

86TH FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2007 NEWSLETTER



**Be aware, we want you there
(in Indianapolis, of course)**

Important Announcement

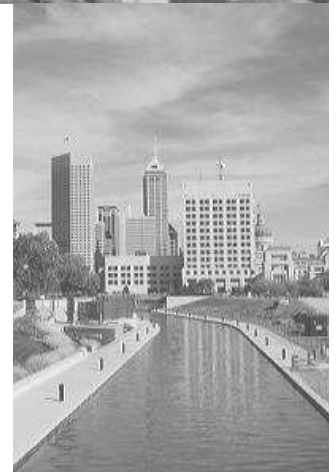
Here it is, your second and final call to the big Indy reunion. In case you've misplaced it, the location is the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, 2930 Waterfront Parkway West, Indianapolis, IN 46214, (317) 299-8400. If you haven't already done so, it's past time to (1) phone in your reservation to the hotel, and (2) mark your selections on the attached Activities Reservation Form (ARF). Then, send the ARF with a proper check payable to "86th FBG Assoc." to Secretary Sid Howard. Do it before it slips your mind. (Does that happen to you, too?)"



Monument Circle is the hub from which Indianapolis's streets stretch like spokes. The focal point, Soldiers and Sailors Monument, was dedicated in 1902 to the 24,000 "Hoosiers" who died in the Civil War. At the top is Miss Victory, standing at 30 feet.



Within the heart of downtown Indianapolis is the White River State Park. Having a state park in the middle of a major city is unusual. A nice feature and key attraction that ties the park together is the Canal Walk that runs through the park.



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NEWSLETTER

Editor – Sidney B. Howard
 Publisher – Martha M. Plowden

Vol. XXVIII, No. 2

August 2007

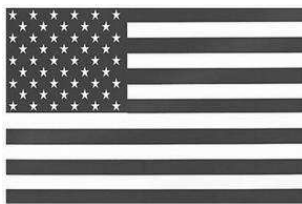
ELECTED OFFICERS — BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Members-at-Large: Three-year term – Hubie Bouchard, H. E. “Brad” Bradford, Martha Plowden
 Two-year term – Carl Baranek, Louis DeLuca, Jesse Fitzpatrick
 One-year term – Audrey Brown, Sid Howard, Glen Margerum

Website: www.86fighterbombergroup.com

Potpourri

As of mid-March, Forrest “Pappy” CRANOR (527) reports that he’s still “hanging in there” despite diabetes and leg problems from an old car accident.

Carmine FASANO (GHQ) has “no complaints,” counts himself among the lucky ones. (*I guess so; he has been hospitalized only once in his almost 89 years.*) He will try to make it to Indy in September.

I talked with Dick GRIFFITH (525), our reunion host at Lompoc, CA in '99. He has not been in attendance for several years. Had planned on Oklahoma City last year, but had to cancel out. He swears he will be in Indy this year. He’s still playing golf, though only nine holes on a par 29 course (*same as ye editor*).

Have you checked out the Association’s website at www.86fighterbombergroup.com? John RICE, creator and custodian of the

website, reports that the five most recent Newsletters, including the March issue, are now posted. He also indicates the site will soon undergo a format change, so keep an eye open for it.

I received a nice letter from Shirley VIVIER, widow of Norm VIVIER (527 Pilot). She brought us up to date on the doings of Nate LOUCKS, Norm’s grandson. Some may recall that, in one of his last Newsletters, “Button” SMITH reported on Nate’s graduation from the Air Force Academy. Shirley writes: “My grandson Nate is going into B-1 Bombers and will start training at Abilene this summer. He has been instructing in PT trainers and enjoyed it. His wife, Valerie, who is a high altitude navigator is now in the National Guard so she and Nate can be together in Del Rio. Right now she is with the Guard in Japan for 6 weeks. They had a lovely wedding at a Retreat for Christian Officers in a small Colorado town. We went to 5 parties in 3 days so it was great fun.”

Potpourri (cont)

I was recently contacted by Patricia L. BREWER (see Roster Maintenance), who is a cousin of Col. George Theodore Lee, C.O. of the 86th Group from 02/14/45 to 09/23/45 after VJ Day. During two tours of duty in North Africa and the ETO, he compiled a record of 258 missions, a WWII record. As most know, Col. Lee was killed on 10/05/54 when the jet plane he was flying crashed in Missouri during a heavy thunderstorm.

Mrs. Brewer advised that Col. Lee's military records were destroyed in the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. The NPR sent her a questionnaire asking for information to assist them in rebuilding the file by using alternate sources. She also advised that a gentleman in his hometown, Norwood, MA, is making a documentary about him.

If anyone has information, stories, anecdotes, etc about the Colonel that might be of value and interest for these projects, you are invited and urged to contact Mrs. Brewer. Refer to the Roster Maintenance section for her snail or e-mail address or telephone number.

More Potpourri

In a letter dated 05/30/07 from Paulette Clements, daughter of Bert HALVORSEN (527), she advised that he moved to Bethel Home in February where he can receive additional care than provided by his Basic Care home at the Kensington. "Dad had another bout with pneumonia early in 2007 and just didn't bounce back as well as before...He has been in Bethel for several weeks now and is doing very well. He is 94 years old and has retained his sense of humor and love of storytelling, especially about the 'old days'. He is extremely hard of hearing and can't see to read unless the message is typed in a 20 or 22 sized font. He really enjoys hearing from family and friends so I would encourage you (and his other old buddies) to send a card or note." (Note: See new address in Roster Maintenance.)

To steal information from a person is called plagiarism. To steal information from the enemy is called gathering intelligence.



In Memoriam

HAILES, Clyde H. "Pappy" (526 Last Combat C.O.) – It is particularly difficult for me to report that "Pappy" passed away on 4/18/07 at 5:00 a.m. in Slidell, LA—I had talked with him at length only two days before. He succumbed to a blood clot in the leg on which he had hip surgery last month, following a fall. When we talked, he was excited

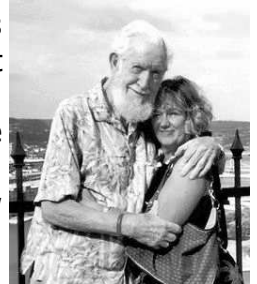
about moving back to the almost-completed Pearlington, MS home that had been wiped out by hurricane Katrina. Everyone who knew him would agree with Eli Setencich's statement that "he was one of a kind, Clyde was." He had a keen interest in his squadron and turned up a lot of information on it and the group, including the War Diaries for all 3 squadrons and GHQ at Maxwell AFB, AL. He was the first Lifetime Member in the squadron with number LM-6001 and, despite some health problems over the years, attended 8 reunions, including the one last year in OKC.



COULTER, Elliott P. (527 Engrg.) – Deceased 03/22/07 per Social Security Death Index (SSDI). He had not attended any of our reunions and was on our Inactive Roster.

HIPSAK, Clara (527) – Several Newsletters back we reported that John put his wife in a rest home. In an April phone call, he advised that she had passed away 04/29/06.

O'CONNOR, Daniel R. "Bucky" – Wife Valerie reported the unsettling news of "Bucky's" death 07/14/07 in his sleep. He was 95 years young and, it seemed, indestructible. Truly one of the organization's early and enthusiastic supporters, he was a veteran of 23 reunions and, of course, a Lifetime Member. His always-smiling countenance will be sorely missed; however, Valerie has indicated she is going to try and make it to Indy, and "I know that Dan will be there looking down upon us all."



SACCO, Angelina (GHQ) – Anthony advised that his wife of 55 plus years passed away 11/12/2006.

THOMPSON, Dr. John E. (527 P-47 Pilot – POW) – My dear friend lost his years-long battle to cancer on 04/15/07. Please join me in offering our deepest sympathy to Germaine and his family. Dr. John and Germaine have been two of the **real** stalwarts of the Association and will be sorely missed. They and the John DOLNYs hosted our highly successful fourth reunion in 1983 and 20 years later in 2003 celebrating "One Hundred Years of Flight," both in Dayton, OH and the Wright Patterson Field Air Force Museum. He was the fourth one in the squadron to become a lifetime member, and they attended 22 of our 27 reunions, the last in Minneapolis/St. Paul II two years ago. A floral tribute in the Association's name was sent to the funeral services. John and Gisela Dolny advised there was a tremendous turnout for both the visitation and funeral services.



All together in 2005 at the Minneapolis/St. Paul II reunion.

John Thompson
Daniel O'Connor
Tony Eret (Lt.Col. USAF)

TISCHLER, Jacob J. (525 Engrg.) – Deceased 11/17/73 per SSDI. He was carried on our Not Located list.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FIRST TWO QUARTERS 2007

BALANCE AT CLOSE OF YEAR 2006 (123106)		\$8,775.86
Receipts for Two Quarters in 2007		
Annual Dues (1 @ \$10.00).....	\$10.00	
Voluntary Contributions	\$155.00	
Sales: Newsletter Binders	\$106.00	
Bank Interest	<u>\$30.46</u>	
	\$301.46	
		\$9,077.32
Disbursements for Two Quarters		
Printing & Postage	\$760.60	
Bulk Mail Permit	\$160.00	
Phone (12 months)	\$81.95	
Office Supplies	\$157.00	
Computer Supplies.....	\$173.63	
Personalized Checks.....	\$10.05	
Funeral Flowers	\$243.94	
Memorial Donation.....	\$50.00	
Newsletter Binders Production	\$256.23	
Reunion (Indy) Bus Tour Deposit	<u>\$150.00</u>	
	\$2,043.40	
BALANCE AT CLOSE OF SECOND QUARTER (063007)		<u>\$7,033.92</u>

FOOTNOTES TO FINANCIAL REPORT

Voluntary Contributions: Patricia BREWER (GHQ); Bert HALVORSEN (527);
 Patricia Mihelich (527) - Memorial to her father, Walter F. KUCWAY

Life Member: Anthony SACCO (GHQ) - LM-G136

DON'T FORGET, ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE IF YOU ITEMIZE DEDUCTIONS ON YOUR TAX RETURN.

Sick Call

I talked with Barbara ANDERSON (525) in March and she asked to be remembered to her friends. She is on oxygen 24 hours a day and "not having much fun," but enjoys the Newsletters and reads them "cover to cover." She still lives in San Ramon, CA, across the Bay from San Francisco.

George ARMFIELD (527) fell and suffered a fractured hip according to a March 30 e-mail message from Peggy Wilson. "He was hospitalized for surgery and is making a good recovery. He is presently in East Glenn Rehab Center in Birmingham but will be moving to an assisted living facility nearby in a couple of weeks. He is in good spirits and as soon as he is settled will forward his new address."

Fred/Bill (take your pick) BARENTINE suffered a minor stroke in April and is now recovering at home in Naperville, IL. Bob TEEPLE advises that, as of May 12, Fred is okay but tires easily, has difficulty getting up from a chair, and is a bit unsteady on his feet. He and Bette have been to 25 of our 27 "shindigs" and plan on being front and center in Indy. Bet they'd enjoy hearing from some of their many friends.

Jim BOWMAN (525) had open-heart surgery on 3/29/07. Together with son Bill and daughter-in-law Mary, he is scheduled to host our Indianapolis reunion. He had been hospitalized for a blood infection, as reported in our December Newsletter. Subsequently he was hospitalized again. It was determined, then, that surgery was required to repair a heart valve that had been destroyed by reoccurring infections. Hopefully, this surgery will solve the problem and, by the time you read this, Jim will have made a full recovery.

SICK CALL (cont)

Someone else not having much fun is Clarcie HARRIS. On June 23 she fell and broke her leg that had a previous knee and hip replacement. After 3 weeks in the hospital she went to rehab/nursing home. At the moment she is back in the hospital because of blood clots in her leg and lung. She should be returning to the nursing home soon. Lyndal reports that she is a real trouper through all of this.

Roster Maintenance

Information in this section is intentionally omitted.