



384th BOMB GROUP

NEWSLETTER

1306 Adams Way
Beavercreek, OH 45434



Message from Your Chairman-Peter Bielskis...

Fellow 384thers, if you were not at the reunion in St Louis last October, you missed a really good one. It was our first time going together with the 8th Air Force Historical Society, and it proved to be as good and better than some of us might have expected. The tours were well run and those who participated had great adventures to talk about. You can see from the photos included we all had a great time... meeting old friends again, and also meeting some new ones. This was the first time for the brothers Michael & Walter Smart, and when we looked into the files we found a surprise for Frank Alfter. It turns out their dad flew as a substitute ball turret gunner on Heffley's (Alfter's) first combat mission. There are so many interesting stories out there and the best way to get them out is to come to our 384th reunions. The next one will be in New Orleans in October 2017. Come and share the memories and stories with our great group of folks. You will be so glad you did. Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to all! **Peter**



We Still Need More B-17 Panel Hosts! The YRC Trucking Company delivered our wing panel to Mark Meehl to be hosted in Nebraska. Mark took the panel to George Schock in Falls City, Nebraska and Claude (Gordy) Shaffer in Colorado for their signatures. He then brought the panel to the St. Louis reunion for signatures and took it back with him to Nebraska, without additional signatures. Now the panel has been shipped to Marc Poole in Biloxi, MS. Following Marc, we still have 3 veterans in Illinois, 1 in Indiana, 1 in Michigan, 1 in Wisconsin and 1 in Minnesota. If you are interested, or are thinking about helping us with this on-going project, please call or email Chris Wilkinson at 310-866-8457 or christopherwilkinson99@gmail.com. We will definitely appreciate any help you can provide in getting this panel around to more vets. - Chris Wilkinson



"Keep the Show on the Road..."



Fisher House Helps Comfort Military Families

Many of you know the Bomb Gp donates money to various agencies and for about three years now we have donated to Fisher House, which are like Ronald McDonald Houses, but for veterans and military only. The following is a description of what they are and what they do for our troops and veterans.

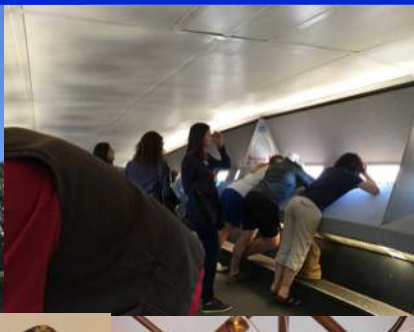
Fisher Houses are compassionate care facilities that provide servicemen, servicewomen, veterans and their families with a home away from home while undergoing medical treatment at military and VA hospitals. These facilities are like walking into a five-star hotel, and Chris Stanley, the executive director of Fisher/

Nightingale Houses Inc, a non-profit that funds operations for Fisher Houses, believes our military members deserve nothing less. There are 71 facilities in the US and abroad. Fisher House Foundation ensures that there is never a lodging fee for families staying there while a loved one is

receiving treatment.

The percentage of donations spent directly on programs and services to operate Fisher Houses is 91.7%, which is considered excellent. I believe we can be proud of the 384th's support for this effort to care for our veterans and servicemembers. Money well spent!

Frank



There was so much to keep everyone busy, from the hospitality suite (which was well stocked) to the impromptu meetings and get-togethers, to the tours, the Group dinner, the 8th Air Force banquet and the breakfasts. We were the 2nd largest Group present!!!



Taps as of December 2016

Willette Mitchell
Newell Perkins
Oscar Richard
Vanny Squire
Warren Tessmer

Trussville, AL
Agusta, ME
Baton Rouge, LA
Boise, ID
Wausau, WI



544 Bomb Squadron 545 Bomb Squadron 546 Bomb Squadron 547 Bomb Squadron



Still Looking for Newsletter Writer/Editor

After about eight years, with little in the way of writing skills, or computer tech savy, this old editor wants to give someone else the opportunity to assemble the quarterly 384th Bomb Group newsletter. I do feel that these newsletters improved over the years, but I have seen some other fabulous bomb group newsletters and I know we could do better. - Frank

Looking for Old Issues of 384th Newsletters

If you have, or know someone who does have, any past issues of our Group newsletters, we are building a file that we hope will have every issue for historical purposes. Below is a list of the issues we do not have and are on the look-out for:

1988 - 06/07	1994 - ALL
1989 - 01 & 03	1995 - ALL
1989 - 12 or 1990 - 01	1996 - 03, 06, 12
1990 - 06/07	1997 - 03, 06, 09
1991 - 03, 06/07	1998 - 03 & 12
1992 - ALL	1999 - 06
1993 - 06, 09, 12	2007 - 03, 06, 09

If you come across any of these missing newsletters, and/or reunion programs (need 2003 program), please contact Keith Ellefson by email at eesharpener@centurytel.net, or call him at 334-733-4353. If you do have any of these items and are willing to share them, Keith will make digital copies and take care of getting them back to you without harm.

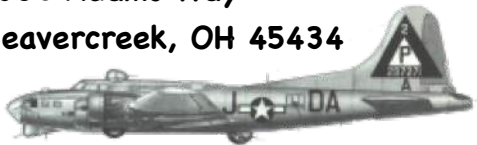
Visit with Irene Thompson... Carol and I took advantage of being "out west" following the reunion in St Louis, and stopped in Cedar Rapids to visit with Irene. She is doing really well and keeps busy working on quilts. She said one of her daughters is interested in the Group and perhaps there's a chance they may come to the New Orleans reunion next year! - Frank

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EIGHTH AIR FORCE

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We're on the Web at: www.384thbombgroup.com