



N 96TH BOMB GROUP NEWSLETTER

March 2022

ISSUE NO. 78



Mr. Ward goes to Washington. Geoff Ward in the window of our hospitality suite at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. 31st Annual 8th AFHS Reunion September 27- October 2, 2005

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Geoff Ward

Our English Friend

By Rebecca Lutz

The 96th Bomb Group lost a treasured member of our extended family with Geoff's Ward's death on November 15, 2021. Geoff truly had a lifelong connection to and interest in the 96th Bomb Group. As a young boy, standing in the back garden in his family's home in Diss, he watched B-17s form up for bombing missions. His home was also very near Fersfield Airbase, and he would watch B-17s and B-24s take off as part of a secret Army and Navy bombing project "Aphrodite". As an adult, due to his proximity to Snetterton Heath, his interest grew stronger and led to his commitment to the 96th Bomb Group. Geoff became the Bomb Group's Historian in the 1970s and was actively involved for the rest of his life. There were so many contributions to the Bomb Group, that without his continued support, the resources for the Bomb Group, especially for the "Next Generation" would be vastly different.

We would not have the 96th Bomb Group Museum or the Silver Dream at Snetterton that we all cherish, without the love and support of our dear English friends, but most specifically, Geoff and Margaret Ward and Bert and Sombra Patrick and their families. We cannot recall an instance when American or English visitors asked for a tour of the Museum and the Silver Dream and were turned down. I know Geoff made innumerable trips to Snetterton, first to help establish the Museum and Silver Dream, then for individual tours or routine maintenance, and installation of the Silver Dream Memorial Plaques.

Geoff also participated for many years in the Wreath Laying Ceremony, honoring American Veterans, at the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial as part of the annual Memorial Day Services. When 96th Bomb Group Veterans or Members were able to attend this ceremony, Geoff arranged for them to participate in his place. Glen Harrison, Marbury Councill, and I were honored to be able to lay the wreaths in this very moving ceremony.

Another priceless contribution to the Bomb Group is the time and effort and overseas trips he made to work with Bob Doherty to write the Snetterton Falcon books. What would we do without the invaluable resource materials in those books? There was so much information that Geoff had researched and remembered. He always had answers for questions we would ask.

Geoff loved the Bomb Group and he and Margaret attended as many of the Reunions as they could. They traveled around the country with many members, and told particularly funny stories of the adventures while traveling with George and Nancy Meshko and William "Tex" and Mary Shields, who bought Geoff a Stetson hat. The last reunion he and Margaret attended was in San Antonio in 2012, where they enjoyed the Riverwalk, which was one of Geoff's favorite places.



Geoff and Margaret were also able to join several of the Bomb Groups trips touring England, France, and Ireland. He was especially amazed and honored by the Surprise 80th Birthday Party 25 of us held in 2013, our last overseas group trip.



Geoff will always be in our hearts, and we miss his love and laughter and wonderful English sense of humor



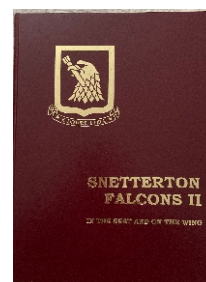
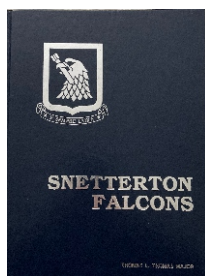
Geoff Ward meets Rebecca and Jerry Lutz while attending their first 96th Bomb Group reunion in October 2007.

Geoffrey D. Ward

May 3, 1933 - November 15, 2021



"It is Always the Hour"



President's Corner



Hello friends!

I hope you all have had a good beginning to the new year.

To start this message, I want to acknowledge the passing of two people who have been a part of this Association for a long time: Geoff Ward and Glenn Harrison.

As you probably know, Geoff Ward was a driving force behind many of the things we consider to be an integral part of this organization: the 96th BG Museum and Silver Dream Memorial at the location of the base in Snetterton Heath, and the writing and publishing of the books "Snetterton Falcons" and "Snetterton Falcons II". Geoff also served as our Association Historian, and the English Contact for many years, and he provided updates on activities 'Meanwhile Back at the Old Base' in this newsletter. I was blessed to have met Geoff and his beautiful wife Margaret at two 96th BGA reunions, and also once at the base in Snetterton. His devotion and importance to protecting and preserving the memory and legacy of the WWII veterans cannot be overstated.

I started attending 96th BGA reunions in 2009. I believe that Glenn Harrison attended almost every reunion I have been to - visiting with him and his family was always a highlight of each gathering. The March 2020 newsletter of this group featured Glenn on the cover, in celebration of his 100th birthday. Additionally, the November 2021 newsletter featured an interview of Glenn. As I wrote in my message in the April 2021 newsletter, listening to Glenn and Jesse Reese talk about their WWII experiences at the 8th AFHS reunion in St Louis was a moment I will not forget.

Both men will be missed, and we send thoughts and prayers to their families.

At the back of this newsletter is a section titled "Final Mission". In this section, you will find Geoff and Glenn's names. You will also find these names: James Lucius Butts, Paul Herring, William C Hughes, William R Meier, Rudolph Villalobos. These are all men who have left us - I did not have the good fortune to meet any of these gentlemen, though I was lucky to have had two phone conversations with Mr.

Villalobos. However, these men are all heroes, just as Geoff and Glenn are....and as are all of the names that have appeared in this section over the years. So many of the 96th BG WWII veterans were members of this association, but weren't able to be as active in this group as Geoff and Glenn. We have missed getting to know them and being able to hear their stories. Do you have a picture of your veteran? Does your family have a favorite story from your veteran that is shared at gatherings? Would you please send those along to us - we would love to be able to share these things with everyone else. We missed getting to meet so many veterans, but we can keep their legacy alive if you will share it with everyone.

I'd like to thank everyone who was able to attend our on-line 'Virtual Annual Meeting' in December. We had a nice turnout, and conducted the business of the group - and as a bonus we got to see each other's faces (OK, so I'm not sure getting to see my face is a bonus for anyone, but...)

Before I get to that, I would like to say a sincere Thank You to two retiring Board Members:

Mr. Richard Hill has been a member of the 96th BGA for 29 years, and he has been a Board Member since 2017. Richard served in the Minnesota Air National Guard - Thank You for your service! Richard came to find the 96th BGA after meeting two members of a 96th BG crew. If you have attended an annual reunion of this group in the past almost 30 years, you have probably met Richard and his lovely wife Willodean. Richard has been the Photographer for the 96th BGA for many years, and you have enjoyed many of his photos from annual reunions in past newsletters. Unfortunately, health issues prevent the Hills from traveling now, and Richard asked that I accept his resignation from the Board.



Richard and Willodean Hill



Stan and Joanne Hand

Dr. Stanley Hand has been the Vice-President for the 96th BGA since 2017. You may know that Dr. Hand's father, Colonel Stanley Hand, was a commanding officer for the 413th Squadron of the 96th BG during WWII - so Dr. Hand is a 'Next Gen' member of our Group. Dr. Hand is himself an Air Force veteran - Thank You for your service! Dr Hand, and his lovely wife Joanne, took over the Chaplain duties from Bill Thorns. I have enjoyed getting to know and work with Dr. Hand, and I appreciate how he lives his life through his faith. Unfortunately, due to health issues, Dr. Hand has resigned his VP position. He has, however, consented to continue to serve as our Chaplain.

As I previously mentioned, we also have new Board Members - I would like to offer a warm welcome to the Board to Anita Sybesma, Randy deMars, Jill Tebble, and Walter Powell. Additionally, a current Board Member, Lydia Anderson, has agreed to become Vice President of our Association. Anita has agreed to be our Group Historian, following in the footsteps of Geoff Ward. Jill Tebble will also serve as our English Contact, also following in the footsteps of Geoff. Thank You all in advance for being a part of our group going forward.

Now - wouldn't it be great to see each other in person again! Well, it turns out that the 2022 Reunion for the 8th Air Force Historical Society is scheduled for October 19th - 23rd, 2022 in Arlington, VA (the Washington, DC area). If you haven't already made plans to attend, please consider doing so. Stay tuned to the 8th AFHS website, at 8thafhs.org for info and updates.

Next, as has been mentioned in this space before, we don't have to wait for the annual reunion to have a get-together. If two or more of our members are in the same area and want to get together - it is a 'mini-reunion'. If you do this, please take a picture and write-up a description of attendees and what you did - our Newsletter editor would love to have material like this for an upcoming issue.

Regarding the 96th BG Museum in England - The great folks who keep the Museum going have already scheduled an Open Day for August 21st of 2022 - if you might have a thought of visiting England in 2022, how about considering a visit to the Norfolk area for the Open Day?

Also, elsewhere in this newsletter is the second part of the interviews of WWII veterans by Michael Naya. Check them out!

As I like to reiterate each time I write this message, it is up to each of us to document, record, or otherwise save the memories and memorabilia of our loved ones who served in the 96th Bomb Group. That is how we will preserve their memory and legacy, and how that legacy will be available for others to discover.

If you have a veteran with a story, or a story of a veteran or crew, how about writing an article for this amazing newsletter? Even if you only have an idea, please investigate creating a story you can share with the rest of us.

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

A couple of bullet point items:

- Are you current with your 96th BGA dues?
- Are you current with your 8th AFHS dues?
- 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

Thank You for your time!

Mike McIlraith
President



Meanwhile Back at the Old Base



It was incredibly sad to hear as we went to press with the last newsletter, of the passing of Geoff Ward too late for me to include my sorrow of losing our friend and committee member.

Geoff's invaluable knowledge and recollections of the 96th Bomb Group were exceptional. He knew the history of the base including many of the personnel and aircraft that had been stationed here. He was of help to me, when drafting these articles for the Newsletter. I do not think that there was one question that he could not answer, not only about the 96th but he also knew quite a bit about other local bases and aircraft as well.

I will miss him enormously. In fact I don't know what we will do without his help, especially when we have visitors. We were glad that he could show them around what is left of the base and point out at various sites where the different squadrons were billeted, explaining where some of the photographs had been taken and the artifacts that are in Museum, always with great enthusiasm about his beloved 96th.

I first knew Geoff when I worked at the local newspaper in the early 1980's as he was a regular visitor, always asking if he could have some editorial space to promote an Open day at the Museum, or later at the construction and opening of the Silver Dream Memorial, as this was a major story at the time.

RIP Geoff. God Bless.

Well, what with one thing and another after a very cold, wet, and windy spring so far and many still coping with Covid which is still causing problems.

At least we have the summer to look forward to June with our own HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, quite an achievement for a lady of her years and who also had done her bit to help in WWII as a young girl.

We are pleased to announce that we are planning to have a larger Open Day at the Museum later this year. This will be on the 21st of August. More details will be announced as soon as we can.

In fact, the Museum has been closed for the last few years, apart from the Open Day last year because of Covid.

We can confirm that we intend to have the Museum open monthly on the following dates: May 8th, June 12th, July 10th, and September 11th from 2 pm -4pm to be confirmed with the Aurora School.

One piece of news is that we have a new exhibit at the museum this year, as we have been given a sweet little wooden organ to put on show. It has been given to the Museum by Quidenham Church. It was a bit of a mystery to start with, as no one seemed to know

much about it. It may have been situated at Quidenham church then on the base in the chapel, but then returned to the church after the war, where it has been ever since. It has a name plate on it which says:

"W. Howlett Norwich", which gives the impression that it was made there, however, as it will now be housed in the Museum, and I wanted to report this story to the readers I felt I ought to do a bit of research.

To start with, I enlisted the help of a local man from Diss, Rodney Briscoe who knows quite a bit about organs. It has been his lifelong business to maintain and restore organs and consequently there is not much that he does not know about them. I sent Rodney this picture and asked him what he could tell



us about it. This is the information he has sent for us:

It is an American Reed Organ and was made in the USA in the early part of the century, brought to England to be sold by W Howlett of Norwich. Originally, it would have been foldable as the legs and pedals would fold in, so that it could be carried, a bit like a suitcase. This was an important part of the design because they were used in large numbers by travelling preachers. As an American Organ it sucks air through the reeds to make a note. The English Harmonium blows air through the reeds.

It is a fascinating and unique addition to the museum and it must have been in place at some very moving services during the war.

Hope you all have a lovely, safe, and healthy summer.

Jean at the Old Base

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Jean Wills

Memorial Plaques at the Silver Dream *Continues*



We have been delighted with the response regarding plaques and were very pleased that there were several Ground Crew and support staff included in this last group of orders.

The plaques are 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.

Please complete one order form below for each plaque which will cost \$25.00 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 \$25.00 payable to the **96th Bomb Group Association** at the address below:

Rebecca Lutz, 2104 Saint Andrews Drive, Round Rock, Texas 78664

Among The Last

of the 96th Bomb Group Veterans

Part II

Michael T. Naya, Jr.

Michael Naya, Jr. is a college student attending Kean University in Union, New Jersey. He is currently majoring in History Education. Michael has a passion for World War II history, particularly World War II veterans. His mission is to ensure that their legacy is kept alive for future generations to come. He has written several articles for local newspapers and publications about veterans across New Jersey. Michael is currently broadening his reach of these WWII veterans to those throughout the U.S. The 96th BGA is honored to have Michael working with us to record the history of our heroic veterans. His first

article appeared in issue No. 77, the November 2021 96th BGA Newsletter.

With the help of Rebecca Lutz and Susan Hinchman, four veterans - Rocco Astrologo, Glenn A. Harrison, William R. Meier, and Nyle Smith - were able to be interviewed in Spring 2021. These men ranged in age from 98 to 101 years old. All four have great memories and are proud airmen. They are fine examples of how we can aspire to act as American citizens. This is Part II of a two-part series featuring the stories of these great veterans. Here they shared their experiences in the hope that their memories are preserved for future generations. Since interviewing these men, William Meier, Glenn Harrison, and Rocco Astrologo have passed away. All members of the 96th BGA are grateful to them for having shared their stories before their passings. Today, Nyle Smith is the last of these interviewees still living and is an active member of the association.

Bombardier William R. Meier, age 98:

Growing up, the Great Depression affected us hugely. The Depression was pretty rough on all of us, and nobody had anything. You would work for practically nothing, but we all lived through it somehow. During the war we had ration books -- gasoline was rationed. You could get certain foods when it was rationed by the government, meat once a week.

When Pearl Harbor was attacked, I was at home in Eau Claire, Wisconsin and I was in between college days at that time. My mother was making dinner and I was setting the table and we had an old RC tube radio with a speaker on top and the announcement came through that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. Everything kind of stopped then and that is when we knew that the US was going to war. I remember that vividly because I went to school but I enlisted in the aviation cadet reserve program in November 1942 and was called into service by January 1943.

We went to a field in Chicago, and they put us on a troop train to Miami Beach for basic training. It was basic cadet training to be an officer since I didn't want to go in the infantry. I got my shots and some clothing. It was just exercising, looking at German planes, and basic military standing. We had guard duty one night and the sergeant said, "Here's a gun. The German U-Boats are coming into shore." I said, "What I am going to do with that! Hit him with it?" It was a wooden gun



William R. Meier

and he laughed at that. Afterward they sent us to the University of Vermont. There we flew a piper cub for ten hours and took navigation courses. We then went to Nashville for classification to be a pilot, engineer, or navigator. Since I had taken two years of engineering and my math scores were very high, I was selected for navigator or bombardier training. I was made a bombardier and was sent to Nevada for air flight training. I also attended gunnery school and earned my gunnery wings, so I had two sets of wings.

We then transferred to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and trained there where I received my Second Lieutenant commission. In El Paso, Texas, I earned my wings on July 1, 1944. In October 1944, I was transported to England aboard the 45,000-ton French ship, ILE DE FRANCE. I completed twenty-eight missions. Our daily missions were nine hours of flight time, and I would have to get up early to have a pre-flight briefing to know the target, when to drop them and so forth. There were twelve planes in a squadron and a bomb group would have four squadrons and we would have four airplanes in each group. We had a 'C' on our tail for Charlie.

During a mission over the North Sea, we dropped from 10,000 to 2,000 feet. Number one engine had blown up and we had four seconds to get our butts out of the airplane. The wings carry all the gasoline and the

pilot hit 'bail out.' In the front there was a big hatch. My navigator immediately grabbed his chute and went out. He didn't take a dinghy with him, and the North Sea was cold. The two waist gunners also bailed out and they didn't make it either. What happened was the pilot side-slipped the airplane and put the fire out. We didn't need to exit the aircraft. We landed at the Royal Air Force base. The wind had slammed shut the hatch the navigator used and the pilot saved our lives.

I was flying as the lead bombardier, and they dropped on your Norden bombsite, and it got rough sometimes. We made it back but some guys didn't. After that I changed crews and my old crews were shot down and kept as POWS for six to eight months. From there I was dropping 500-pound bombs and even though we flew at 12,000 feet, the Germans could shoot at us that high. I got hit with a piece of flak in the chest through the window. It dropped down but didn't cut me, so I wasn't eligible for the Purple Heart. I have a piece of flak in me to this day from the metal in the shell. It is

small but those pieces would damage the airplane.

I earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, Oak Leaf Clusters, and had advanced in rank to First Lieutenant by then. I was on rest leave playing golf at an English estate on VE Day. The church bells tolled, and I never had to fly another mission. I remained there until I could get home. However, there weren't enough transports for us to leave until October 1945. Being an officer, we were treated very well, but didn't have a lot of food to eat and were rationed to two meals a day. Serving in WWII was quite an experience and today a lot of young kids could use military experience to understand what is going on. Everybody in the service respected the adults, rules and that didn't hurt anybody.

I returned to the states aboard the 15,000-ton ship EL GRANDE, attended university and graduated with a degree in accounting. I met my wife there. In a few weeks, I turn 99 years old and am the only one left from my crew. On June 14, 2021, I will celebrate my seventy-fourth wedding anniversary.

Nyle Smith, age 99: I remember Pearl Harbor real well. We didn't have tv then but we had a portable radio. This radio interrupted regular programming and announced in the afternoon that Pearl Harbor had been attacked by the Japanese. We couldn't believe it! The announcer went on to describe the attack and my dad was shaking his head in disbelief. My dad was sitting there and said, "They just attacked Pearl Harbor!"

On January 14, 1942, it was wintertime, not much to do, still living in the big two-story house on the edge of town on the farm. I got in the habit after chores to go uptown to the pool house where they sold beer. I was nineteen and didn't drink beer. My dad told me he didn't want me going there because they sold beer. I didn't listen to him, and I went there with my friend anyway. I saw him coming up the street over the railroad track to get me, so I went out the side door and left for Decatur to the enlistment office. They sent me to Peoria, Illinois. That is where I entered the service when I was nineteen. I said I was twenty-one and they didn't ask for anything, no birth certificate, nothing.

I chose the Air Force because I figured in the Navy the ship might sink, the Army wasn't mechanized like it is now and I didn't want to walk, so I chose the Air Force. I picked aircraft mechanics school and they sent me to a school near St. Louis called Jefferson Barracks. That is where I took basic training, learned to drill,



Nyle Smith

march and all that stuff. I was only supposed to be there three months, but we remained for six months because someone came down with spinal meningitis and we were quarantined until July or August. I was then sent to Kansas City to Missouri Aviation Institute, aviation mechanic's school. From there I went to Salt Lake City where I was assigned to a B-17 bomber with the 96th Bomb Group.

Our first base was Walla Walla, Washington and the base commander was an old colonel! He was our basic commander and that's where I learned about Flying Fortresses. I was there for a month before they sent us to Rapid City, South Dakota. They were still lining up and training their crews -- ten men on a flying fortress -- pilot, co-pilot, bombardier, navigator, engineer, radio operator, two waist gunners, tail gunner, and side gunner. They assigned air crews to certain planes, and we were learning all about them. They were practicing and were flying up and down those canyons in South Dakota and the gunners were shooting deer from their plane.

We stayed until we were sent to California and then back east before ending in Peyote, Texas in May 1943. The road from Fort Worth to El Paso was straight with the railroad track on the side of it. In Peyote, the air crews received six months of training. It was a brand-new base and there were a lot of rattlesnakes there. I heard they killed over one thousand rattlesnakes.

The 96th Bomb Group, consisting of four squadrons and twelve bombers each were sent overseas. There were twelve air crews then with ten men on each plane. We arrived in a place called Snetterton Heath. That was a new base built for our aircraft. It was located about halfway between Cambridge and Norwich, right alongside A-11, about ninety miles northeast of London. I was there for the next two and a half years with the 96th.

I was on the same ground crew the entire time. We probably repaired five or six B-17's one after another. There were four officers on a B-17. They would be up there in the officers' club, and they would get to talking. We had one pilot who was assigned to our squadron we called Cowboy Jack. He wore cowboy boots and wouldn't wear a uniform, but he didn't care and wouldn't conform. He was a good pilot and one time he and the other officers were talking about the 17's doing all of this and that, and Cowboy Jack said "I can loop a B-17 into a flying loop." The officers didn't believe him so they all went out to Whiteline and watched as Cowboy Jack looped that 17 just fine. He took it up 10,000 feet, took it in a gradual dive to 6,000 feet, brought it over and looped the thing. The 17's were built nicely and could take a lot. The B-24's couldn't take the punishment the 17's could and if they came on a dive, they might have their wings blown off.

The P-51 Mustangs didn't get overseas until later in 1944. It was fight your way in, bomb, then fight your way out. With one plane we had worked on, the crew had to abort the mission and come back since their engine wasn't working. Fourteen German fighters shot at the plane, this one plane shot down eight German Luftwaffe fighters and they made it back. The pilot landed on one engine, and this was one of the original flying crews. We put patches on all the holes and counted eighty to a hundred holes in that aircraft. The entire crew received the Silver Star. With another crew, the waist gunner was so glad to be back after one bad mission, he kissed the ground right there outside of the plane!

All during the war in England we got about two days off every two weeks. Most of us went to London and to the movies. In case of an air raid everything would stop. This last time I went to London was June or July 1944. The Germans started using rockets. The Germans are very smart at building or thinking of things like that. These rockets would go up fifty miles, come down and pinpoint a block in London. In the nose was all the TNT or whatever and it would take out half a city block. I was walking down a street and one of these rockets hit a pub about a block away. It killed everyone in the pub. I was on the sidewalk, and it threw me against the wall. I couldn't even move a finger. The concussion went away, and I wasn't hurt. People out in the street were killed. I said to myself that I wouldn't go there anymore.

I started going North to Scotland, riding the train all night to get there. Most young people went to dance halls which is where I met my wife. At the dance hall, I saw a girl sitting on the side, and she was waiting for someone to ask her to dance. Afterward, I walked her home and asked her if I could see her again. She said sure so I scheduled a date for the next two weeks. That went on for maybe six months or so and I asked her to marry me. She said yes! We were married in December 1944.

I was sitting in a movie theater on May 8, 1945, when Churchill came on screen to say Germany had surrendered.

After the war was over, I went on a few non-active missions. For one mission, we built platforms and put them in the bomb bay. We flew to Linz, Austria and picked up French prisoners of war and returned them to France. There must have been thirty guys on that plane. On another mission, we took food to the Dutch. We put platforms in the bomb bay, loaded them up with food, and opened the bomb doors, pulled the platform and released the food on the ground at a low level. It was bags of flour, sugar, everything. I tried to walk in the middle of the bomb bay. As I stood there, a sack of flour went out at a low level landing on the middle of a cow's back! All four of her legs went out and it must have broken her back. The planes were carrying food throughout the summer.

I rode both ways during the war on board the Queen Elizabeth. We had eighteen-thousand men on that boat. We spent twenty-four hours in the cabin, bunks as four high, as many men you could fit in between them. That way you could get as many men assigned to that cabin.

I returned to the states in August 1945 and went back to Illinois. I was still on leave when Hiroshima and Nagasaki were bombed. That ended the war, and the Japanese gave up. I got out of the service as a Sergeant with two stripes. Since good jobs were scarce in Illinois, I left for New York City.



Nyle Smith and his wife of 74 years Phyllis

My wife came to the U.S. in March of 1946 and together we lived in New York when I decided to reenlist and was sent to Alaska. I was stationed at a variety of locations -- the state of Georgia, England, Myrtle Beach, back to England, and then Amarillo, Texas. I had risen in rank to Master Sergeant. During these assignments, I attended tech school and night school eventually earning my bachelor's degree in Business Administration. My last assignment was Vietnam. I retired from the military after twenty-three years, six months, and two days in the service. I am a veteran of World War II and Vietnam.

On November 6th, 2022 Nyle Smith will celebrate his
100th Birthday

Mark the date and send him a card.
1715 E. Alluvial Ave.#202
Fresno, CA 93720
or drop him a line anytime

A Chat From Your Chaplain

Victory for a Veteran



It was a sunny Veterans Day November 11. Wearing his red, white, and blue to the office, this retired United States Air Force military doctor went about seeing his patients until about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Out of the blue came a massive headache, that took him to his knees. The pain was indescribable!

Within moments, consciousness was lost and 911 was summoned. The screaming of the sirens was heard one block away from the emergency room located near his office.

After a CAT scan came the speedy diagnosis of a massive ruptured brain aneurysm. A subarachnoid hemorrhage! The family, being familiar with medical terminology, knew the prognosis was grave with an unlikely survival rate. The doctor's son began to pray for his father. He cried aloud, pleading with God, "if you're going to restore his mind, that is our heart's desire, but if not, dear God take him now". The patient had no recognition of his family's presence, and was babbling incoherently. His memory was gone.

That fateful day began a two-month journey of faith, fatigue, family and fellowship of believers bonding together to seek restoration for this brilliant mind that had been damaged by a brain bleed.

An emergency borehole was made into the skull to reduce the pressure of the bleeding aneurysm. That was the first of three brain surgeries to follow in the ensuing weeks and months.

It was a roller coaster of high hopes and rock-bottom doubts for survival. Sleepless nights and endless procedures: Seven catheterizations, four nasal gastric tubes, pic lines, tube feedings, MRIs, CAT scans, occupational therapy, physical therapy, language speech therapy made an exhausting list of procedures. He lost 40 pounds. His inability to move, speak,

swallow, feed or dress himself necessitated round the clock care by friends and family. A blank stare and open mouth was the mask he wore for weeks. This Christian doctor had lost his ability to function independently.

Prayer warriors and around the clock care givers were summoned. His family was surrounded by loving support hour after long hour waiting for the return of consciousness and hope for life. Cards, emails, calls, visits, meals, dog sitters and Facebook posts all poured in day after day. It was now the Christmas Season. A time for celebration around the world, while his family clung to Hope.

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me", Became the theme in that hospital room. It was God's strength that sustained us all.

Philippians 4:19 was also fleshed out. God supplied all our needs according to His riches. Physical, emotional, and spiritual needs were supplied by hospital staff, loving friends, Pastors, family, and unsuspecting strangers, who were unsuspecting angels to the family.

On New Year's Day January 1, I woke up. Yes, I! Your chaplain. This is my story of victory in Jesus. A Christmas miracle. An answer to prayer of God's people. Restoration of a body and mind saved to serve, until he calls me to my Home in Heaven. My motto is now, **you have a pulse, you have a purpose.**

With a grateful heart I serve as your chaplain.

Stan Hand, Jr., M. D.

Stanley I. Hand, Jr., MD



*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 I. Hand, Jr. MD
1016 Ridgecrest Road
Orlando, FL 32806

Mobile: (321)-662-3305

E-mail: stanhand306@gmail.com

Rum Boogie Crew

Sgt. Charles F. Goyette

Waist Gunner

By Vicki Ekmark

Charles Goyette was born on July 17, 1915 to Gordon and Josephine Goyette. He was their first child with five more to follow: Mary Grace, Josephine, Gordon Jr., Gerard, and Dorothy. His father, Gordon Sr. was born in Canada, but the family settled in Josephine's home town of Detroit. They were Catholic, and Charles attended Holy Redeemer High School. The school was founded in 1882 and eventually closed in 2005 after 123 years of operation. Charles was very involved at Holy Redeemer: he served as an altar boy and in the Senior Acolytical Society where members took on even more church related duties. Charles also participated in football, basketball, and baseball.



Charles Goyette



On February 12, 1942, at the age of 27, Charles enlisted in the Army at Fort Custer in Michigan and joined the fight in World War II. Previous to enlisting, he had been working in the field of automobile manufacturing. In the picture on the left, Charles holds his nephew, Vincent Hurley. They spent many decades together enjoying different activities and each others' company. Vincent died in 2016.

The picture below was probably taken in Peyote, Texas. "Sir Charles" has his serious face on, even if his note to his wife Gladys on the back of the picture says he shouldn't have. The family still has the bomber jacket he wore that day. A funny family story about Charlie's bomber jacket: His granddaughter wore it to middle school for a few years when they were fashionable again in the late 80's. Apparently a patch was strategically sewn on the back of the jacket to cover up the topless young lady and render it "legal" to be worn to school by an early teenager. The patch was removed with little damage several years later.



Charles married Gladys Laminor (middle) on January 15, 1944, in Detroit. Cousin Jim (left) and brother Gerard (right) were present for the ceremony.

Charles' mother, Josephine, died in 1980 at the age of 92 leaving 58 grandchildren covering three generations.

Charles' wife Gladys passed away in 1976, and Charles (or Grandpa G to his grandchildren) died in 1987. They are survived by three children, two daughters, Gladys Marie Barnaby and Jeannette Stoudt, one son, Charles, one sister, Dorothy Hatch, as well as six grandchildren. six great grandchildren.

Editors Note: The Rum Boogie Crew completed their 25th and final mission on September 9, 1943 and all returned home safely. This is the 10th and final crew members story. If you would like to know more about them please look at the sites listed below. They are the creation of our author Vicki Ekmark, the daughter of Alvin Neff, the Tail Gunner.



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.rumboogiecrew.com>
 Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/rumboogiecrew>
 Twitter <https://twitter.com/rumboogiecrew>



48th Annual 8th AFHS REUNION

Crystal Gateway Marriot, Arlington, VA

October 19-23, 2022

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.

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 up to 3 guests registering with you. The principle attendee **MUST** be a current member of the Society to register for the reunion. You may **JOIN** and/or **RENEW** directly on the registration form. If you are a veteran, and/or affiliated with a bomb or fighter group, please indicate which group.
- ⇒ ALL meals are priced separately. Breakfast/Brunch Buffet will be served beginning on Thursday, October 20, thru Sunday, October 23. Be sure and select your choice of entrée if you plan on attending the Saturday evening gala.
- ⇒ There are four [4] 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.

◇ 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
[a 3% convenience fee will be added]

and then

**EMAIL to:
ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org**

ALL registration forms **MUST** be received by **September 16, 2022** 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

ALL reunion information and forms are available on our website: 8thAFHS.org



48th Annual 8th AFHS REUNION

Crystal Gateway Marriot, Arlington, VA

October 19-23, 2022

HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

(800) 393-3680

[Book your group rate for 48th Annual Reunion Air Force Historical Society {click HERE}](#)

(Reference '8th AFHS' for group rate)

Location

The Crystal Gateway Marriott is located at 1700 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA, 22202, and provides the perfect home base for your visit to the Washington, D.C. area. Ideally located in Arlington, VA, the hotel is near Reagan National Airport (DCA) & Washington, D.C. The exciting new National Landing development is close by as are Pentagon City, downtown Washington D.C., and Old Town Alexandria. All are easily accessible via the nearby Crystal City Metro. Stylishly refreshed hotel accommodations showcase deluxe bedding, Smart TVs, walk-in showers and city views. Challenge yourself to a workout in the expansive fitness center before dining at *15th & Eads*, the sophisticated American restaurant. You will be dazzled by the comprehensively transformed Arlington Ballroom, which can seat up to 2,100 guests. This hotel has it all.

Shuttle Service

For those of you flying into the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, there is complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport to the hotel. To use the shuttle, go to the lower level, baggage claim. At this time the shuttle will pick up at door 4 and/or 7. Times are every 30 minutes at the quarter hour past and 15 minutes until the hour. The shuttle runs from 5am to midnight, daily. You do NOT need to call and/or reserve the shuttle.

If You Drive

Self parking is \$39 per day in the underground garage, valet parking is \$45 per day.

RESERVATION INFORMATION

Group Name: 8th Air Force Historical Society

Reunion Dates: October 19-23, 2022

Rate: \$198+14.25% Rates are offered 3 days prior and 3 days post reunion based on availability.

Cut off Date: 9/28/2022

Cancellation Policy: All reservations have a 48 hour cancellation policy, or attendee will be charged one night room rate plus tax.

WHEELCHAIR RENTALS

ScotAround: (888) 441-7575 or ScotAround.com
Reserve chair rentals early!

HOSPITALITY SUITES

HOSPITALITY SUITES will be offered to groups on a first come, first reserved basis.

The number of suites is limited, so we ask that you reserve your suite as soon as possible. Suites are located throughout the hotel, but we will post location information at the registration desk as to where each group is located!

PLEASE contact ME ASAP to reserve your suite!

Call or email ASAP:

Debra Kujawa

Managing Director

912-748-8884

ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org



REGISTRATION FORM

48th Annual 8th AFHS REUNION

Crystal Gateway Marriot, Arlington, VA
October 19-23, 2022

| REGISTRATION CUTOFF DATE IS September 16, 2022 (NO refunds on cancellations past this date) | Price p/p | # of People | TOTAL |
|--|-----------|-------------|-------|
| DUES: The principal attendee MUST be a CURRENT member of the 8th AFHS to register for this reunion. If you are NOT CURRENT, or a member, please pay your yearly dues here: | \$ 40 | # | \$ |
| REGISTRATION FEE (non-refundable): EVERY attendee MUST pay registration fee | \$ 45 | # | \$ |
| BREAKFAST/BRUNCH BUFFET served 7:45am-8:45am, Thursday-Sunday (Price is \$40 per person per day) Thursday: # _____ Friday: # _____ Saturday: # _____ Sunday: # _____ | \$ 40 | # | \$ |
| <u>DINNERS</u> | | | |
| Thursday, Oct 20: Dinner Buffet | \$ 57 | # | \$ |
| Friday, Oct 21: Rendezvous Dinners—Roasted Free-Range Chicken & all the trimmings! | \$ 58 | # | \$ |
| Saturday, Oct 22: GALA Banquet (Please select one entrée per person) | | | |
| Grilled Marinated Flank Steak (beef) | \$ 58 | # | \$ |
| Pan Seared Herb Crusted Salmon | \$ 58 | # | \$ |
| Vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, etc—Please indicate type: Thurs _____ Fri _____ Sat _____ | \$ 58 | # | \$ |
| TOUR OPTIONS: ALL tours are LUNCH ON YOUR OWN each day | | | |
| Thursday, Oct 20: 9am-12pm Steven F Udvar-Hazy Center | \$ 38 | # | \$ |
| Thursday, Oct 20: 1:30pm-4:30pm Arlington Cemetery & Monuments | \$ 25 | # | \$ |
| Friday, Oct 21: 12:30pm-4:30pm Washington Mall & Memorials | \$ 38 | # | \$ |
| Saturday, Oct 22: 11:00am-3:30pm Historic Old Town Alexandria, VA | \$ 38 | # | \$ |
| Total amount payable to: 8th AFHS | | | \$ |

Please PRINT. If registering a veteran, please list their name, first. *MAXIMUM of FOUR [4] persons per registration form, please!*

MEMBER NAME (for name tag): _____ WWII VETERAN? _____

BG/FG Affiliation (for Rendezvous Dinner seating) _____ Post WWII Veteran: _____ (Branch of Military): _____

SPOUSE or GUEST #1: _____

GUEST #2: _____ GUEST #3: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DAYTIME PH #: _____ EMAIL: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____ PH #: _____

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WILL BE USING A WHEELCHAIR ON TOURS: _____ NEED HYDRAULIC LIFT?: _____

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 301434769
IF paying by credit card, you may SCAN and email form to: ManagingDirector@8thAFHS.org



REUNION SCHEDULE

48th Annual 8th AFHS REUNION

Crystal Gateway Marriot, Arlington, VA
October 19-23, 2022

Wednesday, October 19

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1:00pm — 6:00pm | Reunion Registration open |
| 6:00pm — 7:00pm | 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 20

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 7:45am — 8:45am | Breakfast/Brunch Buffet |
| 8:00am — 12:00pm | Reunion Registration open |
| 9:00am — 12:00pm | Steven F Udvar-Hazy Center Tour |
| 1:30pm — 4:30pm | Arlington Cemetery & Memorials Tour |
| 6:00pm — 9:00pm | Cash Bar Open |
| 7:00pm — 9:00pm | Buffet dinner and program: "Preserving a Legacy, the Footsteps of Bud Owens" |

Friday, October 21

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 7:45am — 8:45am | Breakfast/Brunch Buffet |
| 8:00am — 12:00pm | Reunion Registration TBD* |
| 9:30am — 11:00am | Group Meetings |
| 12:30pm — 4:30pm | Washington Mall, Memorials, & Monuments Tour |
| 6:00pm — 9:00pm | Cash Bar Open |
| 7:00pm — 9:00pm | Rendezvous Dinners |

Saturday, October 22

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 7:45am — 8:45am | Breakfast/Brunch Buffet |
| 8:00am — 12:00pm | Reunion Registration TBD* |
| 8:45am — 10:15am | General Membership Meeting |
| 12:00pm — 4:00pm | 8th AFHS Board Meeting |
| 11:00am — 3:30pm | Exploring Old Town Arlington, VA Tour |
| 1:00pm — 6:00pm | Reunion Registration TBD* |
| 6:00pm — 9:00pm | Cash Bar Open |
| 7:00pm — 10:00pm | Gala Dinner and Program |

Sunday, October 23

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 7:30am — 8:30am | Breakfast/Brunch Buffet |
|-----------------|-------------------------|

*** TBD Registration may be closed during the time scheduled for certain tours.
Please pick up registration packets at your earliest convenience.**

***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.**

REUNION TOURS

Washington, D.C. has been our nation's capital since July 16, 1790. Be prepared for an incredible reunion experience the entire family will enjoy every single day!

**Our Thursday morning tour:
Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center**



Opened in 2003, the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center serves as a partner facility to the National Air and Space Museum. The two locations together attract more than 8 million visits per year, making the National Air and Space complex the most popular museum in the United States.

For aviation enthusiasts young and old, the Udvar-Hazy Center is just plain cool. The expansive museum consists of two hangars - the Boeing Aviation Hangar and the James S. McDonnell Space Hangar, which house dozens of aircraft and spacecraft. Some of the most notable include the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird, a Concorde, and the space shuttle Discovery. The Mary Baker Engen Restoration Hangar has an observation overlook, allowing visitors to see the preservation and restoration work underway by the Museum's collections staff.

The aircraft and spacecraft hanging overhead would be impressive enough, but the Udvar-Hazy Center also offers thousands of additional artifacts to view and many interactive, family friendly exhibits and activities. Prepare to take off and explore Sport Aviation, World War II Aviation, Space Science, and more. Before departure, browse the museum store and take home unique aviation and space themed souvenirs

**Our Thursday afternoon tour includes:
Arlington National Cemetery Tour**



Experience a narrated trolley tour of the Arlington National Cemetery. Our private tour of Arlington National Cemetery includes stops near the Ord & Weitzel walking gate to see President John F. Kennedy's gravesite, U.S. Coast Guard Memorial, U.S. Army Gen. John J. Pershing's

gravesite, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier—including changing of the guard—and the Arlington House (The Robert E. Lee Memorial).

Air Force Memorial

The Air Force Memorial honors the service and heritage of the men and women of the United States Air Force. The three stainless steel spires reach a height of 402 feet above sea-level. It is adjacent to the Arlington National Cemetery and overlooks the Pentagon.

**US Marine Corps War Memorial
(Iwo Jima Memorial)**



The U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial's world-famous statue, which is based on the iconic photograph taken by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal, depicts the six soldiers who raised the second American flag at Iwo Jima in the Japanese Volcano Islands on February 23, 1945, signifying the conclusion of the American campaign in the Pacific during World War II.

**Friday afternoon we will
tour the Washington Mall.
Some of the highlights include:
Vietnam Veterans Memorial**



This memorial honors member of the U.S. armed forces who fought, died in service or were listed MIA during the Vietnam War. It is divided into three separate parts; the Three Soldiers statue, the Vietnam Women's Memorial, and the well known Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. Controversy surrounded the memorial's unconventional design for its dark color and lack of decoration, but it quickly became a place of grieving, pilgrimage and healing. Today it stands as one of the most visited and moving memorials on the National Mall, as visitors have made a tradition of leaving mementos, letters and photographs of loved ones lost in the war

Korean War Veterans Memorial

The Korean War Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 1995, on the 42nd anniversary of the armistice that ended the conflict. The memorial consists of 19 statues of soldiers representing a squad on patrol, drawn from each branch of the Armed Forces. The 19 figures create a reflection on the wall, symbolizing the border between North and South Korea: the 38th parallel. Alongside the soldiers stands the Mural Wall with

more than 2,400 photographs of men, women, and dogs who served in Korea.

Pershing Park/World War I Memorial

The American flag was raised over the World War I Memorial for the first time on Friday, April 16, 2021, at the formal unveiling of the memorial that honors the 4.7 million Americans who served their nation in World War I, including 116,516 who made the supreme sacrifice. Built by the United States World War I Centennial Commission and designed by architect Joseph Weishaar, the new memorial incorporates the existing memorial to Gen. John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces during the war.



World War II Memorial

The National World War II Memorial, which honors the spirit and sacrifice of the 16 million men and women who served overseas and the more than 400,000 who perished, opened to the public in April 2004. The memorial built to celebrate the heroes of the Greatest Generation remains one of the most visited sites on the National Mall, with more than 4.2 million visits in 2014. Each year, more than 300 Honor Flights bring World War II veterans, as well as those who served in the Korean and Vietnam wars, to the memorials dedicated to their service.

For a change of pace, on Saturday our tour will take you to:

Old Town Alexandria

On the Potomac River within eyesight of Washington, D.C., Alexandria, VA, is nationally recognized for its rich history and beautifully preserved 18th and 19th century architecture. Named a Top 3 Best Small City in the U.S. 2021 by the Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards and one of the South's Best Cities 2020 by Southern Living, Alexandria hums with a cosmopolitan feel and a walkable lifestyle a welcoming weekend escape next to our nation's capital. A nationally designated historic district founded in 1749, Old Town Alexandria is home to more than 200 independent restaurants and boutiques alongside intimate historic museums and new happenings at the waterfront, making it the perfect home base for your D.C. vacation and an unforgettable getaway of its own. Explore. Relax. Regroup. Have lunch at any of the numerous restaurants or bistros. Busses will return you to the hotel in plenty of time to get ready for our evening Gala!



96th Bomb Group Association

Treasurer's Report

1.1.2021 - 12.31.2021



BEGINNING BALANCE AS OF 1.1.2021--US BANK NON-PROFIT INTEREST-BEARING CHECKING ACCOUNT

\$18,039.94 *

INCOME THRU 12.31.2021:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Membership Dues Received 1.1.2021 - 12.31.2021 | \$2,160.00 |
| Receipts from Sale of Digitized Snetterton 2-Book Coll'n, incl. \$275 in Dues/Donations | \$550.00 |
| Receipts from Sale of Silver Dream Plaques, including \$240 donations for add'l. plaques | \$1,160.00 |
| Receipts from Sale of Silver Dream Note Cards, including \$125 in Dues | \$380.00 |
| Donations Received in Memory of Glenn Harrison, Sr. | \$480.00 |
| Undesignated Donations Received from Friends/Membership | \$790.00 |
| Interest earned in Checking Account 1.1.2021 - 12.31.2021 | <u>\$1.48</u> |

Total Income **\$5,521.48**

EXPENSES/OUTLAYS THRU 12.31.2021:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| State of Illinois Change of Address Fee (ck #1031) -- 1.6.2021 | \$5.00 |
| State of Illinois NFP Filing Fee (ck #1032) -- 1.6.2021 | \$10.00 |
| Reimburse plaque/shipping charges -- R. Lutz (cks #1033, 1037, & 1038) -- 1.12.2021, 6.2.2021, & 10.2.2021 | \$1,215.78 |
| Serv. Fees-2 Bank Checks--2020 Cont'ns. to 96th BG Museum & Quidenham Church--1.15.2021 | \$20.00 |
| April 2021 Newsletter #76--Budde's Print Shop (ck #1034) -- 5.18.2021 | \$1,164.51 |
| Nat'l. Museum-Mighty 8th-"Flags for the Fallen" Donation (ck #1035) -- 5.22.2021 | \$500.00 |
| Reimburse purchases/pstg. Snetterton CD's -- J. Strizic (ck #1036) -- 6.2.2021 | \$55.45 |
| Nov. 2021 Newsletter #77 (\$1,165.13) & 2021 Membership Directory Printing/Shipping to S. Hinchman (\$739.40) (ck #1039) -- 11.29.2021 | \$1,904.53 |
| Reimburse pstg./supplies/copy expenses -- S. Hinchman (ck #1040) -- 12.12.21 | <u>\$578.50</u> |

Total Expenses/Outlays **\$5,453.77**

NET INCOME (LOSS) THRU 12.31.2021 (Income less Expenses) \$67.71

NET ASSETS IN US BANK CHECKING ACCOUNT 12.31.2021: \$18,107.65 >

NET FUNDS ON DEPOSIT -- AXA BANK BELGIUM AS OF 12.31.2021 (ACCOUNT USED FOR EUROPEAN SALE/EXPENSES OF DIGITIZED SNETTERTON 2-BOOK COLLECTION) €296.01 <

CURRENT 96TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION DOMESTIC MEMBERSHIP:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| 2021 DOMESTIC LIFE MEMBERS (Paid Initial Dues @ Joining) | 70 |
| 2021 DOMESTIC ANNUAL MEMBERS (Pay Dues Annually) | <u>177</u> |
| TOTAL CURRENT DOMESTIC MEMBERSHIP | 247 |
| INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS | <u>20</u> |
| TOTAL CURRENT 96TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP | <u>267</u> |

CURRENT WWII VETERAN/WIDOW MEMBERSHIP:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| WWII VETERANS | 5 |
| WIDOWS OF WWII VETERANS | <u>40</u> |
| TOTAL WWII VETERAN/WIDOW MEMBERSHIP | <u>45</u> |

* - Agrees with US Bank 12.31.2020 Checking Account Statement Balance (less \$19.65 outstanding check #1030)

> - Agrees with US Bank 12.31.2021 Checking Account Statement Balance

< - Agrees with Axa Bank Belgium Account Statement Balance

Notes:

State of Illinois Not-For-Profit status is "Active"

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

IRS Filing Submitted January 11, 2022 Form 990-N to maintain Tax Exempt Status with Federal Government

Prepared by Susan Hinchman 1.15.2022

BYLAWS
96th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION
DECEMBER 4, 2021

ARTICLE I - ORGANIZATION

The name of the organization shall be: 96th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION. The organization may at its pleasure, by a majority vote of the membership present at an annual Membership Meeting, change its name.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

To perpetuate the history of the 96th Bomb Group and the memory of lost comrades. To arrange annual reunions and to provide social recreational activities for its members.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this organization shall be open to all who were members of or were attached to the 96th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, during World War II. Spouses, widows, relatives or friends of those who served in the 96th Bomb Group are also eligible for membership. Air historians and others interested in the goals of this organization may become members. All will receive the organization newsletter and other routine mailings. The membership year shall be the Calendar year for all members.

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

A Membership Meeting of this organization shall be held annually. Not less than a majority of members in good standing present at a membership meeting shall constitute a quorum and shall be necessary to conduct the business of this organization.

ARTICLE V - VOTING

Members who have not paid their dues for the current year may not vote. At any membership meeting, if a majority so requires, any question may be voted except those relating to changes in the bylaws.

ARTICLE VI - ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to order
2. Reading of the minutes of the Preceding Meeting
3. Report of officers
4. Committee reports
5. Unfinished or old business
6. New business
7. Adjournment

ARTICLE VII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The business of this organization shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of the Elected Officers, the Editor of the newsletter, the Group Historian, and at most three additional members in good standing.

At least one of the directors shall be a resident of the State of Illinois and a citizen of the United States to comply with the legal requirements of incorporation in the State of Illinois.

To be eligible for office, nominees for the Board of Directors must have been a member of the 96th Bomb Group Association in good standing, for at least one year prior to the election.

The Editor of the Newsletter and the Group Historian shall be appointed to indefinite terms by the Board of Directors by a simple majority vote. However, each may be replaced by the same simple majority vote.

Any vacancies in the Board of Directors between meetings may be filled by appointment of the President with the approval of the elected Officers by a mail/email vote.

The Board of Directors shall have control and management of the affairs of this organization. The Board of Directors shall commission an independent financial audit to be conducted if they deem it necessary.

ARTICLE VIII - OFFICERS

The elected officers shall be the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and the Secretary/Treasurer.

Officers shall be elected at an Annual Membership Meeting by a simple majority vote. The term of their offices shall be for three (3) years. Elected Officers may serve consecutive terms if re-elected.

- The President shall be the titular head of the organization and, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, shall exercise general supervision over the affairs of the organization with the authority to delegate such responsibilities as deemed necessary.

- The Vice-President shall exercise the duties of the President in his absence or upon the inability of the President to act, with the rights and responsibilities as if he had been duly elected President.

- The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes and file such records as are kept or delivered into his/her possession. Copies of all minutes will be published in the group newsletter on an annual basis.

- The Secretary/Treasurer will attend to regular correspondence of the organization and will execute duties incident to the Office of Secretary. Copies of all financial statements will be published in the group newsletter on an annual basis. The Secretary/Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all monies belonging to the organization and shall be solely responsible for such monies, or securities of the organization; he/she shall pay all routine bills, and make such other expenditures as are authorized by the Board of Directors; shall render at stated periods, as the Board shall determine, a written account of the finances of the organization with such reports to be physically affixed to the minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings.

ARTICLE IX - COMMITTEES

Committees of this organization may be established by the President. Committee members shall be appointed by the President for terms of office for a period of one year.

Standing committees may be established by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors and appointments may be for indefinite terms.

Standing committees may be changed or eliminated by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X - DUES

The dues of this organization shall be \$25.00 per year payable on the first day of January of each year. Dues may be changed by a majority vote of the members in good standing at the annual membership meeting. Life membership dues may be established by the Board of Directors.

Life Members and veterans of World War II and their widows shall be exempt from owing dues.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

Proposed changes in the bylaws must be submitted to the Board of Directors for review and approval. If approved by the Board they will then be voted on by the membership at the next annual meeting. Approval requires an affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members attending who are in good standing.

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/>)

2022 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 2022 members
- \$25.00 Flash Drive for current paid 2022 members
- \$50.00 2022 Membership Renewal & CD *
- \$50.00 2022 Membership Renewal & Flash Drive *
- \$50.00 CD (non-member)
- \$50.00 Flash Drive (non-member)
- \$25.00 (2022 dues)

Total: \$ _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

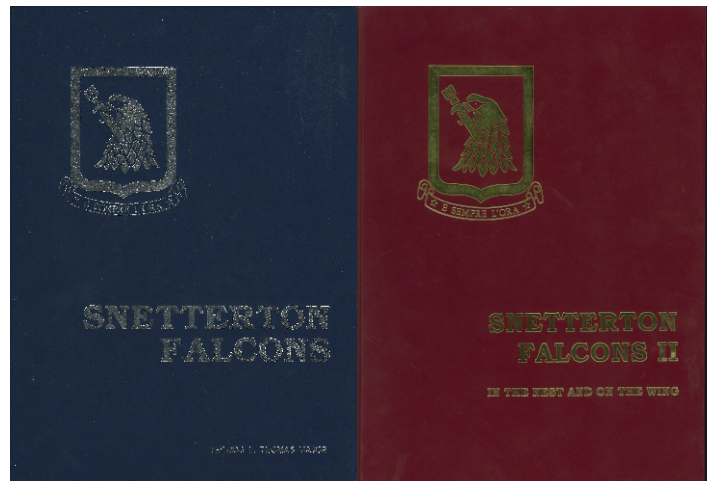
City: _____

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: _____

* For new members, first year's dues are included in the price of the CD or Flash Drive.

TAILSPIN



Eugene P. Moran

The true story of Eugene Paul Moran, a World War II tail gunner, who survived a four-mile fall without a parachute only to land in Nazi hands.

When Gene and his crewmates arrived in England in late October 1943, he was assigned to the 339th Squadron, 96th Bomb Group based at Snetterton Heath Air Base.

The 96th put Gene in *Rikki Tikki Tavi* a bomber that had already flown more than a dozen missions. Gene's crew would add another five before the German Luftwaffe shot her down on November 29 in a raid over the heavily defended industrial city of Bremen, Germany.



Rikki Tikki Tavi

A rookie social studies teacher overhears a conversation about a World War II tail gunner who survived a four-mile fall from the sky. It turns out the tail gunner, Gene Moran, lives just a few miles up the road. The teacher, John Armbruster, will have to wait sixteen years to hear this story. That's nothing. Gene's children waited six decades.

When the elderly Gene finally shares his saga, John has no idea of the wounds he's reopening. Stories of burning bomber planes cartwheeling through the German sky and mortally wounded friends screaming for help are only the beginning. Gene reluctantly gives up memories of his transport on a hell ship and his six-hundred-mile forced march in 1945 as Central Europe becomes a continent of death.

As John records three years of interviews with Gene, his wife, Carmen, fights her own war against cancer. Carmen loses this battle. John must continue uncovering Gene's story of survival and struggle as he himself confronts life as a grieving single father to two young sons.

Tailspin is more than a war story. It's a story of two men's separate journeys confronting extraordinary grief and loss. It's a story of resilience.

Editors Note: Reading this book I finally understood what lay behind the reluctance of so many veterans to share their story with anyone, not even family. As the story unfolded I felt like I was sitting at the table with Gene and John privileged to have the story shared with me. Understanding the honor that had been bestowed on me to glimpse the courage it took for those of our veterans who shared their stories with us at reunions, they are truly the Greatest Generation.

Tailspin is scheduled to be released April 30, 2022. The book can be pre-ordered at: ten16press.com/shop or at the author's website: johnmarmbruster.com



96th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION SILVER DREAM NOTE CARDS ORDER FORM AND 2022 DUES PAYMENT

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

Indicate number of packs of note Cards requested to purchase (\$15/pack)
For annual members, indicate whether you would like to pay your 2022 96th BGA dues at this time (\$25/year)

(Note: Dues may also be paid in advance for future years.)

Please print clearly and legibly

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State & Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

NOTE: Please be sure to include your email address as 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.

| Quantity | Per Unit Cost | Total |
|-------------|---------------|-------|
| | \$15.00 | |
| | \$25.00 | |
| Grand Total | | |

The Silver Dream

Our Fortress flies again at Snetterton Heath, Station 138, The Falcons' Nest.

At the very top is a B-17 climbing away on a mission. Supporting the B-17 are four columns, representing contrails coming back from the engines. Those four columns increase in size as they reach the ground and are representative of the support needed to put the B-17 up there. Each column represents one of the four squadrons comprising the 96th Bomb Group.

The Memorial at Snetterton Heath as designed by Martin Rance is constructed of stainless steel by Sinclair Steel Fabrications and is located along the old North South runway serving as the entrance road to the Octagon Motorsports racing circuit track.

The plinth is inscribed with these words:

DEDICATED TO ALL PERSONNEL
OF THE
96TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
8TH U.S.A.A.F.
WHO SERVED ON
THIS AIRFIELD

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Since November, 2021



Lewis Brawn 51 Gainsborough Ave., Diss, Norfolk, IP22-3YR. United Kingdom
 Paul T. Frost 3950 East 2nd Street, Tucson, AZ 85711
 Frank E. Jeffers 127 W. Willow Ave., Wheaton, IL 60187
 Steve Mason Wooladon, Waterloo, Blisland, Bodmin, Cornwall United Kingdom, PL30 4JX
 Michael Naya, Jr. 734 Monmouth Ave.; Kenilworth NJ 07033
 Chris Riches 8 Dunley Way, Bishopdown Farm, Salisbury, SP1 3GW, United Kingdom
 Edward T. Wenner PO Box 600, Blair Academy, Blairstown, NJ 07825
 Judith W. Wenner 72 Mount Pleasant Rd., Columbia, NJ 07832

Correction to April listing - Karen Stafford is the *Daughter not Daughter-in-law of Leland B. Apperson, Jr. 337th P*

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 2022 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.



UPCOMING MEETINGS



96th Bomb Group Reunion 2022

More specifics for the 96th plans in our next Newsletter
 Check 96thbg.org and Facebook for now
 and watch for e-mail notices

Make your Hotel reservations now to insure space.
 You can cancel without penalty within 48 hours
 of scheduled check-in.

8th Air Force Historical Society 48th Annual Reunion

Washington, D.C. - October 19-23, 2022
 Crystal City Gateway Marriot, Arlington, VA

See pages 13-17 for complete Reunion information, also
 available on line at: www.8thafhs.org

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



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TO CALL
OR WRITE



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Final Mission

Those Who Served Their Country
With Honor and Distinction

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|----|
| Butts, James Lucias | 338th | G |
| Harrison, Glenn A. | 339th | CP |
| Herring, Paul | 338th | P |
| Meier, William R. | 413th | B |
| Villalobos, Rudolph | 413th | R |
| Ward, Geoffrey | <i>Historian - English Contact</i> | |

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.

* 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. June 30, 2022 is the deadline for the August 2022 issue.

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



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"It is Always the Hour"