

86TH FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2008 NEWSLETTER



GOTTA GO, GOTTA GO TO SAN ANTONIO

REUNION PLANS AND SCHEDULES



On Valentines Day , February 14, 2008, San Antonio introduced a new identity that the city is promoting, a process known as rebranding. The aim of this new identity is to entice potential visitors to choose San Antonio "where the experience will forever remain deep in their hearts." As part of the celebration for this rebranding, the San Antonio River Walk was transformed with more than 30,000 yellow roses. That had to have been impressive!

The new logo is a quatrefoil colored in corazon (heart in Spanish) red, symbolic of the city's heart and meant to imply the manner in which visitors are welcomed (with heart or con corazon).

Quatrefoil itself is a symbolic shape that is prevalent in Spanish Colonial architecture, and has sub-meanings of welcome and good tidings. And that is not all! Each one of the four "pillars" of the logo represents a part of the new positioning:

◆**People** who embody the power and spirit of the city. ◆**Pride** that is deeply rooted in history. ◆**Promise** of adventure, of knowledge, of welcome, of intrigue, of reward. ◆**Passion** for San Antonio and its art, culture, sports, and entertainment.

So much for an introduction to the San Antonio of today and the culture it represents. Here is what you have been waiting for—your Activities Reservation Form (ARF) for the September San Antonio reunion (the last page of this Newsletter). Please note the August 10 deadline for return of your completed form and check (made payable to the 86th FBG Assn).

In case you've misplaced the last Newsletter, this is what you need to know:

SITE: Holiday Inn Downtown/Market Square, 318 W. Durango Blvd, San Antonio, TX 78204

DATE: September 4 through 6, 2008

ROOM RATE: \$91.00 + 16.75% tax

PHONE: (888) 615-0725 for reservations

Identify yourself as a member of the 86th FBG Association.

The hotel does not have a shuttle to the airport, about eight miles away. However, SAN ANTONIO TRANSPORTATION SERVICES RUNS SHUTTLES EVERY 15 MINUTES. THEIR BOOTH, WHERE YOU CAN PURCHASE TICKETS, IS LOCATED AT THE AIRPORT LUGGAGE DISPERSAL AREA. Alternatively, taxis are available. Should it be necessary, the contact number for the shuttle is (210) 281-9900.

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86th FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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

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VICE PRESIDENT

Audrey Brown
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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



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The transportation situation being what it is, it is suggested that you not delay making your reservations. We are not in the business of endorsing any particular business, but we understand that Southwest Airways some time ago entered an agreement that “locked in” their fuel costs at \$51 a barrel. Today other airlines are paying over twice that amount. As a result, in a move to lower their costs, they have added baggage fees, further restricted the amount of carry-on luggage and cancelled numerous flights, in addition to increased fares. To date, Southwest has not adopted these changes.

This will be our 29th consecutive annual get-together. It is an immutable fact that we will all be one year older than we were at Indianapolis last year and only the good Lord knows how much longer we will remain sufficiently mobile to attend. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we equaled or exceeded last year's total attendance of 78?!

POTPOURRI

Charles DILLS, Prez of our "sister" 27th FBG Assn, who will probably be with us in San Antonio, has a couple of websites that might be of interest to you:

http://www.charlies-web.com/WWII_med/index.html
which deals with his experiences flying the A36 in Italy.
<http://www.charlies-web.com/genealogyB/txtxx403.html>
which is about the work of the combat crew chiefs.

Randy ROSE (525) advises that you can see a number of P-47 and P-40 videos from WWII at the YouTube website, including:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2Hzy01XCSI>,
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3qd1K_2owk,
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKIHLZ0465E>.

Also, if you use the search feature on the YouTube website, you may find quite a number of interesting videos.

Graham WEIGLE (525 Pilot, 526 C.O.) recently sent a very generous check from Virginia and became a part of our Life Membership group. He writes, *"Having been a consistent dead-head Association-wise all these years, I would like to make a small atonement and wish all the great folks of the 86th the best. Dolny's is the only name I recognize for sure on the roster, and at 91 it is not likely I will change my spots and turn up at the next convention.*

"All goes well with me personally. Played tennis until a couple of years ago when one knee got wobbly but I still walk a mile and a half a day and at least my girl friend is still with me. All the great days with the 86th are still well remembered. Maybe we will all meet again some day in the blue skies of far beyond,"

I replied, *"You might find that you and your girl friend would have a great time at a reunion, as do I and my friend I have been knowing since circa 1940 as undergraduate students at UCLA."*

Here are some statics that might be of interest to the trivia-inclined:

- ◆ 178 folks, 56% of our Active Roster, reside in the "top ten" of the 45 states represented. California leads the parade with 37, followed by my second home Texas with 32, Florida 23, Ohio 19, New York 16, Pennsylvania 13, Oklahoma 11, and Alabama, Arizona and Michigan 9 each.
- ◆ On the other end of the scale, 32 or 10% live in states with a "86th resident population" of 1 to 5. There are no representatives from Delaware, Maine, Missouri, South Dakota or Wyoming.

**Sid's Kinda Humor**

Recently observed license plate holder
HUMPTY DUMPTY
WAS PUSHED

Pregnant thought:
DO NOT REGRET GROWING OLD; MANY ARE
DENIED THE PRIVILEGE – Anonymous

ROSTER MAINTENANCE

The contents of this section are intentionally omitted.

**IN
MEMORIAM**

BATES, Kathryn M. (Kit) – Deceased 2004 according to Social Security Death Index (SSDI). She was the widow of our late Group Commander, Earl E. Bates, and attended 9 reunions with him.

BOLCH, Alfred P. (526 Pilot/POW) – Deceased 2008 according to SSDI. He was located only last year, and had not attended a reunion.

BROWNING, Betty (GHQ Widow of Robert Browning) – Deceased 10/16/07 according to her daughter. She attended seven of our early reunions prior to Bob's death, and they were GHQ's second Lifetime Members.

BURNS, Richard J. (527 Ordnance) – Deceased 2007 according to SSDI. Never attended a reunion and was carried on our Inactive Roster.

CRANOR, Forrest D. (Pappy) (527 Armament) – Deceased 2007 according to SSDI. "Pappy" was a long-time dues paying member whose health prevented him from attending reunions.

DUVALL, Thurman O. "Curly" (527 A-36 Pilot) – Deceased 12/06/07 according to a note from his daughter Charlene DuVall. "He loved his 'brothers' in the 86th FBG and often spoke of you and those times." He was a Lifetime Member and enthusiastic supporter of the Association who attended three reunions but his health prevented his coming in recent years.

GOSLIN, William O. "Bill" (527 P-47 Pilot) – Deceased 03/31/08 according to Leon Dotson. At age 91 his heart just gave out. He had a malfunctioning valve the doctors couldn't fix due, in part, to his age and other physical problems. I never met Bill but thought of him as a good friend through our exchange of e-mails over the years. He was a Lifetime Member, but never attended a reunion. Travel schedules for him and his wife always seemed to conflict with our get-togethers, and after her death his physical condition did not permit him to join us, though he wanted to very much.

HICKS, Leonard P. (527 Engrg.) – Deceased 10/30/03 according to SSDI. He was a Lifetime Member, but never attended a reunion.

HILL, Anna R. (527 Widow of Robert E. Thomas, Pilot) – Deceased 01/05/08 according to a note from her husband Ray Hill. Although she was never able to attend a reunion, she was a Lifetime Member, an enthusiastic supporter of the Association, and a contributor of many items to past Newsletters.

HOLT, James K. (527 P-47 Pilot) – Deceased 2006 according to SSDI. Never attended a reunion and was carried on our Inactive Roster.

JOHNSTON, Lawrence L. (526 Pilot) – Deceased 09/26/07 according to SSDI. He never attended a reunion and was carried on our Inactive Roster.

KNAACK, Donald B. (526 Pilot) – Deceased 09/30/07 according to SSDI. He attended one reunion in 1985 (Chattanooga), and was carried on our Inactive Roster.

KRECKLER, Richard A. (525 Refueling) – Deceased 2008 according to SSDI. He never attended a reunion and was carried on our Inactive Roster.

PHILLIPS, Alice S. (527 Armament) – Deceased 2006 according to SSDI. Alice and her husband Milt, who died in 2002, were Lifetime Members who attended five reunions.

PLOTT, Roy G., Sr. (527 Engrg.) – Deceased 01/03/08 according to a note from his wife Verna. Roy was located a few years ago, and had never attended a reunion.

REAGAN, Otis D. (Doug) (527 Commun. Chief) – Deceased 2007, exact date unknown, according to National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis. When originally located in 1989, Doug elected to not affiliate with the Association, and was placed on the Inactive Roster.

SHELDEN, Howard W. (525 Pilot) - Deceased 2008 according to SSDI. Howard was located only last year.

STYLES, Doris (525 Widow of Clayborne Styles, Pilot) – Deceased 03/03/08 according to her daughter Lizabeth Burns. "She greatly enjoyed getting your newsletters. I think it helped her feel connected to my Dad after he passed 5 years ago. Thank you for the joy they both received from your organization. They were able to establish some lost relationships that continued until her death."

TARTAGLIA, Paul J. (525 Pilot) – Deceased 2008 according to SSDI. Paul was located in 2006 and had not attended a reunion.

WEINGARTNER, Charles E. (525 Aircraft Mech.) – Deceased 2007 according to SSDI. Charles was another recently located comrade in 2007.

WOLFE, Harold E. (526 Crew Chief) – Deceased 2004 according to SSDI. Harold was a Lifetime Member who never attended a reunion.

The following comrades who were carried on our **Not Located List** have been identified as deceased by SSDI.

ANDERSON, Stephen F., Jr. (525) – 2003

BLAKE, Dana S. (525 Armament) – 1996

BROWN, Jules (525 Ordnance) – 2001

CAMPBELL, Robert M. (525 Armament) – 2008

DONAHUE, John P. (525 Carpenter) – 1989

FISHER, William T. (526 P47 Pilot) - 2005

HAGANS, Virgil C. L. (526 Mess Hall) – 1992

LANE, Raymond J. (526 Ordnance) – 2004

MOULTON, Tommie W. (526 Ordnance) - 1999

NETTLES, Clyde J. (525 Mess Hall) – 1992

ROARK, Sherril (525 Refueling) – 1983

SCHILLER, Ray (526 A-36 Pilot) – 1973

SICK CALL

BURGOON, Al (527/GHQ) – You all know Al is the guy who volunteered to host the San Antonio reunion and put in many hours making all the arrangements for housing and activities. He has had a rough four months since back surgery in February. An infection developed at the surgical site and he has since undergone three additional operations to heal it. He is now in a nursing center in Seguin, TX. As of June 9, when I spoke with his son-in-law, Al (or Jim as his family calls him) was better than at any time since February. He is still faced with a long rehabilitation period, and it does not appear that he will have recovered sufficiently to attend the reunion, but we will keep the good thought.

HURT, Sue (525) – An e-mail from Ann Stone, Gil and Sue Hurt's daughter, dated April 28, 2008, informs me that Sue moved into the Hickory Valley Retirement Center in Chattanooga a few weeks ago. (See Roster Maintenance for details.) She had been hospitalized with heart and lung problems and "is better now;" however, she decided that she did not need to live alone any longer.

FINANCIAL REPORT—FIRST QUARTER 2008

BALANCE AT CLOSE OF YEAR (123107)		\$6,148.95
Receipts for Quarter		
Annual Dues (1 @ \$10.00).....	\$10.00	
Lifetime Membership (1 @ \$100.00).....	\$100.00	
Voluntary Contributions.....	\$270.00	
Sales (P-47 customized prints)	\$281.00	
Bank Interest	<u>\$5.54</u>	
	\$666.54	\$6,815.49
Disbursements for Quarter		
Printing & Postage	\$228.77	
Office Supplies.....	\$91.74	
Computer Supplies	\$77.53	
Funeral Flowers.....	<u>\$70.02</u>	
	\$468.06	
BALANCE AT CLOSE OF QUARTER (033108)		<u>\$6,347.43</u>

FOOTNOTES TO FINANCIAL REPORT

1. \$10 Annual Dues, \$100 Lifetime (Cumulative).
2. Make checks payable to **86th FBG Assn.**
3. Dues payer: Allen HANSEN (526)
4. VC = Voluntary Contribution
 Olivia (Liv) CARSTENSEN (525) – in memory of her husband Dale
 Thomas MALONE (525)
 Germaine THOMPSON (527)

EXCERPTS FROM JAYNE'S JOURNAL

Continuing the recall of our old friend, barrister, and Group Headquarters Secretary Bill JAYNE's droll wit and way of expressing himself, here is what Bill had to say in his follow-up report on the San Antone doin's in '89:

(From Jayne's 10/22/89 post-San Antonio reunion Newsletter) – "...All I can say is everyone missed you guys and your women in San Antonio. True, some of you are not feeling well and it's a sad fact that we are all at the stage where "SICK CALL" will be coming more frequently. But take your pills – get your 8 hours – sit in the sun, and plan on Little Rock next year."

(From a Jayne letter to other squadron Secretaries 8/14/91) – "CHOW as they say in Napoli – or – as they say in the South – 'YA ALL HURRY BACK' – or – as they say in Brooklyn – 'KOOL IT, KEEP YA POWDER DRY AND YA HANDS OFFA MY CHICK."

(Continued from page 7)

(From "A Report About People and Myrtle Beach" - 10/31/92) "In May '27 when I was 8 years old, I watched Col. Charles A. Lindbergh being honored with a Parade in Brooklyn, N.Y. He had flown across the Atlantic in his 'Spirit of St. Louis'. Years passed and twice, me and my wife Grace, while down in Washington, D.C. gazed on Lindy's Aircraft in the Smithsonian Institute. Well - we flew American Airlines from LaGuardia, N.Y. to Raleigh-Durham, N.C. to go to Myrtle Beach, and at that point we changed Planes and found ourselves - still on American Airlines - in a **Prototype of Lindy's 'Spirit of St. Louis'** with about 15 other passengers. They took Lindy's extra Gas Tanks out and installed seats. They call it **The American Eagle Branch of American**. It took about 90 minutes flying at 10,000 feet to get to Myrtle Beach. On the way we were treated to **PINK MULLED LYDIA PINKHAM** over **Crushed Ice** with a **Straw.**"

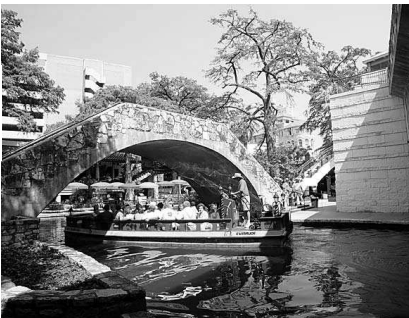
(From Jayne's 10/31/92 Newsletter) - "And one more OH YES - It was Saturday Afternoon at Myrtle Beach. I was out on the Deck of the Hotel and an impressive, well dressed Gentleman - Good looking too came up to me and with a BIG SMILE, he read my Name Tag and said, "BILL, I AM HORACE YOUNGBLOOD." I gotta tell ya Friends, we have all aged and worn down some Rough Spots and Puckered Up some Smooth Spots - BUT - My Tent mate of Corsica Days - HORACE YOUNGBLOOD STILL HAS HIS LOOKS, HIS SMILE, HIS WARM FRIENDLY MANNER - AND HIS RECOLLECTIONS OF PLAYING GOLF WITH JOE LOUIS ON CORSICA."

MORE INVITING NEWS FOR SAN ANTONIO

Our Saturday night after-dinner speaker will be Lt. Col. Michael Hough, C.O. of the present-day 527th Squadron. You will recall that his predecessor, Col. Todd Freece, was our guest at the 2004 Branson, MO reunion.

In addition at the Saturday night banquet, we will have as our guests recently retired General and Mrs. Paul V. Hester. His final assignment was Commander, U.S. Air Forces, and Air Component Commander for the Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, Hickham AFB, Hawaii, with responsibility for Air Force activities spread over half the globe.

RIVER
WALK



LAST WORDS:

GOTTA GO TO
SAN ANTONIO



THE
ALAMO

