



## 384<sup>th</sup> BOMB GROUP NEWSLETTER

1306 Adams Way  
Beavercreek, OH 45434



### President's Message

#### From the Ball



Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to all! It's time to introduce myself as the new President of the association. I am Peter Bielskis, life-time resident of Detroit. I joined the 384<sup>th</sup> BG 546<sup>th</sup> Sqdn on 11 Feb 1945, and flew my first mission on 25 Feb and my last of 27 on 20 Apr 45. I was the smallest guy on the crew so you can guess what my position was; yes, the ball turret gunner. I was a SSgt and on 29 Jun 45, the Group moved to Istres, France. I came home on 11 Aug 45. Interestingly I went overseas on the Queen Elizabeth and came home on the Queen Elizabeth. I was discharged at Chanute Field 28 Nov 45.

I married having two sons who gave me five grand children and five great grand children. I'm a widower now, but I have been having a great last few years. I did a Return-to-Normandy tour, going to England and France with two Air Force Cadets as my escorts. Later I was invited to the AF Academy to attend the graduation of one escort, a young lady. She asked me to pin her Lt bars on along with her mother. I also presented the Bomb Group award at the same time.

I was given the opportunity to go to Dallas, TX for a generation's program as the WW II person. This program included a person from each of the wars through Afghanistan sponsored by the Sons of the Flag. We all jumped out of a C-47 with a Golden Knight in tandem. I met one of the new Medal of Honor winners from Afghanistan, who also jumped. Then I had to take pictures with seven young ladies who turned out to be

Dallas Cheer leaders! Now we get to the last reunion. This was by far the best yet for me, as I had not been inside a ball turret since May of 1945. I was able to still fit into the ball and boy was I surprised! And to top it off, my oldest son was able to get into it! This was by far one of the best reunions. We did so much in such a short time and saw so many things, it was just great. I will end with a little reminder that we are going to have another "last reunion." We had such a great turn out of Vet's this year with 18. That is a great turn out if you think about it. Please enjoy The reunion photos on the pages that follow and we'll see you in October 2015. My predecessor, Len Estrin is working on next year's reunion in Tucson, AZ. It sounds like it will also be a great time. So remember, **"KEEP THE SHOW ON THE ROAD"**.

**A Trip Back in Time...** Frank Alfter This past November Carol and I travelled back to Germany for 10 days and on the 8<sup>th</sup> we drove to Rambucourt, France to visit with the widow of the man who helped my dad's crew out of their crash-landed B-17. It was my third trip to that nice little French village, and I again learned more about what actually happened that day on 13 April 1944. Although I had seen the site of the crash-landing, and the building where my father was captured, I had not seen the hut in the woods where 3 of the men were hidden and did evade capture. At the end of the day before departing, Colette gave me a piece of the yoke from Dad's plane. You can imagine the emotions that went through me that day!

*"Keep the Show on the Road..."*



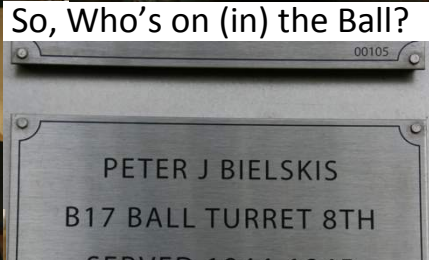




Signing Parts of the Champaign Lady









# Saturday Banquet

Holiday Inn, Fairborn, OH

Keynote Speaker:

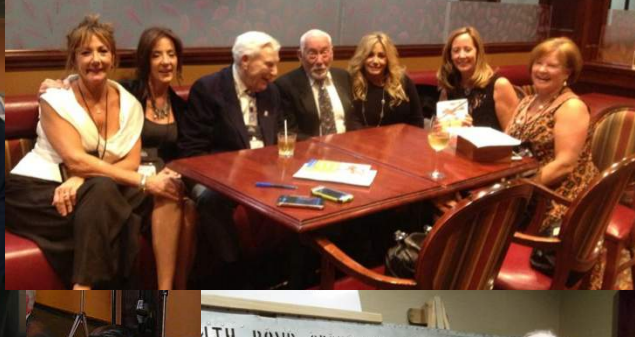
LtGen CD Moore

Guest Speaker:

BGen J. Kemp McLaughlin







## Reunion Statistics

3<sup>rd</sup> reunion at Dayton  
98 attendees with 18 total Veterans:



- Bean, Donald
- Causa, Raymond
- Gerbig, Larry
- Goodrick, Gene
- Lentz, Ken
- Niemic, Leonard
- Osepchook, Arthur
- Sienkiewicz, Henry
- Vernon, Sheldon



- Bielskis, Peter
- Estrin, Len
- Goetz, Jack
- Hilliard, Donal
- Lustig, David
- O'Leary, Bill
- Richert, Clarendon
- Tessmer, Warren
- Wilkins, William



## Flashback!

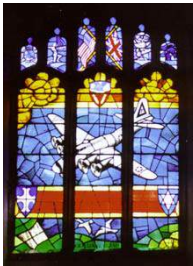




# Taps as of Dec 2014

Earl Baker  
 Ed Barnes  
 Stephen Bucynski  
 James Calisto  
 Johnny Fahr  
 Larry Gerbig  
 Charles Gilliam  
 Olen "Reb" Grant  
 Frederick Hamilton  
 Irvan O'Hara  
 Harry Swift

Roanoke, VA  
 Plant City, FL  
 Marco Island, FL  
 W. Palm Beach, FL  
 Naples, FL  
 Evansville, IN  
 Virginia Beach, VA  
 Salt Lake City, UT  
 Houston, TX  
 Cincinnati, OH  
 Champaign, IL



**Carol's Notes** – Just a reminder that DUES are expected in January... still \$25 for a whole year!!! Mail checks to me at 1306 Adams Way, Beavercreek, OH 45434. Thanks!

**Frank's Notes** – We desperately need your stories! Next newsletter will spotlight SSgt Robert Wilkinson, Togglier.

See page 1  
 for story

Colette Jamin, wife  
 of Cyriaque Jamin



SSgt Alfter's Capture Site



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 Big Stupe V

384<sup>th</sup> BOMB GROUP, INC.  
 EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
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 Beavercreek, OH 45434



*"Keep the Show on the Road...."*

We're on the Web at: [www.384thbombgroup.com](http://www.384thbombgroup.com)

