



384th BOMB GROUP

NEWSLETTER

1306 Adams Way
Beavercreek, OH 45434

July 2017



Message from Your Chairman-Peter Bielskis...

My fellow 384thers, we are getting close to the time when we will meet again, and this time it will be in New Orleans. If you have not already registered and booked the hotel, please look at the the pages after this one for correct information to get into the alternate hotel and register for reunion events. The main Hq Hotel, the Hilton New Orleans Airport is already fully booked, but the back-up has been named and you will be taken good care of there. Their rates are less than the Hilton and they do provide bus transportation to/from the airport, complimentary breakfast, and free parking. Not a bad deal!

So, let's get as many of you to the reunion as we can so we can again be among the largest of the groups at the 8th Air Force reunion in New Orleans. There are plenty of tours and things to do in the area and you will want to take advantage of them all. I am looking forward to another great 384th get-together. See you there! **Peter**

Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler !!! (French for let the good times roll)



Honor Flight Nevada – As Briefed by Fred Preller

The first Honor Flight Nevada for 2017 departed Reno-Tahoe Airport at 0625 on 7 April aboard Southwest Airlines, bound for Baltimore-Washington International, via Chicago Midway. I met my assigned veterans, Ray Hall, USN, WWII, and Frank Lemer, US Army, Korea. Ray would occasionally need a wheelchair to get around some of the memorials, but Frank got around just fine. We arrived at BWI to a water cannon salute while taxiing to the gate and the Veterans deplaned to a continuous standing ovation from all present in the concourse, which continued all the way to the bus which took us to the nearby Hilton Garden Inn. After our box lunch at MDW, the hot buffet dinner was appreciated by all. After receiving our room assignments (Frank and I were assigned as "roomies") all hands retired early due to an early call scheduled for Saturday.

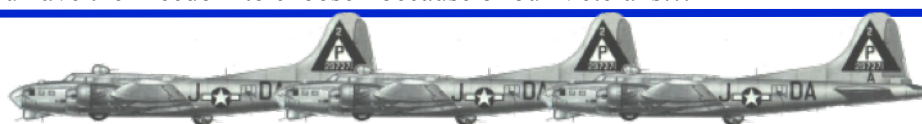
Saturday we were up at 0600, breakfast at 0630, boarded the bus and departed the hotel by 0745. We arrived in DC and stopped first at the [US Navy Memorial](#) on Pennsylvania Avenue. Next stop was the [US Marine Corps War Memorial](#) in Virginia. The weather was perfectly awesome – cool with clear sky and brilliant sunshine - except for a light breeze with a chilly edge that warmed as the day progressed. From there we went to the [Tomb of the Unknowns](#). There we had two special events after observing the changing of the guard. The first was an informal chat with one of the Sentinels, as the tomb guards are called, who told us many interesting facts, and then answered our questions. The second was even more special: the local media representative who accompanied us was revealed to have served as a Sentinel during his duty with the US Army. Before departing this location, many of the Veterans and Guardians paid respects at the burial sites of John Glenn and Audie Murphy, who are buried nearby. Then we went on to the [Air Force Memorial](#). This was our lunch stop, and a surprise awaited Ray Hall and me there: Ray's son Steve had flown up from Austin, TX that morning and joined us for the rest of the day, relieving me of chair duty. After lunch we bussed to the [National WWII Memorial](#), where we found Senator Bob Dole (R-KS, US Senator 1969-1996) greeting all arrivals! Mr. Dole sat in the sunshine making time for photo ops with all, especially the veterans. After our time at the WWII Memorial, we drove to the Lincoln Memorial, a central point for visiting the [Vietnam Veterans Memorial](#), aka "The Wall," and the [Korean War Veterans Memorial](#). In the bustle to get all Veterans off the bus, I lost track of Frank, so I tagged along with Gary, one of our Vietnam Veterans, first to the Korean Memorial (no Frank there) and then to The Wall, where we found a volunteer - a Vietnam Veteran himself - giving a historical and personal perspective on the Memorial and his Vietnam experience. This last was truly emotional for those listening, and was a fitting end to our visit.

Then, at 1545 (3:45PM) it was back to the bus to return to the hotel - and, yes, Frank made it to the bus on his own. Our stalwart motorcycle police officer led us from the city, clearing traffic all the way - and this was heavy Saturday afternoon tourist traffic. We must have left many drivers shaking their heads wondering "what busload of VIPs deserves that kind of escort?" After a brief rest (some of the group rested in the bar), we had a nice dinner, and then "Mail Call." Each veteran received a large envelope jammed with good wishes from family, friends, and many others. It was another highlight, to say the least.

Sunday, 9 April; early call, breakfast, board Southwest for our return (via a connection in San Diego? Yup!), with standing ovations at every airport, and an overwhelming homecoming reception at Reno Airport. A gigantic crowd of family, friends, strangers, media, civic organizations - Patriot Guard and Rolling Thunder among them - you name it, they were there! And then, well, then it was all over and we each went home, but we each carried indelible memories of an excellent shared adventure.

Having now had this experience, I recommend getting involved with your local Honor Flight. Volunteers are always welcome – and needed! I participated as a Guardian, but I know there are MANY other jobs that need filling, both before and after the actual missions, but eminently worthwhile. And you have the Freedom to choose - because of our Veterans...

"Keep the Show on the Road..."



Urgent Notice Regarding the 2017 Reunion

July 2017

Due to the large turnout, the Hilton has already sold out of rooms. Donna Lee, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. is currently taking names for a rooming list at the Best Western Plus, a new hotel, about 1.5 miles from the Hilton. It's cheaper at \$109+tax/night and includes complimentary breakfast, airport shuttle, and parking. Tour busses will pick up from both hotels. Folks confirmed at the overflow hotel should NOT sign up for a meal package since there is free breakfast at the Best Western. You may want to purchase the separately priced dinners. Only those confirmed at the Hilton Airport should register for a meal package. Go to: www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2017 for registration for the reunion. You may also call (757) 625-6401 for more information.

Wheelchair Rental

ScootAround rents both manual and powered wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call (888) 441-7575 or visit www.scootaround.com for more information or to make reservations.



Air Force Academy Graduation

By Gordon Preller

Graduation week at the US Air Force Academy was as gorgeous as one might expect of Colorado on May 22nd. My point of contact, David Hale, met me at a lower parking lot and we got acquainted while we enjoyed the mile walk up to Fairchild East, home of the Biology Department. There I was made welcome and offered hospitality, and introduced to Colonel Steven Hemphill, the head of the Biology Department.

On schedule I was escorted to the lecture hall where the Biology Awards were to take place and found a seat down front with my name on it, writ large. I was shown the trophy that was to be presented and it is huge! While not America's Cup or Stanley Cup huge, it is a bronze statue of an eagle with two eaglets, very weighty, on a proper walnut pedestal. The award for top graduating student in Biology was first up on the agenda, and the introduction by Colonel Hemphill preempted everything I was going to say. So I



stood and made the best of it, pointing out that unlike many colleges and universities, applicants to the Air Force Academy have to be top notch just to be admitted. Even the cadet graduating at the bottom of his or her class would have scored much higher at a public institution. To be the top student in any academic discipline at the Air Force Academy is to be the best of a very elite group. It was my honor to present the award, on behalf of the 384th Bomb Group (Heavy), to Cadet Benjamin Burmeister.

Cadet (now Lieutenant) Burmeister is a straight up young man. He is headed to flight school after graduation. He was accompanied at the award ceremony by his fiancé, Cadet (again, now Lieutenant) Rachel Duff, who was also present to receive awards and recognition. I believe a July wedding is planned.

There was a short reception after the ceremony, during which I wished Benjamin and Rachel all the best for their futures together and for their careers in the Air Force, on behalf of the 384th. Coins went to Cadet Burmeister and Colonel Hemphill, and Triangle P pins to many. **Keep the Show on the Road!**

384th Bomb Group, Inc.

KEEP THE SHOW ON THE ROAD

Dues Payment Bill

Please send a \$25 check payable to the 384th Bomb Group, Inc., to Carol Alfter, 384th Bomb Group, 1306 Adams Way, Beavercreek, OH 45434.

Renew ☐ New ☐

Veteran ☐ Surviving Wife ☐ Associate Mbr ☐

Recommend a new member/assoc mbr with contact info on reverse of this form ☐

NAME: _____ SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Veteran Information: SQDN (544th, 545th, etc) _____

Job/Crew Position _____

Spouse/Associate member Information: _____

8th AFHS ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM – SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 1, 2017

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will participate in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as confirmation. You may also **register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2017** (3.5% will be added to total). All registration forms and payments must be received on or before August 25, 2017. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. Your contact information will be shared only with reunion attendees.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.

322 Madison Mews

Norfolk, VA 23510

ATTN: 8th AFHS

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # _____ Date Received _____

Inputted _____ Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 8/25/17

	Price Per	# of People	Total
REGISTRATION FEE			
Includes meeting expenses and other reunion expenses.	\$40		\$
Reg. Fee for children ages 8-16 attending more than 1 function & staying at hotel	\$25		\$
MEAL PACKAGES			
Package #1 includes 7 meals beginning with breakfast on Thursday	\$232		\$
Package #2 includes 5 meals beginning with breakfast on Friday	\$162		\$
SEPARATELY PRICED MEALS (if not purchasing a package)			
Thursday, 9/28: Dinner Buffet (Braised Beef & Fried Catfish)	\$51		\$
Friday, 9/29: Rendezvous Dinner (Chicken Piccata)	\$40		\$
Saturday, 9/30: Banquet Buffet at the WWII Museum – transportation included. (Beef Tips & Mildly Blackened Redfish)	\$50		\$
TOURS			
Thursday & Friday, 9/28-29: World War II Museum (box lunch included both days)			
WWII Veterans Price	\$66		\$
All Other Attendees Price	\$94		\$
Please choose one of the following two tours:			
Saturday, 9/30: City Tour	\$39		\$
Saturday, 9/30: Plantation Tour	\$77		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.			\$

Please Print

If a **WWII Veteran** is registering on this form, please list his name first.

MEMBER NAME (for nametag) _____ ☐ VETERAN ☐ NEXT GEN ☐ OTHER

IF A VETERAN, PLEASE CIRCLE: WWII Cold War Era Korea Vietnam Gulf War Desert Storm Iraq Other _____

WWII GROUP AFFILIATION FOR UNIT TOTALS & SEATING ARRANGEMENTS (please list BG, not BS) **384th Bomb Group**

SPOUSE NAME (if attending) _____

GUEST NAMES _____ ☐ NEXT GEN

PHONE # (____) _____ - _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____ @ _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? ☐ YES ☐ NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____

By submitting this form you will be enrolled in our monthly newsletter subscription. To opt out of this service, please check the box. ☐

MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS FIRST!!!!

Taps as of June 2017

Jill Defrancesco
Walter Ramsay
Delbert Storm
John Young

Ocala, FL
Edgewater, FL
Bella Vista, AR
Baton Rouge, LA



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

Dues are DUE!

Actually Dues were due in January, but still more than half are outstanding. Dues are important to the operation of the Group and help offset costs, such as printing and distributing this newsletter, supporting Group-selected charities, and all the materials that go into our annual reunions. So, please get your dues in the mail to Carol Alfter, 384th Bomb Group, 1306 Adams Way, Beavercreek, OH 45434. Please use the form at the bottom of page 2.

Wing Panel Update - Fred Preller

Recently, my brother Gordon took the wing panel to Gordy Shaffer in Denver for the 144th Veteran Signature, and was storing it until another host could be found. Then, out of the blue (on FaceBook, of course), up pops a notice that Ed Gramc is celebrating his 96th birthday! For those of you who don't recognize the name, he is the original Radio Operator on my Dad's Crew – and the first member of his original crew I have "found." I called him and as you might expect, I am preparing to drive down to Southern California once the wing panel arrives in Reno. I'm So excited!!!

Ed is pretty sharp and kept asking me "Did your Dad tell you about the time we...?" and I had to say "No" to most of them. You can be certain I will sit down with him for a chat after we take care of business!

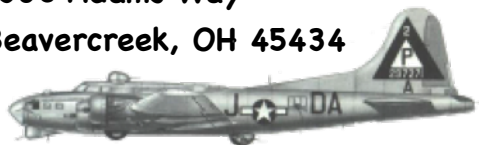
Then I will ship it on to the next wing panel host...

384th BOMB GROUP, INC.

EIGHTH AIR FORCE

1306 Adams Way

Beavercreek, OH 45434



"Keep the Show on the Road..."

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