

86TH FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP ASSOCIATION

November 2007 NEWSLETTER



HAPPY THANKSGIVING
Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action.
W.J. Cameron

BOWMANS' BASH A BLAST

Our Indianapolis hosts, Bill, Mary, and Jim Bowman, staged a top-drawer reunion. If their production is typical of what we can expect as the "younger generation" assumes more and more responsibility, the chances for the Association's survival rest in capable hands.



Photo courtesy of Jack Botten

Hubie and Pauline's domain, the Hospitality Room, was more than spacious, the on-the-house waffle breakfasts appreciated, the tours of the Indy Speedway and the downtown War Memorial educational, the banquet great (although my prime rib was overcooked, and maybe someday I'll learn to go with another entrée), and the after-dinner entertainment (thirty-some member Barbershop Harmony Chorus) – outstanding.



Photo courtesy of
Bunny Sheffield

86th FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. XXVIII, No. 3

November 2007

Elected Officers ~ Board of Directors

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND PRESIDENT

Glen E. Margerum
2845 Belleza Lane, Henderson, NV 89074-2471
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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND SECRETARY-TREASURER

Sidney B. Howard
211 Brownstone Drive, La Habra, CA 90631-7397
(714) 992-2504; E-mail: whisperingsid@sbcglobal.net



VICE PRESIDENT

Audrey Brown
7229 Cleve Avenue E., Inver Grove Heights, MN
55076-4303; (651) 457-3086

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



Executive Assistant: Debbie Rose
1306 Fox River Drive, DePere, WI 54115-2403; (902) 339-8773; darosey@hotmail.com

Assistant Vice President: Rick Fitzpatrick
PO Box 1616, Conroe, TX 77305-1616; (936) 588-3129; fitzeffects@shawus.com

Reunion Coordinator: Steve Burgoon
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Historian: Steve Luce
castlebravo654@earthlink.net

Webmaster: John Rice
14617 SW 126th Avenue, Tigard, OR 97224-1752; (503) 430-5757; jpvtrice@yahoo.com

Association Website: www.86fighterbombergroup.com

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The chief order of business at the Board of Directors meeting was the revision of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association. The idea for this change originated with Dick Wiessner at last year’s OKC reunion, the idea being to distribute duties and responsibilities more evenly, as corporations do. The changes and new positions created will prepare us to cope with changing times and workloads, while encouraging participation by family members who can now be members and officers.

The corporate-like structure provides an expanded group of officers and offers alternate locations to store our many years of archive records, which could then be accessed by interested people via our fast-growing website on the internet. The two branches of our new organization are defined on the next page.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Chief Executive Officer
Board of Directors (9)
Chairman of the Board (President)



OPERATING BRANCH

President
Vice President
Secretary-Treasurer
Publisher (news, etc)
Historian
Webmaster
Reunion Coordinator

Officers can serve in both branches at the same time by wearing a different hat. (Pay levels would remain the same as today!) The Volunteer Pool is retained and all veterans and family members are encouraged to throw their hat in the ring. As of the close of business in Indy, the Pool contains the following volunteers:

Rena BLACKFORD, Bill BOWMAN, Mary BOWMAN, Diana DURR,
Kathryn LITTLE, Bunny SHEFFIELD, and John SHEFFIELD.

See the masthead on Page 2 of this Newsletter for the names of the new Operating Branch officers announced at the reunion. Oh yes, I almost forgot to mention that all these changes were UNANIMOUSLY voted acceptance by the Board of Directors and the general membership in assembly gathered.

Copies of the revised Constitution and Bylaws are available from the President (Glen Margerum) on request.

We will assemble next year in San Antonio, 19 years after we last met there in 1989.

Another important piece of our planning for the future was the announcement that we *will* assemble next year in San Antonio. That will be 19 years since the Group last met there and enjoyed the hospitality of Al BURGOON, assisted by Frank McGOWAN (now deceased).

Al will be back, with son Steve, to host what promises to be a fun time. The Menger Hotel, where we stayed before, has boosted their room rates out of sight, as have most of the hotels. Al, however, was able to lock in the Holiday Inn Downtown Market Square at a nowadays reasonable rate of under \$100. Official dates are Thursday, September 4 through Saturday, September 6, 2008. (As usual, rooms will be available on Wednesday the 3rd for early arrivals.)

INFO FROM THE SIDELINES AT INDY

Steve LUCE brought with him a final draft of his long-awaited book *86th Fighter Group in WW II*, so many of you have inquired about over the years Steve was preparing it. His book, the only one, to our knowledge, devoted exclusively to our Group, will be available in November, hard bound (not paperback) at \$34.95. The publisher's e-mail address is: www.eagle-editions.com; phone number (406) 363-5415. Or, use Google on the internet and type in "Steve Luce 86th Fighter Group;" it goes straight to the web page of the book.

INFO FROM THE SIDELINES (continued from Page 3)

Rick FITZPATRICK, our newly-minted Assistant Vice Prez, is looking to buy any of the group/squadron (with special emphasis on the 526th) shirts, caps, windbreakers and/or sew-on logo patches we have had for sale at different reunions. If you have any of these mementos that you are willing to part with, you can advise the Secretary, or communicate directly with Rick at P.O. Box 1616, Conroe, TX 77305-1616, (936) 588-3129, and at fitzeffects@shawus.com.

Marge CARROCH has offered to put together personal photo albums. She would need pix taken during service in WW II and of the complete family nowadays (or as close as possible). If you are interested in the possibilities Marge has offered, contact her at 2488 West Virginia Street, Apache Junction, AZ 85220-5255, (480) 983-7041. She could be a big help in organizing scattered mementoes.

Jack BOTTEN and his lady Charlotte REID (our resident Fred Astaire/Ginger Rogers pair who everyone recalls with nostalgia, I'm sure) put on an all-too-brief demonstration of their dance floor skills during the post-banquet performance by the Barbershop Harmony Chorus.

In what has become par for the course for them, Hubie and Pauline BOUCHARD hosted a great Hospitality Room with just about any drink (hard or soft) and finger food that anyone could wish for. Angie DELUCA continued her streak of providing a bunch of her wonderful, home-baked cookies that everyone enjoys so much; God love her. Hubie tossed some of us out of there at what then seemed like an unreasonably early hour with the admonition that we would thank him in the morning. I can't speak for the others, but as far as I'm concerned, he was right.

POTPOURRI

Copies of the Inactive Rosters, the Deceased list, and the Not Located list are available from Secretary Sid Howard for a minimal reproduction and mailing cost.

I had a nice conversation with Betty (Mrs. Glenn) COOKE (527) in late August when she called to express her appreciation for being retained on the mailing list to receive the Newsletters. She is getting along fine, and would love to attend another reunion(s) but has no transportation.

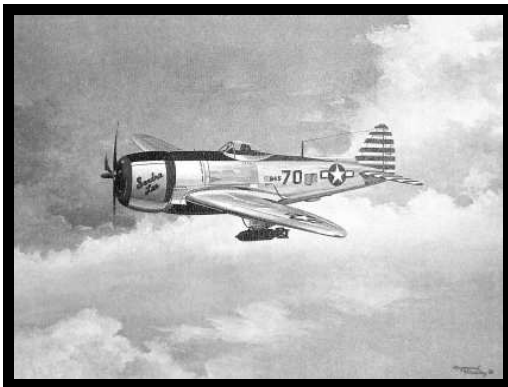
Mary WILLIAMS (526) sent a nice letter, together with a generous voluntary contribution. She was not able to be with us in Indy, but she is still maintaining the 50 acres in Mountain View, AR that Don left her, still able to drive anywhere, "but at 88 slowing down somewhat." Tell us about it, Mary. It goes with the territory.

Glen and I recently heard from (now) Bird Col. Todd Freece, advising that he is stationed in Hawaii. He had seen an order about activation of the 525th Squadron that he thought would be of interest to the group. He asked that we pass it along to Louie DeLuca ("I think he was a 525 member"). How about that, Louie, even if he did miss the 526th by one lousy digit? The 525th FS is assigned to the 3rd Wing, 11th Air Force, PACAF at Elmendorf, AK AFB flying F-22's (second unit in the USAF to be equipped with the F-22). This is the plane we tried unsuccessfully to see being built at the Lockheed Marietta plant during our '98 Atlanta reunion. Our own Hubie and Pauline Bouchard's daughter Amy was the Commander at Elmendorf when Prez Margerum arranged with her to be our guest speaker at OKC II last year.

In what is getting to be a disturbing trend, Ye Editor again forgot to include his digital camera with his luggage while packing for the Indy trip. So, I would be beholden to anyone with an extra set of prints from the reunion "social scene" who would be kind enuf to share them with me.

SPECIAL OFFERING

Most of you are familiar with A-36 and P-47 prints commissioned by Dr. John Thompson and John Dolny and sold as a money-raiser in the early days of the Association. The P-47 prints were obtained from an original painting provided by Crew Chief H. E. "Brad" Bradford. The print reflects the P-47 as flown by John Dolny (now Major General), marked with the name Sandra Lee for his niece, with his aircraft number 70, and with a candy-striped tail.



NOTE: This black and white copy does not do justice to the colored prints being sold.

A numbered limited edition of this print, personally autographed by John, Brad, and Sandra Lee, will soon be available on the Association website: www.86fighterbombergroup.com. The picture comes with (1) a certificate confirming that it is a limited edition, (2) background information on the three signers, plus (3) photographs of the three individuals taken during WWII. This is a fund raising endeavor – the cost of the package is \$30.00 plus shipping expenses of approximately \$5.00. All proceeds will be credited to the 86th FBG Association.

If, on your first attempt, you cannot find information about the print on the website, check back later. Otherwise, check with John Dolny or Brad Bradford.

- (10) ALLEN, Bill & Carole
 (18) BARANEK, Carl & Jackie
 (26) BARENTINE, Fred & Bette
 (07) BIEBER, Walt & Barbara; son Wally & guest Yana Shupletsova
 (18) BOTTEN, Jack & Charlotte Reid
 (22) BOUCHARD, Hubie & Pauline
 (17) BOWMAN, James, son Jeff & Sharon
 (07) BOWMAN, Bill (James' son) & Mary; son Jim & Jenna
 (22) BRADFORD, Brad
 (20) BROWN, Audrey
 (05) BROWN, Roy & Frances
 (13) BURGOON, Al
 (04) BURGOON, Steve
 (18) COVINGTON, Jim & son David
 (24) DELUCA, Louis & Angie
 (24) DOLNY, John & Gisela
 (02) DOTSON, Leon
 (01) ELLIS, Scott (527th Tom's son)
 (25) FITZPATRICK, Jesse & Blanche Putnam; son Denny & his grandchildren Ashton & Colton Taylor

- FITZPATRICK (cont): daughter Terry Vohs & guest Tan Leonard (Whew!)
 (04) FITZPATRICK, Rick & Peggy
 (19) GRISWOLD, Jim & Wanda; daughter Karen & Larry Jenkins
 (18) HARRIS, Lyndal
 (18) HOUSE, Billie & grandson John Hall
 (27) HOWARD, Sid
 (07) LUCE, Steve
 (27) MARGERUM, Glen
 (14) MAXEY, Vern & Pat Blazek
 (12) MICHAUD, Jim
 (20) PLOWDEN, Dick & Martha
 (02) ROSE, Randy & Debbie
 (19) SENNEFF, John & Diane
 (04) SUMNER, Marvin; daughter Rena Blackford & niece Diana Durr
 (26) TEEPLE, Bob & Tob; daughter Bunny & John Sheffield, daughter Beth Whitney-Teeple & Bob Whiting, son Van & Angie
 (17) WIESSNER, Dick & Ruth
 (14) WORLEY, Doyle & Margie Carroch

VETS-27, SPOUSES-13, WIDOWS-2, FAMILY-30, GUESTS-6: TOTAL-78

IN MEMORIAM



KINLEY, Lloyd D. (527 Pilot and POW) – A note from his wife Mabel indicates that he passed away 06/19/07, but gave no details. Lloyd was a dues-paying member but never attended a reunion.

RUSSELL, William G. (526 Pilot) - He passed away due to heart failure 05/09/07. His wife, Margaret, predeceased him 08/04/04. He was a dues-paying member who never attended a reunion.

SPENIL, John T. (527 Transportation) – He passed away 09/02/07 according to information provided by Al Saracusa. John and his wife Hughette, who preceded him in death, were early and long-time supporters of the Association. As Lifetime Members (LM-7142), they were attendees at 16 reunions. He had suffered from Alzheimer's disease for several years.

WHYTE, Eugene R. (525 Pilot) – He passed away 07/24/07, cause unknown. In addition to flying the P-47, for some time Gene flew the small, slow L-4 as a front-line observer for the artillery. He and Jeanne were long-time supporters of the Association. They had 20 reunions to their credit, including Minneapolis/St. Paul I and II, both of which he served on the reunion committee.

(Sad News continued on Page 8)

ROSTER MAINTENANCE

The contents of this section
are intentionally omitted.

(Sad News continued from Page 6)

IN MEMORIAM

Clarence A. ANDERSON (525 Crew Chief) - He passed away 05/11/07, according to information received from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. Clarence was on our Inactive Roster. Luckily, I found his Army serial number on an old roster given to me at the Indy reunion. Maybe you have something similar in your archives. If so, please send a copy to the Editor.

A CHUCKLE FROM THE PAST

(Quoting from a letter to me from Joe DELL and printed in my Squadron Newsletter of 12/18/87) - "Dear Sid, Your hit man, Dr. John Thompson, recently arrived in Pittsburgh (his daughter is now employed here), and Herr Doktor promptly gave my bank account an enema. He brought me a 'large' squadron jacket (I'm about as big as Pee Wee Herman), a 527th logo pin, and a P-47 picture. I was truly overwhelmed by Tommy's generosity. (I hadn't seen my good buddy for 42 years.) But he then told me I could send my check for \$36.00 to Sid Howard, and I was too stunned to speak. Sooo, I'm enclosing my check as the Doktor ordered."

FINANCIAL REPORT—FIRST THREE QUARTERS 2007

BALANCE AT CLOSE OF YEAR 2006 (123106)

\$8,775.86

Receipts for Three Quarters

Annual Dues (2 @ \$10.00)	\$20.00
Voluntary Contributions.....	\$245.00
Activities Reservation Forms (ARFs).....	\$4,343.00
Sales Newsletter Binders	\$106.00
Bank Interest.....	\$46.12
	\$4,760.12

\$13,535.98

Disbursements for Three Quarters

Phone (12 months).....	\$81.95
Printing and Postage.....	\$1,034.02
Bulk Mail Renewal Permit	\$160.00
Office Supplies	\$190.69
Personalized Checks	\$10.05
Computer Supplies	\$216.72
Funeral Flowers.....	\$243.94
Memorial Donation.....	\$50.00
Search Fee	\$39.95
Newsletter Binder Production	\$256.23
Tour Bus Rental.....	\$800.00
Tour Guide Fee.....	\$665.00
Clarion Hotel Banquet	\$1,433.39
	\$5,181.94

BALANCE AT CLOSE OF THIRD QUARTER (093007)

\$8,354.04**FOOTNOTES TO FINANCIAL REPORT**

1. \$10 Annual Dues, \$100 Lifetime (Cumulative).
2. Make checks payable to **86th FBG Assoc.**
3. Dues payers since last Newsletter:
Charlie HALL (527) Dues, John HALL (527) Dues, Mary Williams (526) VC,
Doyle WORLEY (525) LM-5111
4. VC = Voluntary Contribution.

