept a diary of events like this. The information about the flight came from Herb Billington, a Flight Engineer in the 43rdBG, who told me that Ramey order a secret flight, with no ammunition and extra fuel, to search the area where he believe the *San Antonio Rose* went down.

This information is important because it helps make the case for a land crash versus a water crash. The question about location is because the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) asserted that the plane went down in Wide Bay, thus relieving them of the responsibility of a search. Given the fact that two crew members bailed in the area of the Mevelo River valley it's pretty clear the plane would have gone down on land. At the point of bail out the plane was possibly only a few minutes from going down.

Anyway, Ed, that's story for now and it's great to have you active and such a remarkable resource.

Thanks and best wishes, Doug

**Subject:** Re: Eldon Lawson  
**From:** Daniel Knickrehm <djknick1@aol.com>  
**Date:** 3/31/2014 2:44 AM  
**To:** "Edgammill@aol.com" <Edgammill@aol.com>  
**CC:** "slanson1@gmail.com" <slanson1@gmail.com>

I am so sorry to hear the tidings of Bud's passing. In the short time I knew him we became friends.

As for the historical items he has, I tried on a number of occasions to get him to send them to me but he never got around to it. In the last six months or so he did not return my emails.

I know he has the manuscript but other than that, the last information I got from him was that what was left was not, in his estimation, very important. Of course I would still like to see what it is so I can evaluate the items myself. Unfortunately, right now I can not make it to Ohio either. Perhaps if it were a quick trip where I could drive up there, pick up the items and return the next day, I could do it but I would need some notice so I can get time off from work.

Dan

#### ELDON E. LAWSON



LAWSON ELDON E. LAWSON. Beloved husband of Betty (nee Thompson); father of Kathy Lawson, Karen Lawson and Kristen Smith (Randy) both of Columbus, OH; grandfather of Caitlyn and Rory Smith. World War II veteran and member of Bay Village American Legion Post 385. Memorial service to be announced at a later date. Memorials to Bay Village American Legion Post 385 P.O. Box 40503 Bay Village, OH 44140. Arrangements by ZEIS-McGREEVEY FUNERAL HOME. [www.zmfh.com](http://www.zmfh.com)



# 43rd Bomb Group REUNION!

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Register now for the reunion!

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receives a 43rd Bomb Group Tote bag.

Hotel & Tour space limited

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# **WASHINGTON DC 2014** **REUNION**



## **WED: Aug 27**

Arrival, Sign in & Registration

8 AM-10PM Daily Hospitality room set up "Board Room"

Dinner on your own

6 PM Board Meeting in "Board Room"

## **THURS: Aug 28**

Breakfast on your own

12 PM American Buffet Brunch with Guest Speaker in "Board Room"

General meeting to follow Brunch

Interviews Location to be determined

5-7 PM Welcome Cocktail party w/ heavy Appetizers "Fortuny Room"

Dinner on your own

## **FRI: Aug 29**

Breakfast on your own

Early White House Tour Bus Departure to be Determined

Lunch on your own

After Lunch Arlington Chapel Ceremony + Other Tour Depart to be Determined

Light Appetizers in "Board Room" 6 PM

Dinner on your own

## **SAT: Aug 30**

11:30 PM Breakfast Buffet with Guest Speaker "Board Room"

Interviews & Group Photos Location & Time to be Determined

6-7 PM Cocktail hour "Fortuny Room"

7-10:30 PM Farewell Banquet with Guest Speaker "International Room"

## **SUN: Aug 31**

Check out





## 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.  
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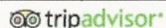
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Check-out Date

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Children

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CHECK RATES

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MISSION ORDER



## 43rd Bomb Group 2014 Reunion REGISTRATION

DATE	EVENT	COST per Person	QTY	TOTAL
	REGISTRATION FEE per person .....	75.00	_____	_____
	Non Refundable			
Thurs 8-28	Lombardi Brunch Buffet w/speaker ...	48.00	_____	_____
	Welcome Cocktail Party .....	N/C		
Fri 8-29	White House Tour .....	30.00	_____	_____
	Hazy /Smithsonian Aviation Museum with Box Lunch .....	65.00	_____	_____
Sat 8-30	EU Buffet Breakfast w/speaker .....	48.00	_____	_____
	Banquet w/speakers .....	75.00	_____	_____

TOTALS \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to Rick Lloyd / 43rd Bomb Group Association  
**Mail check and your completed form to:**

Frederick Lloyd  
16- C Alpine Drive, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

For more information call:  
Susan Clark Lanson: (727) 641-1332 *or*  
Nancy Soloman: (941) 966-9212

Name.....Spouse.....

Address .....

Phone.....Email.....

Squadron..... Ck Total..... Please list all guests separately:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

