

86TH FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2012 NEWSLETTER



“Hey! Nothing’ll stop the US Air Corps.”



Courtesy of Gisela Dolny

SIDNEY “SID” BALDWIN HOWARD

**In Mobile, Alabama
September 2011**

Happiness was going to an 86th FBGA reunion.

86th FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP ASSOCIATION

Vol. XXXIII, No. 1

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2012

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Martha M. Plowden**

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Two-year term—Louis DeLuca, Rick Fitzpatrick, Debbie Rose
Three-year term - Jack Botten, Martha Plowden, Diane Senneff
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Our Mission is to perpetuate the history of the 86th Fighter-Bomber Group.

We as veterans of WWII are organized to perpetuate the history of our fight to retain our American freedoms, to meet once a year for a reunion with the purpose of maintaining close ties with the Association and our comrades, and to encourage the heirs of our veterans to join with us in a united effort to pass along memories of those who served in the Group. A way to enrich and amplify understanding of the experiences of the veterans is through broadening of our website by archiving our veterans' experiences. Effective now, a call is issued for your help: feed the Webmaster (John Rice) with your photos, journals, stories, comments. We are hungry for material to archive.

Association Website: www.86fighterbombergroup.com

GETTING READY FOR THE NEXT STEP

Six months ago the members of the 86th Fighter-Bomber Group got the news they did not want to see or hear:...*Sid Howard had to report to the Supreme Being.* He was a good man who worked hard at the endeavors he undertook, especially holding on to connections with the men he served with in WWII. He, along with Glen Margerum, was the heart and soul of bringing the Group together in 1980 and ensuring a reunion every year (33 reunions, including Indianapolis II). The thought that the presence of the 86th Group could disappear when the last member passed was unacceptable. After all, one of our missions is "to perpetuate the history of our fight to retain our American freedoms." So, Sid campaigned to expand the Group's membership to include multiple generations of the families of the 86th veterans. Thirty or more names on the Group roster belong to sons, daughters, grandsons, and granddaughters of the veterans. Fortuitous for us, the position of Chairman of the Board and President is filled by Debbie Rose (daughter of Carl Baranek). Admittedly, she was in the right place at the right time to do the most good. Debbie, thank you for your excellent attention to the details so necessary to keep our Group alive and active. NEXT STEP?..... REUNION

LET'S HEAD TO INDIANAPOLIS FOR OUR REUNION IN 2012

Invited by Bill and Mary Bowman

Wednesday, September 12 (early bird arrivals) until Sunday, September 16

Headquarters: Clarion Hotel

2930 Waterfront Parkway West, Indianapolis, IN 46214

Room Rate

\$65 plus 17% tax (\$76.05)
Rate includes deluxe continental breakfast and up to four people in a room.



New restaurant on site called
Rick's Waterfront Cafe

Reservations

Telephone: (317) 299-8400
Be sure to identify yourself as being with the **86th FBG** to obtain the special room rate.

REMEMBER: *Deadline for reservations is August 12, 2012 to get the special rate.
*Deadline for cancellation of your room reservation is 72 hours prior to your expected day of arrival.

For those of you who are flying to our Indianapolis reunion, the hotel offers a shuttle (\$15.00 per trip) that has room for five people. [Three dollars per person each way is a great deal...hopefully you can be part of a full shuttle.]

The Activities Reservation Form is the last page of this newsletter. Be sure to list your airline flights on the form so we can give the hotel a heads up beforehand.

POTPOURRI



She represented the local Chamber of Commerce in Houston, and unless you went to that reunion, you have not had the opportunity to meet her. Our Group was so impressed by her efforts to honor us that she was presented a plaque "for outstanding service beyond the call of duty." She has been unable to attend any of the reunions that followed, but that did not stop her from participating behind the scenes. She is skilled in colorful graphics and has turned the reunion programs into an eye-catching work of art. Her name is ELLEN MASSEY.

She is still amazing us. Now she is spending a lot of energy building up a concert benefit to promote the mission of the 86th.

BOOT JAM CONCERT BENEFIT

Our very own 86th member Ellen Massey is organizing the **BOOT JAM BENEFIT**, a concert benefiting the Boot Campaign and 86th Fighter-Bomber Group Association, a group of World War II fighter pilots and their ground crews. The concert will be held, Sunday, June 24th, 2 PM–8PM at Jackie's Brickhouse, Kemah, TX!

Fabulous Texas Musicians Bri Bagwell, Season Ammons, Presley Lewis, Susan Hickman and Mandi Powell will be sharing the stage to entertain all of the participants who come out to support our military, both past and present! These women travel the U.S.A. delivering energetic and sometimes moving performances. Each of them is a singer/songwriter who has taken a day out of their very busy tour schedules to perform to show their support for our military.

The Boot Campaign is a grass roots initiative to help everyone around the world understand the sacrifices our men and women give to our country and to us for our freedom. In support of our veterans, you can go to www.bootcampaign.com and order your very own military boots that have the boot campaign logo on the heel. Wear or bring your boots to the concert, and you can also participate in the largest photo ever taken of a group of non-military civilians **WITH THEIR BOOTS ON!** The photo will be sent to the boot campaign website. Come and show our troops your support and walk in their boots for one day!

The 86th Fighter-Bomber Group Assn is a dedicated group made up of members in the 525th, 526th, 527th, and GHQ squadrons who spend time writing, gathering photos, researching, and identifying memorabilia from their time in World War II. They have produced many books and still need funds to keep the group together to preserve the memories and future endeavors on this great timeline.

If you want to donate to the World War II veterans, you can go to the **DONATE** page www.86thbootjam.com and donate any amount to this fabulous group of veterans. They meet somewhere in the U.S. every year for an annual reunion! You can visit their website at www86fighterbombergroup.com to find out the history of these amazing men and women.



Can you believe we got married, raised a family and retired, all without the help of a hand-held computer?

IN MEMORIAM



COLGAN, Anita L. (525 Sqdn C. O.; William B.; LM5021) - Died 04/13/2012. Notified by her grandson, Dallas Lowe, who attended his first 86th FBG reunion last year in Mobile, where he was accompanied by his grandfather Bill Colgan. Anita was considered a home front heroine in the World War II Generation. Dallas posted her obituary on the 86th Fighter Bomber Group Association's Wall. Use Facebook to access the complete obituary; it is worth reading.



COOKE, Betty Zane (527 Engrg, Glenn H.; LM7005) - Died April 9, 2009. She attended 7 reunions.

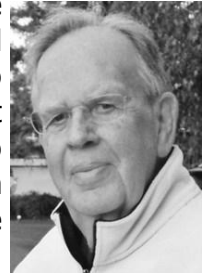
HELMS, Edith (526 Pilot, Jack Lawrence) - Died 07/29/2010. She was 86 and predeceased by her husband (June 2006); attended 5 reunions.

HOWARD, Holly (daughter of Sid) - Died March 2012. Notified by her older sister, Vicki Arnold. [Note to Vicki: Since the pain of loss is so new, words, however kind, can't mend your heartache. But the members of the 86th FBG, who care and share your loss, wish you comfort and peace of mind.]

HURT, Sue S. (525 Engrg Spc; Gilbert T.; LM5003) - Died July 29, 2011. Notified by her daughter, Ann (Hurt) Stone. Her daughter reported that Sue was excited about welcoming a great granddaughter. The baby was born on July 22 in Marietta, GA and Sue passed away exactly one week later in Chattanooga...she was able to enjoy pictures of the baby. Gil and Sue were probably the most recognizable couple in the Assn. The reunion that they hosted in 1985 in Chattanooga brought out a record crowd of 194 veterans and 169 spouses/guests, a total of 363. They attended a total of 19 reunions, their last one in 2001.

KLEMME, Ardell G. (526 Pilot; LM6021) - Died 04/02/2011 at a Hospice House in Wisconsin (age 87). Notified by his wife Jeanette. During WWII, as a 20-year-old P-47 pilot, Ardell was shot down on a mission over Italy in September of 1944. He landed in the PO river and made it to shore. He was officially listed as Missing In Action, but it was presumed he had been killed in action. For the next 6 months, while behind enemy lines, he was able to avoid capture by enemy troops with the help of numerous Italian partisans. Finally, in March of 1945, he was reunited with Allied Forces. He attended no reunions.

REARDON, Karl A. (527 Armament, LM7042) - Died 12/13/2011. Notified by John Senneff. John and Diane Senneff attended the wake and had an opportunity to speak to Karl's wife Rita. He learned that Karl had been on the Buffalo Honor Flight in October. John also made a donation to Hospice in the name of the 86th Fighter-Bomber Group Assn. Karl attended 3 reunions.



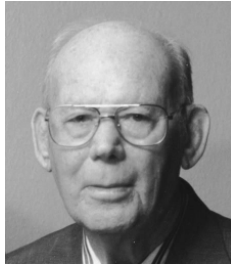
SHAFFNER, George E. (525 Pilot) - Died 05/17/2008 according to SSDI.

STELL, Glenn A. (526 Sqdn C.O.; LM6016) - Died 06/26/2011 at the age of 94. Joan Edmonds, Glenn Stell's daughter, called Louis DeLuca to let him know that Col. Stell died this past June. He flew the A-36 in the North African, Sicilian, and Italian campaigns of 1942-43, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, and became the only member of his original squadron to survive the war. He entered the Korean War as a jet fighter pilot and squadron commander. Attended 5 reunions. His wife predeceased him (1997).



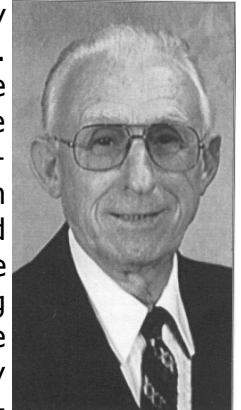
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SUMNER, Marvin W. (GHQ Transp., LMG131) – Died 10/31/2011. He would have been 99 years old on November 30. He attended 4 reunions. His daughter Rena Blackford had attended the reunions with Marvin, but was without him at the Mobile reunion this year. She plans to continue coming to our reunions.



TAYLOR, Russell Eugene (525 LM5110) – Died 05/20/2011. Notified by return mail from assisted living facility in Forest Grove, OR; wife Nevah predeceased him; attended no reunions.

WRIGHT, Jess Van (525 Maint.; LM 5002) – Died 12/24/2011 at a nursing center in Kansas. Notified by his wife of 69 years, Berniece. After serving during WWII, he continued his service in the USAF for 22 years until his retirement. In the note from Berniece, she mentions he had a military funeral and says she “would appreciate remaining on the mailing list for the newsletter. Who knows—I may someday be able to make another reunion. My regards to all.” They attended 15 reunions.



MORE POTPOURRI

Have you ever wondered how the 86th FBGA is going to fit into the ever-expanding electronic age so our organization will have a way to broaden the scope of information going back and forth. Well, it is already up and running. An example follows:

Dallas Lowe posted on 86th Fighter Bomber Group Association's Wall

“A French association honoring “Tantonville Airfield” contacted me and has included the 86th stay at Tantonville in their story (history) of Tantonville in World War II. See the contact e-mail containing their web site below. Please also see my web-site, I have updated and added new information. Please comment.

www.colgan-books.com Bill Colgan

Dear Sir,

We are a little nonprofit association working on the memory of the WW II in Lorraine. We are established just near Tantonville. This year we will dedicate a plaque for the first Pilot who was KIA on December 23rd, 1944: Lt Bradley CLARK from the 371st Fighter Group, who crashed just near Tantonville's Airfield. Working on the archives, I found your extraordinary story from February 28th, 1945. (I found your book on the net.)

And we just want you to know, we add your story on our website.

<http://espacedememoire.fr/>

Hope you will enjoy it, and I hope you are fine.

Respectfully,

Jerome Leclerc

**MAKE THOSE RESERVATIONS FOR INDIANAPOLIS,
TIME IS PRECIOUS, AND SO ARE YOU.**

2012 ACTIVITIES RESERVATION FORM FOR INDIANAPOLIS

Annual Reunion—86th FBG ASSOCIATION—September 12-16, 2012

Our 33rd Consecutive Reunion

Wednesday, September 12th—Arrival of the Early Birds—Registration	No. of- Persons	Total Cost
Thursday, September 13th – Registration continues... Registration Fee @ \$25/person (\$100 Maximum) -----> Hospitality Room open for visiting, story telling, and relaxation.		\$

Friday, September 14th

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM TOUR—Starts with the Eugene and Marilyn Glick History Center, home of the Indiana Historical Society. The Center has undergone a major renovation, and re-opened in March of 2010 with the launch of its new feature, Indiana Experience. Don't miss the Cole Porter room—featuring all his great hits and history, gifts at the newly designed Basile history Market, and lunch in the Stardust Terrace Café (included). Plenty of areas to sit and enjoy the surrounding exhibits—handicapped accessible and minimal walking if you choose. After lunch we will board the bus for a guided motor tour of Indianapolis historic highlights.

\$40.00 per person-----> \$

Saturday, September 15th

9:30 AM to 2:30 PM Vintage Aircraft—While we haven't yet received a firm confirmation from the local IN chapters of the EAA Warbirds and the Commemorative Air Force, both groups have indicated their interest in putting together a gathering of WWII vintage military aircraft for our group — weather permitting. It is likely we won't have firm information until a couple of weeks before the reunion, but hope to have the type of opportunity we had in Milwaukee 2010. We will brief you via your email as the mission firms up. Cost is for transportation and lunch.

\$25.00 per person-----> \$

6:00 PM Banquet Dinner

How Many? _____

Sliced Beef @ \$28 _____		Total Cost for Banquet —>	\$
Pork Chop @ \$25 _____			
Pasta (Veg) @ \$20 _____			
		Total Reservation Cost —>	\$

* Make check payable to **86th FBG Assn** and mail with this form to:
 Debbie Rose, 1306 Fox River Drive, De Pere, WI 54115-2403

MAIL to Debbie Rose BEFORE AUGUST 1st !!!

ATTENDEE NAMES _____	Relation to Veteran
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

DAY & TIME OF ARRIVAL (estimated) _____

IF FLYING: AIRLINE _____ FLIGHT NO. and TIMES: Arrival _____

Departure _____

EMAIL _____