



## The WOLF HOWL-L-L

**December, 2016**

### **GREETINGS TO EVERYONE**

Hello everyone, our 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Reunion (2016) in Tulsa, Oklahoma, was absolutely fantastic. This year once again we enjoyed the company of the 344<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group (494<sup>th</sup>, 495<sup>th</sup>, 496, and 497<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadrons) members.

Most of our members arrived on Wednesday at our Hotel (The Double Tree Warren Place) where once again we started up our conversations just like we had left with each other's company yesterday.

Our Hotel staff was incredible and a dream to work with from the very moment we arrived to the end when everyone was going back home. All the staff from the sales department, catering department and set-up crews went above and beyond for all of us. We were very glad to hear that everyone had a great time too.

***We have confirmed the dates for our 42<sup>st</sup> Reunion in Kansas City, KS. and they are Sep 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. We will have all the information in the May 2017 Newsletter.***

As a reminder, all updates to our directory will reflect only the page locations in our new directory (Sep.2014). So, once again, please look at the Directory Updates Section here in our newsletter to receive the latest information on new addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and new members who have recently contacted us. All new emails addresses that we receive will be shared with our Historian (Roy Bozych). This is very important because this will allow us to provide you with instant information. Once again, we were very pleased to hear that everyone who attended our Tulsa Reunion had a great time and arrived home safely.

**On Wednesday (September 21<sup>st</sup>)** at 2:00pm we kicked off the reunion with our registration table set-up in the Hospitality Room as we opened for another year of fun and good times. As the day continued all our members came in as scheduled. Again this year, our Hospitality Room opened on time fully stocked and ready to see old friends, listen to stories and share laughs with each other since our last reunion.

**On Thursday (September 22<sup>nd</sup>)** we met out in front of the hotel at 12:30pm ready to board our bus to go and see the city of Tulsa. Our bus arrived early so we boarded up and we began our tour. It started to downtown where we picked up our tour guide and our first landmark was the beautiful Boston Avenue United Methodist Church which was built 1925-1929. This was the third location the church had because they kept outgrowing their other churches. This church sits in the heart of Tulsa. It is an art deco building with its 15 story tower and was designated as a historic landmark in 1999. This is also the church that Scott and Debbie McEachin were married. There are a lot of interesting facts about this church so, if you are interested you can visit their website [bostonavenue.org](http://bostonavenue.org) for all the details.

From there we continued our city tour looking at additional churches (2 which the above congregation outgrew) downtown. The one thing that I must say there have been a lot of churches on our last four reunion city tours. We saw a lot of buildings with the initials WP on them. The Phillips oil family had twin sons one became an architectural engineer and had the initials WP placed on the buildings he had built. This was in honor of his brother whose life was tragically cut short. So, his twin brother dedicated all the buildings to him. These were around 1900 to 1920. We saw there minor league baseball stadium. Where it is built there's virtually no parking for the fans. So I guess if it's a really big game some fans will have a hike to get to the park. We also saw the old train station that was a very important location for many years. Unfortunately it is not in use at this time since the demise of the railway system for passenger use. During the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Tulsa was the richest city in the nation due to the fields and oil industry. It is still the corporate office for Phillips 66 and also QT convenience stores chain.

Now we dropped off our tour guide, left the downtown area, and went out to the Air Museum which was small but quite interesting. Upon completion of our tour here we went back to the hotel.

**On Friday (September 23<sup>rd</sup>)** once again we met out front of the hotel around 11:30am. Our bus arrived a little early so we boarded up for our tour today. However, we stopped for lunch on the way and since we left early we got a little additional time for lunch. Where we stopped for lunch we had a lot of choices and you were on your own. Once lunch was finished, we were on our way to our first stop. We visited the city of Claremore which is the home of the Will Rogers museum. We saw a film about Will Rogers then we toured the museum on our own for about an hour. We then went to the home site of Will Rogers (60,000 acre ranch) which is in Rogers County. It was

not named after Will Rogers but for his dad (Clement Rogers). Oh, they also had to move the location from its original home site or it would be under a lot of water. They built a dam in the area and if they hadn't moved the home site it would be at the bottom of the lake.

While touring the home site area some of us were lucky and saw a Bald Eagle on the prowl for a little dinner. We completed our ride back to the hotel enjoyed the hospitality room, freshen-up and went to dinner. We had another really nice meal provided at the hotel again this reunion. Once again, after dinner we opened the hospitality room until the last person left for the night.

**On Saturday (September 24<sup>th</sup>)** at 10:00am, our Annual Meeting was called to order by our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice -President Mr. Howard Cross, and we started the day with the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon completion, we then proceeded by the reading of our friends/family members we had lost since our last meeting followed by a moment of silence and the playing of Taps. Followed by the explanation of why our president's seat was vacant. Which was since we have no more 454<sup>th</sup> veterans the seat will remain vacant in honor of all of them and their performance of duty to allow us to continue to enjoy our freedoms that were preserved for us and all others to enjoy.

President's Report – (1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President) We had no information to report this year.

Secretary/Treasurer Report - discussed was our financial report which will be seen later in our Newsletter.

Historian's Report - (Roy Bozych) reported that the documentary of the 323<sup>rd</sup> / 454<sup>th</sup> coming along well and maybe completed by the end of 2016. Once completed we will be notified and the cost for the 2 disc set will probably be \$30.00. These will be ordered directly from the person putting the project together. Roy also stated that the first 10 minutes of the presentation will be narrated by Mr. Tom Hanks. He is not pushing the project due to the fact that the person producing the documentary is also, funding the project. Second, Roy also informed us that our web site is still getting over 380 hits per day and viewed by an average of 88 people. Wow, that's really incredible for us and once again another reflection of the great work Roy has done for the 454<sup>th</sup>.

**OLD Business** – *First Item*, – Challenge Coins Roy (our historian) was chairing this committee and wanted to defer this info until the Historian's report. The person working with Victory films to make a film on the B26. He was pulled off to do another production since it was helping to pay his bills and our film is all voluntary. Well, you got to pay the bills!

**NEW Business** - OK, now onto our new business.

\*\*\***First item**, no veterans now attending our reunions and a question was asked about the President's position for the association going forward. Nomination was made by Scott McEachin. The nomination was that we leave the Office of President and allow the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President to continue the 454<sup>th</sup> business in lieu of the president.

**Second Item**, Scott McEachin made a motion that we keep all current Board Officers in position until our 2017 reunion where we will elect Board Officers.

**Third Item**, A proposal was made that we no longer have structured Bus tours and banquet meals, the motion was passed. Explained that the person that we coordinated with for our reunions (Kent Snyder) was no longer available due to retirement.

**Forth Item**, Proposal was also made that we move our reunion dates to Tuesday through Thursday if possible, the motion was passed unanimously.

**Fifth Item**, Site selection for our 2017 reunion, proposals submitted were Ft. Worth, TX., Pensacola, FL., Kansas City, KS., and Washington DC (attending the B-26 MHS reunion). David Garvin offered to assist in Hotel selection and room rates since he used to be in the travel agency business. Everyone was happy with his offer and accepted his offer. We voted on our 2017 reunion site selection and Kansas City, KS. was the winner.

**Sixth Item** – Proposed that we allow necessary funding for acquiring records at Maxwell AFB. Motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report-** We had not received a bill for the Challenge Coins at the time of our annual reunion. See report posted in Financial Report Section.

**Historian's Report** – Roy presented the new Challenge coins. We were supposed to get proofs to review but instead, he received our order of the coins. We had a surprise, a door prize for everyone who attended the reunion (a Challenge Coin). The price for the coins are \$15.00 per coin or \$20.00 if shipped out. Roy also explained the history on the challenge coin to everyone. He is also going to prepare a history of the coin that will be printed in the newsletter and web site. Roy will be uploading records he has accumulated through his ventures to various locations to our web site.

**Drawing** - next, we had our annual door prize drawings that Roy conducts numbers were pulled by David Garvin and as always we had some very nice prizes again this year. Thanks Roy for all the hard work and prizes you acquire for us.

In closing, Howard stated that if anyone wanted to make a donation to the 454<sup>th</sup> BSA that our Secretary/Treasurer will be available to accept your donations immediately after the completion of our meeting. He also had a motion that we adjourn our meeting, we had a motion second. The meeting was adjourned with the official opening of the Hospitality Room until 4:00pm. This would give everyone the chance to clean-up for annual banquet.

Once again this year there were some members who did a lot of work to make our reunion make it a great success. Either setting-up & maintaining, or working in the hospitality room. They were – Scott & Debbie McEachin, David Garvin and Mary Cornett; we would like to take a moment to say thank you for your dedication which is greatly appreciated. Thanks again for making this another great reunion for everyone to meet and reminisce with each other.

### **Letters and Phone Calls**

Lisa Izdepski – Unable to attend Reunion, tell everyone hello, thanks for newsletter  
Olga Amber – Unable to attend Reunion, health issues and no travel partner  
Mary Evans – Unable to attend  
Ann Southard – Unable to attend Reunion, health issues and couldn't travel

### **Attendees at our 41<sup>st</sup> Reunion**

This year the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG 454<sup>th</sup> BS had no veterans attending this was the first year since our inception and the 344<sup>th</sup> BG had 3 veterans attend they are identified below in **bold print**. We had a total of 39 attendees this year; our attendance was very good, also the stories were incredible! Of our 39 attendees we had 3 veterans (in bold print all from the 344<sup>th</sup> BG) and 36 family members / guests. The list below identifies all attendees:

#### **454<sup>th</sup> Attendees were:**

Dottie Urey  
Donna Stowman  
Bradford and Dianne Urey  
Merlin McDonald  
Frank Mancuso  
David Garvin  
Scott & Debbie McEachin  
Doug McEachin and Brittany Mangrum  
Debbie Polanko  
Dan & Linda Richey  
Robert (Bob) Johnson  
Howard Cross  
Roy Bozcyh  
George & Mary Cornett

#### **344<sup>th</sup> Attendees were:**

**Ed Horn** and son Chris  
**Santo Endrizzi**  
Hep & Marion Whelpley  
Joan Woodbury  
Dan Endrizzi  
**Otto Kirkpatrick** & wife Rosemary  
Dale Montgomery  
Scott & Lea Kirkpatrick  
Ollie & Kelly Kirby  
Jack & Linda Shilt  
Trish Wendt  
Mary Lou Crawford  
David Stewart  
Carl Carrozza

## **Directory Updates**

We received the following changes since our May 2016 Newsletter. Please update your directory as follows:

Section 2 page 2 - Update new address

### **Old**

Johnson, Robert (Bob)  
4N 617 Arrowhead Drive  
St. Charles, IL. 60175-7913

### **New**

Johnson, Robert (Bob)  
423 Willowbrook Way  
Geneva, IL. 60134-4679

Section 2 page 5- Replace old address and phone number

### **Old**

Schwartzberg, Barbara  
1554 Pinedale Ranch Circle  
Evergreen, CO. 80439-9576  
303-526-1703

### **New**

Schwartzberg, Barbara  
4855 Hoen Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95405-7453  
303-809-1032

## **Missing Members**

Here is our latest list of newsletters mail out and returned. If you know someone on this list please contact me with an updated address or have them contact me direct if they wish. Their name will only appear in one newsletter after that if they have not been updated then they will be removed from our mailing list.

Ms. Hazel Currier  
17 Iguana Ct. Rt. 66  
Ft. Meyers, FL. 33912-2015  
6-9-16

Ms. Jo Moore  
3800 W 71<sup>st</sup> Street Apt 2210  
Tulsa, OK. 74132-2117  
6-14-16

Mr. David Kohler  
138 Lockwood Road  
Riverside, CT. 06878-1907  
7-7-16

## **Final Flights''**

It is always a sad time when we lose loved ones. These are some of our finest that we have the disappointing news to pass along to you. They will not be with us at our future reunions physically, but will be with us in spirit and will be discussed about their special stories they have shared with all of us. **GOD BLESS all of them.**

### **GEORGE E. BOYER**



Warren went peacefully to be with Jesus on July 12, 2016 at the Rouse Home. He was born on April 13, 1920 to the late George and Flossie Boyer. After graduating from Warren High School he entered the U.S. Air Force on December 8, 1941. He received training to the rank of Sergeant at Chanute Air Force Base followed by Staff Sergeant training in Las Vegas after which he was transferred to McDill AFB where he joined the 454th Squadron of the 323rd Bomb Group. During WWII he flew numerous missions over England, France, Germany and Austria in a B-26 Marauder.

He was honorably discharged on October 21, 1945 as a Staff Sergeant with a good conduct metal and 4 bronze stars. Following his military service he married the late Rachel C. Brian on December 8, 1945. He was employed by Delux Metal Interoyal for 41 years and after retiring from there he worked for 13 years for PNC Bank.

He was a member of North Star Lodge 241 F&AM, Warren County Shrine Club, and Occidental Royal Arch chapter. He was also a member of the Moose Club and life member of the American legion. He was also a long time member of First Lutheran Church in Warren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Rachel (July 28, 2001), his brother James Boyer (1973), sister Marge Shattuck (1995), nephew Bill Boyer (2009), niece Sandy Schick (2014) and granddaughter Amy Boyer (1999).

He is survived by his children Catharine [Dennis] McDonald, George [Ginja] Boyer, Deborah [Larry] Newland, and Fred [Sandy] Boyer; grandchildren Scott [Meghan] McDonald, Brian [Lynne] Boyer, Melanie (McDonald) Westfall, Heather (Williams) [Keith] Norfleet, Gary [Jessica] Williams, Nicole Postle, and Tara Boyer; great-grandchildren Brooke (McDonald) [Gary] Crook, Jordan Westfall, Devin McDonald, Madison Westfall, MacKenna McDonald, and Macy Westfall; and great-great-grandchildren Brooke and Warren Norfleet, Owen, Dylan and Greyson Boyer, Lia Postle, and Caidyn and Oliver Crook.

The family would also like to recognize and give thanks to Betty Knupp who was his closest companion and who he called "his life" for the last several years, and her

daughter-in-law, Priscilla Knupp, who oversaw his affairs and demonstrated extraordinary dedication to his care over the past 3 years.

George Earl Boyer, age 96 years and 3 months, of Warren went peacefully to be with Jesus on July 12, 2016 at the Rouse Home. He was born on April 13, 1920 to the late George and Flossie Boyer. After graduating from Warren High School he entered the U.S. Air Force on December 8, 1941. He received training to the rank of Sergeant at Chanute Air Force Base followed by Staff Sergeant training in Las Vegas after which he was transferred to McDill AFB where he joined the 454th Squadron of the 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group. During WWII he flew numerous missions over England, France, Germany and Austria in a B-26 Marauder.

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## **WWII bombardier Norman 'Rock' Rosner, 90**

Sunday, February 14, 2010

Growing up north of Baltimore, Norman "Rock" Rosner was the youngest of eight rambunctious





siblings known as the Rosner Roughnecks. He earned his nickname in high school for his prodigious boxing skills. He and his brothers Larry and Adolph, known as "Ace," often roamed the woods near their home in Sudbrook Park, carrying rifles slung over their shoulders to target vermin.

When World War II broke out in Europe, the youngest Rosner Roughneck was so eager to join the fight that he dropped out of the University of Alabama to enlist in the Royal Canadian Air Force for flight training. After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Larry and Ace joined the Army as infantrymen, and Rock Rosner returned home to continue flight training with the Army Air Forces. He served multiple tours in Europe and later in Korea, advancing through the ranks and developing a reputation as a highly decorated intelligence officer. He achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel and was a linguist and paratrooper trained to use the highest technology communications equipment.

His job often required him to engage in top-secret missions deep behind enemy lines. He became known as an expert on escape and evasion tactics and helped write the Pentagon's official text on the subject. "He had a wildly can-do attitude," said his son, Roger, a vice president for Apple. "He would fly off to this crazy land and just wouldn't question it."

Norman Morton Rosner was born April 14, 1919, in Birmingham, Ala. His family moved to Maryland when he was an infant. During World War II, then-Lt. Rosner served as a bombardier with a B-26 squadron in Essex, England. He sat in a plexiglass bubble in the nose of the aircraft, armed with a machine gun. He flew on more than 62 bombing missions, and his crew often returned to base with a plane so shot up that it appeared to be as airworthy as a sieve.

His decorations included two awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross and 12 awards of the Air Medal.

In the late 1940s, Rock Rosner received specialized Japanese language training through the military and at Yale University. He was sent to Korea as a counterintelligence officer. After evading enemy forces there, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

He retired from the Air Force in 1965 and shortly afterward joined the State Department's Office of Public Safety as a Foreign Service officer. He held posts in Vietnam, Thailand and Brazil, then moved to suburban Maryland in the early 1970s when he was assigned to the State Department's Washington-based narcotics control division. His job there was to allot funding for crop eradication abroad. He retired in 1993.

Col. Rosner credited his wife with saving his life and his career. In the late 1950s, he contracted polio. The muscles in his throat were paralyzed, and he lost significant muscle mass. Air Force doctors told him he would not recover and would be medically retired because of his condition.

With his wife's help, Col. Rosner began a health and exercise regimen that included acupuncture, swimming and weight training. She helped nurse him back to health, and they moved to the United States in the early 1960s.

Col. Rosner, 90, died of colon cancer Jan. 26 at the National Naval Medical Center with his wife by his side. Despite the military's initial doubts about their marriage, the Rosners were together for 52 years.

### Sheldon "Shelly" Eichel



EICHEL, SHELDON, "Shelly", passed away unexpectedly on April 28, 2015. Born November 28, 1924 in Brooklyn, NY. He was a US World War II Pilot and pilot for Israel Independence War. He loved story telling was seen in PBS documentary A Wing and a Prayer that aired this month. A true friend who will be greatly missed by all.

### Roland P. Laferriere

1925 – 2016



Longtime Wilbraham resident, Roland P. "Lefty" Laferriere, 91, died peacefully on Tuesday, April 26, 2016, at home, surrounded by his family. Born in Chicopee to the late Auguste and Yvonne (Hamel) Laferriere, he was a proud Army Air Force Veteran of World War II, where he earned the Air Medal with three clusters, the French Croix de Guerre, a Presidential unit citation, and the European Theatre ribbon with two campaign stars. A graduate of Boston University, he worked at Mass Mutual Life Insurance Co. for 35 years, retiring as a Senior Vice President in 1986.

A communicant of St. Cecilia's Church in Wilbraham, he belonged to Wilbraham Country Club and was previously a member of Longmeadow Country Club for many years. He served as Chairman for the United Way, was on the Board of Directors for Stage West and belonged to the Colony Club for many years. An avid Red Sox fan, he

enjoyed attending his grandchildren's sporting events, travelling with his wife Doris and spending summers with his family in Ogunquit, ME. He is survived by his beloved wife of 69 years Doris (Gamache) Laferriere, two daughters; Lee Ann Laferriere-Bates and her husband Richard and Suzanne Gougeon and her husband Michael and 4 cherished grandchildren; Gabrielle and Noelle Bates and Maxwell and Noah Gougeon, all of Wilbraham.

**Notified of Additional Members without obits:**

None

**Financial Report**

Here is our financial report to December 31, 2016. We would like to thank everyone for their past contributions because that's what keeps our organization going strong.

**Contributions May 16 – December 30, 2015**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Laudie, Charles	\$50.00
Gunkel, Jean	\$50.00
Urey, Dottie	\$300.00
Cross, Howard	\$100.00
Cornett, George & Mary	\$150.00
McDonald, Merlin	\$100.00
344th BG	\$100.00
Foster, Jan	\$35.00
McEachin, Scott	\$225.00
Stowman, Donna	\$60.00
Cross, Howard	\$60.00
McDonald, Merlin	\$60.00
Polanko, Debbie	\$45.00
Richey, Dan & Linda	\$60.00
Mancuso, Frankie	\$30.00
Horn, Chris	\$20.00
Kirby, Ollie & Kelly	\$30.00
Steve, Jaime	\$15.00
Johnson, Bob	\$170.00
?? Cash	\$100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,760.00</b>

## Expenses

<b>Debit</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Addl. Comments</b>
USPS	\$220.10	1/2/16	Postage for Dec 2015 Newsletter mailed out (155)
Americopy	\$131.82	1/2/16	Printing Dec. 2015 Newsletters (160 copies)
Staples	\$35.65	1/3/16	Blank labels for newsletter mailings
Staples	\$16.20	5/23/16	1 Box (100 ea.) 9"x12" Envelopes for May 2016 Newsletter mailing
USPS	\$178.16	5/24/16	Stamps for May Newsletter mailing (131 sets) bal. on hand
Costco	\$74.28	9/20/16	Refreshments and snacks for Hospitality Room
Up Spirits (Costco)	\$67.23	9/20/16	Alcohol for Hospitality Room
Walmart	\$138.92	9/20/16	Refreshments and snacks for Hospitality Room
Roy Bozych	\$435.57	9/21/16	Historian Expenses for 2015 (CK # 547)
Up Spirits (Costco)	\$55.29	9/22/16	Refreshments for Hospitality Room
Walmart	\$58.77	9/22/16	Refreshments for Hospitality Room
Up Spirits (Costco)	\$42.28	9/23/16	Refreshments for Hospitality Room
Otto Kirkpatrick	\$117.00	9/24/16	Refund for city Tour - 9-22 3 members (CK # 548)
SCCS /Suzanne Cruise	\$3,997.00	9/24/16	City Tour 30, Area Tour 34, Friday Dinner 35 (CK # 549) replaced CK# 549 with CK # 551
David Garvin	\$43.00	9/24/16	Refund for Area Tour (CK # 550)
Tempe Trophies	\$1,045.95	9/30/16	100 Challenge Coins (\$950 coins, set-up fee \$60, drop ship \$60, taxes \$75.95)
Hotel Doubletree Tulsa, OK	\$1,079.78	10/4/16	Expenses due Saturday Night Banquet
Tempe Trophies	\$1,026.95	11/25/16	New Order 100 Challenge coins and drop ship
<b>Expenses</b>	\$8,763.95		
<b>Credits</b>			
<b>Total</b>	\$0.00		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$8,763.95		

The above information does include the printing for December 2016 Newsletters and postage for mailings.

<b>Balance as of Jan. 1, 2016</b>	<b>\$12,119.73</b>
<b>Contributions</b>	<b>\$1,760.00</b>
<b>Reunion Monies Rcvd.</b>	<b>\$5,796.00</b>
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>\$7,556.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,763.95</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$10,911.78</b>

If there were contributions from June 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 that are not posted please contact me (George Cornett) at email [kville93@centurylink.net](mailto:kville93@centurylink.net) ,or call me at 480-984-3676 or write me at address below.

If you wish to make a contribution to the 454<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron Association please send to 454<sup>th</sup> BSA c/o George Cornett 8250 E. Obispo Ave. Mesa AZ 85212-1618.

Please make all checks out to 454<sup>th</sup> BSA.

### **Our Elected Board Members**

#### **Current Board Members:**

President\_\_\_\_\_ Vacant  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President\_\_\_ Howard Cross  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President\_\_\_ Frankie Mancuso  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President \_\_\_ Robert “Bob” Johnson  
Secretay/Treasurer\_\_\_ George Cornett  
Historian\_\_\_\_\_ Roy Bozych  
Sergeant-at-Arms \_\_\_ Merlin McDonald

#### **Previous Board Members:**

President\_\_\_\_\_ Frank Johnson  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President\_\_\_ Howard Cross  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President\_\_\_ Frankie Mancuso  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President\_\_\_ Bob Johnson  
Secretary/Treasurer\_\_\_ George Cornett  
Historian\_\_\_\_\_ Roy Bozych  
Sergeant-at-Arms \_\_\_\_ David Garvin

***We hope everyone have a Happy and Prosperous New Year!***

# *George and Mary C.*

## **454<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron**

### **Association Reunion Dates and Locations**

1 <sup>st</sup> - July, 1976	Myrtle Beach, SC
2 <sup>nd</sup> - July, 22 <sup>nd</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> 1977	Fairborn/Dayton, OH
3 <sup>rd</sup> - July 20 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> 1978	Cocoa Beach, FL
4 <sup>th</sup> - July 19 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> 1979	Tampa, FL
5 <sup>th</sup> -July 17 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> 1980	Hampton, VA
6 <sup>th</sup> -July 15 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> 1981	Colorado Springs, CO
7 <sup>th</sup> -July 8 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> 1982	Gettysburg, PA
8 <sup>th</sup> -July 13 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> 1983	San Francisco, CA
9 <sup>th</sup> -April, 10 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> 1984	Charleston, SC
10 <sup>th</sup> -May 15 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> 1985	San Antonio, TX
11 <sup>th</sup> -Aug 13 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> 1986	Oshkosh, WI
12 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> 1987	Arlington, VA /Washington D.C.
13 <sup>th</sup> -Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> to Sept 4 <sup>th</sup> 1988	Dayton, OH
14 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 6 <sup>th</sup> to Sept 10 <sup>th</sup> 1989	Las Vegas, NV
15 <sup>th</sup> -Aug 29 <sup>th</sup> to Sept 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1990	Bellevue/Seattle, WA
16 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 18 <sup>th</sup> to Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup> 1991	New Orleans, LA
17 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 9 <sup>th</sup> to Sept 13 <sup>th</sup> 1992	Scottsdale, AZ
18 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 15 <sup>th</sup> to Sept 19 <sup>th</sup> 1993	Orlando, FL
19 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 7 <sup>th</sup> to Sept 11 <sup>th</sup> 1994	Natick /Boston, MA
20 <sup>th</sup> -Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> to Nov 5 <sup>th</sup> 1995	Nashville, TN
21 <sup>st</sup> -Sept 18 <sup>th</sup> to Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup> 1996	Omaha, NE
22 <sup>nd</sup> -Sept 24 <sup>th</sup> to Sept 28 <sup>th</sup> 1997	San Diego, CA
23 <sup>rd</sup> -Aug 26 <sup>th</sup> to Aug 30 <sup>th</sup> 1998	New Orleans, LA
24 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup> to Sept 25 <sup>th</sup> 1999	Savannah, GA
25 <sup>th</sup> -Oct 4 <sup>th</sup> to Oct 7 <sup>th</sup> 2000	Tucson AZ
26 <sup>th</sup> -Oct 17 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> 2001	Houston, TX
27 <sup>th</sup> -Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Oct 6 <sup>th</sup> 2002	Myrtle Beach, SC
28 <sup>th</sup> -Oct 8 <sup>th</sup> to Oct 12 <sup>th</sup> 2003	Tampa, FL
29 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup> to Sept 26 <sup>th</sup> 2004	Branson, MO
30 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> to Sept 5 <sup>th</sup> 2005	Baltimore/MD-Washington DC
31 <sup>st</sup> -Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Oct 7 <sup>th</sup> 2006	Las Vegas, NV
32 <sup>nd</sup> -Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Oct 6 <sup>th</sup> 2007	Dayton, OH
33 <sup>rd</sup> -Sept 10 <sup>th</sup> to Sept 13 <sup>th</sup> 2008	San Antonio, TX
34 <sup>th</sup> -Oct 7 <sup>th</sup> to Oct 12 <sup>th</sup> 2009	Colorado Springs, CO
35 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup> to Sept 25 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Norfolk, VA
36 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 28 <sup>th</sup> to Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2011	Minneapolis, MN
37 <sup>th</sup> -Oct 24 <sup>th</sup> to Oct 28 <sup>th</sup> 2012	Tucson, AZ
38 <sup>th</sup> -Sep 25 <sup>th</sup> to Sep 28 <sup>th</sup> 2013	Charleston, SC
39 <sup>th</sup> -Sep 17 <sup>th</sup> to Sep 20 <sup>th</sup> 2014	New Orleans, LA
40 <sup>th</sup> -Sep 9 <sup>th</sup> to Sep 12 <sup>th</sup> 2015	St. Louis, MO



# HISTORIAN'S HANGER

Roy Bozych - Squadron Historian



## *Fall 2016*

### *Time Passes But The Memories Linger*



I attended my first reunion at Savannah, Georgia in 1999. Except for a few here and there, I have been able to make most of the reunions since. Each reunion was special in its own way. Each added great memories and interactions with our Veterans, moments that I will treasure for the rest of my life. As I have said so many times in the past it is truly an honor and a privilege to be historian for the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG. To be entrusted to represent them and preserve their memories and history and all that was done before me.

However this last reunion in Oklahoma City was the most momentous reunion that I have ever attended thus far. A day that we all knew was coming sooner or later but hoped was still a few years off yet. This was the very first reunion which didn't have any living 454<sup>th</sup> Squadron or 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group Veteran in attendance. We have finally reached that point in time where our few surviving Veterans have gotten to an age that they find the rigors of travel just too difficult.

Our past president, Frank Johnson was our last 454<sup>th</sup> Squadron member to attend one of our reunions this previous year at St. Louis, Missouri. When we all said our goodbyes to Frank at the end of that reunion, we all expected to see Frank again at this year's reunion in Tulsa. Unfortunately that was not the case. Frank's health took a turn for the worst a month or so after the reunion and in passed on January 5, 2016. He had a beautiful service attended by his family and many, many, many of his friends.

Frank leaves behind a long legacy of service to his country and our organization. As past president, then squadron secretary and finally president again, Frank's commitment to our organization helped preserve the records and memories of all our Veterans. He was a good friend and a conscientious co-worker and a stickler for details. His passing leaves a hole in all of our lives. We will miss him.



So what happens next? Fortunately our fathers and grandfathers foresaw that one day this would happen and did everything they could to encourage the participation of second and third generation members. Because of their foresight we now have an extremely strong core of second generation members in place who will assure the continuation of the 454<sup>th</sup> Association. A dedicated group who will ensure that the legacy and memories of not only the 454<sup>th</sup> Squadron but of the entire 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group will be enhanced and preserved for future generations. Even though much has already been preserved by prior historians, there are still missing records to add to the archives, documentary films to be completed, a website to be enhanced, plus many other projects to enrich the legacy and memories of our Veterans.

### **323<sup>rd</sup> BG Commemorative/Challenge Coin**



At one of our reunions, George Cornett, our Squadron Secretary suggested we look into the possibility of producing a 323<sup>rd</sup> BG legacy coin. The coin would be another way of paying tribute to our Veterans and commemorating their service and sacrifices for our freedom. Since many

of our fathers, grandfather and uncles have already left us, it would also be a little memento that we could carry with us on a daily basis to connect us to them and honor their memories.

It took a few years to work out all the details but I am happy to announce that our commemorative coin is finally available. One of the items that gave us the most problems was the centerpiece of our coin, the B-26 Martin Marauder. We just couldn't seem to get a really decent representation image for our coin from the vendor with whom we were working. The problem lay in the fact that instead of submitting a picture of the B-26 image you wanted to the foundry, it had to be submitted as a drawing in a vector graphic or line art.

Through the years, as 323<sup>rd</sup> BG Historian, I have made many friends all over the world. It was one of our great friends from the England that came to our rescue, Ken Stanton. Ken is an aviation artist and we have work on several projects together in the past. One of these was an oil portrait of a 455<sup>th</sup> Squadron B-26 "Mission Belle". I explained our problem to Ken and he was kind enough to offer his artistic services to us for free. Ken drew a beautiful detailed line art rendition of "Rock Hill Special/Lucky Graki for our coin. It's really ashamed that a lot of the subtle details of his drawing were lost in the miniaturization of the drawing for our coin. Looking at the B-26 on our coin in the picture above you can get some idea of how excellent his original drawing was.



Thanks Ken not only our B-26 drawing but also for your dedication in keeping alive the memories of all our Allied Veterans. We all really appreciate the work you did for us. In recognition of all the hard work Ken has done for us and all veterans he is being presented with a 323<sup>rd</sup> BG Commemorative coin. Consider yourself an honorary member of the 454<sup>th</sup> Squadron and the 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group. Welcome to the family!

Our coin is made of brass with raised lettering and is 1 3/4 inches in diameter and depicts the story 323<sup>rd</sup> BG and her Veterans. Each image on the coin has historic significance and was place there for a reason. Rather than take up a lot of space here in our newsletter I have attached a fact sheet to the back this newsletter that describes the coin and why every item is on it. The coins are \$20 each which includes shipping. Order forms are attached to the back of our newsletter. You can carry your 323<sup>rd</sup> BG coin with the same pride that our Veterans had for their service with the 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group.

### **French Legion of Honor Ceremony**



The letter in part reads “Twice last century, in 1917 and 1944, American soldiers restored freedom to France. France and the French people will never forget what they owe America, our steadfast friend, partner and ally. From Lafayette and Yorktown to the battlefields of World War I, and the shores of Normandy, our two countries have always stood shoulder-to-shoulder to defend and promote the values of freedom and democracy that are the core of who we are.

On behalf of the French government and of the French people, I would like to thank all the veterans. Your engagement is an example, an obligation for us and for future generations. There can be no future with our memory. The torch you carried so high and so far, the torch of freedom, of dignity, of justice and democracy, still lights our way.

The French Legion of Honor shows France’s eternal gratitude to all the Veterans...Thanks to your courage, to France’s American friends and allies, France has been living in peace for seven decades – the longest period of continuous piece in modern French history.” And it was signed “Felicitations, Congratulations, Vincent Floreani, Consul General of France”

These are just a few of the words that Major General Sentman read from the French Consul's letter to Bob Laudie and George Dane on Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> in Iowa City when they were presented with their medals by the Major General.

Bob was a lead Bombardier with the 454<sup>th</sup> Squadron. He flew 73 combat missions with us out of Earls Colne, England including our first mission on July 16, 1943 and the all-important D-Day mission on June 6, 1944. In the picture above Bob is being interviewed by a KCRG camera crew out of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In the interview Bob said he accepted his medal not only for himself but dedicated his medal to all the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG Veterans who he wished could have been there with him that day to also receive a medal. Bob's entire interview and some of the ceremonies can be seen on the KCRG which is listed below. Congratulations Bob!

<http://www.kcrg.com/content/news/World-War-II-veterans-dedicate-war-medals-to-fallen-comrades--389323112.html>

Instead of typing in that long address above, you can also try using this shorten Google website link connection on your media devices:  
[goo.gl/kklkQ5](http://goo.gl/kklkQ5)

### **Garvin's Visit Earls Colne**



David Garvin's father Lt. Col. Earl Garvin was a pilot with the 454<sup>th</sup> Squadron. He completed 26 combat missions out of Earls Colne before being selected to train combat pilots at Tomebridge, Northern Ireland.

This past July, David and his family paid an emotional visit to the airfield his dad flew out of during WWII. That's David in the picture above with his wife Sally and his daughter Tess standing in front of the entrance memorial to Earls Colne.

David and his family were shown around the base by vice chairman of the parish council Ian Sparks. This also included an aerial tour of the area by the local flying club. In addition to the tour the family lunched at the Lion Pub across from the base where many of our airmen hung out during the war. They also popped in for a visit to the Boxed Air Museum and viewed the tail section of one of our B-26s on display there, "Mr. Shorty"

However, one of the more poignant moments of their visit had to be David's laying of a wreath at the memorial on the airbase which was dedicated to all the airmen who ever flew out of the Earls Colne airfield. Their stay was capped off by a visit to the Earls Colne Heritage Museum.

### MHS Taped Interviews



In keeping with our “preserving their legacy” theme, I want to remind you that the Marauder Historical Society has videotaped interviews with some of our Veterans. Between 1990 and 1994 Dick Ellinger, from the MHS traveled around the country videotaping the WWII stories of hundreds of Marauder Men. Dick’s efforts constitute one of the most important historical archives, not only for WWII veterans but for the historical records of the B-26 Marauder. Every WWII Veteran has a story to tell. Because of Dick’s efforts future generation will be able to hear the actual WWII stories from the Veterans who actually lived them. The interviews were originally recorded on VHS tape. However the MHS has converted these tapes into DVDs. Each DVD is \$20. For the all the necessary details you can send an e-mail to the MHS Administrator. The e-mail address is [Admin@B-26MHS.org](mailto:Admin@B-26MHS.org). For those of you who prefer “Snail Mail” their address is:

B-26 MARAUDER HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
3900 E Timrod St  
Tucson, AZ 85711 USA  
520-322-6226

Below is a list of 323rd BG Veterans who have recorded interviews.

Adams, Jay	McEachin, Bill
Barnett, Jake	Moench, John
Bierman, Haley	Murphy, Alexander
Bursak, John	Petrasek, Fred
Cooney, John	Polanko, Nicholas
Cross, Fred	Price, John
Donahey, Homer	Radlein, Bob
Dowd, Bob	Riggins, Quinton
Dundatscheck, Eric	Rognlein, Arthur
Eastwood, Bill	Sadler, Charles
Findley, Sam	Scott, Winton
Hammersonte, James	Sellier, Bill
Hankel, Robert	Sobczynski, James “Hank”
Havrilla, Joe	Stewart, Ed
Hurt, John	Stewart, Ursula
Johnson, Carl	Swan, Jesse
Johnson, Carl H.	Syslo, Ben
Jones, Albert	Taksar, Jim
Jordan, Ray	Thurmon, William
Ladd, Byrl	Van Ausdal, Max
Laudie, Bob	Vining, James

Lindeburg, Omer  
London, Louis  
Madara, Richard  
McAfee, Tim  
McDonald, Howard

Walker, Wendell  
Welch, Joel  
Willcox, Grover  
Wood, Evelyn

And while we are on the subject of videos, I've recently heard from Lars Anderson of Victory Films. The first disc of the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG documentary is completed. He is currently working on the second disc. Hopefully the entire project will be completed shortly.

Well that about wraps it up for this newsletter.

Until next Time...

***Keep 'em Flying***



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## 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group Commemorative/Challenge Coin



To honor the memory and sacrifice of our 323<sup>rd</sup> BG Veterans, the members of the 454<sup>th</sup> Squadron Association decided to create a Commemorative/Challenge Coin.

### **What is a Challenge Coin**

Challenge coins or medallions are customarily issued by a group or organization to prove membership in that group or unit. The coins may also be given as a reward to an individual who has performed some type of outstanding service for that group. The coin usually depicts some form of the group's insignia.

Challenges are issued to ensure group members or others issued a coin as a reward, are carrying their coins. Challenges are limited to members of the group who have been issued a coin. The rules for issuing a challenge vary from group to group. Generally, this is the way it works; at any time or place when two or more members of that group meet, any member in that group may issue a coin challenge. This is normally done by either holding your coin in the air, or placing it on a table or bar and verbally stating that you are initiating a coin challenge. Challenges may also be "accidentally" issued if someone in the group drops their coin and the coin makes an audible sound when it hits the floor.

The proper response for those being issue a challenge is to immediately produce their unit coin. If challenged and unable to show your coin, you must buy a round of drinks for the challenger and the group members present. If everyone produces their coin then the challenger must buy a round of drinks for all the group members present.

### **The 323<sup>rd</sup> BG Coin**

Our Commemorative coin honors it's Veterans through the depiction of their history.

At the top of the coin, in the outer ring, is of course our name, the 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group. On the bottom part of the outer ring is U.S. Army Air Forces, the branch of service to which the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG belonged. You will note the name is divided by the insignia for the U.S. Army Air Forces. At the left and right sides of the ring you will see two stars. These two stars honor Major General John O. Moench USAF, a two star general, the highest rank achieved by a 323<sup>rd</sup> BG veteran during their service with the U.S. Air Force.

Going back to the top of the coin, this time in the inner circle at the twelve o'clock position is the insignia for the 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group. To its left at the eleven o'clock position is the insignia, for the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force. This was the Air Force to which the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG was first assigned when it started to fly combat missions on July 16, 1943. To the right of the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG insignia at the one o'clock position is the insignia for the 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force. The 323<sup>rd</sup> BG was reassigned to the 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force on October 16, 1943 when the 9<sup>th</sup> was moved up to the European Theater of Operations from the Mediterranean Theater of Operations and restructured to handle tactical bombing and support in the ETO.

In the center of our coin is the Glenn Martin B-26 Marauder, the aircraft the 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group flew during WWII. Depicted here is the B-26 that completed the most combat missions with the 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group, named “Rock Hill Special/Lucky Gracki”, serial number 41-34853 coded RJ-N from the 454<sup>th</sup> Squadron. It completed 196 missions and survived the war. Take note of the white bar on the tail of RJ-N. This is how the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG aircraft were identified from other bomb groups, by this white bar. It is from this white bar that we drew our nickname “The White Tailed Marauders”. Above and below the aircraft is the name B-26 Marauder. The colors used for the lettering and outer ring of our coin are red, white and blue the very same colors as used on our national flag.

Finally, at the bottom of the inner circle, in the six o’clock position is the runway layout for Earls Colne, England, the airbase from which we flew our very first combat mission in 1943.

Turning the coin over, in the outer ring are the names of the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG’s four Squadrons with a star honoring each Squadron, the 453<sup>rd</sup>, 454<sup>th</sup>, 455<sup>th</sup>, and 456<sup>th</sup> Squadrons. Moving to the inner circle next to each Squadron name is the insignia for that Squadron.

At the top and bottom of the inner circle you’ll see 318 combat missions. This is the number of missions the 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group completed during the war.

On the left and right sides at the nine o’clock and three o’clock positions are the years 1942 and 1945. These are the years the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG was formed and then deactivated at the end of WWII.

Every 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group Veteran had a story and our commemorative coin keeps their memories alive as well as honoring them and their legacy!

Roy Bozych  
Historian 323<sup>rd</sup> BG  
[www.323bg.org](http://www.323bg.org)





Pin



Patch

## 454<sup>th</sup> Squadron Order Form

- Pins are 1 inch in diameter
- Patches are 4 ½ inches in diameter and have an iron on backing

### 323<sup>rd</sup> BG Commemorative/Challenge Coin



Front



Back

- Coins are 1 ¾ inches in diameter, weigh .8 ounces and are made of brass with raised lettering. The front of the coin is highlighted with red, white and blue enamel.

### Prices Include Shipping

**Make Checks Payable  
To  
454<sup>th</sup> BSA**

Number of Pins \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Patches \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Coins \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **apt #** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **email** \_\_\_\_\_

**mail to:**

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