



# N 96TH BOMB GROUP NEWSLETTER

MAY 2019

ISSUE NO. 72

## REMEMBRANCE IS OUR MISSION THE POPPY PROJECT: POPPY WALL OF VALOR



Nadine and Wim Jacobs present the 96th Bomb Group Poppies made by their son and his classmates at the OZC Sint-Vincentius Campus in Deftinge, Belgium to THE POPPY PROJECT: THE WALL OF VALOR. ( See pages 7 & 8)

### CONTENTS

President's Corner .....	2	8 <sup>th</sup> AFHS Reunion 2019 Tours .....	15
Letter from the Editor .....	3	Remembrance Is Our Mission The Poppy Project .....	16
Poet's Corner .....	3	The 96th Poppy Project in Belgium .....	17
Meanwhile Back at the Old Base .....	4	Rum Boogie Crew Members: .....	18
96th Recipients French Legion of Honor .....	6	Memorial Plaques for Veterans .....	19
Alls Well That Ends Well for Glenn Harrison .....	7	Minutes General Meeting 18 October 2018 .....	20
Faces and Places Dayton October 10- 14, 2017.....	8	Treasurer's Report .....	21
Discovering "An Old Friend" .....	10	Bulletin Board .....	22
8 <sup>th</sup> AFHS Reunion 2019 Registration Instructions. 11		New Members & Membership Application .....	23
8 <sup>th</sup> AFHS Reunion 2019 Hotel Information .....	12	Dues Notice & Remittance Form.....	23
8 <sup>th</sup> AFHS Reunion 2019 Registration Form .....	13	Officers & Contacts .....	24
8 <sup>th</sup> AFHS Reunion 2019 Schedule of Events .....	14	Final Mission .....	24

# President's Corner

Happy New Year to all!

I hope all is well with everyone.

In this issue, and in the last issue of the 8th Air Force Historical Society, you will see information regarding the last 8th AFHS reunion in Dayton, Ohio. I had a great time at this reunion and I hope everyone else who attended did as well.

The 96th BGA was again well-represented at the reunion, with 23 registered attendees. We also had two WWII veterans in attendance - Merton Thurston who is a regular at these gatherings was there. We also had a first time veteran attend Jesse Reese. It was great to meet him, and he is ready to go for the next reunion!

Speaking of that, the next reunion of the 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS will occur October 16th through the 20th in St. Louis. I hope you will consider attending – each reunion I have attended has been fun and educational, and they always seem to end too soon. This reunion will held at the same hotel as the previous St. Louis reunion. The folks at the 8th AFHS are very excited about the number of rooms available in this hotel for this reunion. Additionally, all of the various Group hospitality suites are located in one area of the hotel, allowing more co-mingling.

A featured event of this next reunion will be education about researching information for WWII veterans - a branch of the National Archives is located in St. Louis and folks from that facility will be involved in seminars during the reunion. There will also be talks about using various tools for research such as on-line services, etc. Please refer to the 8th AFHS web site for more and better information – [www.8thafhs.org](http://www.8thafhs.org).

If you have never attended a reunion before, please consider doing so. It is a great way to meet people who have similar interests and family histories. You never know what you might learn at a reunion.

If you have attended a reunion before, please consider inviting a family member or friend. I am sure they would have a great time and would learn much.

As I have mentioned before, the purpose of the 96<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association is to preserve the memory of the men of the 96<sup>th</sup> BG and their efforts from January 1942 to the end of 1945 – the Greatest Generation indeed!

You may know that historical books were written about the 96th Bomb Group - *Snetterton Falcons*, and *Snetterton Falcons II*. These books have been out of print and very difficult to obtain for a long time.

A few members of the 96th BGA have gone above and beyond to make these books available in digital format. First, Mr. Randy De Mars created a very nice scanned version of the *Snetterton Falcons II* book, and sent it to us to use as we saw fit. This was a great surprise and truly appreciated. At the same time, Dale Budde and Janet Strzic were working on the scanning of the first volume, *Snetterton Falcons*. That has also been completed, and copies of both are now available for purchase for a very reasonable price. I am told sales of these, either on a CD or on a thumb drive, are going well.

After these scans were completed, Mr. Wim Jacobs, our great friend from Belgium, led an effort to create a way to purchase these books in Europe. Now that is underway as well.

Our Treasurer, Sue Hinchman has been instrumental in dealing with the financial side of all of this.

These folks have really done a lot to keep the memories and the history of the 96th BG alive and well!

If you are interested in digital versions of these books, please check the 96th BGA website ([www.96bg.org](http://www.96bg.org)) or Facebook page (search for 96th Bomb Group Association) for more info and order forms.

As I mention each time - if you'd really like to connect, visit or call a veteran.

Thank You for your time!



Mike McIlraith  
President – 96<sup>th</sup> BGA



P.S. Are you a paid member of the 96<sup>th</sup> BGA? And are you a paid member of the 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS? If you are, please make sure you are current on your dues with each organization. And if you aren't, please consider joining both groups – I think you'll be glad you did.

# Letter from the Editor

Dear Fellow 96ers,

Please pardon my tardiness in getting this "February" Newsletter out to you. The delay has allowed me the opportunity to include the complete 45th Annual 8th AFHS Reunion information in this issue for all our members. It was also in the March 2018 8TH AF NEWS and can be found online at 8thAFHS.org. It will not be included in our next issue that will arrive in mid to late August.

The passing of Marbury Councill on June 11, 2018 was reported in our last Newsletter and we were represented at the memorial services by Dan Bradley. Carolyn has advised us that a service for Marbury has been scheduled at Arlington National Cemetery on May 15, 2019 at 10:00 am. Interment will follow the service which includes a bugler, flag presentation, and a 6 man rifle salute. All are welcome to attend.

*Carolyn Councill 410-437-5474*

My apologies to Carolyn Councill for not getting a more timely notice out to all our members.

It is also my sad duty to report a last minute addition to our Final Missions of Bert Patrick a long time English Member of the 96th Bomb Group Association. He was the alter boy at the dedication of the Memorial Window at Saint Andrew's Church, Quindenham and our representative at annual Remembrance Day Ceremonies at the Cambridge American Cemetery on several occasions. Condolences to Sombra, Jill and family.

On our journey south to the Florida Keys for Spring break my wife and I were able to visit with Bill and Dorothy Thorns and their daughter Sarah Conway at home in Santa Rosa Beach. We had a pizza together and caught up on the latest news about the 96th. Bill and I both agreed that the Lord had been good to us this past year and looked forward to getting together again next Spring.



Dale, Kathy, and Sarah  
Bill and Dorothy

Bill has notified our President, Mike McIlraith, that he is stepping down as Chaplain as it has become more than he can keep up with.

Bill and Dorothy both miss the reunions but send their blessings and good wishes to all for another enjoyable and safe reunion in St' Louis.

Hope to see you all there.  
Dale Budde



## Poet's Corner



### "IN FLANDERS' FIELD" LT COLONEL JOHN MCGRAE

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place: and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high,  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders' Fields.



### Memorial Day

*The last Monday in May is the day we honor those who died in military service. As you see the Red Poppy being worn take time to reflect on the ultimate sacrifices that they made and also to remember all those who have served and are serving in our military today*

*Wear a POPPY and remember our VETERANS.*



# Meanwhile Back at the Old Base



Happy new year to all our 96<sup>th</sup> BG readers from the old base here in Snetterton. Thankfully we haven't had any real bad weather yet, although I think some maybe on its way and with the leaves all fallen from the trees, I can look across the road and see our magnificent steel 96<sup>th</sup> Memorial sparkling in the sunshine.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors and over the past few months have had several.

In August, David Brown and his wife visited during a trip to England. David's relation, Charles T. Brown, Engineer on Hargett's crew 339<sup>th</sup> Squadron, was killed along with the rest of the crew on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 1943 when the B17 crashed shortly after take-off, at the nearby village of West Harling, which is only two miles from the base. The cause of the crash was put down to engine failure. The bomb load had exploded, which destroyed the aircraft. Unfortunately, the mission scheduled for that day was later cancelled. David, along with our Historian, Geoff Ward and 96<sup>th</sup> member Richard Burlingham visited the site, where he read the dedication below to the fallen.

*They shall not grow old  
As we that are left grow old  
Age shall not weary them  
Nor the years condemn  
At the going down of the Sun  
And in the morning  
WE will remember them*



David Brown looking across the site of where the AC 42-97654 crashed after take-off 8 November 1943.

In September, Scott Wilcox, a member of the Minnesota National Guard arrived, accompanied by his father, Chuck. Their relative was Lt Harold J. Wilcox Pilot 413<sup>th</sup> Squadron 96<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. Harold was killed in action on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1944 on a mission to Pontabault, France. The aircraft was the lead ship for the mission and was shot down off the coast of Guernsey in the Channel Islands. Only one member of the crew survived. Tail Gunner Sgt Adsnal C. Hudson.



Chuck Wilcox, Geoff Ward and Scott Wilcox visit the 96<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Museum at New Eccles School.

After the visit to Snetterton Scott and his father flew to Guernsey for a ceremony to honour the memory of the 153 Allied Airmen, including Harold and crew, lost near Guernsey during the war. Recently a propeller from the aircraft was recovered from the sea and is now on display in Guernsey.



A C-130 flyover to commemorate the 153 Allied Airmen lost.



Chuck and Scott Wilcox participate in memorial ceremony.

More recently just before Christmas, Lt Col Randall Hood and his crew, who are members of the Kentucky National Air Guard were on a visit to the USAF base at Mildenhall, England. On the day they arrived at the base, it was a very rainy cold and grey day. Luckily it brightened up later and Geoff Ward was able to show Randell and his crew around the Museum, Memorial and Quidenham Church. He was able to point out some of the original, existing buildings including the old operations block on the Headquarters site. I was pleased to join them at the Museum, where they took lots of photos.

# SNOOPY FLIES AGAIN



Geoff Ward and Lt Col Randall Hood visit the Museum.

Lt Col Randall's relation, Top Turret Gunner T/ Sgt. Joseph R. Hood was a member of Lt Ralph Woodward's crew, 413<sup>th</sup> Squadron. Joe was killed in action on the 31st December 1943 over Paris.



Geoff Ward, Randall Hood and Jean Wills in front of the 96th Bomb Group Mission Board in the Museum at Snetterton.

The crew had a busy day visiting the various sites, Museum and Memorials. During the visit the conversation turned to our little aviator mascot Snoopy and it was mentioned that he had already flown twice with the USAF in an F15 from Lakenheath. An offer was made by Lt Col Randall that he would be willing to fly him to the USA in his C130. So Snoopy flies again.



Charles Schulz introduced Snoopy as the World War I Flying Ace in 1965. This lovable stuffed toy version had been the attendance trophy for the 8th Air Force Historical Society Reunions until he was given permanently to the 96th Bomb Group in 2003.



Snoopy and Lt Col Randall in his C130 fly to the USA.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors to the old base and we are expecting more in the coming months. Massive thanks to Geoff Ward in showing the visitors around and as usual having the answers to all the questions. The Museum will be open during School Holidays and by appointment at other times.

This year I will be keeping my eye on the roses that are planted around the Memorial and for first arrivals of the 96<sup>th</sup> name plaques that are planned for the railings surrounding it.

Good Wishes for a Happy and a Healthy New Year, all of us here at Snetterton we will continue to work to promote the memories of the 96<sup>th</sup>.

All is well at the old base.  
All the best Jean Wills  
Beech Cottage, Eccles Quidenham  
Norwich, Norfolk  
NR-16-217 United Kingdom  
Email:- [jean@onepresspublishing.co.uk](mailto:jean@onepresspublishing.co.uk)  
Jean Wills



Jean Wills



# 96th Bomb Group Recipients French Legion of Honor

Marbury L. Councill Jr.	337th	Stanley A. Peterson	338th
Salvatore "Sal" Cracolici	338th	Jesse A. Reese	337th
Paul R. Frank	338th	James A. Rich Jr.	338th
Joseph Garber	338th	Henry "Ed" Tessien	413th
George A. Gorman	339th	William M. "Bill" Thorns	338th
Glenn A. Harrison	339th	Rudolph Villalobos	413th
Joseph O. Ingram Jr.	337th	Frank A. Wiswall	413th
Lloyd Mitchell	413th	Richard P. Woodson, III	337th

Listed above are those members of the 96th Bomb Group known to have received the French Legion of Honor. If you have received this award and are not listed please let the Newsletter Editor know so you may be included in the future.

If you believe you may be eligible for this award you can find more complete information on the 8th Air Force Historical Society web page link at [www.8thafhs.org/reunion/french.htm](http://www.8thafhs.org/reunion/french.htm). You will be able to download the actual application forms from this link and begin gathering the information you will need to apply. Should you need help with where to find the information that you will need Bill Thorns, an award recipient, would be glad to assist. His contact information can be found on the last page in "Where to Call or Write."

## How to request being awarded the French Legion of Honor

The Legion of Honor is France's most distinguished decoration and it can be bestowed to recognize the special contribution and act of bravery while fighting for the liberation of our country during WWII. The decision to honor World War II combatants applies only to living veterans who served on French territory and in French territorial waters and airspace from 1944-1945.

The medal will not be awarded posthumously.

In order to study your request you must provide the following documents:

1. Proposal Memory Form - Attach the form completed in block letters and print legibly (with a detailed personal narrative related to your campaigns in France in which you participated, indicating the dates and locations where you fought, the divisions or units you belonged to and your functions).

2. Honorable Discharge Papers — Attach a copy (do not send originals) of both sides of yours showing proof of service in France between June 6, 1944 and May 8, 1945.

3. A copy of any of the following decorations you or your unit may have been awarded is also required: Bronze Star, Silver Star, Purple Heart, Congressional medal, French Croix de Guerre/French Fourragere.

4. All information (newspaper articles, books, etc describing your actions in France during WWII.

5. Mail to one of the French Consulates on the list below. Please note that upon receipt of these documents your file will be submitted to our Embassy in Washington DC. and then to the Grand Chancellery of the Legion of Honor in Paris, France, for a final decision after a close study of the veteran's record by a committee. The review of application for the Legion of Honor may take over a year. Please don't call: applicants will be contacted directly if any questions or problems arise.

If your request is accepted you will have to go to one of the French Consulates to receive the medal.

### FRENCH CONSULATES IN THE U.S.

Consulat Général de France  
4101 Reservoir Road  
Washington DC 20007

Consulat Général de France  
934 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10021

Consulat Général de France  
Park Square Building, Suite 750  
31, Saint James Avenue  
Boston MA 02116

Consulat Général de France  
The Lenox Building  
3399 Peachtree Rd NE, Ste 500  
Atlanta, GA 30326

Consulat Général de France  
Espirito Santo Plaza, Suite 1050,  
1395 Brickell Avenue  
Miami FL 33131

Consulat Général de France  
205 North Michigan Avenue, Suite  
3700  
Chicago, IL, 60601

Consulat Général de France  
777 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 600  
Houston, TX 77056

Consulat Général de France  
1340 Poydras Street- Suite 1710  
New Orleans LA 70112

Consulat Général de France  
10390 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite 410  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Consulat Général de France  
88 Keamy St. Suite 600  
San Francisco, CA 94108

# Alls Well That Ends Well For Glenn Harrison

Glenn Harrison received his French Legion of Honor medal in the mail in July 2017 as reported in the August 2017 Newsletter and the awards ceremony was to be held sometime in September. We had all hoped to see him with it in New Orleans. Alas, as Glen knows all too well things happen that delay life's many rewards. He had a serious fall and was unable to attend the reunion or to have the official French presentation with the traditional kiss on both cheeks.

His daughter Alison reported that he was doing well and about to celebrate his 98th birthday but that he was still unable to travel to Dayton this past October. His patience and determination have brought him through once again and he did finally get his checks kissed and an official presentation of his French Legion of Honor medal Wednesday January 23, 2019 in St. Louis.

Looking forward to celebrating the approaching 100<sup>th</sup> in St. Louis this October with Glenn and family.

## St. Louis (MO). 3 WWII Veterans awarded the French Legion of Honor

*As reported in the St. Louis Post Dispatch*

On January 23rd, 2019, three St. Louis area Veterans were awarded France's highest distinction for their participation in the liberation of France during the Second World War. Eugene J. HARMACK, 98, Glen A. HARRISON, 98, and Alfred C. VILLAGRAN, 95, were presented the Legion of Honor by Consul General Lacroix at the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum.

Consul General Lacroix was joined by Major General Cassie A. Strom, St. Louis Bishop Robert J. Hermann, Dr. Frances Levine, President and CEO of the Missouri Historical Society and Jane Robert, Chair of the Advisory Board of the College of Arts and Sciences of Webster University and Honorary President of the U.S Delegation of the Renaissance Française association. Congresswoman Ann Wagner and St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson were also represented.

Among the many guests in attendance, members of the French and French-American organizations and



Glenn Harrison takes a look at the French Legion of Honor medal that was just awarded to him during a ceremony at the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum in St. Louis on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019. Photo by David Carson, [dcarson@post-dispatch.com](mailto:dcarson@post-dispatch.com)

associations also came to honor the veterans. Among them, the Alliance Française, Les Amis association, the Centre Francophone... as well as students of French from the St. Louis Language Immersion School.



Granddaughter, Jessica Harrison, Daughter-in law, Nancy Harrison, Rebecca Lutz, Glenn Harrison Jr., Son in Law, Walter Peter, Jerry Lutz, Daughter Allison Harrison, Glen Harrison and Guillaume Lacroix, Counsel General of France for the Midwest.



# Faces and Places Dayton



Rear L/R Wim Jacobs, Lydia Anderson, Stan and Joanne Hand, Janet Strizic, Laura Edge, Robert Schrock, Jeannette Batton, MikeMcIlraith, Dale Budde, Melissa McIlraith. Middle L/R Nadine Jacobs, Sue Hinchman, Candy Brown, Mert Thurston's Son, Rebecca and Jerry Lutz, Front L/R Richard and Willodean Hill, Merton Thurston, Jesse Reese, Lindsey Brown



**OUR TWO VETERANS**  
Merton Thurston and Jesse Reese



**THANK YOU** hardly begins to express the gratitude of the 96th Bomb Group Association to Wim, Nadine, their son Jonathan, his classmates, the staff of OZC Sint-Vincentius Campus and Pierre De Troch for the beautiful tribute and remembrance they created to the Veterans of the 96th Bomb Group with their POPPY PROJECT and



Jeannette Batton, Laura Edge and Rebecca Lutz display POPPIES personalized for relatives or members of relatives crews.



Jesse displays the plaque he made for the 96th and Merton renews an old friendship with Candy and Lindsey Brown.

# October 10, - 14, 2017



All the 8th Air Force Veterans in attendance 44th Annual Reunion. Can you find our two (2) 96th Bomb Group Veterans Jesse Reese, and Merton Thurston in this picture? Hint they are together and in the second row.



Chilling in the Hospitality Suite Thank You Rebecca and Jerry



"Box Car" one of the B-29s to drop the Atom Bombs.



If you have never been to this Museum you need to put it on your Bucket List of places to see. They have on display almost everything the Air Force has ever flown and a wonderful behind the scene tours of restorations in progress.



The "Memphis Belle" recently restored to all its glory is now a featured attraction of the museum.



Left to Right Sue Hinchman, Jerry and Rebecca Lutz, Mike, Terri and Melissa McIlraith, Nadine and Wim Jacobs, Willoden and Richard Hill, Ben Hinchman, Jesse Reese, Lydia Anderson, Stan and Joanne Hand, Merton Thurston, Jeannette Batton, Janet Strizic, Robert Schrack, and Laura Edge

# Discovering “An Old Friend”

By Jesse Reese



*Memphis Belle* on her new static display at the NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE in Dayton Ohio.

The combat crew of Pilot 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Gustave Bitzer was put together on March 13, 1944 at Mac Dill Army Air Base. The crew consisted of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Alvin Sherman as co-pilot, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. James McCarthy as Navigator, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Gene Huffman as Bombardier, Sgt. John Humpting as Flight Engineer and Top Turret gunner, Sgt. C.R. "Rusty" Hilchey as the Radio Operator, Sgt. Jack O' Dell as Assistant Flight Engineer and Waist Gunner, Sgt. Robert Truesdale as Armour and Waist Gunner, Sgt. John Worby as Ball Turret Gunner and Assistant Radio Operator, and Cpl. Jesse Reese as Tail Gunner and Assistant Armour. The crew seemed to click from the first day together. We went through the first week doing nothing except lectures and ground school. Our first day of flying was March 21, 1944. This flight was up in the air then we had a landing, then we repeated the same thing 9 more times that day. The pilots did a very good job on these take offs and landings. During the month of April we did some of our missions in day time and some were at night. In the latter part of April we saw the "Memphis Belle" over by one of the hangars and went over to see her. One of the ground crew said she was to go on a savings bond tour all around the United States with the original combat crew. The crew and the "Memphis Belle" were the first crew and aircraft to complete 25 combat missions. It gave you a very funny feeling when you are that close to a famous B-17-F. A few days later she was gone. We were told that she had left on the bond tour.

On this one day in early May the officers went through their regular briefing and came over to where we were waiting for a ride to our aircraft for the day. Pilot Bitzer told the driver it was aircraft number 124. Now we were heading to our aircraft. When we got out of the truck and looked up it was the "Memphis Belle". What a feeling we were going to fly in the "Memphis Belle". We were in the air well over four hours. When we were in interrogations the officers did most of the talking about how the aircraft performed, our enlisted men as to how different turrets worked and how the

radio was operating. Every day since I saw the "Memphis Belle" I have had the greatest respect for her and the crew that flew her. The fact that this crew flew 25 combat missions over Europe in the same aircraft was a great accomplishment in its self. When I was at the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force and 96<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Reunion this past October in Dayton, I went through the National Museum of the United States Air Force. When I looked up and saw the Memphis Belle" in the air it gave me a wonderful feeling to see that now she is in a permanent place in our history. She looked the same as she did in May of 1944.



Our own Jesse Reese gets reacquainted with the "Belle" under the famous nose art and below the position he flew as a tail gunner.





## 45th ANNUAL 8th AFHS REUNION

Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet, St. Louis, MO

October 16-20, 2019

### REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

#### STOP!

- ◇ RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM FIRST!

The reunion hotel has a liberal cancellation policy—in the event you are unable to attend the reunion, you will be able to cancel your reservation without penalty within 48 hours of your scheduled check-in time. However, if you wait until the last minute to book your room reservation, you may not receive the reunion rate or rooms may no longer be available at the reunion hotel. Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that our vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less a \$5 processing fee.

*Canceling your hotel reservation does NOT cancel your reunion activities.*

- ◇ COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill out the registration form completely.

- ⇒ Fill out your name as you wish it to be on your name tag—and for any others registering with you. If you are a WWII veteran, and/or affiliated with a bomb or fighter group, please indicate which group.
- ⇒ ALL meals are priced separately—INCLUDING breakfast. Make sure to indicate [X] on your registration sheet which mornings you want breakfast and the total # of people on your registration sheet who will be having breakfast on each day. Be sure and select your entrée if you plan on attending the Saturday evening gala.
- ⇒ There are three [3] tour options available during the reunion. Please read the information [here in this issue] on each tour and then make your selection on the form. The Sights of St. Louis Tour INCLUDES a box lunch.

- ◇ MAIL IN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM

Once you have completed your registration form, please total up the amount owed and include a check, money order, or complete the credit card information on the form, payable to the 8th AFHS and mail to:

8th AFHS  
68 Kimberlys Way  
Jasper, GA 30143-4769

Or you may SCAN your registration form [if paying by credit card] and EMAIL to:  
[ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org](mailto:ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org)

ALL registration forms MUST be received by **September 25, 2019** in order to guarantee your place. If you have any questions or problems in completing your registration, please contact:

Debra Kujawa  
Managing Director  
8th AFHS  
912-748-8884  
[ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org](mailto:ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org)

ALL reunion information and forms are available on our website: [8thAFHS.org](http://8thAFHS.org)



# 45th ANNUAL 8th AFHS REUNION

## Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet, St. Louis, MO

### October 16-20, 2019

### HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

**888-627-7066 or ONLINE registration on our website!**  
**(Reference Sheraton Westport 'CHALET' and 8th AIR FORCE for group rate)**

#### Location

The Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet is located in Westport Plaza, (191 Westport Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63146) which features 18 shops, popular restaurants, and entertainment venues like the Westport Playhouse, The Funny Bone Comedy Club, Jive and Wail Piano Bar, and Backstreet Jazz and Blues. Guests will enjoy convenient access to popular destinations and attractions. We're located just 10 minutes from historic St. Charles, 15 minutes from Forest Park, home of the Saint Louis Zoo, Science Center, Art Museum and the History Museum. We're also close to the world-famous Gateway Arch, the St. Louis Cardinals baseball stadium, Six Flags® and Missouri's Wine Country.

#### Shuttle Service

For those of you flying into St. Louis, there is complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport to the hotel. Go to Baggage Claim/Hotel Shuttle exits—the shuttle runs every half hour.

#### Upscale Amenities

Enjoy complimentary wireless High Speed Internet in all public areas, concierge service, plus signature amenities you'll only find at Sheraton. Wake up energized after a restful night's sleep in a plush Sheraton Sweet Sleeper® Bed. Sheraton Club rooms and suites provide guests with special access to the Sheraton Club Lounge, offering complimentary breakfast, evening hors d'oeuvres, and a variety of beverage options. Stay connected at our lobby's connectivity hub, the Link@Sheraton™ experience with Microsoft®. Stay fit with a visit to our Sheraton Fitness center, programmed by Core Performance™.

#### Dining Options Abound

The Terrace Restaurant and Lucerne Restaurant feature a wide variety of menu items served in a friendly, casual atmosphere. There is also a private dining area perfect for intimate gatherings. In the summer, enjoy poolside refreshments every weekend at the Tiki Bar, serving snacks, beer, wine and frozen drinks. We also offer guests the convenience and privacy of in-room dining service. Stroll through the Westport Plaza Complex and visit any one of their many casual and fine-dining options, from seafood restaurants to specialty cafés.

#### RESERVATION INFORMATION

**Group Name:** 8th Air Force Historical Society  
**Reunion Dates:** October 16-20, 2019  
**Rate:** \$122 + tax (currently 17.863%) Rates are offered 3 days prior and 3 days post reunion based on availability.  
**Cut off Date:** 9/15/2019  
**Cancellation Policy:** All reservations have a 48 hour cancellation policy, or attendee will be charged one night room rate plus tax.

#### WHEELCHAIR RENTALS

**ScoutAround:** (888) 441-7575 or ScoutAround.com

#### HOSPITALITY SUITES

This year, the 8th AFHS is pleased to announce that we are again offering HOSPITALITY SUITES to groups at NO CHARGE. The number of suites is limited, so we ask that you reserve your suite as soon as possible. Suites are located in close proximity to one another and most are large enough for two or more groups to share space.

In order to guarantee your suite, please call or email ASAP:

**Debra Kujawa**  
**Managing Director**  
**912-748-8884**  
**ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org**



## REGISTRATION FORM

### 45th ANNUAL 8th AFHS REUNION

Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet, St. Louis, MO  
October 16—20, 2019

CUT-OFF DATE IS September 25, 2019		Price p/p	# of People	TOTAL
<b><u>DUES</u></b>				
The principal attendee <b>MUST</b> be a member of the 8th AFHS to register for this reunion. If you are NOT a CURRENT member, please pay your yearly dues here:		\$ 40	#	\$
<b><u>REGISTRATION FEE</u></b>				
Includes meeting expenses and other reunion expenses.		\$ 45	#	\$
Registration fee for children ages 8-16 attending more than 1 function & staying at hotel:		\$ 30	#	\$
<b><u>BREAKFAST BUFFET</u> (please indicate below and place totals to the right)</b>				
Please indicate [X] which days you would like buffet breakfast and quantity: Thursday ___ # ___ Friday ___ # ___ Saturday ___ # ___ Sunday ___ # ___		Price per breakfast: \$ 23	Total # of breakfasts: #	\$
<b><u>DINNERS</u></b>				
Thursday, Oct 17 — EVENING DINNER BUFFET Roasted Pork Loin & Grilled Chicken Breast		\$ 48	#	\$
Friday, Oct 18—RENDEZVOUS DINNER Chicken Marsala		\$ 48	#	\$
Saturday, Oct 19—GALA BANQUET (Please select entrée)				
Sliced London Broil with Bordelaise Sauce		\$ 48	#	\$
Pan Seared Salmon with Balsamic Reduction		\$ 48	#	\$
Vegetarian plate(s) Please indicate [X]: Thurs ___ # ___ Fri ___ # ___ Sat ___ # ___		\$ 48	#	\$
<b>TOUR OPTIONS:</b>				
Thursday, Oct 17: Sights of St. Louis Tour— <b>INCLUDES BOX LUNCH</b>		\$ 65	#	\$
Friday, Oct 18: Keep the Memory Alive Tour—Lunch on your own		\$ 26	#	\$
Saturday, Oct 19: Sights and Shops in St. Charles Tour—Lunch on your own		\$ 26	#	\$
<b>Total amount payable to: 8th AFHS</b>				\$

Please PRINT. If registering a WWII veteran here, please list their name first.

MEMBER NAME (for name tag): \_\_\_\_\_

WWII Veteran \_\_\_ BG/FG Affiliation (for Rendezvous Dinner seating): \_\_\_\_\_ POW: \_\_\_ (Korea, Vietnam, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE or PERSON attending: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL GUESTS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PH #: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_ PH #: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INDICATE ANY PHYSICAL OR DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD —M/C; VISA; or AmEx (a 3% convenience fee will be added):

CARD #: \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ *Your contact information will only be shared with attendees.*

MAIL completed form with check or credit card info to: 8th AFHS ~ 68 Kimberlys Way ~ Jasper, GA 30143-4769



# 45th ANNUAL 8th AFHS REUNION

## Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet, St. Louis, MO

### October 16-20, 2019

#### Wednesday, October 16

1:00pm — 6:00pm	Reunion Registration open
6:00pm — 7:00pm	Complimentary Welcome Reception, followed by dinner on your own
7:00pm — 9:00pm	8th AFHS Board Meeting
7:00pm — until	Hospitality Suites remain open throughout reunion

#### Thursday, October 17

7:30am — 8:30am	Breakfast
8:00am — 12:00pm	Reunion Registration open
9:00am — 2:00pm	Sights of St. Louis (City Tour)*
1:00pm — 6:00pm	Reunion Registration open
2:15pm — 3:00pm	Curator's Corner
3:15pm — 5:00pm	<i>"Researching the Past: Step-by-Step"</i> —David Schmitt, Lane Callaway, & others
6:00pm — 9:00pm	Cash Bar Open
7:00pm — 9:00pm	Buffet dinner and program: <i>"Op Frantic" &amp; Mission Update</i> , Lane Callaway

#### Friday, October 18

7:30am — 8:30am	Breakfast
8:00am — 12:00pm	Reunion Registration open
8:00am — 9:15am	Group Meetings
9:30am — 1:30pm	Keep the Memory Alive Tour (includes Holocaust Museum)*
1:00pm — 6:00pm	Reunion Registration open
1:45pm — 3:00pm	Historical Presentation: "Eighth Airfields as Wartime Homes"
3:15pm — 4:30pm	Q & A WWII Vets
6:00pm — 9:00pm	Cash Bar Open
7:00pm — 9:00pm	Rendezvous Dinners

#### Saturday, October 19

7:30am — 8:30am	Breakfast
8:00am — 12:00pm	Reunion Registration open
8:45am — 10:15am	General Membership Meeting
12:00pm — 4:00pm	8th AFHS Board Meeting
12:00pm — 4:00pm	Sights and Shops in St. Charles Tour*
1:00pm — 6:00pm	Reunion Registration open
6:00pm — 9:00pm	Cash Bar Open
7:00pm — 10:00pm	Gala Dinner and Program

#### Sunday, October 20

7:30am — 8:30am	Breakfast
-----------------	-----------

**\*It is important that you be in the bus boarding area at least ten [10] minutes prior to the scheduled departure times. All tours require a minimum of 45 participants, unless otherwise stated. Driver and Staff gratuities ARE included in the tour prices.**



**Welcome to St. Louis, MO  
Reunion Tours**

**Sights of St. Louis (City Tour)  
Thursday, October 17, 2019**

Sit back and enjoy the amazing sights of St. Louis as your guide expertly traces the history of St. Louis beginning with the city's original settlement, Laclede's Landing. It is now a nine-block historic district filled with renovated turn-of-the-century buildings housing shops, eateries and offices.

We will visit the famous Gateway Arch, the Nation's tallest monument, which commemorates the gateway to the west for thousands of 19th century pioneers. We'll take a tram ride to the top of this 630' stainless steel architectural wonder and get a unique, bird's-eye view of St. Louis. If you're not quite up to those heights, you can enjoy "Monument to the Dream," the film documenting the construction of the Arch.

Enjoy the view of Old Cathedral, the oldest cathedral west of the Mississippi. Across the street is the Old Courthouse, the setting for cases involving slavery, the fur trade and equal rights. Of these cases, the Dred Scott Freedom Trial is perhaps the most notable. We will pass Busch Stadium, home of the 2011 World Champion St. Louis Cardinals. Continuing west on Market Street, we will pass several of St. Louis' civic buildings and plazas, as well as City garden, a unique urban oasis blending art, architecture and landscape. St. Louis Union Station, once the busiest rail terminal in the world, has undergone a magnificent renovation and is home to a luxury hotel and restaurants.

At the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, also known as the New Cathedral, we will see one of the largest collections of mosaics in the world—84,000 square feet in 8,000 shades of tiny pieces of color! The tiny pieces of tesserae and glass portray scenes from both the Old and New Testaments, the life of Saint Louis IX, King of France, and m

any men and women prominent in the history of St. Louis.

**9:00am board bus, 2:00pm back at hotel.  
\$65/Person includes bus, guide, and gratuities.  
BOX LUNCH INCLUDED!**

**Keep the Memory Alive Tour  
Friday, October 18, 2019**

**Boeing James S McDonnell Prologue Room**



At our first stop on this experience, we will learn the history of the Boeing Company and the companies with which it shares a common heritage paralleling the exciting history of humankind learning to fly. The men and women of the Boeing Company and the aircraft they have built—from the first cloth-and-wood airplanes to today's sleekest fighters and jetliners—have played a pivotal role in shaping the history of aerospace. The James S. McDonnell Prologue Room in St. Louis tells this panoramic story of nearly eight decades of aviation progress, from biplanes to bombers to space travel. Scale models, dioramas, paintings, and

photographs depict such important events as the first flight around the world in 1924, the first take off of a jet fighter from a US Navy carrier in 1946, the first aircraft to land at the South Pole in 1956, and the first manned spacecraft to orbit the Earth in 1962.

**Holocaust Museum and Learning Center**



Our next stop is the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center. The work at the Learning Center focuses on building a community of defenders. Even in the face of this world's history of genocidal injustices perpetrated in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and most recently, Darfur, we cannot lose hope that the next generation will hear, understand, feel compassion, and take action to end such tragedies.

The museum contains eight different installations that you can wind your way through. Begin at the Introductory Room which contains pre-World War II photographs of the survivors who immigrated to St. Louis, continuing through the Rise of Nazism in Germany among many other exhibits.

**9:30am board bus, 1:30pm back at hotel  
\$26/Person includes bus, guide, and gratuities.  
Lunch/snacks on your own.**

**Sights and Shops in St. Charles Tour  
Saturday, October 19, 2019**



Enjoy a visit to St. Charles, the oldest town on the Missouri River. Founded as Les Petites Cotes (The Little Hills) by French Canadians, St. Charles has carefully preserved its heritage as a river town that has been welcoming visitors since 1769. Thousands of pioneers replenished supplies here on the awesome journey west.

St. Charles is a source of multiple historical encounters: the Lewis and Clark Rendezvous, Missouri's First State Capitol, and the origin of the Boone's Lick Trail. We'll take a driving tour of Main Street—a nine block historic district filled with 80 restored buildings dating from 1790 to 1900. This cobblestone street is known for its array of gift, antique and craft shops.

If you wish, you will have time to explore Missouri's First State Capitol\* or the Lewis & Clark Nature Center\* on your own during this tour. The Capitol has been completely restored and furnished as it appeared during the period of 1821-1826 when the Missouri State Legislature met in St. Charles. The lower level of the Nature Center houses replicas of the three boats of the Lewis & Clark Discovery Expedition. Upstairs, the Nature Center is a "hands-on" museum following the adventures of Lewis and Clark into the wilderness of the West. Take in the various displays of Native American tribes, the men of the expedition with their equipment and artifacts, and a walk through the forest as it was during Lewis and Clark's expedition.

- **12:00pm board bus, 4:00pm back at hotel.**
- **\$26/Person includes bus, guide, and gratuities.**
  - **Lunch is on your own.\*\***

*\*IF you wish to visit the First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site, admission is \$4.50/Person and is NOT included in the cost of this tour.*

*Also, you may choose to visit the Lewis & Clark Boat House and Nature Center, admission is \$5.00/Person and again, is NOT included in the cost of this tour.*

*\*\*A list of restaurants will be provided for your convenience.*

# NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE



## REMEMBRANCE IS OUR MISSION THE POPPY PROJECT: POPPY WALL OF VALOR

The National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force in Savannah, Georgia announced in November of 2017 a mission to honor the over 26,000 men of the Eighth Air Force who gave their lives defending America's freedom in WWII.

During the 2017-2018 school year to help students pay tribute to these men and understand better how many lives were lost, the Education Department created a Poppy Wall of Valor commemorating their sacrifice. The goal was to collect 26,000 red paper poppies created by students across America to include on the Poppy Wall of Valor. Each poppy would pay homage to the ultimate sacrifice a member of the Eighth Air Force made for his country and the world.



**POPPY WALL OF VALOR** The display cases on this one wall explain the project and its significance for visitors

While visiting the museum, students and adults pass through this humbling exhibit displaying the magnitude of the mortality suffered during the war. Twenty six thousand poppies can and really do give a deeper understanding of this great number and how many gave their lives.

With the death of over 26,000 men, the Eighth Air Force lost more men than the entire Marine Corps during WWII.

The Poppy Wall of Valor has collected nearly 23,000 poppies to date and schools are still bringing them in. They are still on the walls and will be there for at least another year we have been informed by Heather Thies, Director of Education and Volunteers.

### WHY POPPIES

One hundred years after World War I, the red poppy still symbolizes the sacrifices of soldiers. World War I officially ended on November 11, 1918. The Allied nations of the war continue to honor the fallen on November 11 known as Remembrance or Armistice Day. Americans celebrate November 11 as Veteran's Day to show appreciation for all who served past and present in the military. We honor those who died in military service on Memorial Day, the last Monday of May. The red poppy is worn on each of these holidays.

The red color is not a reflection of the color of blood, nor is it a symbol of death or a sign of support for war. The field poppy which inspired the poem is red.

How did the poppy come to symbolize the sacrifices of World War I soldiers and later all those killed in military service to their country?

During World War I much of the fighting took place in Western Europe. The Belgium Flanders, the Northern most point of the Western Front during the First World War, became one of the most devastated regions in the battlefield. The war turned the beautiful countryside into a field of mud where nothing could grow. Yet poppy flowers sprouted on the scarred and ravaged land.

Why did the poppies grow where nothing else would?

Field poppies otherwise known as common, corn or Flanders poppies grow wild. The seeds need light to grow. When buried, the seed will remain dormant until the soil is disturbed and the seed feels the sun's warmth. Only then will it sprout, growing into the beautiful red wild flower commemorated in the poem. The deadly and devastating battles churned up the soil exposing the poppy seeds to the sun so these beautiful flowers could pay homage to those buried within the soil beneath them.

Please help us pay tribute to these heroes and reach our goal of 26,000 Poppies. If you know of any students that would like to make poppies for the Poppy Wall of Valor Please email Heather Thies, Director of Education and Volunteers at: [education@mightyeighth.org](mailto:education@mightyeighth.org) for details about The Poppy Project: Remembrance is our Mission.

# The 96th POPPY PROJECT IN BELGIUM

Wim and Nadine Jacobs, members of the 96th Bomb Group Association who are citizens of Belgium, are certainly no strangers to Poppies, Flander's Field or the Eighth Air Force and its contributions and sacrifices in winning World War II. Inspired by the announcement of the Poppy Wall of Valor, its specific instruction for making the poppies and their request for schools to send them to Savannah and the Museum they designed a project to present a special collection of 571 Poppies to the project.

Then they approached their son, Jonathan's special needs school to have his classmates at the OZC Sint-Vincentius Campus make the poppies as a class project.



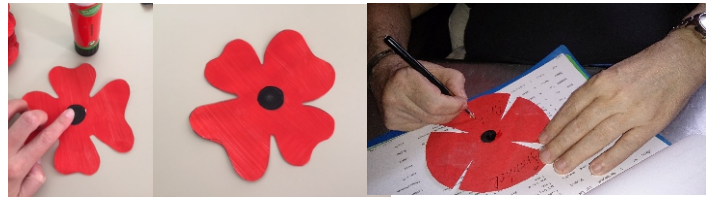
Wim, Jonathan and Nadine Jacobs with the enthusiastic staff of the OZC Sint-Vincentius Campus in Deftinge, Belgium.

The school welcomed the project and entered into it to provide a meaningful project and educational expedience for both staff and students.

Unfortunately we cannot show pictures of Jonathan's classmates without permission from the parents. However, we can show photos with only the their hands showing so you can see how the poppies were made.



Paint cut and paste not an easy job at all but done very well by all as exhibited by the finished product.



The finishing touches and Pierre De Troch applies an Airman's name to each one of the 571 poppies.

## WHY 571 POPPIES

These 571 Poppies for the Wall of Valor represent the number of serviceman from the 96th Bomb Group who are buried or listed on the wall of the missing in an American Cemetery in Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, France and the United Kingdom. Each poppy was inscribed by Pierre De Troch with the hand written name of one of these 96th servicemen. These men never came home. This was done to honor and remember them.

The graves or missing persons of the 96th Bomb Group at each of these cemeteries:

### Belgium

The Ardennes	90 + 1 isolated grave
Henri-Chapelle	3

### Luxembourg

13

### Netherlands

151

### France

Lorraine	20
Epinal	28
Brittany	17
Normandy	11

### United Kingdom

Cambridge	<u>237</u>
	571 Poppies

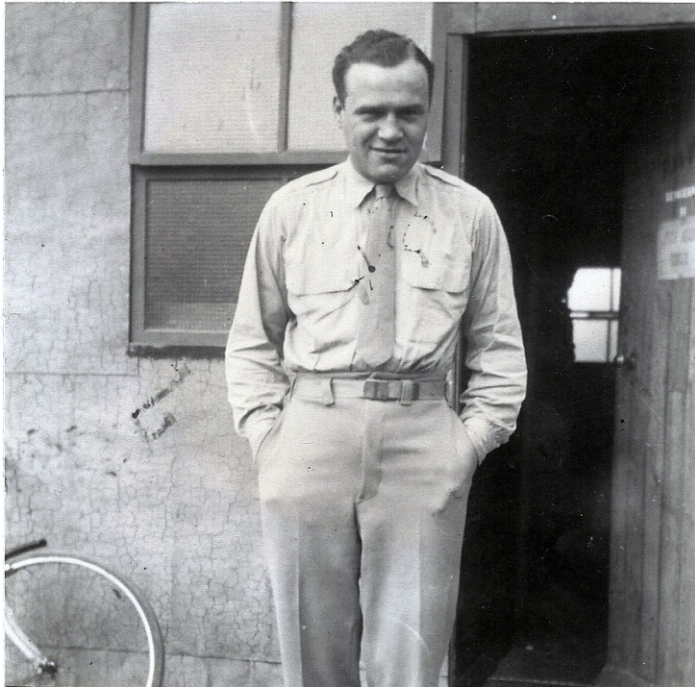
The Poppies were delivered to Savannah right after the 8th AFHS Reunion in Dayton, Ohio by Wim, Nadine, Janet Strizic, Jeannette Batton and friends along with the Thank You Banner from the school. It was photographed with the displayed poppies and returned to the school.

Thank you to all who helped in making this fine tribute to the fallen of the 96th Bomb Group from all of us in the 96th Bomb Group Association.



# Rum Boogie Crew Members: The Navigator

# Lt. Harry J. Miller



By Vicki Ekmark

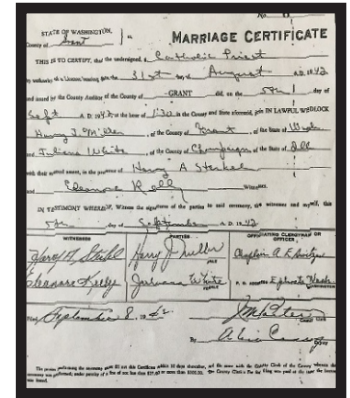
Harry J. Miller was born in Chicago, Illinois on January 17, 1917. He enlisted as an Aviation Cadet in the Air Corps on December 12, 1941.

Eight months after enlisting, on August 31, 1942, Harry married Juliana White in a ceremony conducted by a Catholic priest in Grant County, Washington, most likely the town of Ephrata. Since both Harry and Juliana were from the Chicago area, I wondered why they chose this date and this place for their wedding. The book, Snetterton's Falcons offers a probable explanation:

The 96th Bomb Group actually had a short one month stay in Boise, Idaho where the process began of organizing the unit from a few WWI veterans and some professional soldiers into groups which would be considered teams rather than individuals. But the short stay ended on August 30, 1942, when the air echelon was directed to proceed by rail to Walla, Walla, Washington.

The group's departure split personnel from their wives. Lt. Col. Archie Old called them in and told them "that all the wives must go home." His already had. "We'll have no time for family life during the next few months," Col. Old had said. And they didn't.

I think, for Harry and Juliana, the message was clear it was now or never if they were to be married anytime soon. As a result, the very next day, about two hours from Walla Walla, they were married. I'm not sure how difficult it was to find a Catholic priest on such short notice, but they did.



Juliana White and Harry J. Miller Marriage Certificate August 31st, 1942

During bombing missions, the B17 bombers flew in formations during daylight hours and were at the mercy of German fighter planes and intense ground fire because supporting Allied fighters could not fly the long distances to German targets. His 25th and final raid was over Bordeaux France, a tiring 11 1/2 hour flight, and the longest he had made. He said the return to base was one of the happiest days of his life. He felt fortunate to complete 25 missions when so many others did not, but also said he felt terrible that so many innocent civilians were killed in the bombing raids.

The 96th Bomb Group received two Presidential Unit Citations, and Lloyd was awarded the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, a Distinguished Flying Cross, and commissioned a 1st Lieutenant.



After the war, Harry flew again with the Rum Boogie pilot, James Sanders, this time on commercial flights for TWA. That ended when Mr. Sanders was killed in a crash shortly after take-off from Chicago on September 1, 1961.

The love story that started in August of 1942 lasted 50 years until Harry's death on September 22, 1992. Juliana died nine years later in 2002.

They are survived by their four children: Christine, Kathy, Tom, and Richard.

My first meet up with a family member of the Rum Boogie Crew was with Christine and her husband Gary in San Francisco. They were amazing and most helpful in my search for the crew.



Vicki Ekmark and Christine (left to right)

You can follow Rum Boogie Crew on the sites below	
Web Page .....	<a href="http://www.rumboogieweb.com">www.rumboogieweb.com</a>
Facebook .....	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/rumboogieweb">www.facebook.com/rumboogieweb</a>
Twitter .....	<a href="http://twitter.com/rumboogieweb">twitter.com/rumboogieweb</a>
Instagram .....	<a href="http://www.instagram.com/rumboogieweb">www.instagram.com/rumboogieweb</a>

## Memorial Plaques for Veterans at the Silver Dream

Because the Silver Dream is such a beautiful icon dedicated to the men who served at Snetterton during World War II, there was a suggestion made at the last reunion that we place commemorative plaques along the fence which now surrounds the Memorial.

We have made arrangements with a sign company in Texas to make these plaques, which will be 4x6 inches and engraved with name, position, squadron, and if the Veteran was a Prisoner of War or Killed in Action. The plaques will be anodized aluminum with the background in black with white engraving and will be weatherproof since they will obviously be outside.

We have developed a form to be filled out for each plaque, which will cost \$20.00, which will include the shipping cost. The forms and payment should be sent to Rebecca Lutz, who is working with the sign company to produce these plaques. The plaques will then be sent to Geoff Ward in England. He has made arrangements with Stephen Wills and Jamie Hopper to install the plaques along the fence.



We have included a picture here of the Silver Dream, with the fence, to show where the plaques will be located. We have also included samples of what the plaques will look like.

The order form is on the next page (22). Please include your personal information so you may be contacted about any questions about your order.

If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Lutz at [twolutz@att.net](mailto:twolutz@att.net) or call 512-238-8581.

**CPT. THOMAS H. BARTON**  
**PILOT**  
**339TH SQUADRON**

**2ND LT. GLENN A HARRISON**  
**CO-PILOT**  
**339TH SQUADRON**  
**POW - JUNE 20, 1944**

**S/SGT. CHARLES P. WILDER**  
**WAIST GUNNER**  
**337TH SQUADRON**  
**KIA - DECEMBER 16, 1943**

### Veteran's Information for the Silver Dream Plaques

Please print clearly and legibly

Rank and Name of Veteran: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_

POW----Date: \_\_\_\_\_

or

KIA ----Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Veteran: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with a check for \$20.00 to the 96th Bomb Group Association at the address below:  
 Rebecca Lutz, 2104 Saint Andrews Drive, Round Rock, Texas 78664



96th Bomb Group Association  
General Meeting Minutes  
18<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
Holiday Inn Crown Plaza, Dayton, Ohio



President Mike McIlraith called the meeting to order at 08:10 a.m. on October 18<sup>th</sup> 2018. He introduced the Board members and thanked everyone for coming this morning.

Board Members Present: Mike McIlraith, Dr. Stan Hand, Lydia Anderson, Rebecca Lutz, Dale Budde, Susan Hinchman, Merton Thurston and Richard Hill. Absent: Bill Thorns and Geoff Ward.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Melissa McIlraith made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 29, 2017 meeting in New Orleans, as reported in the February 2018 Newsletter, seconded by Lydia Anderson, motion passed unanimously.

Wim Jacobs reported on the Serve as a Sentinel of Memory and Poppy Project. You can no longer "adopt" a grave of a fallen serviceman in Belgium, but you can register as a Sentinel to honor those who died and are buried in cemeteries in Belgium. Participants must sign up and when their account is activated you must select a name of a serviceman. Wim reported that all the graves in The Netherlands have been adopted but there are still graves available in Belgium that can be registered in the Sentinel of Memory project. As a Sentinel, you can visit the graves, take flowers but primarily add your name to the list to show respect and honor and the memory of the fallen soldiers. There are 571 96<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Members buried in Europe, 93 in Belgium. Dale Budde reported that the details for how to sign up are in the February 2018 Newsletter.

The Poppy Project is a project of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force to honor the 26,000 American servicemen who were killed in Europe in World War II. Wim has arranged for 571 poppies and they will be displayed at the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Museum in Pooler, Georgia. Wim is going to take the poppies to the Museum after they leave the Reunion. The poppies Wim brought were made by disabled children who live in a nursing home in Belgium. The children also made a beautiful banner, which includes their handprints, that is on display in the Hospitality Suite. Dale reported that the project is on the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force's web Site, as it is a project of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Museum. All the poppies will be displayed on a wall in the Museum as a project for Veteran's Day. This is an educational project, and most were made by school children around the country.

Treasurer's Report: Susan Hinchman presented the treasurer's Report. She also reported that several of our key members have passed away this year and they will be greatly missed. She is proposing a mass mailing for dues in late spring or early summer 2019. She is reviewing the records for deceased members and Mike has called those who have not paid their dues since 2011 or 2012, but he had little luck. Susan also sent an email to those she has email addresses for. She would also like to see if we can search out 2nd Generations. Dale reported that we now have less than 100 Veterans in the Bomb

Mike reported that he continues to work on the web site and he is going to pursue increasing the memory. As things are added, previous posting must be deleted because of inadequate memory. Randy DeMars scanned Snetterton Falcons II and it has been added to the website. Dale and Janet Strizic also scanned the enhanced Snetterton Falcon and have downloaded those books on CDs which the Bomb Group will sell. This also includes 17 Newsletters and the list of the 96<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group member buried in Belgium. The actual books sell for \$300 or \$400 on E-Bay, so we could sell them on either a CD or a flash drive. Dale suggested that if we are going to sell copies of the books, we need to get permission in writing.

Stan Hand suggested that because the 9<sup>th</sup> BG dues are \$20 a year, we could charge \$25 for a copy of the book for members and \$45 for non-members. That would include a one-year membership in the Bomb Group. A motion was made by Jerry Lutz to accept this policy, seconded by Janet Strizic. Motion passed unanimously.

Mike reported that Wim and Randy DeMars are now also Administrators on the website and it is not "open" so just anyone can add things, but any additions *will* need to go through Wim Jacobs or Randy.

At 9:05 a.m., the meeting was temporarily adjourned, to reconvene after dinner.

At 9:10 p.m., the meeting was reconvened, and Mike reported Rebecca had two of the plaques for the fence around the Silver Dream produced to show various options, to reflect completed missions, POW and KIA status. Susan asked if all crew members plaques could be grouped together. Rebecca said we just need to be sure the people who install the plaques know that they belong together, and the plaques contain no more than four lines. We are still working out the details about how to best ship the plaques, but the cost of the plaques includes shipping costs.

Mike reported that all three elected officers are up for re-election, President, Vice-president and Secretary/Treasurer and all three have said they would serve again. Dale made a motion to re-elect the current officers for another three-year term, seconded by Lydia. The motion passed unanimously.

Mike stated that he would like to recognize the veterans in our Group. Richard Hill served with the Air National Guard and Air Force 179<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Squadron 1949-1953 in Duluth. Jeannette Batton served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force from 1969-1978, reserves from 1983 to 2001 and returned to active duty again from 2001-2002. Dr. Stan Hand was a Flight Surgeon in the Air Force from 1969-1978. Robert Schrock served in the Army from 1954-1957, his Division was sent to Korea at the end of the war. Susan Hinchman's son was until last summer a Commander in the Coast Guard stationed in Corpus Christi, Texas. Merton Thurston was a radio operator with the 96<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group at Snetterton, flew all 35 missions, and served in Korea and Vietnam. Jessie Reese was a tail gunner with the 96<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group at Snetterton and flew 35 missions.

A motion was made by Robert Schrock to adjourn, seconded by Richard Hill, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Lutz, Recording secretary

# 96th Bomb Group Association Treasurer's Report 2018

1.1.18 - 12.31.18



**BEGINNING BALANCE AS OF 1.1.18**

US Bank Non-Profit Checking Account (Interest-Bearing Account)

\$ 19,803.37 \*

**INCOME THRU 12.31.18:**

Membership Dues/Donations Received 1.1.18 - 12.31.18	\$1,840.00
Memorial Donations Recv'd. -- G.O. Bonitz' Passing -- March 2018	\$540.00
2018 Reunion Hospitality Tip Receipts	\$62.00
Receipts from Sale of Digital Snetterton 2-Book Collection, including \$260 in Dues	\$710.00
Receipts from Sale of Silver Dream Plaques	\$580.00
Miscellaneous Donations Received at 2018 Reunion	\$70.00
Interest earned 1.1.18 - 12.31.18	<u>\$9.80</u>

**Total Income** **\$3,811.80**

**EXPENSES THRU 12.31.18:**

State of Illinois NFP Filing (ck #1001) -- 1.10.18	\$10.00
February 2018 Newsletter #70 Budde's Print Shop (ck #1002) -- 3.13.18	\$1,622.79
Alzheimer's Association Memorial Joseph R. Garber (ck #1003) 4.15.18	\$250.00
Woods Memorial Presb'n Church Memorial Marbury Councell (ck #1004) 7.6.18	\$250.00
Check #1005 Voided	\$0.00
Copy/Mailing Charges Reimbursed -- S. Hinchman (ck #1006) -- 10.10.18	\$41.12
August 2018 Newsletter #71 Budde's Print Shop (ck #1007) -- 10.12.18	\$1,621.21
Check #1008 Voided	\$0.00
Flash Drive Purchase Reimbursed -- J. Strizic (ck #1009) -- 10.23.18	\$34.80
Re: Digitized Snetterton 2-Book Collection	
2018 Reunion Hospitality Purchases Reimbursed (ck #1010) -- 10.27.18	\$145.21
Snetterton Silver Dream Plaque Engraving Reimbursed (ck #1011) -- 10.27.18	<u>\$25.98</u>

**Total Expenses** **\$4,001.11**

**NET INCOME (LOSS) THRU 12.31.18 (income less expenses)** **(\$189.31)**

**NET ASSETS 12.31.18:** **\$19,614.06** ^

**CURRENT 96TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION DOMESTIC MEMBERSHIP:**

LIFE MEMBERS (Pd. Initial Dues @ Joining)	70
ANNUAL MEMBERS (Pay Dues Annually)	<u>183</u>
TOTAL CURRENT DOMESTIC MEMBERSHIP	<u>253</u>

\* -- Agrees with US Bank 1.1.18 Checking Account Statement Balance

^ -- Agrees with US Bank 12.31.18 Checking Account Statement Balance

**Notes:**

All funds are currently on deposit in a US Bank interest-bearing checking account.

State of Illinois Not For Profit status is "Active"

Agent Name: Dale Budde (agent needs to reside in Illinois)

IRS Filing Submitted January 24, 2019 Form 990-N to maintain Tax Exempt Status with Federal Government.

Prepared by Susan Hinchman 1/29/2019

# BULLETIN BOARD



## *Snetterton Falcons* and *Snetterton Falcons II – In the Nest And On The Wing*

It gives us great pleasure to make both of these out of print books available to our members, family and friends who are interested in the lives of our veterans and the history of the 96th Bomb Group at a reasonable price. This was not done to be a fund raiser but to make the books that many wanted available to all without hardship.

(This order form and the one for European orders as well is available for download on our web site at: <https://www.96bg.org/>)

## SNETTERTON FALCONS CD/FLASH DRIVE

The 96th Bomb Group is very excited to announce the "long awaited" digital version of the Snetterton Falcons book, as well as Snetterton Falcons II – In the Nest And On The Wing, on either a CD or a flash drive. Upon receipt of this form and check, we will send your choice of either the CD or flash drive.

Reproduction of this prized book collection has been with the permissions of the authors and the publisher. Proceeds (after the Groups costs for reproduction and postage) will be used to support the Snetterton Heath 96th Bomb Group Museum at New Eccles Hall School and the St. Andrews Church, located in Quidenham, England, where the Memorial Window is located.

To order this two-book digitized collection, please complete the form below and mail with your check payment.

**Please make checks payable to 96th Bomb Group Association.**

**Please mail form and payment to:**

Sue Hinchman, Sec'y/Treas.  
96th Bomb Group Association  
706 Miami View Court  
Loveland, OH 45140

**Snetterton Falcons – Digital\***

**Please print clearly and legibly**

- \$25.00 CD for current paid 2019 members**
- \$25.00 Flash Drive for current paid 2019 members**
- \$45.00 2019 Membership Renewal & CD**
- \$45.00 2019 Membership Renewal & Flash Drive**
- \$45.00 CD (non-member)**
- \$45.00 Flash Drive (non-member)**
- \$20.00 (2019 dues)**

**Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

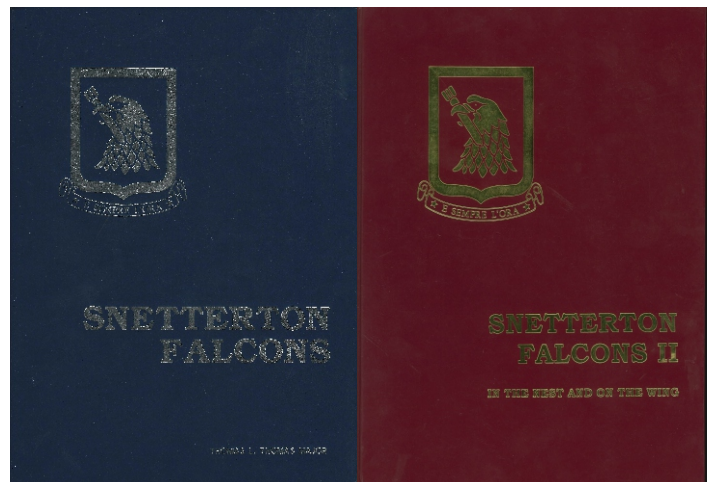
City: \_\_\_\_\_

State & Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\*We realize there are those who would like to make a copy for a family member; however, we would ask that you be respectful of the 96th Bomb Group, and other purchasers, by only making one additional copy from each purchase. If you wish to make more than one additional copy, please purchase an additional CD or flash drive for each additional copy.



- I would like to become a member of the 96th Bomb Group Association (dues are \$20 per year).**

**I have included below information regarding my connection to the 96th Bomb Group:**

**Service Member's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Squadron** \_\_\_\_\_ **Number of Missions** \_\_\_\_\_ **Position** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ground Crew** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other crew members or information you feel might be useful to the 96th:** \_\_\_\_\_

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Since August, 2018



Bryant, Johnny  
 Buchanan, John W.  
 Dixon, W. Parks Jr.  
 Gagliardi, Joseph G. III  
 Gilkeson, Jerrell & Eve  
 Gilkeson, Julie  
 Grove, Gerald W.  
 LaMoore, Stacie (*Anastasia*)  
 Lewis, Kerry  
 Medsker, Gina  
 Merideth, Barbara W.  
 Oliver, Maggie  
 Olds, Warren H  
 Rose, David  
 Schuett, David L.  
 Spears, Kyle  
 Sterler, Lowell  
 Sybesma, Anita Crist

3213 North 13<sup>th</sup> St., Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815-6615  
 875 Doolan Cayon Drive, Ukiah, CA 95482  
 239 Windover Grove Dr., Memphis, TN 38111  
 45 Canyon East Pkwy., Canyon, TX 79015-1230  
 1805 Far Hills Ave., Dayton, OH 45419  
 1805 Far Hills Ave., Dayton, OH 45419  
 8802 South Erie Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74137-2942  
 315 E.L. St., Forest City, IA 50436-1405  
 410 Knowles Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050  
 8606 Cherry Valley Lane, Alexandria, VA 22309  
 335 County Hwy 534, Caruthersville, MO 63830-9169  
 101 Springfield Dr., Sellersville, PA 18960  
 648 Westwood Drive, Newark, OH 43055  
 129 Spook Rock Road, Suffern, NY 10901  
 3801 East Airport Road, Grand Island, NE 68801  
 4336 Sunray Rd., #4, Kettering, OH 45429  
 30011 N. 77<sup>th</sup> Place, Scottsdale, AZ 85266  
 4801 Fairview Drive, Austin, TX 78731

All of our members are encouraged to invite their family members, relatives and friends to join us. They will receive two issues of our Newsletter each year. We hope they will find them informative as well as give them an understanding of what the 96th Bomb Group and its members contributed to World War II.

## 96th Bomb Group Association Membership Application / Dues Remittance

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # A/C \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Squadron \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Missions \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_ Ground Crew \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other crew members or information that you feel might be useful to the 96th: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$20.00 per year payable to: 96th Bomb Group Association, 706 Miami View Court, Loveland, Ohio 45140



### YOUR 2018 DUES SHOULD BE PAID NOW

This may be your last *Newsletter!*  
 if not unless you are a Life Member  
 Send your **\$20 annual dues**

To: **Susan Hinchman**  
 96th Bomb Group Association  
 706 Miami View Court  
 Loveland, Ohio 45140

(Make checks payable to 96th BGA)

(Annual Dues were raised to \$20 at General Meeting September 2002)  
 Due January 1st each year.

**SNOWBIRDS, VACATIONERS BEWARE**  
**BE SURE TO LET Susan Hinchman KNOW**  
**YOUR WHEREABOUTS.**  
**To Insure YOU RECEIVE YOUR**  
**NEWSLETTER**



## UPCOMING MEETINGS



**96th Bomb Group Reunion 2019**  
 with the  
**8th Air Force Historical Society**  
 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion  
 St. Louis, Missouri  
**October 16 - 20, 2019**

**Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet**  
 Located in the Westport Plaza  
**191 Westport Plaza**  
**St. Louis, MO 63146**

Complete program and reunion information  
 on line at: [www.8thafhs.org](http://www.8thafhs.org)

WHERE  
TO CALL  
OR WRITE



**PRESIDENT** (2018)  
Michael (Mike) McIlraith (Terri)  
1801 Bolton Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76111  
(817) 834-4620  
[mmc@flash.net](mailto:mmc@flash.net)

**VICE PRESIDENT** (2018)  
Stanley Hand (Joanne)  
1016 Ridgecrest Road  
Orlando, FL 32806  
(407) 855-4244  
[stanhand@bellsouth.net](mailto:stanhand@bellsouth.net)

**SECRETARY/TREASURER** (2018)  
Susan Hinchman (Ben)  
706 Miami View Court  
Loveland, OH 45140  
[bhiv@one.net](mailto:bhiv@one.net)

**RECORDING SECRETARY**  
Rebecca Lutz (Jerry)  
2104 St. Andrews  
Round Rock, TX 78664  
(512) 238-8581  
[twolutz@att.net](mailto:twolutz@att.net)

**ENGLISH CONTACT/HISTORIAN**  
Geoffrey Ward (Margaret)  
41 Skelton Rd. Diss Norfolk  
IP22-4PW England  
#011-441-379-643762  
[gdmh.w33@gmail.com](mailto:gdmh.w33@gmail.com)

**ENGLISH CORRESPONDENT**  
Jean Wills  
Beech Cottage, Eccles Quidenham  
Norwich, Norfolk  
NR-16-217 United Kingdom  
Phone:- 01953 888688  
[jean@onepresspublishing.co.uk](mailto:jean@onepresspublishing.co.uk)

**WEBMASTER**  
Michael (Mike) McIlraith  
1801 Bolton Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76111  
(817) 834-4620  
[mmc@flash.net](mailto:mmc@flash.net)

**Web address:**  
<https://www.96bg.org/>

**LIBRARIAN**  
Janet Strizic  
10303 N. Ellendale Road  
Edgerton, WI 53534-8405  
(608) 290-3611  
[rainorshine101@yahoo.com](mailto:rainorshine101@yahoo.com)

**PRESIDENT EMERITUS**  
William (Bill) M. Thorns (Dorothy)  
164 West Hewett Road #241  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459  
(850) 660-1805  
(850) 842-1923  
[B17fertilemyrtle@att.net](mailto:B17fertilemyrtle@att.net)

\* Marbury Councill (Carolyn)  
420 Riverside Drive  
Pasadena, MD 21122  
(410) 437-5474  
[Caramarb@aol.com](mailto:Caramarb@aol.com)

\* Joe Garber (Joan)  
46 Coquina Ridge Way  
Ormond Beach, FL 32174-1816  
(386) 672-5359  
[PalJoe2@aol.com](mailto:PalJoe2@aol.com)

**BOARD MEMBERS**  
Lydia Anderson  
8155 Shenandoah Drive  
Beaumont, TX 77706  
(409) 866-3118  
[lha1015@hotmail.com](mailto:lha1015@hotmail.com)

Merton C. Thurston  
20554 N. 101st Avenue  
Aptt. 2040  
Peoria, AZ 85382  
(623) 875-9094  
[mthurston42911@cox.net](mailto:mthurston42911@cox.net)

Richard Hill (Willodean)  
834 Woody Lane  
Coon Rapids, MN 55448  
(763) 755-3559  
[Rhilatindrs@aol.com](mailto:Rhilatindrs@aol.com)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR,  
PUBLISHER**  
Dale L. Budde (Kathy)  
2415 Fairchild Lane  
West Chicago, IL 60185  
(630) 443-4741  
[Dbudde@aol.com](mailto:Dbudde@aol.com)

**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Richard Hill

**ARTIST**  
Carolyn Councill (Marbury)  
[Caramarb@aol.com](mailto:Caramarb@aol.com)

\* Denotes Deceased Past Presidents

Texts and/or photos are sincerely solicited. If requested, photos will be returned. The Editor reserves the right to edit text. July 30, 2019 is the deadline for the August 2019 issue.

**96th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION**  
706 Miami View Court • Loveland, OH 45140



## Final Mission

Those Who Served Their Country  
With Honor and Distinction

Beyerlein, Ella	Spouse of Herbert F. Beyerlein	337th	ENG
Jorgenson, Alvin C.		339th	N
Kreidt, Wallace C.		338th	CP
Onisko, Edward S.		413th	P
Patrick, Bert			English Member
Rich, Walter		339th	BTG
Rohm, David A. Jr.		339th	R
Rubadue, Edwin A.		337th	P
Schneider, John F.		337th	N
Slutsky, Bernard J.		GPH	PERS
Wells, Glen		338th	R
Woods, Robert P.		339th	R

*We will print the names of all deceased 96th airmen sent to us whether or not they are current members of the 96th BGA.*

*We will also print the names of members of other Bomb Groups if they are current members of the 96th BGA. Written notification is required. Send to: Susan Hinchman Secretary/Treasurer, address on this page.*

FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

PERMIT No.6078  
Carol Stream, IL  
60188

