

86TH FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER



In the beginning there was a war that led to lifetime friendships developed at 30 consecutive reunions—priceless.

INTRODUCTION

Here is your first report on our 2009 reunion (the 30th one). Official dates are Thursday October 29 thru Saturday October 31, departure date Sunday November 1, early bird arrivals Wednesday October 28.

The hotel location has been narrowed to two choices in the general area of the Johnson Space Center (NASA) between Houston and Galveston, depending on transportation availability. Our hosts, Rick and Peggy FITZPATRICK, have been hard at work lining up activities. More about them in our next Newsletter.

Start making your plans now to attend, bearing in mind that, if you will be flying, you need to go into Hobby Airport. Hobby is considerably closer to where we will be staying than George H. W. Bush International, and I mean **a lot closer**. This probably means Southwest Airways, which is, I believe, the only major airline using Hobby, and which right now is probably your most economical bet.

POTPOURRI

I received a long letter from Harold SIMPSON, (526th Pilot) Lt. Col., Retired, recounting his Air Force career in detail. Copies are available by contacting the Secretary.

Another response to our last Newsletter:

"Dear Sid,

"I enjoyed reading the chapter *At Home on the Sele*. It refreshed my memory about some of the things that happened there. I was there on one of the two LSTs September 14th that was creeping into the Bay of Salerno. It attracted a few rounds of German 88 mm fire. I would like to know if there is anyone else still around that remembers the Captain ordering us to get below and full reversing that LST out of there. We had 100-octane gasoline on the ship.

"We went on down the coast and put in near the Sele river and spent that night sleeping on the ground. I believe the shelling kept up from both sides all night. We bivouacked in a cow pasture where the mosquitoes ate us alive.

"It was just the beginning of our Italian experiences.

"Best Regards, Charles BENNETT (525)"

Charles SNODGRASS (527) reports the misspelling on the memorial at Key Field, Meridian, MS has been repaired. It now reads "527th Fighter Bomber (not Bomer) Squadron." During a long period of heightened security, the engraver could not gain access to the base to make the correction. Thanks for your persistence Charles.

86th FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP ASSOCIATION

Vol. XXX, No. 1

NEWSLETTER

January 2009

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

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND PRESIDENT

Glen E. Margerum
2845 Belleza Lane, Henderson, NV 89074-2471; (702) 361-3143; ww2ros@cox.net

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: Debbie Baranek Rose

1306 Fox River Drive, DePere, WI 54115-2403; (902) 339-8773; darosev@hotmail.com

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND SECRETARY

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

VICE PRESIDENT

Rick Fitzpatrick
166 April Waters Drive N, Montgomery, TX 77356-5886
(936) 588-3129; fitzeffects@shawus.com

TREASURER

Martha M. Plowden
1012 W. Golden Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85021-4466
(602) 997-8317; mplowden@mindspring.com

VICE PRESIDENT EMERITUS

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

| | |
|-----------------|---|
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Refreshment Therapists: Hubie and Pauline Bouchard
714 4th Avenue, Berlin, NH 03570-1609; (603) 752-3870; hubieb@verizon.net

Properties Manager: Bill Bowman
1112 S Jersey Street, Bluffton, IN 46714-3412; (260) 824-4537; williebill@onlyinternet.net

Historian: Steve Luce
601 William Street, Ste 514, Oakland, CA 94612-1089; (510) 834-3734; 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



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.

(Continued from page 1)

I have been in correspondence with an Italian researcher involved in a historical research of an air crashes in Northern Italy during WW II, particularly the period from July 1944 to April 1945. He discovered the loss of a P-47 belonging to the 86th on 9/11/44 near Cremona. While on a low level strafing mission the plane struck a tree and crashed. A second airplane engaged in the action circled the area for a while before returning to base. The War Diary of the 526th Squadron reported 1st Lt. Richard P. MARCY was KIA in that area on that date. Our researcher is interested in obtaining any other information and/or photographs of Lt. Marcy. If anyone has such, please contact the Secretary.

E-mail to the following has bounced because the address was not recognized. Please advise the Secretary if you have the correct addresses:

Robert HARRIGAN (525)
bobmary@valornet.com

Douglas LEADER (526)
douglasbttj@aol.com

SICK CALL

A message from wife Jackie dated 11/13/08 advised that Carl BARANEK (525) had fallen and broken his hip, with surgery done on that date. A note with her Christmas card said that his recovery has been complicated by an internal problem that will require removal of his gall bladder in the near future. Why don't all his friends call and/or email him.

George ARMFIELD (527) reports that he has moved to a new assisted living facility in Bessemer, AL that he finds much more compatible with his needs than the old place. He doesn't have a phone but would enjoy hearing from his friends, at The Oaks on Parkwood, Room 126, The Orchard, 2651 Laurel Oaks Drive, Bessemer, AL 35022.

Bette writes that Fred BARENTINE (527) is doing remarkably well in his recovery from a stroke in September, two days before they were scheduled to leave for the San Antonio reunion. "He now uses a walker (when he remembers to use it) and has recovered miraculously with only a couple of minor side effects".

Louise advises that 2008 was a much better year for her and Rex HOBGOOD (527). They are both doing well and Rex is seeing well enough to get around the house and yard, but he doesn't do well in unfamiliar places. (I believe I recall that he has macular degeneration.)

Clayton A. RAGSDALE (GHQ) – The old Sergeant Major reports from Honea Path, SC that he's not as spry as usual, the result of a fall on his 93rd birthday that injured his back and side. No broken bones, but he's healing slowly. He misses not being able to visit with the "troops" at the reunions, 15 of which he attended.

Speaking of hips, Ye Editor had his right one replaced some 11 years ago. It now seems probable that the left one will have to be done in the near future. He is not looking forward to it with any degree of enthusiasm.

IN MEMORIAM

BELL, Richard (GHQ Cryptology Unit) – Deceased 2008 per Social Security Death Index (SSDI). Richard attended one reunion but has been carried on our Inactive Roster for several years

GILL, Edward W. (526 Commun.) – Passed away 12/06/08 at age 87 as reported by his daughter, Kathleen Moore. He was a Lifetime Member and attendee at four early reunions.

MAXEY, Vernon K. (525 Pilot) – Passed away 11/25/08 per information from his daughter, Kathy Turner. Vern was one of the first Lifetime Members and a stalwart supporter of the Association with 14 reunions attended.

(IN MEMORIAM-**MAXEY** continued from page 3)

We reported a couple of Newsletters ago that Vern had been diagnosed with cancer and had moved to an assisted living facility.

RAMSEY, Rev. George W. (527 P40/P47 Pilot - POW) – Deceased 07/14/08 as advised by his wife. Although he was never able to attend a reunion, he was a leading contributor to our 2004 "Exchequer Replenishment Drive."

SIMPSON, Laura (526) – Husband Harold advised that his wife of 32 years passed away last August.

The following comrades who were carried on our Not Located list were reported deceased by the Social Security Death Index:

ANDREWS, George B. (526 Pilot) – 2003

CAMPBELL, Elton (525 Armament) – 7/11/08

CHANSLOR, R.D. (525 Acft. Mech.) – 2008

COHEN, Albert (525 Commun.) – 2008

COX, Phillip (526 Flight Surgeon) -2008

HENDERSON, James E. (525 Pilot) – 2007

JONES, John C. (525 Transport.) – 2007

MILLER, Richard J. (525 Armament) – 2007

MONAHAN, Robert M. (525 Ordnance) – 2005

MOORE, Maurice R. (525 Crew Chief) – 2007

SMITH, Hugh C. (526 Pilot) – 2005

WALKER, George A. (525 Commun.) – 2005

WALKER, William B. (525 (Commun.) – 2006

WARD, Michael J. (525 Orderly Room) – 2004

WILLIAMS, LeRoy E. (525 Armament) – 2008

ROSTER MAINTENANCE

The details for the ROSTER MAINTENANCE section of this Newsletter are intentionally omitted on this page and on page 5, which has been deleted. Page 6 (the Treasurer's report) immediately follows this page..

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2008

BALANCE AT CLOSE OF YEAR 2007 (123107)

\$6,148.95

Receipts for Year 2008

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Annual Dues (8 @ \$10.00) | \$80.00 |
| Lifetime Membership (1 @ \$100.00) | \$100.00 |
| Voluntary Contributions..... | \$630.00 |
| Activities Reservation Forms (ARFs for Indianapolis reunion)..... | \$8,900.00 |
| Sales (N.L. binders, Circles of Unity, Shirts, Autographed P-47 Prints) ... | \$346.00 |
| Bank Interest..... | <u>\$11.22</u> |
| | \$10,067.22 |

\$16,216.17

Disbursements for Year 2008

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Printing & Postage | \$1,971.95 |
| Bulk Mail Permit | \$175.00 |
| Franked Envelope Permit (one-time charge) | \$175.00 |
| Office Supplies | \$260.14 |
| Computer Supplies | \$172.36 |
| Bank Charge..... | \$16.00 |
| Funeral Flowers..... | \$70.02 |
| Memorial Donation..... | \$50.00 |
| Search Fee | \$19.90 |
| Reunion Tours..... | \$4,792.00 |
| Reunion Banquet..... | \$2,146.13 |
| Hospitality Room | \$566.23 |
| Reunion Group Pix..... | \$121.34 |
| Recognition Plaques..... | \$120.00 |
| Activities Reservation Form (ARF) Refunds | <u>\$940.00</u> |
| | \$11,596.07 |

BALANCE AT CLOSE OF Year 2008 (123108)

\$4,620.10**FOOTNOTES TO FINANCIAL REPORT**

1. \$10 Annual Dues, \$100 Lifetime (Cumulative).
2. Make checks payable to **86th FBG Assoc.**
3. VC = Voluntary Contribution
4. Dues/VC payers since last Newsletter:
Hubie BOUCHARD (525) – VC in memory of Clarcie Harris, Harold SIMPSON (526) – Dues
5. Are you a Lifetime Member? If you are, there is an "LM" followed by 4 numbers in the bracketed information following your name on the roster. If it is not there, please contact the Secretary.
6. Don't forget, all contributions are tax deductible if you itemize deductions on your tax return.