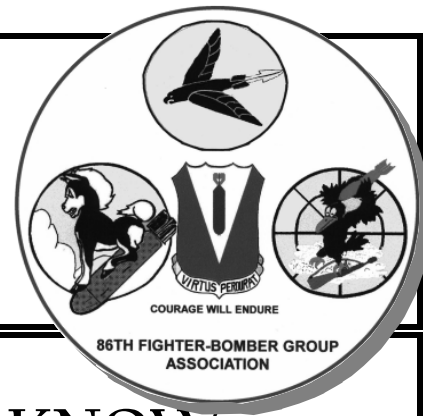


# 86TH FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2010 NEWSLETTER



## JUST WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

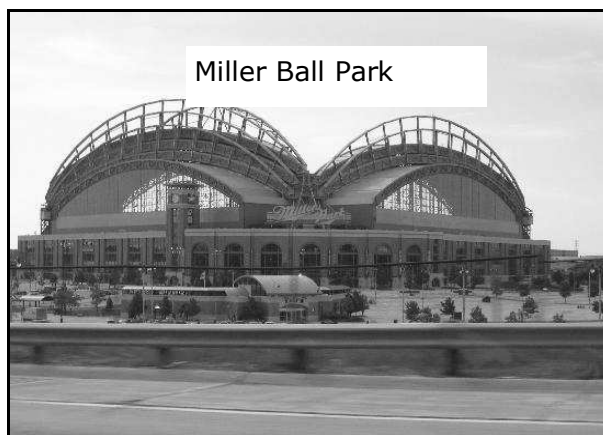
### ALL ABOARD FOR MILWAUKEE AND THE BEER THAT MADE IT FAMOUS

Here's the information you've all been waiting for – where and when we will be staying for our 31<sup>st</sup> consecutive annual reunion. Headquarters will be at the Best Western Milwaukee Airport Hotel and Conference Center, 5105 S. Howell Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53207-6130, telephone (877) 461-8547. Dates are Wednesday, September 15 (early arrivals) to Sunday, September 19, 2010.



Room rates are a reasonable \$69.00 plus 14% tax = \$79.09 per night, single or double (up to four people at no extra charge). **Reservations must be made by August 14**, and can be cancelled, if necessary, up to 48 hours before your scheduled arrival date. Be sure to mention the 86<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Group Association when making your reservation to receive the special guaranteed rate. The room price includes a hot breakfast buffet.

The sobering number of names in the *In Memoriam* section should serve as a wakeup call to those comrades who have not attended a reunion, or who have not done so for some time. This is the moment to seriously consider coming to Milwaukee to enjoy the camaraderie with those of us old timers who are, as the saying goes, on the right side of the sod. The same thing applies to family and guests, the group we are depending on to perpetuate our association.



Old timers will remember this slogan:

**If you've got the time, we've got the beer. Miller Beer.**

## 86<sup>th</sup> FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP ASSOCIATION

Vol. XXXI, No. 1

### NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2010

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

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**Association Website: [www.86fighterbombergroup.com](http://www.86fighterbombergroup.com)**

**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 hold on to our legacy.**



## POTPOURRI

✂ Eight of nine envelopes containing our December newsletter were returned by the post office for additional postage because the person had moved and they would not forward because the change notice had apparently expired. This causes additional time and expense— a special trip to the post office to pick up the returned mail, pay them 44 cents additional postage, then type a new label, affix label, affix another 44 cents stamp, and then back to the post office. It is such a simple thing to notify your Secretary when you change addresses. It raises the question of whether or not these people care anything about receiving information on their Association.

✂ In response to my e-mail letter sent out to those interested in the passing of Jim GRISWOLD, I received the following reply from Michael HOUGH, Commander, 527th Space Aggressor Squadron: "As is our tradition to drink a toast at the finish of our squadron's Friday roll call, this Friday's toast will be dedicated to "Grizzly." I just wanted you to know this. Take care Mike."

✂ A nice letter was received from Jess and Berniece WRIGHT (525) in January. They advised that they are unable to travel anymore, so can no longer attend our reunions (have attended 15). Instead, they enjoy reading all the news about others. They are active in local activities (Ponca City, OK) as their health permits and that keeps them "motivated." They also report that Francis SMITH (widow of Sidney B. 525) was admitted to a total care home in December and is unable to communicate. Francis passed away subsequently (refer to IN MEMORIUM).

✂ Recently, I sent out a tongue-in-cheek message titled "Return to Active Duty," espousing the call up of us oldtimers as a logical solution to the never-ending war in the

mid East. In his response, Eli Setencich, erstwhile highly regarded news columnist, said "Wrong call. This one calls for a **crouching** ovation."

✂ Bill COLGAN writes that he has a new book out: *Allied Strafing in World War II, (A Cockpit View of Air to Ground Battle)*, based on gun camera strafing film of the 86th. Stills from this film are used extensively in depiction and evidence of strafing and strafers in the war. Much of the text is combat history of the 86th. While the publisher chose this title, introductory material of the book leaves no doubt that it is mainly based on and credited to the 86th.

\$38.00 Soft Cover

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✂ Debbie ROSE writes: Randy and I are looking forward to you and your guests joining us in Milwaukee for the reunion in September. A few highlights of Milwaukee we hope to include in our tours are the War Memorial, Milwaukee Art Museum "wings," Old World Third Street, Miller Park and an historic sightseeing cruise on the river and out into Lake Michigan for beautiful views of the city skyline. Other possibilities are the Harley-Davidson Museum (108 years of history) and a Milwaukee Brewery. Watch for the activities reservation form (ARF) to follow in a few weeks, and make your hotel reservations. Recognizing the most important part of any reunion is the attendees, we want to encourage family groups this time. The more the merrier.



Flag of the City of Milwaukee

## IN MEMORIAM



**AUSTIN**, DeWitt R. (527 P-47 Pilot) – Died on 01/10/10, according to his wife. No other details were given.

**BUCKNER**, John H. (GHQ Group Cmdr. 1945-'46) Died 2009, according to the Social Security Death Index (SSDI). He succeeded Colonel Lee after VE Day. He was carried on our Inactive Roster but our records do not provide the reason.

**CAMP**, Gerald A. (526 P47 Pilot) – Deceased in 2009 according to the SSDI.

**COVINGTON**, James C. (Jim) (525 Pilot/Operations Officer) – It saddens me to report that another of the Association stalwarts has answered his last roll call on 03/19/10, after experiencing dementia for several years. Jim was, of course, a Lifetime Member and attended 18 reunions, the last, with his son David at Indianapolis 3 years ago. He had a distinguished Air Force career, including service in Vietnam and command of five fighter squadrons before retiring in 1974.



**FINK**, George W. (Bud) (526 Engrg.) Passed away 03/01/10 because of bladder cancer, one week after his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, according to his wife Clara Belle. She had high praise for Hospice care. They were one of the earliest Lifetime Members and attended five reunions.

**GRISWOLD**, James L. (Jim or Grizzy) (525 A-36 Pilot) – Passed away peacefully 01/16/10 after a struggle of several years with Alzheimer's. Even with this handicap he continued to come to the reunions until Houston last year. He was one of the original A-36 pilots to enter combat in July 1943 and completed all of his 80 missions in that aircraft. He and Wanda were early and strong supporters of the association, who attended 20 reunions and were Lifetime Members. He will be sorely missed. A donation to the Alzheimer's Association was made in his name in lieu of flowers.



**HALVORSEN**, Berthold H. (527 Armament) – Passed away 01/06/10 at age **97**. Bert was one of our older members who was a Lifetime Member but was able to attend only one reunion. He was buried in Williston, ND with full military honors.

**HOLLAND, Daniel E.** (Ed) (527 A-36 Pilot) – Ed passed away 08/18/09 in a nursing center in Tennessee at age 92, according to his obituary that was mailed to me without any details. After the war he became a political cartoonist for the Chicago Tribune for many years until his retirement to his native Tennessee. He never attended a reunion but he was a Lifetime Member and frequent correspondent.

**MORAN**, William M. (527 A-36 Pilot) - Passed away peacefully on 12/19/09 due to Alzheimer's, according to his daughter Lisa Carreon. Bill never attended a reunion, and was carried on our Inactive Roster after we located him a few years ago.

**PARKER**, Ernest C. (526 Engrg) – Died 01/05/10 at age 98 as reported by his wife Lois. Ernest attended two of the early reunions, but was on the Inactive Roster for some time until we discovered him last year.

## ROSTER MAINTENANCE

**SMITH**, Frances (525) – C.B.'s widow passed away 03/03/10 due to heart failure following an illness of several year's duration. This information was furnished by her sister Berniece (and Jess) WRIGHT. She was buried with C.B. at Fort Snelling Cemetery. They were Lifetime Members and attended five reunions.



**This section is intentionally omitted.**

**SUDDETH**, Norma (527) – Passed away 01/27/10 while visiting her granddaughter and Marine grandson in California from her home in Alabama according to her daughter. Her whole family were early and enthusiastic supporters of the Association. She attended 17 reunions with husband Kenneth and, after his death, with daughter Ann Little and granddaughter Kathryn. We are grateful that Ann and Kathryn, both Lifetime Members in their own right, are carrying on the family support of our group. Flowers were sent to the funeral in the Association's name.



**TERRY**, Norma (525) – Lester Terry writes that his wife Norma passed away 01/11/09, no details given. He reports that he's doing OK and still likes going to the gym.

**This section is intentionally omitted.**

+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+--+  
**FINANCIAL REPORT—FIRST QUARTER 2010**

<b>BALANCE AT CLOSE OF 2009</b> .....		<b>\$4,365.25</b>
<u>Receipts for First Quarter</u>		
Annual Dues (3 @ \$10.00) .....	\$30.00	
Voluntary Contribution .....	\$25.00	
	<b>\$55.00</b>	
.....		<b>\$4,420.25</b>
<u>Disbursements for First Quarter</u>		
Postage and Printing .....	\$205.41	
Phone (for 2009) .....	\$12.60	
Funeral Flowers/Memorial Donation .....	\$184.33	
Bulk Mail Permit Renewal .....	\$185.00	
Houston Reunion Expense (Incl Van Rental and Event Deposits).....	\$900.94	
Group Picture Mailing .....	\$8.74	
Bank Service Charge.....	\$18.00	
Milwaukee Reunion Hotel Deposit .....	\$100.00	
	<b>\$1,615.02</b>	
<b>BALANCE AT CLOSE OF FIRST QUARTER</b> .....		<b><u>\$2,814.23</u></b>

- Footnotes: 1. Annual Dues from Amy BOUCHARD,  
Ann BOUCHARD (525), Steven RIDER (527)  
2. Don't forget, all contributions are tax deductible  
if you itemize deductions on your tax return.