



N 96TH BOMB GROUP NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020

ISSUE NO. 75



William "Bill" Thorns "Portrait of Honor" installed on the "Wall of Honor" February 1, 2020 at the Somerby Assisted Living Center in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida where Bill and Dorothy had resided in retirement since 2016

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COVID-19 - CANCELS OCTOBER 8th AFHS REUNION MEMPHIS

President's Corner



Geetings to everyone reading this!

Well, the first half of 2020 has been something, hasn't it?

Most sadly, we have had to say goodbye to two very popular 96th Bomb Group Association members who were WWII veterans: Bill Thorns and Merton Thurston. You will find memorial pages for both of these men inside this newsletter. I wanted to take a moment to share my thoughts on each of them.

Bill Thorns was the first president of the 96th BGA when it was founded in 1982. He is listed as the President of the Association on the memorial stone at the 96th BG Museum in England as well.

I first met Bill at a reunion in either 2010 or 2011. At the time, there were quite a few veterans and family members attending, and I met Bill and his wonderful wife Dorothy only briefly. Over time, I had the chance to visit with Bill at subsequent reunions - he was a charming man and so very hopeful that the mission of the 96th BGA and 8th AFHS would continue.

In 2016, I became President of this wonderful organization. About the same time, Bill and Dorothy relocated from the Chicago area to a small town in the panhandle of Florida - Santa Rosa Beach. It just so happens that Terri and I pass through Santa Rosa Beach every year when we visit our favorite part of the Florida panhandle. I am still in awe of all veterans, and especially those of 'The Greatest Generation'. On our next visit to Florida, (with some trepidation) I called Bill to see if he wouldn't mind if Terri and I stopped by for a quick visit. Of course Bill was more than accommodating. Terri and I had a great visit, and we were able to stop by and say hello several more times over the past few years. The thing I wanted to mention was this - I felt that Bill was doing me a huge favor by letting me stop by to say hello. However, Bill would always make

quite the fuss about "the President of his Bomb Group" stopping by for a visit. He made me feel that I was doing him a favor.

My Dad has been gone for over 20 years, so visiting with Bill was a way for me to reconnect with a part of Dad's history. Plus, Bill got a degree in chemical engineering after the war, and he seemed pleased that I have a degree in mechanical engineering!

Dorothy Thorns died on April 11th, 2020. Bill Thorns died on May 10th, 2020. I miss them both - please keep their family in your thoughts and prayers.

Merton Thurston died on June 11th of this year. Merton had been a fixture at 96th BGA reunions for many years until an illness prevented him from attending in 2019.

Merton was a very gracious man. He was also a bit of a magnet to the ladies - while he did not flirt or actively seek this out, he was very popular with many of the women who attended the reunions. I have quite a few pictures of Merton from the many years of reunions I have attended, and there is always a pretty lady or three alongside. That continued until Merton started bringing his new 'lady friend' Frances to the reunions. She was a great addition to our group, and Merton was obviously very happy with her presence.

My story about Merton occurred at the San Antonio reunion in 2012. It seems Merton had forgotten to pack his pajamas. As it turns out, Merton was quite the proper gentleman, and he needed his pajamas for bedtime. I offered to take Merton out into town on a quest for his nightwear. We had a great time, stopped at three stores I believe (men's pjs are not as easy to track down as you might think), and our visit is a cherished memory of mine.

Merton is missed by many - Please also keep Merton's family in your thoughts and prayers.

When I learned of the passing of both of these men, it occurred to me to go see what their entries looked like on "The American Air Museum in Britain" website (www.americanairmuseum.com). I have mentioned this website before - I believe it is a fantastic resource for finding names and possible connections between WWII veterans. The stated mission of the group operating this website is to have an entry for every American who served in England in the Army Air Corps in WWII.

The website contains an entry for everyone that the curators can find anything about - in the instance of 96th BG veterans, the initial info generally comes from the Snetterton Falcons books or any available US Government records. The initial info for most men is fairly scant.

The beauty of this website is that we all can add to the entries! We can add birthplaces, other locations of milestones, and other important dates, awards received, etc. An especially nice feature is the ability to upload photos or copies of documents, and then connect those to the respective veteran.

Another very interesting feature of the website is the ability to connect people who had a common service - for instance, the entire crew of an aircraft. If the entire aircrew is 'connected', then anyone searching for a particular individual will also see a link to the other 'connected' people.

Connections can also be made to specific units of service - for instance, the 8th AF, and also the 96th BG, and then even a specific squadron. And, for aircrews, connections can be made to a specific aircraft! All of these connections are intended to help someone searching for a particular person find other directly related items that may be of interest.

These connections will not be created or filled in by the museum staff - they do not have the info, nor the time to do this. This is a project for those who have this information - the families or other researchers. If you'd like to see how these connections might look, you can search the 'people' section of the website for my Dad, Jack E. McIlraith.

Now, why did I write these last few paragraphs? Because I am thinking that each of us can do just a little to add to this website, and it will make the whole so much better. I also believe that the current virus situation gives most of us plenty of time on our hands, and maybe we could each spend a little of that adding a bit of info here or there about our favorite veterans?

Perhaps this will help us to build momentum on the 96th BGA archives project that was mentioned in the previous newsletter?

As you may have seen by now, the planned 8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion, planned for this October, has been cancelled.

The 8th Air Force Historical Society is now

planning a 'virtual reunion' for Saturday, October 24th. You can find more info on the FaceBook page for the 8th AFHS {The Eighth Air Force Historical Society (Official)}.

Similarly, the 96th BGA is now planning a 'virtual meeting' for November 7th, 2020, and all of our members are invited. We intend to use Zoom. This meeting will be held at 4pm Eastern/1pm Pacific. If the 96th BGA has your current and correct e-mail address, you will be receiving a message with the Zoom invite.

Please send an e-mail message to our wonderful Treasurer, Sue Hinchman, to confirm your preferred and correct e-mail address - Sue's e-mail is bhiv@one.net

Please let me or any of the other Board members know if you have any ideas about continuing and improving the 96th Bomb Group Association's mission and message.

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

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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 – 96th BGA



P.S. Are you a paid member of the 96th BGA? And are you a paid member of the 8th 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 am sure you'll be glad you did.





William M. Thorns
October 14, 1923 - May 10, 2020



Dorothy A. Thorns
March 7, 1926 - April 11, 2020



I Corinthians 2:9
“Eye has not seen nor ear heard, nor have entered into the hearts of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”



Our reunions were frequently a Thorns Family Reunion too. Thank You for sharing them with us.



"It is Always the Hour"

Merton Charles Thurston

September 28, 1924 - June 11, 2020



Bill Thorns, Mert Thurston, Joe Garber and Donald Colvin at .Omaha reunion 2015



Front row center Merton Thurston and son James Thurston behind at Dayton Reunion in October 2018. A regular attendee he will be missed by all.



Merton receiving Ruptured Duck lapel pin presented to all 8th Air Force Veterans at 2017 New Orleans the Gala Dinner.



Special friend, Frances Palsma, from Springfield, South Dakota and Merton.



Merton renews an old friendship with Candy and Lindsey Brown. Dayton 2018.



Merton Thurston and Jeannette Batton at St. Louis reunion October. 2011.

A Chat From Your Chaplain

This has been a year of loss for so many. I am reminded of the summer of 2004, when four hurricanes came back to back to Florida. Just as we began to live again, the power would be lost. Add to that the destruction of trees, roofs, homes and businesses. Yet our family was still unharmed and intact. Everything that we lost was eventually replaced.

I can't imagine how our Fathers and Grandfathers dealt with the loss of friends and the horrors of war. In these challenging days ahead we must remember and reflect on their courage and faith in God and Country.

Job faced tremendous loss in his life. His response was to say, "Though He slay me yet will I serve Him". (Job 13:15).

The prophet Habakkuk said,
"Though the fig tree does not bud" (Spring)
"Though there are no grapes on the vine" (Summer)
"Though the olive crops fail" (Fall)
"Though the fields produce no food" (Winter)

"Though there are no sheep in the pen, no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord. I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign Lord is my strength." (Habakkuk 3:17-19)

A counter culture is arising in our nation. It is reminiscent to that which occurred in our father's time. May we be found faithful to stand for freedom as they did. Be vigilant and prayerful. As your chaplain I want you to be assured of my prayers for all of you.

"As for me and my house we will serve the lord." (Joshua 24:15)

Stan Hand, Jr, M. D.

"Bury me with soldiers" is a poem written by Charles Fink. It was inspired by an ambush in Viet Nam that he survived as a 22 year old specialist. Today at 73, Msgr Charles Fink leads our Lady of Snow Roman Catholic church in Blue Point. Fink survived the ensuing firefight that left most of the men either dead or wounded.

He ended up spending a year in Viet Nam and wrote the poem years later while a student at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington. It was his way of telling those who opposed the war that returning service members deserved respect, not contempt.



Poet's Corner

Bury me with Soldiers

by Charles Fink

I've played a lot of roles in life;
I've met a lot of men.
I've done some things I'd like to think
I wouldn't do again
And though I'm young, I'm old enough
To know someday I'll die.
And think about what lies beyond, And
Besides whom I would lie.
Perhaps it doesn't matter much;
Still if I had my choice,
I'd want a grave amongst soldiers when
At last death quells my voice
I'm sick of the hypocrisy
Of lectures by the wise
I'll take the man with all his flaws
Who goes, though scared, and dies.

The troops I know were commonplace;
They didn't want the war
They fought because their fathers and
Their father's fathers had before.
They cursed and killed and wept –
God knows they're easy to deride –
But bury me with men like these;
They faced the guns and died.

It's funny when you think of it,
The way we got along.
We'd come from different worlds
To live in one, where no one belongs
I didn't even like them all and,
I'm sure they'd all agree.
Yet, I would give my life for them,
I hope. Some would for me.

So bury me with soldiers, please
Though much maligned they be
Yes, bury me with soldiers, for
I miss their company.
We will not soon see their like again
We've had our fill of war.
But, bury me with men like them
Till someone else does more!

*Stan as our Chaplain will try to write a personal letter on behalf of the 96th Bomb Group to the family of all our members who have flown their **Final Mission**. You can help him and the 96th Bomb Group by letting him know in a timely manner of a member's passing and the address to which he might send the letter.*

Address your correspondence for our Chaplain to:

Dr. Stanley Hand
1016 Ridgecrest Road
Orlando, FL 32806

Mobile: (321)-662-3305

E-mail: stanhand@bellsouth.net



96th Bomb Group Recipients French Legion of Honor

Marbury L. Councill Jr.	337th	Lloyd Mitchell	413th
Salvatore "Sal" Cracolici	338th	Stanley A. Peterson	338th
John V. Croul	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
Richard M. Jerger	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 will be able to download the actual application forms from this link and begin gathering the information you will need to apply.

<http://ffnv.org/docs/French+Medal+Application.pdf>

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
3 1, 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

Meanwhile Back at the Old Base



Hello Everyone...

As you can imagine it has been incredibly quiet here at the old base, as we like the whole world have been trying to get through the Covid virus Pandemic. The year had started off quite well as we had planned to arrange some open days at the museum and have a special open day later in the year with a special open day event. We had been asked to open the 96th Museum for the VE Celebrations that were planned in the village in May. However, this had to be cancelled.

The year had started off as normal, as in early February we had a request from a local metal finishing and industrial company called Rip Blast. They are situated in what was the old Technical Site during the war and some veterans may remember where that was. It is now named Oakwood Industrial Business Park. The staff from Rip Blast knew that the buildings they operate from were original WW11 buildings and were curious to know a bit more about it what it had been and what other existing war time buildings had been used for. Thankfully our 96th Historian Geoff Ward was on hand to show them around the museum and show them some of the artefacts and photographs. They were extremely impressed and would like a follow up visit.

The museum was then closed and lock downed as was just about everything else, until recently as we begin to emerge from this awful period.

The museum was recently asked if we would be able to be open on the 15th August to join in with the Quidenham and Eccles Village VJ Commemorations for the official end of WWII. They had requested that we allow villagers to visit the museum and have a look around; there was a questionnaire to complete, to be handed into the Mess Tent. This was to join in with the quiz later in the day.

We obviously had to check with the Aurora Eccles School and as there were no children on the site they were able to assist us and helped by supplying masks, hand sanitizers and medical wipes. We opened the museum at 12 o'clock - 2.30 pm.



We had to comply with all the UK Covid 19 requirements such as social distancing by keeping two metres apart and wearing facemasks plus collecting names and telephone numbers for Track and Trace purposes but all went very well and we had quite a few visitors. In fact, we were pleased to see so many of the local folks, who live in the villages but had never been to the Museum before. The museum holds so much history, artefacts memorabilia, maps, photos that are specific to the village.



The VJ Commemoration day had been organised on the Quidenham Village green. It started at 3 pm with a 2-minute silence in respect of the fallen followed by the raising of the Union Flag and presentation of end of the war speeches from 75 years ago. Many had turned up in fancy dress of the period and food from the war time era including Trifle, Spam dishes Corned beef hash and cakes were served along with the popular burgers and hot dogs to reflect the village USAAF heritage. All food and drink were free of charge.

The USAAF were a large part of the village during the war and during the afternoon there was a film in the military tent showing the base during the war and to acknowledge the 96th Bomb Group who played a huge part in Quidenham during the war. The whole event was very well supported and enjoyed by all.



The village committee had asked for donations for the Museum and these added up to over £200 on the day.

From all of us over here ,Stay safe and God Bless.

Jean Wills
Beech Cottage, Eccles Quidenham
Norwich, Norfolk
NR-16-217 United Kingdom



Jean Wills

Email:- jean@onepresspublishing.co.uk



Rum Boogie Crew

Sgt. Richard (Dick) J. Postier

Radio Operator/Gunner

By Vicki Ekmark

Dick Postier was born in Oronoco, Olmsted County, Minnesota on January 7, 1920, to James C. Postier and Marguerite Fifield. He was the second child born and had an older sister, Virginia. When Virginia was two years old and Dick was only four weeks old, their mother died of influenza and bronchial pneumonia at the age of 21. As a result, Virginia and Dick were raised by their grandparents for most of their childhood. In 1925, a half-brother, Robert, was born.

On December 30, 1941, Dick enlisted in the Air Corps at Ft. Snelling, Minnesota, just six months after marrying his first wife, Ellen Green. They had one son, Richard James Postier, Jr., who was born on August 19, 1943. In 1974, after 33 years of marriage, his wife Ellen died from cancer.



Dick and Ellen

Dick was the radio operator and waist gunner on the Rum Boogie Crew. His radio call numbers were "AWB" on Rum Boogie III #42-30365 (one of five different Rum Boogie's the crew flew on). After completing his 25 missions, he returned to the states and taught radio and Morse Code at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

On October 25, 1975, he married Sheila. They were married for 25 years and had four daughters, Cindi, Lori, Melissa, and Alicia.

During the 1980's, Dick was very active in Rochester city government, including over 21 years on the City Council, serving as City Council President for 18 of those years.



A park named after Dick Postier for his years of service to the city.

He was one of the original members of the 8th Air Force Historical Society of Minnesota, which started in 1982, and he served as President of that group in 1986.

He also owned and ran Land of Lakes Sporting Goods, which dealt in boats, motors, trailers, and snowmobiles.

The Sanders crew was a very close knit group. When Alvin Neff (the tail gunner) died in 1991, Dick Postier made the trip from Minnesota to South Dakota to attend Al's funeral. Dick introduced himself to Al's son, Steve, and told him that one of the reasons he came to Al's funeral was to meet him (Steve). Steve will never forget that, and the entire Neff family still appreciates Dick's effort and dedication.



Al Neff (left) and Dick Postier, 1989

Dick Postier died on September 19, 2000, in Rochester. He is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Rochester. His son Richard died in 2006.

Survived by his wife Sheila; his daughters Cindi, Lori, Melissa, and Alicia; and his grandson Troy Postier.

Troy Postier, who currently resides in Rochester, Minnesota, proudly followed in his grandfather's footsteps, serving in the 335th fighter squadron during Desert Storm in Al Kharj Saudi Arabia.



Rear L/R Sgt. George T. Gant, Gunner, Sgt. Richard J. Postier, Radio Operator and Waist, Sgt. Charles F. Goyette, Assistant Radio Operator and Gunner, Sgt. Ellis P. Savoie, Engineer and Gunner, Sgt. George P. Wyherek, Ball Turret Gunner. Front L/R Lieutenant Lloyd J. Fickler, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. Harry J. Miller, Navigator, 1st Lt. James H. Sanders, Pilot, Sgt. Alvin Neff, Tail Gunner, Not pictured the photographer 2nd Lt. William H. Spencer, Bombardier Snetterton Heath England 1943

You can follow Rum Boogie Crew on the sites below:

- Web Page <https://www.rumboogieweb.com>
- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/rumboogieweb>
- Twitter <https://twitter.com/rumboogieweb>



46th ANNUAL 8th AFHS REUNION
Holiday Inn Memphis Airport, Memphis, TN
October 21-25, 2020

The 46th ANNUAL 8th AFHS REUNION
SCHEDULED for October 21-25
in Memphis, Tennessee has been

CANCELLED
DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS

The 8th Air Force Historical Society has cancelled your Reunion Activities and issued refunds.
If you have any questions or problems regarding these cancellations, please contact:

Debra Kujawa
Managing Director
8th AFHS
912-748-8884

ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org

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

It is understood that all blocked room reservations for the reunion were cancelled by the hotel. If you had made reservations and have not received a notice of cancellation already you should follow up.

The reunion hotel has a liberal cancellation policy, you will be able to cancel your reservation without penalty within 48 hours of your scheduled check-in time.

The Holiday Inn Memphis Airport & Conference Center
2240 Democrat Road, Memphis, TN 38132.
HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION
(800) 465-4329 or (901) 332-1130 Front Desk

Important Notice to ALL 96th Bomb Group Association Members

We are asking you to please confirm that the 96th Bomb Group Association has your current and correct mailing and e-mail address. Please send an e-mail with your name and preferred e-mail address to:

Mrs. Susan Hinchman at bhiv@one.net
Thank You!

Please be sure and check the 96th Bomb Group Association web page and Facebook page for a possible Virtual Meeting of the 96th Bomb Group. Notice will be sent via e-mail if we have your current and correct e-mail address on file.



46th ANNUAL 8th AFHS *Virtual* REUNION
October 24th, 2020 From 12 noon until 4pm EST
Zoom, or via Facebook Live

8th Air Force Historical Society
46th Annual “Virtual” Reunion Schedule
Saturday, October 24, 2020
12 noon ~ 4 pm EST

Speakers include:

Major General Mark Weatherington, USAF, Commanding General 8th A F & Joint-Global Strike Operations Center

Mick Hanou, Historian 91st BG, Author, *“One of the First” 91st BG*

Steve Snyder, Author of *“Shot Down” 306th BG*

Yvonne Caputo, Author of *“Flying with Dad” 467th BG*

Carole Webb Slater, Author of *“Letters from the Heart” 352nd FG*

Lynn David, Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society

World War II Veterans

*Because this will be a *LIVE* event, our schedule will be fluid we welcome your enthusiasm and ask for your patience!*

The reunion can be viewed either on Zoom, or via Facebook Live. There is a limit of 800 attendees on the Zoom portion of the meeting. Facebook Live does not have a limitation on attendees.

There is currently a 'Save-The-Date' message on the 8th AFHS FaceBook page for this reunion, as follows:

****SAVE THE DATE****

46th Annual 8th AFHS Reunion goes “virtual!”

While we can't create an entire virtual reunion, we can certainly bring the reunion—or at least a good portion of it—to you here on this page. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 24, 2020. From 12 noon until 4pm [Eastern Standard Time], we will be utilizing Zoom via Facebook Live here on our Facebook page! You will be able to see and hear several speakers share powerful stories and dynamic history of the 8th Air Force! Simply sign in to FB and open our page. You won't want to miss a moment!

We'll be posting a complete schedule a little closer to the 24th. See you right here!

The LINKS are:

Link to Zoom Webinar for Oct 24th, 2020 12 noon –4:00pm EST

<https://zoom.us/j/98613732441>

Or, use Facebook live from The Eighth Air Force Historical Society FB page:

The Eighth Air Force Historical Society (official)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/8THAFHS>

For those that want to use Zoom, they will need to download the free Zoom app prior to the reunion. For those that want to view on FaceBook Live, they may need to ask for access to the 8th AFHS FaceBook page ahead of time (I am not sure about that, but maybe?).

The following are the next scheduled Reunions:

47th Savannah, Georgia - October 27 - 31, 2021 Riverfront Marriot

48th Memphis, Tennessee - October 19- 23, 2022 Holiday Inn Memphis Airport, Memphis, TN

96th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

SILVER DREAM NOTE CARDS

ORDER FORM AND 2020 DUES PAYMENT

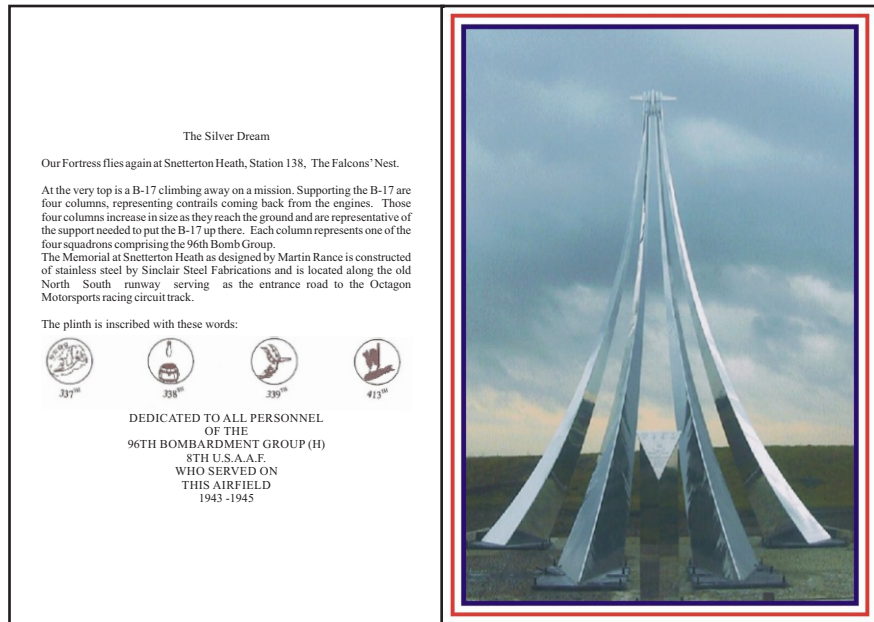
(OFFER MADE PREVIOUSLY IN MAY 2020 VIA E-MAIL)

The 96th Bomb Group Association is excited to announce the opportunity to purchase Note Cards displaying an image of the Silver Dream, the iconic memorial erected at Snetterton Heath to honor those who served so courageously with the 96th during WWII. These Note Cards are 5"x7" in size and will be sold in packs of 10 cards and 10 envelopes at a price of \$15, postage included. Net proceeds (after printing and postage charges) will be used to support the Snetterton Heath 96th Bomb Group Museum at New Eccles Hall School and the St. Andrews Church, in Quidenham, England, where the Memorial Window is located.

To order these Note Cards, please complete the form below and mail with your check or money order payment. **Please make checks payable to 96th Bomb Group Association.**

Please mail form and payment to:

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



(OUTSIDE BACK AND FRONT OF CARD)

	Quantity	Per unit cost	Total
Indicate number of packs of Note Cards requested to purchase (\$15/pack).		\$15.00	
For annual members, indicate whether you would like to pay your 2020 96 th BGA dues at this time (\$25/yr.) <i>(Note: Dues may also be paid in advance for future years.)</i>		\$25.00	
Grand Total			

Please print clearly and legibly

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State & Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

NOTE: Please be sure to include your email address since this is the most effective way to reach you if there is a question on your order. The 96th BGA does not sell or share email addresses beyond our membership.

Memorial Plaques for Veterans at the Silver Dream Continues

Because “The Silver Dream” is such a beautiful icon dedicated to the men who served at Snetterton during World War II, a project has been started to place commemorative plaques along the fence which now surrounds the Memorial.

Arrangements have been made 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. Below are three samples of how plaques will be laid out

The requests for plaques are still coming in, and we have had one more request for plaques for the whole crew of one B-17. Those are mounted on the fence together in a line. We have received two plaque requests for Ground Crew, and would really like to receive more. So far, since October, we have sent 39 more plaques to be made. Fortunately, with the Virus and businesses being shut down or closed permanently, our plaque supplier has been able to continue with their work.



“The Silver Dream”, with a section of the fence and completed plaques in place.

Please complete one order form below for each plaque which will cost \$20.00 including shipping cost and include your personal information so you may be contacted with any questions about your order.

If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Lutz at rlutz4000@gmail.com 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: _____
(Rank while at Snetterton)

Position: _____

Squadron: _____

POW----Date: _____

or

KIA ----Date: _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Relationship to Veteran: _____

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

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/>)

2020 ORDER FORM 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, in either CD or flash drive format. Upon receipt of this form and payment, 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. Net proceeds (after reproduction and postage costs) 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:

Susan 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 2020 members
- \$25.00 Flash Drive for current paid 2020 members
- \$50.00 2020 Membership Renewal & CD
- \$50.00 2020 Membership Renewal & Flash Drive
- \$50.00 CD (non-member)
- \$50.00 Flash Drive (non-member)
- \$25.00 (2020 dues)

Total: \$ _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

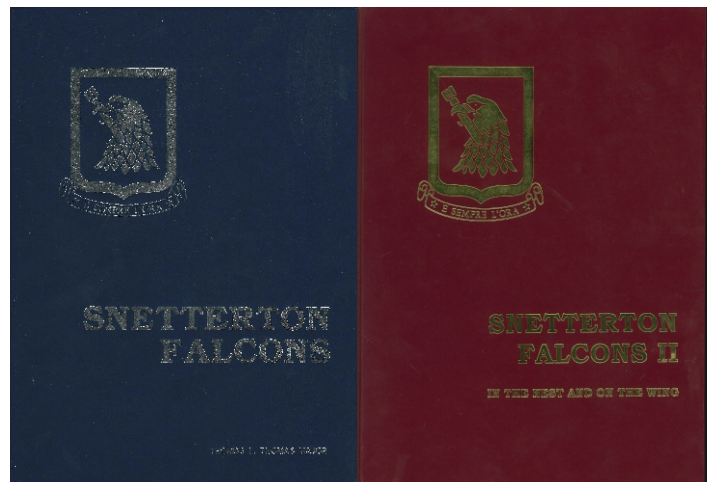
City: _____

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 \$25 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 March, 2020



Robert Dickert II
Dan Hester
Baughn Merideth
Jeff Pitchford
Steve Woolf

14 Allie Ct., Chico, CA 95926 *Son of Robert H. Dickert, Pilot 413th*
7142 Breno Place, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701
2703 South Ward Ave., Caruthersville, MO 63830 *Daughter of Denny J. Merideth, Pilot 338th*
4028 Ottawa Ct., Box #204, Skippack, PA 19474-0204
975 S. Golf View Dr., Cornville, AZ 86325-4879

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

Dues are \$25.00 per year payable to: 96th Bomb Group Association, 706 Miami View Court, Loveland, Ohio 45140

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: _____

Check here if you would like to receive the 96th BGA Newsletter via email rather than hard copy via US Postal Service.
*- Please provide your email address so that you can receive important updates about the 96th BG Association during the year. Email addresses are private information and the 96th BGA does not share them with any non-members.



YOUR 2020 DUES SHOULD BE PAID NOW

This may be your last *Newsletter!* unless you are a Life Member
Send your **\$25 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 \$25 at General Meeting October 18, 2019)
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 2020
with the

8th Air Force Historical Society 46th Annual Reunion
Scheduled for October 21-25, in Memphis, Tennessee

Has been CANCELLED due to COVID 19

See page 10 for Information Virtual Reunion

The following are the next scheduled Reunions:
Savannah, Georgia - October 27-31, 2021
Riverfront Marriot

Memphis, Tennessee - October 19-23, 2022

Holiday Inn Memphis Airport, Memphis, TN
Complete program and reunion information will be available on line at: www.8thafhs.org

and in future issues of
8TH AF NEWS & 96TH Bomb Group Newsletter

WHERE TO CALL OR WRITE



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* 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. December 31, 2020 is the deadline for the February 2021 issue.



Final Mission

Those Who Served Their Country

With Honor and Distinction

Bay, Howard A.	337th	TG
Michel, Henry J. (Hank)	338th	TG
Sitler, James L.	413th	MECH
Thorns, Dorothy A.	<i>Spouse of William (Bill) Thorns</i>	
Thorns, William M. (Bill)	338th	ENG
Thurston, Merton C.	338th	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.

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



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"It is Always the Hour"